

Beta Mu Chapter History

2022-23

Beta Mu Chapter was formed by Decatur County members of Omicron Chapter in Lexington when the Decatur County membership became large enough for a new chapter. Beta Mu was formed on May 6, 1978 at Decaturville First Methodist Church. Miss Mary Jo Husk, Xi State President, 1972-73 presided over the election of Beta Mu officers. Dr. Margaret Sherer, Xi State President, 1977-79 installed Beta Mu Officers for the 1978-80 term. Charter Members included Allie V. Johnson, Flynn Pickens, Allie Mae Stevens, Hilda Welch, Alice Reid, Mary Colwick, Edith Taylor, Margaret Alexander, Pauline Johnson, Gail Stanfill, Pat Wentworth, Glenda Moore, Joan Carter, Diane Vernon, Sarah Vise, and Sandra Steed. Diane Vernon and Sarah Vise are still active, participating members. Ms. Allie Mae Stevens has received a past honor at XI State, and Mrs. Diane Vernon served on the Literacy Committee in the early 1990s.

Beta Mu Chapter Presidents and their period of service are listed below:

Alice Reid*	1978-1980	Jean Myracle	2004-2006
Joan Carter*	1980-1982	Jean Myracle	2006-2008
Sarah Vise	1982-1984	Louise Gregory	2008-2010
Nan Smith	1984-1986	Louise Gregory	2010-2012
Margaret Alexander*	1986-1988	Amanda Keeton	2012-2014
Beverly Boyd	1988-1990	Lea Glass	2014-2016
Diane Vernon	1990-1992	Lea Glass	2016-2018
Carol Vestal	1992-1994	Amy Clenney	2018-2020
Carol Vestal	1994-1996	Amy Clenney	2020-2022
Calla Fisher	1996-1998	Angela Boggan	2022-2024
Calla Fisher	1998-2000		
Lea Glass	2000-2002		
Lea Glass	2002-2004		

*Deceased

Beta Mu Chapter sponsors a classroom grant opportunity for Teachers, Counselors, and Librarians. In previous years, two grants have been awarded for \$100 each to help fund a project or lesson in the classroom. For the 2022-23 school year, the grant amount increased to \$150 with only one grant available. Applicants must describe the purpose of the activity/project, how students will benefit, the cost of the project, and how effectiveness will be measured. Upon receiving the grant, winners are asked to present a short (5-10 minute) program during the May Beta Mu Chapter meeting on their project. Grant recipients have included general education teachers, special education

teachers, and ESL (English Second Language) teachers. The grant recipient for the 2022-23 school year is a Special Education teacher in a self-contained classroom. The grant will fund the purchase of materials for a life cycle project that has reading, sequencing, and mathematical aspects as well. Students will document changes in various life forms (chickens, butterflies, and frogs) within the classroom setting.

The Beta Mu Chapter participated in the annual Back-to-School Bash in August of 2022. The Bash is sponsored by Coordinated School Health with various organizations contributing basic school supplies to students enrolled in Decatur County Schools. The Beta Mu Chapter has participated in the event for the last several years.

In October 2022, the Beta Mu Chapter held a popcorn fundraiser with proceeds raised to provide a donation to the local Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and to implement a scholarship for a female Riverside High School Senior that will be pursuing a Bachelor's degree in education. A check in the amount of \$150 was presented to the Carl Perkins Center in December 2022 to purchase perishable food items for families that encounter emergency need situations. The Beta Mu Chapter voted to award a \$250 scholarship to a graduating female student pursuing a degree in education. The scholarship will be presented in early May 2023. The goal for the future is to be able to increase the scholarship to \$500.

There were 3 Decatur County students that participated in the 2022-23 DKG Essay contest. Two of the students were from Riverside High School and one student from Decaturville Elementary School. While the participation was not as large as the Beta Mu Chapter had hoped, we were excited to have students put forth the effort to participate.

Beta Mu Chapter received Highest Honors for the Chapter Yearbook submitted in December 2022. The Chapter has been privileged to receive the Highest Honors recognition for the past several years.

In summary, the Beta Mu Chapter has been very involved with the Decatur County Community as a whole through monthly meetings and community projects. Guest speakers for the monthly meetings have been community leaders that have given presentations on various service organizations within Decatur County, business owners, and post-secondary educational leaders. The meetings have been very informative for the Beta Mu members while introducing the community organizations to Beta Mu and its purposes. The Chapter also added a third form of communication with members this year by creating a Beta Mu Facebook page which is used in conjunction with text and email notifications.