

Xi State History
2013-2015 Biennium
Prepared by Beverly Smith

2013-2014

A full-time math teacher, Xi State President Beverly Smith always loved teaching, especially watching students have that “light bulb” moment when they grasped a new idea. Beverly taught in Nashville for many years before relocating to Soddy Daisy (a Chattanooga suburb) where she continued her teaching career.

The 78th Xi State Convention was held on the campus of the University of the South, June 7-9. Dr. Lyn Schmid, International Second Vice-President, was the Society Representative at the convention. Installation of officers was held on Friday evening at the Presidents Banquet. In addition to President Smith, other officers who were installed were 1st Vice-President Dr. Elaine Alexander (Beta Epsilon), 2nd Vice-President Lynn Caruthers (Phi), Recording Secretary Michelle Steen (Theta), Corresponding Secretary Sherrie Collins (Beta Pi), Treasurer Nancy Davis (Gamma Mu), and Parliamentarian Dr. Kathie Harned (Beta Upsilon). Serving as related personnel during the biennium were: Executive Secretary Elaine Warwick (Rho), Editor Orlean Bauman (Alpha Rho), and Webmaster Dr. Dianne Anderson (Gamma Alpha).

Beverly’s theme for the biennium was “Focus on the REAL Common Core: Cultivating Our Renewed Excitement”. In her acceptance speech, she focused on four main points:

- The importance of “cultivating” the involvement of all members in the chapter
- The value of building connections within “our” Society
- The necessity to have programs and projects to “renew” our chapters
- The importance of celebrating and showing “excitement” over chapter and member accomplishments and successes

Beverly emphasized that members were the core of the Society’s success.

The 2013 Southeast Regional convention was held at the Gaylord Palms Hotel in Orlando, FL, July 10-13. Forty-four Xi State members attended the conference, and many were involved in various ways throughout the week. Six TN members represented committees at the Special Effect Info Fair, twelve breakout sessions were presented by Xi State members, nine TN sisters served as workshop facilitators, and Xi State’s own Judy Jackson presided over the Forum as the SER representative to the International U. S. Forum Committee. The TN reception was held in a replica of the Castillo de San Marcos fort in the Gaylord Palms St. Augustine atrium. International President Dr. Beverly Helms prevailed upon members to strive to reach the theme of her biennium: “Sharing Our Vision—Strengthening Our Society.”

Beverly’s first official visit as Xi State Organization President involved a 5+ hour drive to Dyersburg in upper West TN on August 16. After spending the night with Upsilon president Charlotte Haslett, Beverly joined about thirty members from Upsilon, Kappa,

and Beta Omega chapters for a tour of the Discovery Park of America in Union City, an amazing educational center which was currently under construction.

On September 20-21, 2013, over 130 committee members from more than fifty chapters assembled at Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School in Murfreesboro to plan for the biennium. It was noted that many of these committee members were serving at the state level for the very first time. Beverly encouraged all committees to work toward renewed excitement by focusing on three key words: chapters, communication, and connections. This was the first biennium operating under the re-organized committee structure adopted by International and adapted by Xi State. Past committees and projects such as Program of Work, Schools for Africa, and Supporting Early Career Educators are now under the umbrella of the Educational Excellence Committee (EEC).

In January, 2014, President Smith, Xi State 1st Vice-President Dr. Elaine Alexander and Xi State 2nd Vice-President Lynn Caruthers met with the staff of the University of the South to plan for the upcoming Xi State convention. Exciting plans were made for a great convention!

Although much of the state was under winter weather advisories/warnings, a successful Xi State Legislative Symposium was held Feb. 4-5, at the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville. The Tuesday evening panel entertained questions submitted by members in advance and from the floor on issues such as the state evaluation system, Common Core standards, charter schools, and changes to the TN Consolidated Retirement System. The guest speaker for Wednesday's breakfast was Chuck Cagle, an attorney who represents several TN school systems. After breakfast, the members travelled to Capitol Hill to meet with their own legislators and to attend Senate and House meetings.

On March 7-9, 2014, the Beginning Leadership Management Seminar was held at Cumberland State Park. Dr. Kay Clawson, NE Regional director, helped the fifteen participants develop "The Art of Leadership."

On three different weekends in March and April, a team of Xi State leaders presented training sessions for incoming chapter leaders. Sessions were held for chapter presidents, membership chairs, EEC (program) chairs, treasurers, websites/communications, and rules.

The 79th Xi State convention was held on the campus of the University of the South, June 5-9. Over three hundred Xi State members attended the convention, including forty-four "first timers" and 17 Young DKGs. DKG International 1st Vice-President Carolyn Pittman was the Society Representative. Theresa Carl, President of the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation was in attendance at the Awards Luncheon on Friday.

Twelve amazing members were honored with the Order of the Rose ceremony on Friday night. Randall Taylor, past University summer conferences director and a favorite of many DKG members over the years, shared some humorous memories of past Xi State conventions.

Alpha Rho chapter sponsored the 6th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.

A major revision to the *Xi State Bylaws* and *Xi State Rules* was handled smoothly and passed unanimously; the last revision was fifteen years ago! Our governing documents are now aligned with the International Standing Rules. Special thanks for the members of the Bylaws and Rules committee: Dr. Jensi Souders (chair), Carolyn Earnest, Dr. Kathie Harned, Terrie Mitchell, Patsy Pope, Pat Satterfield, Beverly Smith, and Maxine Williams. Many chapters were recognized for their accomplishments during the past year. Members were recognized for their longevity of membership (10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 years).

Current and incoming chapter presidents were recognized at the Presidents Banquet on Friday night. Chapter member Mildred Welch was honored with the Xi State Achievement Award. In addition to being a passionate supporter of literacy projects, Mildred also designed the Special Event committee's iris notecards and the Vision Foundation Christmas cards.

2014-2015

Approximately fifty Xi State members travelled to Indianapolis, IN, for the July 28-August 1, 2014 International Convention. To say these TN ladies just "attended" the convention is a misnomer because they...

- Presented breakout sessions (13)
- Served as workshop presiders (9)
- Sang in the chorus (5) (1 even directed the chorus!)
- Served as time keepers
- Directed the First Timers Orientation
- Presented reports to the general assembly
- Had a part in the installation of officers
- Gave invocations and musical blessings
- Led the Celebration of Life ceremony
- Presented a Strengthening the Chapter spot
- Presented an original skit about the DKG song
- Worked in the market to sell DKG bags
- Participated in a "flash mob" to invite members to the 2016 DKG International Convention to be held in Nashville

The TN breakfast was decorated with an Indy Speedway theme and was enjoyed by TN members, the current International officers, nominees for International officers, and members of the HQ staff. Of course, a rousing version of "Rocky Top" was sung by all!

Special highlights of the 2014 DKG International convention include:

- Judy Jackson was elected chair of the U. S. Forum committee;
- Irene Archambault was recognized as the Star of the Southeast from TN;
- Dr. Jensi Souders received the International Achievement Award;
- Becky Sadowski was elected SE Regional director for 2014-2016.

Members mourned the passing of Past International President Dr. Irene Murphy (1994-1996).

On September 19-20, eighty-eight Xi State sisters shared a weekend of fun and learning at the Creative Arts Retreat in Dunlap in the beautiful Sequatchie Valley. The “Andrews Sisters, Elvis, the Beatles, and Dolly Parton” provided entertainment with a Hee Haw program on Friday night. Creativity was the name of the game for Saturday’s workshops. An informative field trip to the Dunlap Coke Factory and Museum was another retreat highlight.

Beverly Smith and Lynn Caruthers met with representatives of the University to tour facilities and dorms. Since the beloved Rebel’s Rest was destroyed by fire earlier this year, Xi State officers and related personnel needed a new place to stay during the convention. New dorms were also considered since Humphries Hall was closed for renovation.

Henry Horton State Park was the location for the Beginning Leadership Management Seminar on Oct. 17-18. Dr. Kay Clawson led fourteen future Xi State leaders through “The Art of Leadership.”

On the afternoon of Oct. 18, Xi State President Beverly Smith was honored by a reception hosted by her chapter, Alpha Xi. Guests were invited to record their comments in a journal for Beverly. She was humbled that so many travelled so far to attend the event. It was a special event.

President Beverly Smith, 1st Vice-President Dr. Elaine Alexander, and Lynn Caruthers met in Sewanee on the weekend of MLK Day to plan for the upcoming Xi State convention. Dr. Dorrie Powell, nominee for State Organization President 2015-2017, and Dr. Linda Eller, nominee for State Organization 2nd Vice-President, joined them for the meeting with the University staff.

The Legislative Symposium was held on Feb. 3-4, at the Maxwell House Hotel. More than 80 members from across the state were in attendance. Issues addressed by the panelists on Tuesday evening included BEP funding, high stakes testing and school choice. At Saturday’s breakfast, members were delighted to hear from newly-appointed TN Commissioner of Education Dr. Candice McQueen. She encouraged members to “Work Hard, Work Smart, Work Together.”

Members mourned the passing of Past International President Dr. Dorothy Lee Johnson (1968-1970).

On the weekend of March 20-21, seventeen Xi State members gathered at Henry Horton State Park to learn how to “Discover YOUR Possibility” with presenter Becky Sadowski, Xi State member and SE Regional Director. Participants used the book The Art of Possibility as their reference as they endeavored to learn more about themselves as leaders.

President Smith made her final chapter visit as a guest of Pi chapter in Clinton. Members from Alpha Epsilon and Beta Phi were also in attendance. Beverly enjoyed eighty-six chapter visits; yes, she visited some more than once! She was privileged to meet amazing women educators who have and continue to make a difference in the lives of children and young people. Beverly assisted with initiation of new members, participated in silent auctions, enjoyed Founders Day programs, celebrated chapter birthdays, gave multiple speeches, and thoroughly enjoyed every minute!

The 80th Xi State convention was held on the campus of the University of the South, June 4-6, 2015. The Society Representative was International Member-at-Large Barb Whiting. Nita Scott, membership services administrator at HQ and a former Xi State member, was in attendance as well. Nita surprised her mentor, Dr. Dorrie Powell, the nominee for Xi State President 2015-2017. Twenty-three “first timers” were welcomed to the convention at the Orientation Tea. Due to the destruction of Rebels Rest by a fire, state officers, related personnel and the Society Representative were housed in Phillips Hall. In addition, renovation at Humphreys Hall and the closing of Quintard Hall for the summer, necessitated the use of two new dorms: Smith Hall and Cannon Hall. Both are located close to the center of campus.

New officers were installed at the Presidents Banquet on Friday night. Edna Clemons (Beta Zeta) was honored as the winner of the Xi State Achievement Award.

Closing Comments:

Two weeks after I received the call from the Nominations Committee asking me to serve as the next Xi State president, I found a lump in my breast...and then received the diagnosis of breast cancer. I contacted the Nominations Committee to suggest that they might want to consider another nominee. I was grateful that they called back to say they still wanted me. I underwent surgery and weeks of chemotherapy; I lost my hair. In fact, I was wearing a wig at the 2013 convention when I was installed and in my picture for the President's page in several issues of the *Xi State News*. The prayers, support and love of my Xi State sisters gave me the strength to serve as Xi State President.

As part of my acceptance speech at the beginning of the biennium, I included this quote: “We do not remember days, we remember moments.” I first heard this quote as a young woman and it has been a mainstay in my life. Knowing that members put their confidence and trust in me to lead Xi State in the next biennium humbles me to this day.

The experience of serving as president has given me an unlimited number of moments to remember and cherish.

I am proud of the work which our chapters and state committees did during the 2013-2015 biennium and the work that they continue to do. It was a tremendous honor to serve my DKG sisters. I have been blessed by my membership in DKG.

With love and appreciation,

Beverly Smith, Alpha Xi Chapter
Xi State Organization President, 2013-2015

Awards and Achievements 2013-2014

2014 Xi State Scholarship Recipients

Crystal Nelson, Kappa, Lois Jones Scholarship
Cheryl Lambert, Gamma Theta, Isabel Wheeler Scholarship
Tammy Harosky, Alpha Alpha, Maycie K. Southall Scholarship
Terri Tims, Beta Sigma, Evangeline Hartsook Scholarship
Becky Redding, Alpha Iota, Lottye McCall Scholarship
Patsy Peckenpaugh, Upsilon, Louise Oakley Scholarship
Kim Foxworth, Lambda, Eleanor Osteen Scholarship

Achievement Award

Mildred Welch, Alpha Iota

International Guest

Carolyn Pittman International 1st Vice President

DKG Educational Foundation Grants

Leigh Clark, Gamma Zeta
2014 National Conference for Kindergarten Teachers

Ashley Bradshaw Calhoun, Atoka, TN
Destination Common Core: Your Roadmap to Success in the Primary Classroom for K-1

Monica Ward, Gamma Zeta
2014 National Conference for Kindergarten Teachers

Xi State Vision Foundation Grants

Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Award

Donna Patricia Pace, Beta Beta
National School Counselor Conference

Doris Ann Hendrix Project Grant

Taura Marie Turner, Alpha Lambda
San's Child Summer Program (help for aggressive girls)

Vision Foundation Project Grants

Elizabeth Pitt, Alpha Lambda
Resurrection Listening Library

Holley Ziglar, Gamma
iPads and RTI

Xi State Members with International Positions

Dr. Jensi Souders	Alpha Phi	Immediate Past International President
		International Administrative Board
		DKG Educational Foundation Board of Trustees
Dr. Elaine Alexander	Beta Epsilon	Leadership Development Committee
Elaine Warwick	Rho	Nominations Committee
Judy Jackson	Rho	U.S. Forum, Southeast Representative
Nancy Davis	Gamma Mu	Educational Excellence Committee, Music
Becky Sadowski	Alpha Lambda	Chair, Membership Committee

Order of the Rose

Dr. Brooke Blair, Gamma Nu
 Joan Root Johnson, Alpha Nu
 Karen Phillips, Alpha Xi
 Dianne Hunt, Beta Xi
 Marsha Carr Talley, Beta Zeta
 Marie Wiggins, Beta Upsilon

Leigh Anne Durham, Kappa
 Karen Edmison, Alpha Alpha
 Susan Westbrook, Alpha Phi
 Linda Fontaine, Iota
 Wynona Clayborne, Alpha Gamma
 Wilma York, Alpha Rho

Xi State Beginning Leadership Management Seminar Participants

Carol Abernathy, Phi
 Esther Clark, Alpha Xi
 Rhonda Combs, Alpha Iota
 Bonnie Cummings, Alpha Lambda
 Betty Lou Jones, Alpha Lambda
 Laura Pearson, Alpha Iota
 Pat Tyree, Rho

Ashlee Ritzko, Beta Lambda
 Sharon Shadrick, Beta Zeta
 June Silver, Beta Zeta
 Ashley Simmons, Alpha Rho
 Cindy Tarkington, Alpha Nu
 Kim Thurman, Alpha Xi
 Sandra Williams, Theta

2014 Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar Participants

Dr. Elaine Alexander, Beta Epsilon
 Dr. Beverly Hall, Alpha Rho

Awards and Achievements 2014-2015

2015 Xi State Scholarship Recipient

Catherine Jones, Xi, Maycie K. Southall Scholarship

Achievement Award

Edna Clemons, Beta Zeta

International Guest

Barbara Whiting, International Member-at-Large

Xi State Vision Foundation Grants

Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Award

Audra Flippo, Alpha Rho

National Association of Agricultural Educators, National Conference, New Orleans

Doris Ann Hendrix Project Grant

Lynn Cole, Kappa

Bullying Prevention Curriculum, Grades K-6

Marilyn Ivey Project Grant

Marsha Rains, Omega

Colonial Capers

Vision Foundation Project Grants

Dr. Elaine Vaughan

Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk: Applying Real-World Science and Mathematics

Tammy Williamson, Alpha Lambda

Califone, Got It Student Response System

Xi State Members with International Positions

Dr. Dianne Anderson	Gamma Alpha	Communications and Publicity Committee
Sherrie Collins	Beta Pi	Membership Committee
Dr. Kathie Harned	Beta Upsilon	Leadership Development Committee
Judy Jackson	Rho	U.S. Forum, Chair
Becky Sadowski	Alpha Lambda	Southeast Regional Director
Dr. Jensi Souders	Alpha Phi	Past International President 2010-2012
		International Editor, <i>DKG News</i>
Elaine Warwick	Rho	Nominations Committee

Order of the Rose

Martha Bailey, Alpha Lambda
Kathleen Benedict, Pi
Teresa Brown, Beta Kappa
Mary Ann Clark, Alpha Omega
Sue Fischer, Iota
Cynthia Hudson, Alpha Gamma

Mary Pilkinton, Beta Rho
Kathy Smith, Alpha Nu
Margaret Templeton, Gamma Zeta
Gail Watson, Alpha Beta
Andrea Wright, Gamma Mu
Susan Young, Beta Beta

Xi State Beginning Leadership Management Seminar Participants

Tracy Collier, Gamma Iota
Deckie Conley, Pi
Sherri Dowdy, Beta Epsilon
Betsy Edmond, Gamma Iota
Deborah Gray, Alpha Lambda
Jean Hollomon, Gamma Alpha
Jamie Lawson, Alpha Rho

Crystal Nelson, Kappa
Etta Patterson, Beta
Kathleen Phillips, Beta Upsilon
Cissy Riley, Alpha Rho
Kristy Sherrod, Theta
Christy Simpson, Phi
Myra Sowder, Zeta

Xi State Advanced Leadership Management Seminar Participants

Esther Clark, Alpha Xi
Bonnie Cummings, Alpha Lambda
Barbara Jennings, Phi
Betty Lou Jones, Alpha Lambda
Lin Marten, Alpha Phi
Crystal Nelson, Kappa
Kathleen Phillips, Beta Upsilon
Cissy Riley, Alpha Rho

Ashlee Ritzko, Beta Lambda
Sharon Shadrick, Beta Zeta
Janice Stooksberry, Alpha Rho
Cindy Tarkington, Alpha Nu
Kim Thurman, Alpha Xi
Susan Westbrook, Alpha Phi
Sandra Williams, Theta