

Beta Epsilon Chapter History

Organized April 5, 1969, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Beta Epsilon serves Rutherford and Cannon Counties.

Charter Members

Leona Adkins	Sammye McCrary
Dr. Mary Tom Berry	Frances Parker
Elizabeth Whorley	Roberta Payne
Billie Jean Chrisman	Dorothy Harrod Ridley
Ortrund Gilbert	Emma Roberts
Linda Gill	Mary Scales
Sarah Holloway	Janet Smith
Martha McCord	Dr. Marcia Zwier

Founding of Beta Epsilon

According to our history, Delta Chapter had gained so many members that meeting space was not adequate. Fortunately, Delta had three members with a “pioneering spirit” — Dr. Mary Tom Berry, Dr. Marcia Zwier, and Frances Parker. Under their leadership, and with the support and best wishes of the Delta Chapter, the Beta Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma was launched. On April 5, 1969, sixteen charter members were installed at Reeves-Rogers Elementary School in Murfreesboro. Mrs. Elizabeth Voss, Tennessee’s state president, was present to install the new officers of Beta Epsilon. With the installation of these charter members, Beta Epsilon became the first integrated chapter in Tennessee. Noted in our history are these words: “We, the Chapter, take a great deal of pride in this. We are truly an organization of key teachers with a pioneering spirit.

---Written by Liz Bennett, Beta Epsilon member since 1972

Beta Epsilon Members Who Have Served as State Officers

Mrs. Elizabeth Whorley Bradley, President 1981-1983	Dr. Gwen Arnold, First Vice President 2009-2011
Mrs. Becky Davis, Treasurer 1981-1983	Dr. Elaine Alexander, President 2017-2019

Order of the Rose Recipients

Becky Davis, 1990	Dr. Rita Schaerer King, 2009
Jerry Dement, 2002	Dr. Gwen Arnold, 2010
Dr. Mary Tom Berry, 2008	

DKG “Stars of the Southeast” for Tennessee

Sandra Pineault – 2018	Joan Watts Howell – 2020
------------------------	--------------------------

Beta Epsilon Chapter Past Presidents

Mrs. Elizabeth Whorley Bradley 1969-1972

Mrs. Dorothy Harrod Ridley* 1972-1974

Mrs. Geraldine Bennett Dement* 1974-1976

Mrs. Patsy Wilkins Forrest* 1976-1978

Mrs. Rebecca Davis 1978-1980

Mrs. Mary Rose Stracener 1980-1982

Mrs. Mary Ruth Pittenger 1982-1984

Ms. Elizabeth Bennett 1984-1986

Dr. Rita Schaerer King 1986-1988

Dr. Pat Essary 1988-1992

Mrs. Angela Bell 1992-1994

Mrs. Virginia Travis 1994-1996

Dr. Elaine Alexander 1996-1998

Mrs. Sandra Pineault 1998-2000

Dr. Gwen Arnold 2000-2002

Mrs. Sarah Jackson Jessie 2002-2004

Mrs. Linda Prichard 2004-2006

Mrs. Amy Blanton 2006-2008

Mrs. Anne Mayes 2008-2009

Mrs. Lisa Kegler 2009-2010

Ms. Nancy Perdue 2010-2011

Mrs. Sandra Pineault 2011-2014

Ms. Ashley Witt 2014-2016

Ms. Nivia Serrano 2016-2018

Mrs. Joan Howell 2018-2020

Mrs. Belinda Juergens 2020-2022

*Deceased

Beta Epsilon Members Who Have Attended Leadership Management Seminars

Dr. Elaine Alexander

Sarah Jessie

Sandra Pineault

Dr. Gwen Arnold

Belinda Juergens

Linda Prichard

Kim Cing

Dr. Amy Connifey-Marlin

Jennifer Secrest

Jerry Dement

Kristy McClanahan

Laurie Watts

Joan Howell

Shelly McClanahan

Beta Epsilon Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar Participants

Dr. Pat Essary – 1991

Dr. Elaine Alexander – 2014

Vision Foundation Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Development Award Recipient

Ashley Witt – 2018

Notable Accomplishments of Beta Epsilon Chapter

- In the early 1990s, Beta Epsilon surveyed the schools in Rutherford County to assess the need for nurses in the individual schools. The findings were presented to the Rutherford County Board of Education, which served as the impetus for placing nurses in the schools of Rutherford County.
- Beta Epsilon is a Visionary Chapter. Individuals who are Visionaries include Dr. Elaine Alexander, Joan Howell, and Sandra Pineault.
- Dr. Elaine Alexander spearheaded the Member Education Module project in the 2019-2020 term. Beta Epsilon members recorded the modules during the Covid-19 Pandemic, and these were added to our website. The modules have been adapted for use by the Tennessee State Organization. Several other state organizations have instituted similar programs using this model.