

*INSO*  
*Delta Kappa*  
*Gamma*

*Membership Moments*



**This booklet is dedicated to all the TNSO members of Delta Kappa Gamma that took the time to share their special DKG moments that they hold near and dear to their heart.**

**And**

**To Dr. Elaine Vaughan, who championed this project “from her heart” from day one of its inception.**

**Thank you so much!**

**The 2021-2023 TNSO  
Membership Committee**



## **Membership Moments Tennessee State Organization**

All members of DKG have left me with membership moments that I will never forget. I have hundreds and hundreds of inspirations, hopes, and dreams that so many of you all have blessed me with and bestowed upon me. I am so honored to have served as the State President for the 2021-2023 biennium. Every one of you has worked truly “From the Heart”.

**Dr. Elaine Vaughan, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

This has been an unforgettable experience for me. As my first state convention after being a member for 41 years, it has lived up to all the expectations I have heard from my DKG sisters through the years. Everyone has made me feel welcome and like a part of the DKG family. Receiving the Order of the Rose was so special and an honor for me. I hope to come back to the “mountain top” several more times.

**Carla Clift, Beta Sigma Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2023 TNSO Convention**

My first convention was a special one for me because I was awarded the Order of the Rose. That ceremony was so moving as I listened to the bios of the other recipients. I was humbled to be counted among them. My second remembrance was getting lost every time I got in my car. All the beautiful buildings looked just alike! I was late to choir practice, breakfast, and the last breakout session. Maybe next year I will be able to regain my “fearless leader” status.

**Bonnie Barker, Alpha Nu Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2023 TNSO Convention**

What a Time! What a Time! What a Time! I have truly enjoyed my visit here at Sewanee over the last few days. So far, my most memorable moment was the tour of the All Saints’ Chapel and tour of the carillon. I can’t believe that I climbed 125 steps to the very top, which were perilous and steep. However, when I got to the top, it was a treat. Not only did I see the beautiful bells along the way, but I was able to see where the beautiful sounds came from. It was a joy to see Dr. Raymond play the carillon with such ease. There were only five of us in his office space, but we really enjoyed earring him play and asking various questions. Last, we got a chance to walk around the entire tower from the outside. It was such a narrow and very high space. I can truly say that I survived my visit to the carillon and last but not least, I learned so much and made so many new friends (new DKG sisters). Sewanee is such a special place. I’ll never forget it and I look forward to coming back on the “mountain top” once again.

**Tanya Dolman, Alpha Lambda Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2023 TNSO Convention**

This first time DKG convention experience has given me many membership moments from the welcoming and kindness from everyone helping with directions and encouragement, to experiencing the honor of attending recognitions for so many amazing women educators. I can’t wait to go back and share with my chapter the adventures of my very first DKG convention experience....really, they may not believe me. Day 1: the campus is breathtaking even my extra walk due to trusting a GPS (LOL), the laugh out loud opening session and words of encouragement from Kathy Smith, I’m told I’m lucky I got a business card. Day 2: I slept like a rock and the St. Luke’s fire alarm created a no makeup morning (LOL). The food was delicious and conversation encouraging.

**Amanda Branson, Omicron Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2023 TNSO Convention**

Friday morning, I decided to sleep a little late before the first meeting, but the fire alarm at St. Luke's dashed that notion. I quickly put on a bra, shorts and a t-shirt and started into the hallway. My pajama clad suite mates opened their door wondering what was going on and that was my first encounter with Joy Branham. After the hoopla ended, we ended up in our shared bathroom talking about the abrupt wake-up call. Lo and behold, Joy lives in my hometown and knew some of my old friends. Then, I discovered that I live in her husband's hometown. It was so nice to talk with her---someone who was "like me". I look forward to growing our friendship in DKG. Not having attended breakfast Friday, I had run out of hope of getting my necessary morning coffee. I stopped a lady with a large coffee in her hands and that angel pointed me to the campus coffee shop, therefore saving my life (: She was Terry Sharp.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

So glad I made it to the "mountain top!!" What a wonderful DKG experience! I'll treasure the memories of the warmth and the friendliness of the members. So happy for this experience. I don't know how any improvements could be made; it was over the top!

**Julie Gutch, Alpha Lambda Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

Membership Moments: Nita Scott speaking about stewardship and "with the joy and love comes responsibility"; Sheila Hickman sharing about kindred spirits; the beautiful All Saints' Chapel tour and the 6:15 a.m. fire alarm due to an over cooked egg!

**Debbie Jacobs, Beta Epsilon Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

This was my first convention and I LOVED IT! Everyone was so kind and helpful. I was part of the color guard, and I was struck with sentiment and got emotional during the service. This was a definite highlight and beautiful memory.

**Kristi Hargis, Beta Phi Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

This year was my first year on the mountain top, and what an experience it has been. One of the very first people I met, outside of my chapter sisters, was a sweet smiling faced lady outside the bathroom stalls in the dining hall. She asked if I was Ann Winn because she had sent me several emails and thought she caught a glimpse of my name tag on the way into the ladies' room. When I replied yes, this precious lady introduced herself as Elaine Vaughan!! Talk about a chance meeting! Ann Winn from Beta Epsilon, a bathroom waiting line and our very own Madam President! What luck!!

**Ann Winn, Beta Epsilon Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

My membership moment would have to be my first convention visit! It happens to be this year! I have been so loved on and guided and helped during my time on the mountain. I have learned what our society truly stands for; I've heard passionate female educators speak and share their humor and wisdom. It has been truly inspiring! I love DKG!

**Krissi Martin, Lambda Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

At my first convention, I was surprised to see that my roommate and I had suitemates. I was worried that it would be awkward, but it ended up being wonderful. As new officers, we learned a lot from our suitemates who were seasoned officers who had held offices at several levels.

**Sheron Smith, Lambda Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

This was my first convention. My inspiring moment was when the rose recipients were honored by singing the song “Thank You Teachers”. Over my 50 plus years in the classroom, I have former students who still thank me. I enjoyed meeting teachers from all over the state, especially those who either attended UT Martin when I did or who have taught in that area. I learned so much about DKG this weekend.

**Peggy Monroe, Alpha Rho Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

As a first-time attendee, I really had a great time. I enjoyed being with three others from my group. I enjoyed meeting new people, especially treasurers (I am a treasurer). The scenery and the old buildings were so beautiful. Seeing the “corpse plant” was such a treat. I hope I get to come back next year.

**Teresa Gregory, Alpha Gamma Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

The speech “Kindred Spirits” by Sheila Hickman, it reminded me that though there are times that are rough and obstacles to face, we can face them with laughter and our DKG sisters by our side.

**Kacey Whited, Beta Pi Chapter: First Time Attendee to the 2023 TNSO Convention**

Membership Moment: “I had the pleasure of presenting a fifty-year membership award to two Phi Chapter members in April 2022. I presented a 50-year DKG membership necklace to Linda Newton at the meeting. Then, several of us traveled to a nursing home to present the second award of a wooden clock, to Rebecca Drone. I felt so honored to be a part of this!”

**Carole Cheatwood is the president of Phi Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I was pretty nervous being in charge of my very first chapter meeting in October as the new President of our chapter, Beta Rho. I wanted everything to go right! Other than the time running a little over, everything went fine. Note to self...make sure to start the meeting on time!

**Emily Ferguson is the president of Beta Rho Chapter**

**Liza Vaughn:** Membership Moment: “Receiving a rose from chapter members when my grandmother passed away.”

**Kelli Myers:** Membership Moment: “When I was inducted into DKG, I was surprised and delighted when one of my favorite high school teachers was there as our guest speaker. Little did I know she was the State President of DKG! Having Beverly Smith there for my induction was very special!”

**Liza Vaughn and Kelli Myers serve as co-presidents of Rho Chapter**

Membership Moment: “After moving to Tennessee, I reached out to the local chapters wanting to transfer my membership. I immediately heard back from the Iota Chapter in Kingsport. Figuring out that it didn't really matter which chapter I joined as I didn't know any one anyway, I decided to attend a meeting. Well, the ladies of Iota Chapter welcomed me with open arms, and I transferred my membership in 2014.”

**Debra Pelow is the president of Iota Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I was presented with Audrey Doak’s (deceased member and past president of Alpha Alpha Chapter) president’s pin at the Celebration of Life Ceremony.”

**Tawana Teague is the president of Alpha Alpha Chapter**

Membership Moment: “Attending almost all state (and some regional and international) conventions with my mom and meeting Sherry Woods at the Advanced Leadership Management Seminar. We developed a special bond that will last forever!”

**Holley Ziglar is the president of Gamma Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I love to work on genealogy. One year I researched Annie Webb Blanton's family history and then dressed up like her at a chapter meeting to tell a firsthand point of view of what motivated Dr. Blanton to start DKG. At the meeting one older chapter member talked to me as if I was Annie Webb. She wanted to know if I knew any of her ancestors. This made my research even more important.”

**Kay Grogg is the president of Beta Delta Chapter.**

Membership Moment: “It has truly been an honor to be a member of the Beta Beta Chapter of DKG and an even bigger honor to be asked to be this biennium's President. I have loved to be able to meet so many wonderful ladies both active and retired from my school district that I otherwise may not have gotten to know.”

**Liles Megan Liles is the president of Beta Beta Chapter**

Membership Moment: “One year, on our way home from Sewanee, we decided to stop and take a break and stretch our legs. One of our members decided she'd just stay in the car and take her shoes off and stretch her legs out the opened car door as she rested her feet on her shoes. She had told us most of the trip home that her feet were hurting from the shoes she had on and all the walking we'd done! When we arrived home, she discovered she'd absentmindedly left her shoes on the pavement about 75 miles back. Luckily, for us, she said it would be perfectly fine with her to leave those shoes right where she left them.”

**Donna King is the president of Beta Lambda**

Membership Moment: “Even though I have been a member for seven years, I never really completely understood the concept for DKG. That understanding came to me while I was attending the Ceremony of Remembrance at the 2022 State Convention. I could feel the love the women had for one another, and I was part of it. What a feeling! We are all here to support each other!”

**Judy England is the president of Alpha Rho Chapter**

Membership Moment: “The evening of 2009 when my daughter, Tess St John, was inducted into DKG. It took place in my home with several of the TNSO (Xi back then) officers in attendance. The event was the Beta Sigma Chapter January annual dinner. I was so overwhelmed at the time; it still brings tears to my eyes when I remember that night. Tess’s father even took pictures. He knew how important this evening was to Mother and Daughter.”

**Rachel Weir is the president of Beta Sigma Chapter**

**Becky Sanderson:** Membership Moment: “International Convention 2016 Saying to myself, I belong to DKG - and I have something in common with all these women from across the world.”

**Judy Bailey-Ogle:** Membership Moment: “I am always greatly moved by the Service of Remembrance. The Church at Sewanee is absolutely beautiful, and I always feel so close to God when I enter this reverent space. I have also been blessed by singing in the choir each year that I have attended the Convention. I love the sisterhood of DKG. Our chapter has great camaraderie and a genuine love for each other.”

**Becky Sanderson and Judy Bailey-Ogle serve as co-presidents of Gamma Iota Chapter.**

**Dr. Judy Nixon:** Membership Moment: “When we had one of our meetings last year at my apartment complex, I asked all in attendance what Delta Kappa Gamma meant to them. I think that is when I really thought about all the wonderful teachers, I have known through Delta Kappa Gamma. At that moment I realized it was not just a professional group of teachers but the best of the best in many ways, certainly in the classroom but in every way: community, church, and family. It was as if I knew why I had become a teacher and knew why I had always wanted to be a teacher. It is a calling and when I heard some of my Alpha Phi Sisters telling their memorable moments, it was a validation that teachers are the hardest working, smartest, and selfless women in any profession and makes me so glad that I was a teacher. So, when I attended my first Xi State (TNSO) convention, the remembrance in the chapel was so moving and serene, that is my most memorable moment. I certainly plan on attending as many others that I can and will recommend my fellow Alpha Phi members do so as well.”

**Dr. Judy Nixon and Barbara Northcut serve as co-presidents of Alpha Phi Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I enjoy our DKG chapter of Gamma Delta because it is made up of a wonderful group of ladies that work hard and truly care for each other, the community, and the projects they support.

**Tracy Tompkins is the president of Gamma Delta Chapter**

Membership Moment: “Being invited to join DKG by a lady from our community, who has always been an example of humble service, was so special to me. Coming to Sewanee for the first time in 2019 was a thrill because of gathering with hundreds of like-minded women from across Tennessee. That is a powerful memory.”

**Beth Naylor is the president of Theta Chapter**

Membership Moment: “Being a member of DKG has allowed me to grow in unique ways.”

**Sonya Glaser is the president of Alpha Sigma Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I felt so honored when I was asked to join Delta Kappa Gamma. Wynona Clayborne invited me. I have so much respect and admiration for her along with the other members, and to be in this society with them is truly an honor.”

**Nicole Blankenship is the president of Alpha Gamma Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I love my Gamma Eta sisters and have always felt a bond with them as we continue to seek ways to support women educators and the students in our school district.”

**Lynda Walters is the president of Gamma Eta Chapter**

Membership Moment: “The Ceremony of Remembrance at the state convention in Sewanee is the most impressive part of the convention for me each year, especially the end when all the members file out of the chapel and join hands while the Delta Kappa Gamma song is playing. I always get emotional and have shed lots of tears during these times. It is a great tribute to our members who have passed during the year, and I hope to be honored in the same way when my time comes.”

**Betsy Holtam is the president of Alpha Upsilon Chapter**

Membership Moment: “When Mrs. Patsy Pope was honored at the TNSO Convention I was asked to speak about her that evening. It was a great pleasure and truly an honor. I absolutely love Mrs. Patsy and it made my heart happy to be able to speak to others about the wonderful things she has done while in Beta Zeta.”

**Eileen Carter is the president of Beta Zeta Chapter**

Membership Moment: “Filming, editing, and producing the Appalachian Pioneer Woman Instant Pot videos with Sherrie Collins has been such fun! We have a blast cooking for our video audience! It brings me lots of joy to see our work be enjoyed by our sisters, not just in TNSO, but also in DKG nationwide.”

**Dawn Viles is the president of Beta Pi Chapter**

Membership Moment: “One of my favorite membership moments is participating in the Isaiah 117 House project. We raised money and donated items for a few years. This year the building was completed, and we held our February meeting there and toured the finished house. I have enjoyed the fellowship of everyone in our chapter and look forward to many more years.”

**Debra Dickey is the president of Alpha Beta Chapter**

Membership Moment: “When my husband died suddenly, so many DKG sisters from across the state helped me to continue. Whether they sent a card, visited, attended the funeral, or took me out to lunch—many of my DKG friends showed up for me as I could have never expected. I felt so loved and supported. It meant the world to me.”

**Dr. Dianne Anderson is the president of Gamma Alpha Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I attend the state conference and attend the Saturday morning ceremony in All Saints' Chapel. It is a lovely way to celebrate our sisters who are no longer with us.”

**Diane Mackey is the president of Delta Chapter**

Membership Moment: “The most moving part of Xi State is the circle out in front of the chapel after the memorial service. I wish everyone would attend Xi State. You learn so much about DKG and meet great people.”

**Pam Rumage is the president of Beta Iota Chapter**



Membership Moment: “I remember from several years ago that Nancy Davis visited our December meeting held at Keith Mansion in Athens, TN. I will always remember that meeting for the beautiful Christmas decorations, Nancy's wonderful singing voice, and time spent with treasured society members and co-workers-especially some who have since passed away.”

**Missy Posey is the president of Gamma Zeta Chapter**

Membership Moment: “When a group of women came to East Lake Elementary School and spoke to the teachers about being in an organization that benefited women and their prowess for education. These ladies were so professional and excited about their organization that they captured my interest immediately. Not only that, but they were there to serve the children and teachers in any capacity that we needed them to as educators. I immediately felt a connection and wanted to know more about them and how to become a part of this society. I spoke with one member, Donna Lamkin, and she straightaway took me to the side and explained the benefits that I would have as a member, and not only that but how I would enhance Delta Kappa Gamma by becoming a member. Well, that did it right there for me, I was hooked, and I joined. That same year, we had a Christmas Store at East Lake for the children to shop at who did not have money to buy gifts for their families. They earned Lion Bucks by being good in the classroom and by getting their assignments completed on time. The Delta Kappa Gamma ladies showed up and out with all their donations and their help to assist with the store while the kiddos were shopping. It was such a big success and it made me proud to be a member of such a great group of caring individuals. I just adore DKG!”

**Pam Thompson is the president of Alpha Xi Chapter**

Membership Moment: “We are fortunate to have charter members who are still active in our chapter. On our fiftieth anniversary, Billie Jean Chrisman shared a story of Beta Epsilon lobbying administration in Murfreesboro to allow female teachers to wear pants to school.”

**Belinda Juergens is the president of Beta Epsilon Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I have had many wonderful DKG "moments." I can mention the leadership seminar at the Walking Horse Hotel, receiving the Liz Bradley Award, and many amazing days with sisters at Sewanee.”

**Vicki Barker is the president of Alpha Zeta Chapter**

**Dr. Linda Eller:** Membership Moment: “My first regional conference was in Biloxi, MS, where I met a wonderful member from Arkansas, Wanda Roe. She told me all her secrets about attending every event in DKG. It was great fun learning from her. I also dragged Martha Bailey to San Diego for her first international convention. We have a fabulous room overlooking the bay. We found shops, met members from all over the world, learned a lot about large meetings, and had lots of fun along the way. DKG is an important part of my life. It helps keep me grounded. I am surrounded and engulfed in precious friendships, and I always learning something from other members.”

**Tanya Dolman:** Membership Moment: “I love participating in social networking sessions with my chapter, especially at the Playhouse on the Square (Saw Matilda, Kinky Boots) and functions at Martha and Mary Jo's house such as leadership meetings, Christmas Cookie Exchange, etc.”

**Dr. Linda Eller and Tanya Dolman serve as co-presidents for Alpha Lambda Chapter**

**Teresa Loveday:** Membership Moment: “The best honor I have had to date is getting to give Mrs. Julia Householder her 60-year membership pin in our organization. She was my former teacher. She was a great teacher and a great encouragement to a young, introverted student with a tough home situation. It is an honor to be part of this organization, serving with many teachers I truly admire.”

**Kim Robertson:** Membership Moment: “One of my favorite membership moments was when I ran into Mrs. Julia Householder at the grocery store not long after I had become a member of DKG. Mrs. Julia is a longtime member. She was my husband's teacher when he was in school and is someone I have always loved. She came up to me and was so excited that I had become a member. I do not remember her exact words, but she told me that we were sisters now and she was so happy about it. She just made me feel so special and glad to be a part of DKG!”

**Teresa Loveday and Kim Robertson are co-presidents of Gamma Nu Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I would have to say my first state convention was so special. Even though it was not Sewanee, I still felt the importance of the traditions and I enjoyed getting to meet new sisters from across the state.”

**Angie Justice is the president of Kappa Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I have stepped in this year to take the reigns as President. I am thoroughly enjoying my time learning more about this wonderful organization!”

**Lisa Bradford is the president of Tau Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I always enjoy our chapter meetings. I love the fellowship with other members.”

**Amanda Himes is the president of Gamma Omicron Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I have had many heartwarming Membership Moments, all with one common theme: sisters supporting sisters and promoting the ideals of DKG, some very touching and some very funny, but all very dear.”

**Diane Alsop is the president of Pi Chapter**

Membership Moment: “I fondly remember 10 years ago, as we celebrated 50 years of Alpha Psi Chapter. We had a lovely luncheon at Lipscomb University campus in The Avalon Hall. We celebrated two of our Charter members, Nila Jo Sherrill, and Elba Ann Cole. Unfortunately, Nila Jo has since passed away. Elba Ann continues to be the glue of our Chapter. She is not able to attend meetings, but we lean on her for her support and her level head. She has attended many meetings recently using ZOOM. Alpha Psi Chapter will always be indebted to her for her contributions to the Chapter since April 28, 1962!”

**Linda Wyatt is the president of Alpha Psi Chapter**

My fondest memory of the TNSO Conventions is singing in the choir every year.

**Celestine French, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Something that stands out in my mind from my earliest years in DKG was the time that Dr. Jeni Souders was leading a workshop in Jackson, TN when we used to have a big regional summer workshop every other year. Just being in her presence made me aspire to go far in DKG!! “I want to be like her.” Later when I encountered a challenge facing another sister in Mexico, Jeni gave her the option to unite with Beta Eta and Xi State/TNSO. Problem solved. Now she joins our meetings virtually, participates on state committees and can continue to serve DKG.

On a lighter note....several years ago we offered an early morning “Walk for Breast Cancer” during our time here on the mountain. One of the first timers in our suite wanted to participate but had not brought/packed her running shoes. Another very kind, supportive and generous sister had packed an extra pair of tennis shoes in her car and very graciously offered to share since they both wore the same size. Imagine the recipient’s surprise when she also “discovered” the donor’s prosthetic was still tucked inside. Try as she may, she could not get her own foot inside. Both ladies laughed, apologized, and carried on!

**Mary Frances Wadley, Beta Eta Chapter**

My moment was at my induction. It was held with all four Nashville chapters and seeing so many ladies that I had worked and served with and their acceptance, encouragement and love welcoming me into DKG was a special moment that I will hold dear for the rest of my life.

**Janet Smith, Alpha Nu Chapter**

My first memorable moment would be Ms. Molly Ann Hamblen walking me in to be inducted into DKG. Ms. Molly Ann is a gem of a lady, and I was honored for her to do that. My second memorable moment would be going to Xi State with Ms. June Silver and getting to meet lots of new people. My third memorable moment would be speaking about Ms. Patsy Pope at her Ceremony of the Rose celebration. She asked me to, and I was honored to do so. She is amazing!!

**Eileen Carter, Beta Zeta Chapter**

I am an active member but never expressed a desire to anyone to do more. I was praying about it, and I told God I wanted to be part of the leadership and wondered if they would allow me to serve in any capacity. I told God if it was His will to provide the opportunity. Two days later, I got a phone call asking if I would be willing to serve as co-president. God’s answered prayers and shows how faithful He is when seeing the desires of your heart.

**Sharon Crawford, Alpha Nu Chapter**

Some of my favorite membership moments are when we have our young scholarship winners at our meetings, and we get to see and know them. There are always members present who have been their teachers. Those members are always so proud to tell everyone that they were in their classes! I may not have been their teacher, but I love seeing and sharing their joy and excitement.

**Kim Robertson, Gamma Nu Chapter**

My special membership moment is the time I get to share with my Beta Chapter sisters. Doris Ann is a walking historian. She shares stories with us about Maycie K. Southall. She is a wonderful storyteller who helps us learn about our society history in TN.

**Dr. Regina Henry, Beta Chapter**

Being a member of DKG through Gamma Nu of Sevier County has been as awesome experience for me. I have met many new friends. I decided to become a member because of the many ladies who were my teachers being members themselves. This year I will serve as co-president of our local chapter. It was both a privilege and honor to present one of our dear ladies her 60-year membership pin. She was my teacher in high school. She was so dedicated and loving to us students. She was a classy lady then and still remains so. We are blessed to have Mrs. Julia P. Householder as a member of our chapter.

**Teresa Loveday, Gamma Nu Chapter**

Though many moments have been special to me since becoming a member of DKG, I treasure the moment most when the Alpha Xi Chapter Nominations Committee extended to me the invitation to become chapter president. That moment was such an honor because of my knowing those who served before me and the respect I had for them. That role led to my further involvement in DKG at the state level where I served as committee chairs for several committees including Membership Committee and to becoming Second Vice President at the state level. I have also attended state, regional, and international conventions and just became a 50-year active DKG member!

**Maxine Williams, Alpha Xi Chapter**

The 2022 state convention was amazing. From the moment I arrived on the campus as a first-time attendee, I never felt alone. Everyone was happy to help me find my way around on the campus and share events that would be most memorable to me at the state convention. I met new sisters bonded even more with my Beta sisters and learned about the incredible society members who are making great things happen in their chapters.

**Dr. Regina Henry, Beta Chapter**

One of my fondest memories in DKG occurred at the Southeast Regional breakfast in Indianapolis. I was listening as the state president read about their “star of the southeast.” When Beverly Smith began reading, I soon realized she was reading about me! I was “Tennessee Star of the Southeast”!

**Irene Archambault, Beta Chapter**

At one of my first conventions at Sewanee, I was assigned a table that was already full, so I was seated at a table in the back of the room by myself. Becky Sadowski saw this and left her table to join me so I would not be alone. That is what true DKG is to me----never being alone.

**Dr. Dianne Anderson, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

One of the moments that stands out for me is the convention when I lit the candles for the Ceremony of Remembrance. The service is always memorable but participating in the service made it even more so.

**Patsye Jones, Beta Omega Chapter**

Every meeting that I have been able to attend has been a “membership moment”. Being around some of my favorite people is always awesome. I am in the best company ever.

**Alva Cavnar, Beta Nu Chapter**

My membership in DKG has been so filled with incredible “moments” that I don’t think I can single out just one or two. From the very first time I was invited to a chapter meeting it was always the people who enriched my membership, at the local, area, state, and international levels. I’ve been deeply involved in my chapter; I’ve been Area I Director; I’ve attended International Conventions in Nashville and Asheville; and at ALL these events the sisters I’ve met have been the richness of the experience. The friendships I’ve made have been incredibly joyful. I bless my membership in DKG!

**Joy Branham, Iota Chapter**

One of my favorite activities we did one year is an ornament exchange. It was so much fun. I treasure my ornament. The support we give and the fun we have is vital to us as educators and women.

**Sharon Crawford, Alpha Nu Chapter**

While growing up, both of my daughters were adamant they would never be teachers. I was so excited when they were inducted into DKG. My younger daughter became our treasurer while she was active. My older daughter became our chapter president in 2020. To watch her give the inspiration at the convention last year made me realize how blessed I have been and what an honor to share DKG with my girls.

**Harriet King, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

Once upon a time we were celebrating World Fellowship so three of us danced a lovely folk dance, with a lot of creative moves, for our chapter. One of our favorite seventy-year-old members, who was an expert ballroom dancer, participated and demonstrated that age is never a barrier to active membership in DKG.

**Anonymous, Beta Upsilon Chapter**

Karen Edmison and I went to the New Orleans Convention after Katrina. We wanted to see the area, so we hopped on the bus to see more of New Orleans and their recovery. The bus stopped about halfway through the city. We started panicking thinking we were stuck on the other side of the city. The driver told us to cross the street and another bus would pick us up. So, we crossed the street and waited. After about 30 minutes the same driver and bus pulled up to pick us up. He had gone to eat his dinner but didn’t tell us that. Needless to say, we made it safely back and continue to attend conventions-----Tennessee state, regional and international whenever possible. Lots of wonderful memories.

**Donna Camper, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

One of the most special memories I have from Xi State Convention is watching Dr. Maycie K. Southall enter All Saints Chapel for the Ceremony of Remembrance. At first, she was bent forward over her walker. However, as she stepped down the center aisle where all members could see her, she stood upright, straight with her head held upwards to see the beautiful chancel she was approaching and in honor of those being remembered at that time by their Delta Kapa Gamma sisters. What an example of dedication and pride she displayed in those steps she took forward.

**Barbara Northcut, Alpha Phi Chapter**

I don't have just one experience that stands out in DKG that I can think of. Everything I've participated in, everything I've done, the friendships I've made have just been awesome! I can say that DKG has expanded my horizons beyond my expectations, and I thoroughly love and respect each and every member! I've learned a lot and loved a lot. Thank you, Alpha Xi!

**Pam Thompson, Alpha Xi Chapter**

The year that we had the Arts Retreat in Dunlap was great. Our theme was "Hee Haw Dunlap Style". We had a history of music from the Andrew Sister from the 40's to present day country recording artist Cody McCarver, singer with Confederate Railroad. DKG sisters filled the roles of the Andrew Sisters, the Beatles, Dolly Parton, etc. One of our Dunlap teachers is an Elvis impersonator, so he did his best Elvis. We had the usual "Hee Haw" jokes and "corn field" humor. We had over 100 in attendance. Many said it was the best retreat yet. Oh yes, a spotlight of the event was when Cody sang the song, "I Like My Women Just a Little on the Trashy Side" and several of our local gals who knew him danced up and acted provocative (in a funny way) around him. A good time was had by all!

**Edna Clemons, Beta Zeta Chapter**

One of my greatest memories is that of attending Golden Gift in 2010 with Beverly Smith and Chrissie Allen. That experience gave me the confidence to take on anything in this world.

**Leigh Anne Durham, Kappa Chapter**

I distinctly remember a drive with Joan Howell, who was the Beta Epsilon president and Area VI Director at the time. Joan told me that the chapter was going to recommend me for incoming chapter president. I was so honored that this wonderful group of accomplished women wanted me to lead them.

**Belinda Juergens, Beta Epsilon Chapter**

One of my favorite events at the state convention is the Ceremony of Remembrance which is held in beautiful All Saints' Chapel. The tribute and the lighting of the candles is always inspiring. When I served as membership chair one biennium, I had an experience which continues to touch my heart to this day. I exited the chapel and joined the circle of members and guests. It happened that I stood next to an older gentleman whom I did not know. He sobbed during the playing of the DKG song on the carillon. At the end of the song, I patted his arm and expressed my sympathy for his loss. He took me by surprise by asking, "May I have her candle?" I immediately said 'yes' and started toward the building. As he followed me, he said, "I know which one it is." My heart froze. I knew that the committee started breaking down the candlesticks on the altar immediately after the service and I prayed that they had not yet removed that particular candle. Thankfully, the candle was still in the place, and I solemnly presented it to the gentleman. He clutched it and thanked me profusely. I have never forgotten that experience. It was evident that this gentleman knew how special his loved one valued her membership in DKG.

**Beverly Smith, Alpha Xi Chapter**

One of my favorite DKG memories is being able to present our scholarship recipients with their checks at state convention. I loved helping our sisters gain knowledge.

**Marsha Rains, Omega Chapter**

Wanda Castleman, Alpha Nu, a member of the Nominations Committee, asked me to play the part of the Corresponding Secretary in a skit at the state convention. At the time I was serving as the Chair of the Special Events Committee. A few years later, I applied for a state office position. Deja Vu!! I was asked to serve as the Corresponding Secretary. To the ladies who have encouraged me and supported me, you all are my Membership Moments.

**Dr. Elaine Vaughan, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

My special memory was my initiation into DKG in California. It was a very formal candle-light ceremony. I wore a long gown and long white gloves. It was so memorable. A candle was lit, I was handed a long stem red rose and a new sisterhood was begun.

**Betty Venczel, Eta Chapter**

A highlight of several Xi State conventions that I attended was a display of handmade quilts from the collection of state historian, Martha Marshall. After attending a breakout session that Martha led one year, I was surprised to receive an autographed copy of her book, *Many Patches Ago*, in the mail. I treasure both the memory and the book today.

**Kaye Williams, Zeta Chapter**

My membership moment involves a former chapter president who has since passed away, Harriett Harris. I was a new member who had been sponsored by a friend who was Recording Secretary and had to move before her term was over. Harriett called me and asked me to take over that position. Then she also asked me to represent the chapter at the Beginning Leadership Conference. I believe that if she had not done so, I probably would have dropped out of DKG when my friend moved. Because of Harriett I have made many new friends both in the chapter and across the state.

**Karen Phillips, Alpha Xi Chapter**

The 2001 Southeast Regional Conference in Chattanooga felt to me as though I were giving birth to my third child! Chairing that event was one of the most challenging and rewarding DKG experiences I've enjoyed.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I really enjoy the area-wide Christmas brunch. I always make a special effort to attend. It is so good to meet people from other chapters, see the table decorations and buy whatever is for sale. Last year, our table won a prize in Christmas trivia.

**Carole Cheatwood, Phi Chapter**

As a chapter we were able to provide goodies for an area elementary school during testing. We were also able to proctor for all teachers during the two-week period. We developed many friendships.

**Linda Wyatt, Alpha Psi Chapter**

I was at Xi State one year and a lady took a personal moment to tell us how she had such a hard time because when her husband died everything was in her name as Mrs. Husband's Name. She told us to put everything in our given name because there was no such person as Mrs. Joe Doe legally. I changed all of my legal stuff the next week.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

One of my fondest memories was being initiated into DKG. One of my favorite high school teachers, Beverly Smith, was the state president at the time and she was there that day as our speaker. I had not seen her in many years, and it was a very special, full circle moment.

**Kelli Myers, Rho Chapter**

I have wonderful memories of my induction ceremony. It was such a wonderful celebration of excellence in education. I was so proud to be joining DKG.

**Liza Vaughn, Rho Chapter**

I have so many special DKG moments, but one from my early days is getting to know Nancy Davis. I have always loved her hats! That year was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization and she sang a rendition of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" in costume that was delightful. She agreed to come to Chattanooga and speak and sing the song for our Founders' Day that year. It was my first big "ask" as First Vice President for my chapter and she said "yes". It meant so much. She has always inspired me.

**Amy Burton, Alpha Chapter**

One of my favorite moments is traveling to Vermont with Beverly Hall on my first train trip. At age 72 I had never been on a plane and was really nervous. The running through the airport was a real surprise. The rolling walkways were a trial in themselves. I was pulling my luggage behind me and got too close to the rail. I kept knocking my luggage over so Beverly decided to swap with me—her's were on rollers so I could push. At the end of the walkway the luggage flips over, and I go over it. I'm stuck, my feet are touching the rolling ramp. I can't get up and Beverly is laughing. She had to move the luggage and help me up (still laughing) and I skinned my leg and blood was flowing down it. You should know that airports have no band aids.

**Janice Stooksberry, Alpha Rho Chapter**

My mother was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. Growing up when she came back from chapter meetings she would be singing, "Oh, Delta Kappa Gamma!" It made me realize that she loved being a member of DKG and it inspired me to be a member.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

At my first state convention I found several other members who were close to my age, and we spent so many fun times that weekend and now always make sure we get together at each convention. We have even sat on a young members DKG panel at convention together. So, my memory is and always will be Lifelong Friends!

**Kristy Sherrod, Theta Chapter**



One of my favorite memories was when my chapter created a choir to sing Memphis inspired songs at a Coordinating Council event. When I hear “Walking in Memphis” I sing our chapter version.

**Sheila Stanley, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

I met Dr. Dorrie Powell for the first time at our Beginning Leadership training that was held in Jackson, TN at the former Old English Inn. We started out in Xi State together. Flash forward a few years and one of my favorite jobs in Xi State was serving as Area VIII Director during Dorrie’s biennium. We have grown in leadership by serving TNSO.

**Mary Frances Wadley, Beta Eta Chapter**

When I was standing in front of my chapter to be introduced as an inductee, I realized I had come full circle from senior year in high school to receiving the DKG scholarship to start my path in teaching.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

My favorite DKG memory is attending a meeting when my daughter Kayla received the DKG scholarship. My mother Barbara was/is a member, and they were looking for new members. I was recruited that night and have been a member ever since.

**Elizabeth Bearden, Eta Chapter**

I have enjoyed the “sister” feeling with fellow members from two counties since 1988.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

Our Eta Chapter performed a skit at the Xi State Convention when Career Ladder was in full swing, and Lamar Alexander was Governor. Our skit was sung to “We Are Climbing Lamar’s Ladder” and a member, Ann Long, was climbing a real ladder on stage. It was a BIG hit!!

**Janice Mickle, Eta Chapter**

In my younger years, I was a good chapter member who never thought about attending activities beyond my chapter. One year, Mrs. Nell Williams, a dedicated DKG Rho Chapter member asked me to take her to the Xi State Convention to receive her 50 year membership award. Many of you who remember Mrs. Nell know that you could never refuse her request! We arrived on Friday for the Awards Luncheon, and I could not believe who was there. There was my college roommate, Dee Dee Rives. We reconnected our friendship and I have enjoyed and look forward to seeing her and others each year at Sewanee!

**Sara Davis, Rho Chapter**

The year I was president of our local chapter I attended Xi State on the mountain. It was such an inspiration to be there with other members from around the state of TN.

**Linda Gregory, Eta Chapter**

Being a member of DKG is an honor. I feel distinguished. I love the sisterhood.

**Traci Lauderdale, Gamma Iota Chapter**

My most memorable moment was my first Xi State Convention in Sewanee. After being a member for several years, I attended as president of the chapter. I was overwhelmed by the amount of recognition that was given to individual women in the Order of the Rose ceremony and recognition of chapter activities at other convention events. We, DKG members, are truly a group of women who give back to children and our communities.

**Betsy Lucas, Beta Sigma Chapter**

One of the dearest membership moments for me happened during the saddest time of my life. I attended the monthly meeting of my chapter; it was two weeks after the passing of my mother. My chapter members embraced me with hugs and comforting words. Some had gone through the same experience as me. They did not try to tell me how to feel or how to cope with the loss. The members were just there for me, that was all I needed.

**Rachel Weir, Beta Sigma Chapter**

I remember learning about being an expansion chapter at the Xi State Convention in June 1992. We were part of Omega Chapter but decided to become our own chapter in McNairy County. In September 1982 we were chartered, and the rest is history. We continue to be special DKG sisters and enjoy meeting monthly.

**Liz Redmon, Gamma Eta Chapter**

I was asked to join DKG after 23 years of teaching. I was surprised and honored to be asked to join! I am excited to be part of this great group of ladies.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I was very blessed to have an older DKG member that mentored me for several years after joining. She pushed me to be a better educator. She was also the one that nominated me for DKG. I felt very humbled and honored.

**Whitney Yoes, Beta Nu Chapter**

When I first joined and went to the meetings, I was so uplifted when the meeting was over. Very enjoyable meeting new people.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I remember, seven years ago, when Jean Williams nominated me to be a member of DKG. Then the induction ceremony was a very special event to me.

**Susan Huff, Beta Nu Chapter**

One of my favorite memories of Beta Nu was when one of our members invited her drama club to sing some beautiful songs for us. It was very moving.

**Lindsay Cleek, Beta Nu Chapter**

I was excited when I learned that Maycie K. Southall was once a teacher at the small country school in my neighborhood (Rover, TN).

**Jean Williams, Beta Nu Chapter**

I will always remember when Kanya Gordon invited me to my first meeting in 2010. I never envisioned myself as president 10 years later.

**Stefanie Landis, Beta Nu Chapter**

It is/was such an honor to be nominated into this wonderful organization. Meeting with likeminded ladies keeps me going.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

The memory of a lady coming to my living room to deliver the invitation to join Delta Kappa Gamma---someone had nominated me! What an honor it was in 1977.

**Anonymous, Beta Kappa Chapter**

As a member of Alpha Nu's Hospitality Committee, I was in charge of door prizes. The chapter president, Pam Craig, and I came up with me becoming "The Hat Fairy"! During the meetings I would jump up, don a hat, share some funny stories, and pass out door prizes. I retained this position for years. When I retired a poem was written about "these memorable moments".

**Colleen Clift, Beta Kappa Chapter**

I remember attending my very first TNSO (at that time Xi State) Convention. This little almost 5-foot-tall lady named Eloise Lintz came up to me and gave me a hug. She then said, "You know what H U G stands for, don't you?" She said it stands for "Hope, Understanding and Gratitude". Those words remain with me even to this day.

**Dr. Elaine Vaughan, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

I became a member in 1987. I was invited by Martha Wolfe. It was such an honor to be asked to join Delta Kappa Gamma.

**Carol Grant, Beta Kappa Chapter**

It is hard to think of just one moment. DKG has been a wonderful journey of learning, laughter, and love.

**Andrea Hardison, Beta Kappa Chapter**

There were a lot of amazing educators in the room at my initiation. I was very honored to be included in the honor of membership. We never had time to talk at school. Conversations were a treasured moment.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

The lovely member who invited me to join DKG was the guidance counselor where I taught. One of my memories was in Sewanee at Xi State when a thunderstorm blew in. We made a dash for the doorway at Guerry Hall only to find it locked. Huddled there, rain and hail pounded at our feet with lightning flashing around us. We thought it possible that we might die there, but we survived to enjoy more state conventions.

**Ginger Hardison, Beta Kappa Chapter**

My membership moment was the honor three years ago being invited to join such an honorable society by two of the sweetest people. At that time, I didn't understand the opportunity before me. When I arrived at my initiation I was surrounded by amazing women educators, but the one that I'm most honored to call sister is Ms. Margaret Dyer. Ms. Dyer has served as a teacher and continued to sub until her health and the danger of COVID stopped it. She is a legacy! She was my sub for my maternity leave and to be her DKG sister is an honor. She is a sweet and precious soul!

**Amanda Branson, Omicron Chapter**

When I was speaking at our chapter meeting about my great grandfather teaching in a one room school, Doe Creek in Henderson County a long-time member in her soft voice said, "you would be a great chapter president." I'll never forget her faith in me and yes, I've been a chapter president.

**Anonymous, Omicron Chapter**

My special moment was my initiation into DKG in Texas in April 1999. I was invited by my mother-in-law, Dawn. Our chapter held the initiation ceremony at International Headquarters in Austin, TX. This was a memorable time in my life. I continue to have wonderful DKG friends even now in Tennessee.

**Phyllis Mayers, Eta Chapter**

The best membership moment is traveling with members of my chapter to TNSO conventions, Southeast Regional Conferences, and International Conventions and other meetings. Trying to get to the next gate for the connecting flight, not running out of gas, where to eat next and nonstop talking. We solved all the world problems, talked about what our children may or may not have done, and how to help our chapter. These are some of the best times I have ever had with my sisters of Beta Sigma.

**Rachel Weir, Beta Sigma Chapter**

I was in Florida in February 1995 caring for my aging parents. I got an e-mail from Austin, TX telling me I had been selected as a Golden Gift recipient. I did not know at the time that it would be a life-changing experience. To this day, (26 years later) my classmates and I are in almost daily communication. It did become tremendously important in my life.

**Carolyn Taylor, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

One of the many things I enjoy about the state convention is the time I get to spend with my sisters on the beautiful Sewanee campus. Their friendship is priceless!

**Patsye Jones, Beta Omega Chapter**

A group of Pi Chapter Sewanee attendees were up late one night in Quintard Dorm having a slumber party. Mary Ruth Cook interrupted the frivolity by saying, "Do you ever think about the hereafter?" After an appropriate pause she continued "I think about it all the time. I go into a room and think, what am I here after!" I love Mary Ruth!!

**Anonymous, Pi Chapter**

I am always going to remember how kind everyone has been to me during my first time at this convention. Sometimes I didn't even need to ask for help because there would be someone offering to show me which way to go before, I could even ask. I guess they could tell I needed help!! Everyone made this a wonderful experience!

**Kim Robertson, Gamma Nu---First time attendee at the 2022 TNSO Convention**

My first Xi State Convention in Sewanee! Our group brought and won many auction items that we didn't have enough room in the car to take them home!

**Emily Squires, Beta Iota Chapter**

My earliest memories of DKG were as a child. My mother getting dressed up to go to her chapter meeting. After I became a teacher, I was so honored to be asked to join DKG by my principal.

**Marcia Brown, Beta Phi Chapter**

My membership moment was our trip to Nashville for the Creative arts Retreat. Getting to spend time with the ladies was wonderful. The creative groups were very inspiring, and it was fun!

**Dawn Sutton, Gamma Iota Chapter**

My membership moment is going back to Sewanee. The convention was inspirational, and I was so thankful to be back on the mountain. My most memorable part was being asked to give the tribute at the Ceremony of Remembrance. What an honor to call attention to DKG members who have gone on to their reward. I will never forget the special ceremony in the sanctuary.

**Beth Naylor, Theta Chapter**

Xi State 2015 is one that is etched in my memory. I suffered an unfortunate experience in March 2015 that took me off my feet for too, too long. I broke my right ankle trying something that is too embarrassing to share. With registration already submitted, attending Xi State Convention was in jeopardy. I was competing with the calendar week by week, in a cast, wondering if I would be mobile enough to attend. One week before the convention the doctor removed the cast for the last time and ordered a boot. That meant that I could put my foot on the ground; I could walk! I called my roommate, Celestine, to share the news. We made plans to hit the road. The cane and boot could have caused limitations, but because we are women educators, accustomed to improvising, we had a plan. Celestine drove; I navigated, and we survived the trip. The entire experience that year was most memorable because it served as an example of meeting obstacles head on and prevailing. That is what key women educators do best, persevere against all odds.

**Clemmie West, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

I went to watch my mom receive the Order of the Rose. I also gave meditation and helped with decorations at the state convention at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

**Amanda Himes, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

Chapter members always comment about my books---it makes me feel so good!

**Nancy Foshee, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

Being selected to attend the International Leadership Management Seminar in Austin, TX in 2016 was a highlight of my DKG journey. The experience was two weeks of intensive training on personality type, negotiation, public speaking, health, and wellness, and so much more. An unfortunate part of the week was having to spend two evenings in the ER for reaction to a medication for a UTI. I was late to our graduation and feared I would not be able to make my flight home, but all was well. Our “Golden Gift” group still stays in touch and enjoys seeing each other at conventions.

**Marsha Brewer, Beta Upsilon Chapter**

One year, six members of our chapter stayed in a suite in Humphreys Dorm during convention. On the way back from the festivities one night, we invited some friends in another chapter...they were staying in another suite across the hall, to come over after we had all changed to comfy pjs. Sometime in the next 30 minutes, several of us showered and put on our pjs. There was a knock at the door. Thinking it was our friends, I opened the door and said “Come on in. Let’s party!” Imagine my shock, and the silence in the room, as we all saw a PLUMBER at our door!!! Apparently, our handicap shower had leaked on the ceiling of the room below us. After the plumber checked the bathroom and left, we all burst out in uncontrollable laughter. You just never know what might happen at Convention!!

**Sherry Woods, Phi Chapter**

In 1983, I was Second Vice President and in charge of State Convention. I thought I had everything under control, until I looked out the door and Dr. Southall was arriving. I had forgotten to get someone to drive her around etc. A big Lincoln car pulled in and parked in front of Guerry Hall for the driver to register. A tall lady that I did not know emerged from the car and I went to her and said, “Would you mind taking care of Dr. Southall and driving her around, etc., while we are here”? I introduced them, and I think they had a great convention. The tall lady was Billie (last name forgotten) from the Decaturville area, I think. I am sure before she left the mountain, she knew the legend she was escorting around.

**Barbara Hinson, Alpha Rho Chapter**

How do you get to know your members on a personal level? Gamma Nu ends every meeting by giving members an opportunity to contribute “happy dollars”. The member shares a joy or happy event and then contributes a dollar to the Happy Dollar Fund. We look forward to this opportunity. This is an excellent way for members to learn more about each other and connect with other members. Our meetings end on a positive note with lots of joy, laughs and smiles.

**Nancy Sims, Gamma Nu Chapter**

I had a very special moment when I first received my invitation to become a member of DKG. It was and still is an honor!

**L.W., Beta Phi Chapter**

One memory that I love and cherish is Christmas when our chapter met and wrote and addressed cards to members that we had not seen at several meetings.

**Anonymous, Alpha Delta Chapter**

Membership Moment: I learned to dance; always learning.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

Our chapter has Alpha Lambda Cares projects at most of our chapter meetings. We select a community agency and donate our time or items to assist that selected agency. We have donated everything from peanut butter, diapers, walker bags, gift cards, garden tools, etc. However, one of the projects that stands out the most for me was when we made Little Dresses for Africa. One of our members heard about the project and felt like it tied in well with the purposes and goals of DKG. We were told that the dresses would allow young girls to attend school. We asked our members for donations of fabric and their time to sew the dresses. Our goal was to make 25 dresses, but we got a little carried away with the project and ended up making 550+ dresses. Later one of our members went on a mission trip to Africa and took additional dresses to the areas where she would be going. It was nice to know that a little girl somewhere far, far away from Memphis, TN was in school wearing one of the dresses we had made.

**Mary Jo Wilson, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Planning and participating in Founders' Day programs each year have always been special DKG moments for me. Calling the names of our 12 founders and lighting a candle in their memory have been poignant reminders of their lasting legacy. Whether it be role playing in hats and gloves, presenting biographical monologues, or lighting candles in tribute, I have years of special memories to hold dear.

**Jane Pearce, Alpha Iota Chapter**

I think often of the time that Lilliyann Cothron of Lafayette, TN, managed to transport from her garden enough iris to decorate all of the dining room tables at Sewanee on the night where the outgoing and incoming chapter presidents were introduced. Have you ever tried to transport any iris? Very fragile flowers and blooms. I also met a DKG member whose father preached at my mother's funeral, and I remember visiting his home and her homeplace.

**Sarah Hogue, Alpha Upsilon Chapter**

During my first experience at Sewanee convention, I received a handmade invitation to attend a tea party. The detail and thoughtfulness was such a great introduction to the classiness found at every DKG meeting, professional development, and seminar. I enjoyed meeting other new members but most of all I loved the small, thoughtful, creative touches found throughout every DKG gathering saying "You are special; you are appreciated."

**Madeline Ferguson, Zeta Chapter**

Gathering with the members of the International Committee at Myra Sowder's home to cut dress materials was inspiring. Everyone worked together to create beautiful pillowcase dresses so village girls in Africa could go to school. Myra creates such a warm and welcoming setting for everyone.

**Shelley Worman, Zeta Chapter**

My favorite DKG memory is a trip to Toronto for the International Convention. To help pass the time and to do something productive, we decided to learn the DKG song. We sang it over and over again. My car mates were Vera Jo Henegar, Hazel McCreary, and Charla Jean Lambdin. Even though some of these special ladies are no longer with us, I will always remember them and the fun time we had every time I sing the DKG song.

**Pat Aldridge, Pi Chapter**

During my term as Xi State Second Vice President, one year we had 575 registered to attend. I had assigned folks to dorms we had never been in before plus all the familiar ones to us. Well, I would look up at registration and ladies would say, Barbara someone is already in that room. So, I would erase names and do adjustments. In a few minutes sometimes the same ladies would come back and say, someone is already in the room also. I would change names on my room list and try again. Finally, I think everyone had a bed to sleep in and all of those misplaced folds are still my friends, thank goodness!!

**Barbara Hinson, Alpha Rho Chapter**

Teaching Myra's granddaughter in VA; new members meeting via ZOOM; Christmas party; meeting people from all across the country during ZOOM calls; the welcoming spirit and kindness; meeting DKG at my college in 2019 and making connections.

**Kaitlin Powers, Zeta Chapter**

My best memory is the service project for the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis. In addition to the meal we prepared for the families, we donated drink tabs that the House could cash in for money to support the residents and their families.

**Frances Galloway, Beta Iota Chapter**

One of my greatest memories was attending the International Convention in Nashville. It was so exciting seeing members from other countries. I loved the way language was not a barrier and everyone could understand each other. I hope someday to be able to attend another convention.

**Harriet King, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

Membership Moment: I learned to dance; always learning.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

My first initial memory is when a member talked to me about becoming a member, I felt so honored to be asked. I was so excited to go to my first meeting. It continues to be an honor to be a member.

**Sharon Crawford, Alpha Nu Chapter**

The year I was Area Director, we were still having the Area Workshops. We decided that we were going to write and perform a song to promote the workshops at the State Convention. I was into writing songs at that time. I cannot remember the tune we used and changed the words. We all wore red and white. Lois Jones was one of the Directors. She was so cute in her dress and actions. We had a little dance routine too. Ernestine Eldridge was the pianist at that time, and we had practiced a lot with her. The General Session started, and we were backstage ready to perform. We nervously came on stage and started our song which was not on cue and out of tune! Ernestine stopped, looked at us and said "Girls, we've got to start again." We did and it went as well as it could. Fun and funny memory.

**Edna Clemons, Beta Zeta Chapter**



I remember being a brand-new chapter treasurer. I went to Xi State scared of my new commitment. But as soon as Linda McCreary met with the “newbies”, my fears were put to rest! When I asked her about what happens if we make a mistake, she reassured me that we (meaning she) could “fix anything”. From that point on I relaxed and enjoyed the job as treasurer.

**Anonymous, Pi Chapter**

There will always be music in my head and heart from the skit presentation of the performance at Xi State of the “My Homeland Tennessee”, that was written by Dr. Jensi Souders and directed by Eloise Litz with wonderful accompaniment by Ernestine Eldridge on the piano. Additionally, our children Jessica (7 years old) and Brad (5 years old) were the center of the performance as students being taught by me, their mother, as their teacher. Their father, Jim operated the spotlight for the production. These Chattanooga chapters cooperated by performing together. What an event and what a memory for this 49-year DKG member!

**Barbara Northcut, Alpha Phi Chapter**

I really enjoy the camaraderie between members and all of the activities we do together, the laughter and support, I’m happy and proud to be a part of this organization.

**Lisa Sellers, Gamma Iota Chapter**

My membership moments: My induction and I love to see and visit with my peers!

**Anonymous, Alpha Omega Chapter**

The first time I went to Sewanee I had been a member for only a couple of years. At the big birthday brunch there was a hiccup with my table assignment, and I ended up sitting with Jensi Souders (who would soon be our International President) and several other former state presidents. I felt like a kid sitting at the adult table! I listened and learned so much and was so encouraged on my journey in the Society.

**Tracy Parker, Beta Xi Chapter**

One of my fondest memories was the first time I attended XI State with Nancy Leach, Mary Ollie Andrews, and Pam Jefferies. The Remembrance Ceremony at All Saints’ Chapel was breathtaking and the playing of the DKG song outside holding hands brought me to tears.

**Sharon Schmitt-Matzen, Beta Phi Chapter**

I was at a TRTA Committee meeting in Nashville when the TRTA president noticed my case I had my papers in and asked if I was a Kappa Delta—turned out we were both KD’s. The conversation went a bit further and discovered we were both Delta Kappa Gamma members. Thus, we immediately became double sisters and fast friends. She lived in Sewanee, and we would frequently meet for lunch. She now lives in Marietta, but we still remain close.

**Nancy Klein, Alpha Chapter**

My fondest memory is reconnecting with old friends as a new member of DKG.

**Anonymous, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

I was inducted into DKG in March 2022, and I attended my first state convention in June. At that convention I attended several sessions and began to learn a bit more about our organization and where I might begin to become involved. I met many friendly sisters and reconnected with several folks I had known for years but didn't realize were members alongside me in DKG. I had an overwhelming sense of place and belonging. It was immediate—I was connected. I'm so proud to be a new member in our organization.

**Cathy Carroccio, Alpha Phi Chapter**

I would like to take a “moment” to remember my original sponsor to DKG, Sheila Segerson. If you had ever met her, you would never forget her! We had many moments together in our Alpha Sigma meetings. She often hosted us in her home where she lavished us with love, laughter, and inspiration. She LOVED teachers and gave all her energy to others. Rest In Peach Wild Rose.

**Anonymous, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

Membership Moments: Fellowship with other teachers locally and friendships with those I met at Xi State Conventions.

**Anonymous, Alpha Omega Chapter**

I truly understood the benefits of membership when I experienced my first Ceremony of Remembrance at state convention. I felt a sense of belonging and part of a great good in the world.

**Amber Roberts, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

My membership moment was outstanding. The induction was so beautiful. The compassion and spiritual fellowship were beautiful. I will always be grateful for becoming a member of DKG.

**Darlene Johnson, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

My membership moments include: Reconnecting and renewed friendship with Linda Bond; getting to reconnect with my high school Home Economics teacher, Linda Robinson; meeting the funniest and kindest person, Chrissy Allen and working on chapter projects as a team.

**Becky Cooper, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

I remember the closeness I felt with our group. I received forgiveness for crunching my friend, Deborah's car. Rocks were everywhere and her car rolled too far when changing gears from reverse to drive. God was there with us all the way, thank goodness.

**Linda Porter, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

I remember when my chapter friend, Karen Pyun and I roomed together at Sewanee. She photographed me at the cross. Beta Iota met at Elmwood Cemetery for a program, and it was wonderful. I remember providing meals for the Ronald McDonald House and eating with the families.

**Dana Felkner, Beta Iota Chapter**

I thoroughly enjoy the fellowship with fellow female teachers and remember the acceptance and how welcome I felt when I visited a meeting the first time.

**Melissa Pridemore, Gamma Iota Chapter**

I participate in DKG for the fellowship. I love spending time with other educators and always leave feeling refreshed. We are a chapter of women committed to our students and community.

**Amanda Morris, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

I had not been a member very long when my mother died quiet suddenly. It was a great comfort to see so many of my new sisters come to the visitation. Some things you just don't forget.

**Anonymous, Beta Phi Chapter**

I received the Order of the Rose and 15 of my chapter members were in attendance; received the Evangeline Hartsook scholarship; served as Chair of the state Personal Growth and Services Committee and was in charge of one of the state programs; was in charge of the candles for the Ceremony of Remembrance; met and talked to Dr. Maycie K. Southall and Mary Hall at Xi State Convention.

**Doris Conder, Beta Iota Chapter**

One of my favorite DKG memories was going to Beginning Leadership Conference. I met three members of Gamma Iota: Tracy, Betsy, and Becky. They were amazing people to meet, and I like to think they've become good DKG friends since.

**Terry Sharp, Zeta Chapter**

I enjoy staying connected to friends.

**Rhonda Chandler, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

When I was new to Oak Ridge and didn't have many ties or a real place in the community, Stephanie Thompson invited me to DKG. I was impressed by the warmth and friendship. It was so nice to establish some new ties to other women in my new home who love children and believe in the power of education. Thank you, Stephanie!!

**Sheila Morton, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

Christmas at Courtney Page's home, I was able to really get to know fellow members.

**Judy Sandlin, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

One of my special memories in DKG is my attendance at my Beginning Leadership Seminar. We had so much fun getting to know each other. Another special memory is when my Godparent's daughter, Kathy Smith, invited me to be a member of DKG.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

My membership moment isn't one moment. It is the culmination of moments of encouragement by Jennifer Lusk and Tracey Parker. I've had difficulty seeing myself as a leader, but Jenni and Tracey have answered a thousand of my questions and encouraged me every time. Most of the time we laugh our way through the growth, and I am so very appreciative of all those moments!

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade when I first heard of Delta Kappa Gamma. My science teacher mentioned a project her chapter was working on. I knew that when I realized my dream of becoming a teacher, I would join DKG if asked. I got my invitation and was inducted in 2007, the same year I was named my school's Teacher of the Year. DKG has meant sisterhood, love, and support. I now serve as co-president of my chapter. We do many projects and lots of fun!

**Judy Bailey-Ogle, Gamma Iota Chapter**

Wynona Dye was on the Nominations Committee the year I was nominated for chapter president. She was without question always supportive of me and all of our members. Also, this year my chapter made a motion to support my nomination for TNSO Second Vice President. Wynona was the first person to second the motion, before the motion was finished being made. I love her and miss her.

**Terry Sharp, Zeta Chapter**

I have been fortunate to serve others through public education for 27 years. I have served in the classroom, and I have been able to teach teachers to be teachers. Of all my involvement in education, my time serving and learning through DKG has been my proudest! I have been especially appreciative of my sisters in our Alpha Epsilon Chapter. I cannot touch on my experiences without bragging on the leadership, support and grace shown by Dr. Elaine Vaughan. When faced with personal disappointment in our district, Elaine's guidance has just meant the world to me. She exemplifies the heart of a DKG leader and sister.

**M. H. Blalock, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

I first joined in the 80's. I enjoyed the fellowship with outstanding teachers from different schools!

**Linda Thornton, Alpha Omega Chapter**

My special moment was when I walked into the DKG meeting and saw my high school teacher from 44 years ago.

**R. G., Beta Phi Chapter**

My journey with DKG started by being asked to attend a meeting and share my passion with trauma-informed care. It ended up in membership in DKG!

**Alicia Kahrs, Lambda Chapter**

Every meeting I enjoy seeing friendly and supportive ladies. It is a bright spot each month.

**Anonymous, Beta Phi Chapter**

We were doing the last ZOOM meeting before the Beginning Leadership Seminar, and Linda Eller was talking, but her Z connection made her sound as if she were winding down. We were all sitting there straight-faced, patiently waiting for her connection to clear. Then I notice Elaine Vaughan trying not to laugh and I just cracked up, and the next thing we knew we all just fell out laughing, including Linda! BEST MEETING EVER!!!

**Amanda Pugh, Beta Eta Chapter**

My membership moment is always ongoing because they are all special moments I can share with my mother who is still a member of DKG.

**Laura Schmidt, Gamma Iota Chapter**

I remember when I went to the first meeting at a small restaurant. I felt so welcomed and felt such a comradery since the first moment hearing the inspiration of the meeting! It was and still is, such a source of encouragement and hope in a constantly changing and challenging career.

**Mari Salter, Alpha Chapter**

A long time ago when I was a college senior, all the DKG professors had a luncheon to introduce education majors to DKG and its professional offerings. I determined after meeting with these amazing women, I would seek to be invited for membership as soon in my career as possible (5 years). A truly remarkable teacher gave me that invitation and we have both had memorable careers, and a beautiful friendship throughout these many years. I've had the pleasure of membership in four chapters in the U.S.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

When I joined in 1983, I was expecting my first child. I was the youngest member and the only one to be pregnant!

**S.P., Beta Phi Chapter**

To me DKG has always been about support. To gather and talk about school and issues with people who understand, with educators from kindergarten to high school. Also, I enjoy supporting scholarships and the library, the community service.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I will never forget the infinite number of conversations with Dianne Anderson about anything and everything. Any time I had a question about finances, she was my go-to-person. I will also never forget the Beginning Leadership Development Seminars and being roommates. She is so much fun, and I cannot think of anyone else I would rather have been with. She is truly "from the heart".

**Dr. Elaine Vaughan, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

Meeting the teachers who received the Early Educator Grants.

**Susan Martin, Zeta Chapter**

The opportunity to develop and nurture friendships with ladies who have the same love and interests of teaching children.

**Courtney Page, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

I met Regina Henry at an induction meeting with the four chapters in Nashville. Regina was a fairly new member of Beta Chapter and took to heart the message that I presented concerning “From the Heart” with membership and leadership. I had mentioned that anyone could still join a state committee even though the state planning committee meetings had taken place in the fall. Regina came up to me after the meeting ended and said that she would like to serve on Leadership Development. She was placed on the committee immediately and was a wonderful team member during this biennium. She also set up the venue for our Prep Rally. I am so thankful that I was able to meet Dr. Regina Henry. She is someone who loves and cares for our organization.

**Dr. Elaine Vaughan, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

DKG is a wonderful organization. I have had so many wonderful memories in this organization during my time as a member. I became a member of DKG in 2018. My first and most impressionable member at the Beta Chapter is Ms. Doris Ann. She is very welcoming and kind. What I like the most about Ms. Doris Ann is how she orchestrates picture time after our chapter meetings. She makes sure we are ordered by height, are name badges are removed, our hair and clothes are in order and that we are standing/positioned appropriately to take the best pictures! I love DKG! I am grateful to be a part of this organization.

**Dr. Regina Henry, Beta Chapter**

The first time I went to Sewanee was an experience! The thing I remember the most is the walk to the cross with my best friend and DKG sister.

**Karen Pyun, Beta Iota Chapter**

I arrived at my DKG induction luncheon to find that the guest speaker was the DKG state President, at the time, Beverly Smith. She was one of my favorite teachers in high school! It was such a surprise and joy to share my entry into DKG with a teacher that meant so much to me. I was able to see her again at state convention this year as I serve as a new co-president for Rho Chapter.

**Kelli Myers, Rho Chapter**

I would need a BOOK to mention the many ways/influences from DKG: New York City International Convention---great!!; Savannah SE Regional Conference---hot but fun from start to finish. My husband and I got to know Janice and Jim Sorsby and other special people; Fellowship---good people in our chapter, willing to help anyone; the special Valentine Teas at the DeNeuille Learning Center and all our chapter did for the students there; monthly “charity” acts that members did for our community and even reaching out to other countries.

**Linda Bond, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

One of the most amazing group of ladies that will support your efforts (through great opportunities), enrich your profession (through MANY learning opportunities), and beautiful friendships are only a few of the reasons DKG has a special place in my heart!

**Kelly Reed, Zeta Chapter**

I was honored and a bit apprehensive to be a part of Delta Kappa Gamma. Now, I'm so very glad I've joined because I've met many different people and feel a part of the "family". I've experienced personal and professional growth that I may not have had the opportunity to otherwise.

**Anonymous, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

One of our favorite monthly meeting activities is drumsticks. We get to move and work out some stress from the day! It's my favorite activity!

**Anonymous, Gamma Iota Chapter**

This is my induction meeting! I am excited to be a part of this organization! I think building friendships and relationships will be beneficial to my teaching!

**Katie Runyan, Beta Phi Chapter**

There are so many memorable moments as a DKG member: my first TN State Convention at Sewanee was such a delight, especially (and I know everyone shares my love for) the Ceremony of Remembrance.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I have admired Freda Branam since I met her around 2015. She is truly a jewel, and it was a tremendous honor when she nominated me for membership in DKG, beta Phi Chapter. I recently celebrated my six-year anniversary of DK G membership; I am so proud to be in this organization with Freda and many other wonderful ladies.

**Lisa Greenwood, Beta Phi Chapter**

I was invited to join DKG this year. It couldn't have come at a better time. Staffing changes meant I went from one of the least experienced teachers to one of the most in my PLC. Suddenly I'm mentoring! DKG gives ME a place to still be mentored.

**Anonymous, Beta Phi Chapter**

I have enjoyed the Nashville chapters group projects. Our four Nashville chapters get together to do a worthwhile project. We eat together, we work together, and we enjoy being with each other. We are four chapters, but we are DKG!!!

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I am so thankful for the friends and sisters I have made through Delta Kappa Gamma. My cup runneth over with opportunities from Delta Kappa Gamma.

**Betsy Edmond, Gamma Iota Chapter**

My first state convention was in 2007. My daughter was expecting her first child and was having complications. Everyone was encouraging and supportive which put me at ease. I will always remember how I felt so welcome.

**Anonymous, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

Betty Fassnacht was a principal at my children's elementary school. She was so active in Delta Kappa Gamma. Once I took dinner to her after she had fallen! She could not believe that someone would do that for her. When I was in rehab after a fall, Betty was also in the assisted living there. She could hardly walk. She made her way to my building many times! What a great person she was! A real asset to our chapter.

**Lavere Guthrie, Alpha Chapter**

One of my biggest regrets.....I was invited after my third year of teaching to join DKG. If I had joined, I would have been among the first members because our chapter was being formed. Thankfully, I was asked to join later and did. Also, the thrill I felt when I received not only a state scholarship but also an international scholarship will always be remembered.

**Anonymous, Beta Phi Chapter**

Nancy Leach was a most dedicated member of Beta Phi. No job was too great or too small to be given her utmost attention. One evening she needed to attach a decoration above her reach. The closest item by which to achieve her goal was a metal folding chair. Once the desired height was gained by stepping on the seat, the chair went back to its folded position with Nancy in it. Her release consumed several minutes. Nancy would not speak of the incident again!

**Linda Heatherly, Beta Phi Chapter**

Our chapter was founded eight days after I had given birth, by surgery. I was told that I had to be present to sign the book. Liz Whorley Bradley stood by me when I said that I really needed to leave as my husband couldn't feed our son. She was amazed that I was there!

**Mary Ann Kenik, Beta Phi Chapter**

When my mother, who was a DKG Alpha Iota member, gave her pen to me; the Founders' Day program where I portrayed Annie Webb Blanton and dressed for that time period; when two member of our chapter celebrated 50 years of membership.

**Olivia Anderson, Alpha Iota Chapter**

I remember being in a musical skit at what was then Xi State Convention where I was a DKG angel along with two other members. It was such fun!

**Anonymous, Alpha Delta Chapter**

There were so many magical moments; I cherish them all!!

**Jessica Holman, Zeta Chapter**



We always have a Christmas brunch each year and I love this time of fellowship. My Christmas tree is filled with DKG ornaments from these meetings.

**Anonymous, Alpha Delta Chapter**

My most memorable moments in DKG are the fellowship that we each experience at every Alpha Delta Chapter meeting. What a great bunch of ladies to spend the afternoon with!!

**Anonymous, Alpha Delta Chapter**

Trips to Xi State---attending workshops, visiting Mildred's friend Mary Moore's Quaint Shop. Silent auctions, making favors for various meals.

A back-to-school meeting was held at Ebbing and Flowing Spring School and Church. We had a covered dish event outside on the lawn. We toured the one room schoolhouse and held our meeting at the church.

**Diane Venable, Alpha Iota Chapter**

Induction into Gamma Omicron in DKG.

**Hillary Hall, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

Going to state convention and staying by the lake where the frogs croaked all night. Did not sleep at all that weekend.

**Anne Payne, Zeta Chapter**

On June 2, 2017, at Xi State Convention I was recognized for 50 years of membership and service in Delta Kappa Gamma. I was presented with a certificate and pin; on April 30, 2007, Alpha Iota celebrated Founders' Day with a tea at the home of Joyce Phillips, a chapter member. Members donned hats and gloves and dined on delicious tea delicacies; I attended Xi State Convention two times during my biennium as Alpha Iota Chapter President, 1972-1974. Both were outstanding experiences; I was presented the Order of the Rose Award for outstanding service and dedication to Alpha Iota Chapter by Xi State 2019-2020. Alpha Iota President Brandy McCracken presented me the certificate and pin on September 27, 2021; in 2004, Alpha Iota Chapter celebrated Founders' Day by twelve members donning hats, gloves and appropriate clothing and presented a first-person biography of each founder. I was one of the presenters.

**Dorcas Fairchild, Alpha Iota Chapter**

My first memory was meeting Poly Cross, our president at the time. She was a joy to get to know. Another memory is going to other places to have our chapter meetings.

**Anonymous, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

International Convention at Opryland Hotel in 1992. We enjoyed our time at Opryland, and I promised another member we would not get wet in the log ride. We did get wet, and we had the President's Banquet that night. So, our hair was not looking so good that night.

**Connie Silvey, Zeta Chapter**

I was initiated into membership in 1972. In 1975, Martha Brown and I roomed together at state convention. Sitting around in McGrady Hall, torn down now, someone asked if we had seen the cross. When we said no, we piled into a big Buick and about 8 or 9 people went to see the cross. Well, we had to sit on laps and remember I was much smaller then so when we returned to the dorm and started getting out, someone said “Barbara get out of Souci Hall’s lap.” I was so embarrassed to find out she was the State President. Fortunately, we became good friends.

**Barbara Hinson, Alpha Rho Chapter**

My best DKG memories are at the state convention at Sewanee when we all exit the chapel and stand in silence while the carillon plays the DKG song.

**Helen Costa, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

A magical membership moment was my first TNSO Convention at the Ceremony of Remembrance. It was amazing to see how people continue to be honored for their service in education and in DKG even after their passing. It was a beautiful moment that will forever be cherished.

**Julie Golden, Zeta Chapter**

Jessica and I got hit by a deer on the way home from Xi State; the year (1985) I was initiated it poured rain and I looked like a large, drowned rat; line dancing at the White Horse Saloon at the International Convention in Nashville.

**Mary Brockett, Zeta Chapter**

My moment was TODAY! I was in charge of getting the speaker for today’s meeting and the speaker didn’t show up! But in true DKG fashion one of our members presented about “grandparents as parents” and saved the day!

**Tami Smith, Zeta Chapter**

Texting my aunt, a DKG member in Alabama, messages about going to my first meeting in September and betting my badge and pin; talking and meeting someone new at every meeting; going to new places for meetings and getting to experience very cool and neat speakers and professional development; being a part of a group that does great things and gives back to the community in big ways.

**Laura Williams, Zeta Chapter**

One of my favorite membership moments was attending the Xi State Convention at Sewanee for the very first time. My Zeta Chapter friends made this a very special time for me. They took me to see ‘the cross’, they presented me with a Sewanee Angel Christmas ornament and made the Ceremony of Remembrance a very heart-felt time in my life.

**Sherry Walsh, Zeta Chapter**

Enjoyable trips to Sewanee for conventions; trips to Nashville; receiving the Order of the Rose; friendship with my Zeta members; enjoyment of workshops at conventions and other meetings.

**Sara Key, Zeta Chapter**

At the International Convention at Opryland Hotel several members of Zeta Chapter arrived early to help with the convention. Late the first night, Dr. June Gorski, our health professor from UT asked if I wanted to share a pizza with her. This was at midnight! She proceeded to order the pizza on the phone. She wanted all fresh, very fresh vegetables on her pizza. She continued to quiz the poor pizza man about fresh vegetables. We did get a pizza. I'm not so sure how fresh the vegetables were, but it sure was good!

**Martha McCluen, Zeta Chapter**

In February 2020, several members from the state Legislative Committee were headed to Nashville for a planning meeting. We made our first stop at Cracker Barrel in Knoxville for breakfast. During breakfast one of the members got a call that the hotel where our meetings were being held had no power and had to shut down. We discussed whether we should go ahead when we got another call that the meeting had been cancelled because a tornado was headed for the Nashville area. We turned back, went home, and waited for the meeting to be rescheduled. Then COVID 19 happened!

**Tracy Cagle, Zeta Chapter**

Teaching Myra's granddaughter in VA; New Teachers' meeting via ZOOM; Christmas party; meeting people from all across the country during ZOOM calls; the welcoming spirit and kindness; meeting DKG at my college in 2019; making connections.

**Kaitlin Powers, Zeta Chapter**

I remember attending the Ceremony of Remembrance the first time I attended the state convention. It was a lovely, reverent ceremony and it touched my heart; the Christmas party at Connie Silvey's house in December 2022 was so much fun. The food was great and so was the company; I enjoyed one meeting in Sevierville where I got to meet Dr. William Bass. He spoke and autographed books. I so enjoyed meeting DKG sisters from other chapters.

**Kitty Pruett, Zeta Chapter**

Before I became a member, Zeta members came to Oak ridge High School and assisted in making dresses for Africa. I had moved to a neighboring school district, but the Zeta members were teachers I had known previously. The Zeta ladies hugged and loved on me in a way that I had so desperately missed. This moment made me realize that I longed for the fellowship of dedicated educators both past and present to continue the journey in education.

**Jennifer Long, Zeta Chapter**

Connections with members. Winning a scholarship for a classroom STEM activity and attending a professional development conference.

**Alice Carson, Zeta Chapter**

Alpha Tau Chapter participated in a 25<sup>th</sup> birthday party for our chapter. It was held at Fox Den country Club. Everyone dressed up and we had a wonderful luncheon. We honored charter members and invited past members to attend. It was a very special afternoon.

**Nancy Irwin, Zeta Chapter**

I am remembering members who are no longer with us, including my mother, Grace Arnold. I used to enjoy going to Alpha Tau meetings with her. However, during the Legislative Report, I was remembering Joyce Burchett the mother of Congressman Tim Burchett. I think that sometimes we might want to remind Tim that his mother was a teacher. Remembering Joyce, I do not think that she would always agree with some of Tim's points of view and activities.

**Judy Arnold Rogers, Zeta Chapter**

I like how Zeta brings in speakers from the community and all sorts of different aspects from special interests to politics to family support; meeting retired teachers from the school where I currently teach is wonderful; getting picked for the Spotlight on An Educator---I was overwhelmed by everyone's generosity.

**Beth Meyer, Zeta Chapter**

My initiation was very memorable and impressive. We dressed in choir robes and were in the church chapel. During an initiation when I was Membership Chair, an initiate nearly set her hair on fire when she placed her small candle in the triangle. During another initiation, one of the speakers fainted. Conventions are always memorable. Many years we would all travel in a van and on our way home we planned our upcoming year. The International Convention in New Orleans in 2020 was fun, particularly the parade down Canal Street and through the French Quarter.

**Judy Fleener, Zeta Chapter**

During a state convention, Ellen was to be a guide to take tours up the stairs of the All Saints' Chapel. I gave her my shoes and I wore her shoes. She had loose sandals and I had shoes with heels (not high heels). We went to several conventions together and also traded clothes if what I had looked better than what she brought.

**Ursula Thompson, Zeta Chapter**

One of the best membership moments occurred during the quarantine period of COVID 19. We started having virtual meetings in order to continue our meetings and maintain our fellowship. That was a nice break from the stresses of quarantine to allow us to still have connections with our sisters and know we could make it through!

**Diana Lowe, Gamma Nu Chapter**

I have a box of "DKG Treasures" filled with notecards from members across our seventeen countries. Whenever I need a smile or my spirits lifted, I open the box and start reading. My blues quickly vanish, and I am filled with a sense of belonging and love.

**Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan, Alpha Rho Chapter**

The first time I went to International was in Nashville, Tennessee. My traveling companion was Louise Crawford. She gave me some sage wisdom. She said, "Betty, always have young friends. They keep you young."

At one of the State conventions there was a nearby estate sale. You know, I love to shop! I found a couple of items and I asked the lady if she would take an out-of-town check. She asked me if I was a part of the group that Johnny Mayors' mother belonged to. (Mrs. Majors always wore a hat.) I told her I was, and she allowed me to write a check. It is all about who you know! I was associated with her good reputation.

June Reasons and I have been to many conventions together. Once at Regional in Chattanooga, we visited a local bookshop. June helped me load up a lot of cookbooks that day! Her car "runneth over" with the number of books from that trip!

I have traveled with Laura Evans many times. One time we came up on a radio show, "Deep-fried Biscuits". Another time, we stayed at the Opryland Hotel. I wanted to go the "Grand Ole Opry". Laura figured out how to get tickets and we went! It was great!

I have been to conventions in New York City, Savannah, Indianapolis, Seattle, New Orleans, Canada, and Nashville to name a few. Mary Jo Wilson and I got stuck in an elevator in Seattle. Susan Hoback and I shared a meal in Savannah in a beautiful old house converted into a restaurant. Thankfully, she knew what the entree was because I did not recognize it. We shared the entree. Susan and I also rode a pedicab through the city.

**Betty Only, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

Some of my favorite DKG membership moments are from the Xi State/Tennessee State conventions. I remember how much fun and laughter we all had at some of the first conventions I went to when Linda McCrary would auction off people's clothing to raise money for the Vision Foundation. At another convention, after our state project to send money and books to the Trent Lott Middle School (their library had been destroyed in a natural disaster), a letter I had written to the Trent Lott teachers in a book I sent was read aloud by Barbara Northcut. It meant so much to me to know that my words had made a difference in the lives of some of my DKG sisters in another state. A third unforgettable memory is the time when the carillon player was unavailable for the ceremony of remembrance. Dr. Jensi Souders played the Delta Kappa Gamma song on the flute from just inside the building while we all stood outside holding hands. It was hauntingly beautiful. While I will always love the carillon, that moment in time will always be etched in my memory.

**Amy Burton, Alpha Chapter**

Going to Sewanee and being the recipient of the "Order of the Rose." It was so impressive.

**Carol Stout, Gamma Mu Chapter**

Gamma Mu has been a positive influence in the community through the Good Neighbor program and involvement in the Library Carnival.

**Carol Hieronymus, Gamma Mu Chapter**

My very first memory of DKG was attending the Remembrance Service at the Alpha Alpha Chapter for my mother-in-law. I was not a member at the time, and I remember how warm and friendly everyone was and they gave me a cookbook with my mother-in-law's favorite pie recipe in it.

**Andy Wright, Gamma Mu Chapter**

I have many treasured memories of 11 years in DKG. I initially joined in order to meet "like-minded" women in my new hometown of Mountain City. Very soon, I felt at home, made friends, and each year becoming more involved and incredibly grateful for the amazing women in our chapter.

**Sheila Cruse, Gamma Mu Chapter**

I love being a part of the Good Neighbor Award and giving recognition to students who exemplify the qualities of a good neighbor.

**Leni Smith, Gamma Mu Chapter**

Induction into Gamma Mu.

**Misste Phillippi, Gamma Mu Chapter**

We were originally members of a chapter located about 35 miles away. My special moment was when we were recognized as our own chapter on February 1, 2003.

**Barbara Henson, Gamma Mu Chapter**

I was inducted on 9-27-22 into the Gamma Mu Chapter by a wonderful group of women educators who have also mentored me in various stages of my life.

**Nikki Campbell, Gamma Mu Chapter**

Serving as State President and serving as Vision Foundation Chair.

**Nancy Davis, Gamma Mu Chapter**

Being able to meet with my Gamma Mu Sisters for fellowship, great conversations, and always a good time.

**Anonymous, Gamma Mu Chapter**

One of my favorite memories of being a member is our helping others in our community and abroad, both children and adults.

**Teresa Mullen, Gamma Mu Chapter**

It was very heart-warming when our chapter met for our first meeting this year. We seemed so disjointed during COVID, but now we are finally back together and starting out strong!

**Anonymous, Phi Chapter**

Chicago was a wonderful convention. I remember everyone getting a temporary rose tattoo. A big group of us rode the train from Memphis to Chicago. Each evening a large group of us rode the train into the city to see the musicals “Jersey Boys” and “Wicked”. It was a long wait to the train station. The group was so large while waiting in the train station that we started singing.

**Martha Bailey, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

What keeps us yearning to return to Sewanee each year? Is it the beautiful surroundings, our worthwhile purposes, the inspiring messages?

In the early eighties, a few Phi Chapter members were out for a walkway down by our dorm near the bullfrog ponds. Our beloved mentor, Miss Vivian Shields, a longtime Sewanee attendee answered it best. “It’s the fellowship girls, it’s the fellowship!”

**Rosie Coleman, Phi Chapter**

Who remembers 1987? I was President of Beta Chapter, proudly attending my 9th Xi State Convention, with my 3-month-old daughter, Jane. We stayed at the Holiday Inn, with my mother keeping the nursing baby. We had to time trips to Sewanee for feedings. I remember that experience, but I was Chapter President, and I was obligated to attend. That year I nominated Lois Jones from Beta to be Xi State President. A few years later, I served on the Historical Preservation Committee for 6 years. Dee Dee Reeves was President during the 75th year anniversary. She requested I go around the Nashville Area and take pictures of our Founders for a slide show at Xi State. In addition, I was asked to keep stone grave markers for all the Middle Tennessee founders in my garage. All were installed except 2, which stayed in my garage for several years. I had to explain to my incredulous daughters what I was doing with grave markers in my garage and who to contact in case something happened to me. And then there was the year they changed convention dates which coincided with Bonaroo. I left Nashville about noon and got to Sewanee about 4 (usually a 2-hour drive at the longest). They had closed registration at Sewanee Inn, and I had to wander around the campus trying to figure out where to go. The next year I Googled how to get to University of the South bypassing Bonaroo. That route took me south through Winchester and then north to Sewanee. I actually found the city of Sewanee and enjoyed exploring the little shops tourists inhabited. So, from babies, to nominations, to grave markers, to the present, Xi State (TNSO) continues to thrive and attract new members, adventures, and memories.

**Mary Jane Thompson, Beta Chapter**

The most memorable experience for me happened when I had my cancer surgery. My living room was full of cards from my DKG family, as well as the calls, texts, and hospital visits. It meant the world to me to have that kind of support.

**Sherrie Collins, Beta Pi Chapter**

Driving to San Antonio with Marsha Brewer for the 2021 International Convention was a trip to remember!! We missed a turn which cost us several hours, travel time and we spent the night at a sketchy hotel hosted by a man we are sure was Norman Bates.

**Carole Belles, Beta Upsilon Chapter**

My mentor teacher, Bonnie Fussell, invited me to join the Beta Xi chapter. I had always looked up to Bonnie and knew she was involved in some professional organization but did not know much about it. I also knew there were a few other teachers in my school that were members. I accepted the invitation and joined in 2006. I recall being so nervous and even a little intimidated. There were several teachers that I knew and respected and I was really honored to be included.

I did not begin a truly active role in my chapter until 2010. I was encouraged by Dee Dee Rives, who had visited a chapter meeting, to take an officer role in my chapter. I recall attending my first state chapter officer training in Cookeville around that time. I was in a breakout session led by Beverly Smith. She was talking to us about the impact being a member had on her. She talked about the friends, the encouragement, and the growth she had experienced as a member. That was a turning point for me. I wanted to know more about the organization.

From becoming a chapter officer, I was motivated to apply to attend a Beginning Leadership Management seminar in 2010. I was selected to attend one led by Beverly Helms, future International President. Can I just say, "WOW!". From that moment on, I was hooked. I saw the bigger picture. I saw how many connections were being made. I saw support. I learned about Ways I and I could be more impactful in my chapter and in my school. Fast forward to being selected to attend the Advanced Leadership seminar led by Becky Sadowski. Again, I learned more. I was encouraged by her, Dee Dee Rives, and Dr. Kathie Harned. I left just wanting more.

In late 2011, encouraged by the Advanced state seminar, I took a huge step and applied for the International Leadership Management seminar held each biennium in Austin, TX. I was so surprised to be selected to attend the seminar set for July 2012. To say that those two weeks changed my life, is an understatement. I think about something from that time or a friend I met from that time every day. I was reminded of the first state chapter officer training I attended, and the words Beverly Smith said about the impact DKG connections had on her. From the initial encouragement, I stepped out a little, I gained so much.

**Jennifer Lusk, Beta Xi Chapter**

Some of my special memories in Delta Kappa Gamma are the baby shower thrown for me by my sisters in Alpha Alpha, the donation in memory of my father by the chapter, and members distributing books to the schools in Bristol, TN.

**Amy Edmison, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

A memorable experience for me was attending the Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention in Nashville, TN in 2016. During the well-planned sessions, presenters shared timely information & materials for further use. It was invigorating to meet participants from many countries who share the bond of Delta Kappa Gamma membership. Attending an international convention was a lifetime opportunity for me!

**Carol Perkins, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

When I joined Alpha Alpha, I was able to reconnect with my sixth-grade teacher, my elementary principal, and a teacher from high school. It was a thrill to be with them again.

**Jane DeBusk, Alpha Alpha Chapter**



The year was 2010. I was at the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY. As I stood in one of many lines to catch a shuttle to another event, I heard a voice, "Look, Dave, she's DKG." I looked around and there was a lovely British lady waving at someone excitedly. I couldn't see who she might be referring to. As she made her way through the crowd getting closer to me by the second, I realized that she was zeroing in on me, I glanced down wondering how she knew I was DKG. There it was—the little red neck/ shoulder pouch with DKG proudly emblazoned on it, the TN State Convention gift that year. We had a really nice chat in which she revealed that her husband was sooooo excited to get to ride the big yellow school bus shuttle!

**Barbara Brookshire, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

When I joined DKG in 1976, I was assigned to the Personal Growth and Services Committee. The committee was chaired by a member who believed that everyone on the committee should be actively involved in all committee activities. At that time, I must say that I inwardly groaned each time I actively participated in a program. Now, I say "Thank you, Martha Marshall. What a wonderful personal and professional growth experience you sent me on in Delta Kappa Gamma!"

In 1989, I joined 30 other Xi State members and attended a Delta Kappa Gamma experience in Canterbury, England. It was a great adventure. Lifetime friendships were formed. It is memorable.

**Betty Ball, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

The warm welcome I received when I joined DKG is my Membership Moment.

**Anonymous, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

Being asked to sing at state convention for the necrology service has always been such an honor and joy.

**Donna Camper, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

I enjoy the fellowship with the members.

**Anonymous, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

Honored to receive Order of the Rose, which was presented to me at the first state convention that I attended.

**Anonymous, Alpha Alpha Chapter**

My best membership memory was when I was presented with deceased Past President member Audrey Doak's President's Pen during our Celebration of Life program. I was truly honored.

**Tawana Teague, Alpha Alpha President**

One of the most fun activities that I have participated in with my chapter is learning the art of card making. We worked in small groups taught by members Martha Bailey and Linda Eller. They were so kind, creative, and patient. The Halloween and holiday cards were crafted on two separate occasions. The Halloween cards were cute pumpkins and scary witches. The holiday cards were beautiful angels and pudgy snowmen. We were able to make three cards from each session to give to our family and friends. The recipients of my cards could not believe that I was so artistic. Our members interacted with each other and became closer friends. I hope we have more card making sessions because I thoroughly loved and enjoyed it.

**Becky Cooper, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

My moment in DKG was on November 17, 2022, when our President, Ms. Pam Thompson, wrote and spoke an eloquent poem about "Being Thankful". This poem really hit home for me. It made me reflect on knowing I always have opportunities to renew and rebuild my faith within myself, my setbacks, my challenges, my mistakes, my limitations, and the difficult times I have to face. It reminded me to be thankful no matter what my mind tells me. Most of the time my mind is centered around negativity because of the struggles I face. This poem gave me HOPE.

**Tiffany Watkins, Alpha Xi Chapter**

In 1994, the International Convention was held in Nashville. Phi members Ethel Holt, our young local president Pam Groves and I spent all day Saturday at the meeting. We left Pulaski at 7:00 in the morning and got back home at midnight.

**Rebecca Drone, Phi Chapter**

I was so excited to become a DKG member last spring and to meet everyone in our chapter. I was really surprised to learn that my best friend from high school was also our Area 3 Director (Amanda Pritchett). From that day and first meeting I felt like I belonged to this group. Amanda was able to be at that first meeting and she and I were able to reconnect a bit. A sense of belonging to this group of incredible women has been a real blessing.

**Cathy Carroccio, Alpha Phi Chapter**

I remember sharing breakfast with a State President from another state. She said that "you do not attend a state convention as part of a vacation. You attend to see your friends."

So true!

**Sharon McMahan, Alpha Phi Chapter**

The special ceremony where I was inducted into DKG. Being introduced to all the chapters in Chattanooga receiving my rose pin was my most memorable memory.

**Becky Brandt, Alpha Phi Chapter**

The best thing about Alpha Phi since I retired is being able to keep contact with former teachers I have worked with and making new friends.

**Karla Riddle, Alpha Phi Chapter**

Being a member of Delta Kappa Gamma has been one of the greatest honors of my life. It has been such a privilege to have this wonderful connection to such smart ladies who are not only leaders at school but in their community. I am very blessed that I can call them friends.

**Pat Hartline, Alpha Phi Chapter**

Watching Dr. Maycie Southhall who was bent with age straighten full height with her walker as she walked the center aisle of All Saints' Chapel at Sewanee during our Ceremony of Remembrance.

**Barbara Northcut, Alpha Phi Chapter**

Over the years, my network of educators through DKG has grown and, as a result, I've gained so much love and support, as well as advice and consent on professional and personal topics. I truly have gained so many sisters who are family to me.

**Dr. Jensi Souders, Alpha Phi Chapter**

My most memorable moment was last year at the Ceremony of Remembrance at Sewanee for my first state convention. It was so moving; I was brought to tears at such a solemn occasion.

**Dr. Judy Nixon, Alpha Phi Chapter**

Sharing membership moments with chapter members attending state conventions can produce some funny stories. In collaboration with Alpha Xi Sisters Nancy Bibler and Donna Lamkin, I recalled the time trying to find our transportation, we became lost in the fog after a Thursday Evening Reception in Guerry Hall. Our adventurous group also included Harriett Harris, Ernestine Eldridge, Eloise Litz, and Karen Phillips. The year, Donna stated, was 2004 when she became incoming chapter president. Too, she related, "We could barely see anything in front of us and there was no way to orient ourselves."

Leaving Guerry at an unfamiliar exit, we were unable to identify buildings. Nancy shared, "being lost in this vast place and then being shocked the next day by what a small area we were really in the whole time." She added, "I don't think I have ever been so totally disoriented, with

no idea how to get out of our predicament. Good time to have Alpha Xi sisters with me, no panic, just laughs, we were all in this together."

Rescue came from an individual we met who directed us to the bookstore where we were parked, and we departed to find our dorm. As Donna observed, "We all laughed about it and remarked that we would talk about it for years to come." Yes, indeed, we did just that!

**Maxine Williams, Alpha Xi Chapter**

During the Pandemic, I participated in the Tennessee State Organization's Zoom Caroling Virtual Cookie Exchange and received a number of delicious cookies and candy recipes. One in particular, Carol Stout's Orange Slice Cookies, now a favorite of mine that I make several times each year, receives rave reviews every time I bake and serve them.

**Kaye Williams, Zeta Chapter**

While going through my DKG keepsakes, I came across a journal entry I made while at the state convention in 2014:

*I have had a great time these past two days getting to know my chapter sisters. Nancy Bibler has been so gracious to drive us all over campus. Maxine Williams has been so sweet to include me and invite me to come with her and Nancy, Eloise, and Ernestine. Norma Cate has been gracious and inclusive, as always. She is hanging out with Barbara and I've enjoyed getting to know her. Ernestine and I have in common that we've both taught at Soddy Daisy and Sale Creek! Julie Hughes has been very nice. She recognized me and came to sit with me at the Dutch Treat Lunch on Thursday. Other Alpha Xi members joined us and I began to get caught up on chapter happenings.*

*It's been amazing to watch Beverly (Smith) preside over the event. She is so gracious and thorough and perfectly suited as president of Xi State. She slipped a gift into my bag just before we took our chapter photo - a post-it note holder, silver with DKG post-its.*

*The workshops were great. I attended a combination that were helpful in the classroom and in creating an excellent chapter.*

**Kim Thurman, Alpha Xi Chapter**

I am a new member with just under a year in DKG membership. But amazingly I have experienced such wonderful moments already! My very first meeting as a new member was in the library of Red Bank Elementary School. It was a special meeting for me because I received my membership card. I was so proud. My very own card! At home later, I was putting away papers from the meeting and discovered that my card was missing. Oh, my goodness, my beautiful card was gone before I even got home! I was so embarrassed. I decided to swallow my pride and ask Pam, our President, if she could check the library for my card. She was so kind and nonjudgmental. And to my complete delight she told me she found my card when closing up after our meeting and would keep it safe till next time.

A special friendship developed after riding with Jeanette to meetings. She always offers to drive and we meet at the local DG and I tag a ride to meetings with her. She shares stories and events from her life and DKG experiences. Those car rides have created a deeper connection between the two of us as DKG sisters. Simple gestures of kindness with huge impact run deep and wide in our chapter!

**Wynne Anderson, Alpha Xi Chapter**

One of the best membership moments occurred during the quarantine period of COVID 19. We started having virtual meetings in order to continue our meetings and maintain our fellowship. That was a nice break from the stresses of quarantine to allow us to still have connections with our sisters and know we could make it through.

**Diana Lowe, Gamma Nu Chapter**

The first time I went to Sewanee for our state convention. I was overwhelmed with the Ceremony of Remembrance. It was so moving and special.

**Marsha Rains, Omega Chapter**

A precious memory is introducing my mother, Julia Householder, at the President's Banquet when she received the "Spotlight" Award, now the Order of the Rose. I loved watching her in the procession in All Saints' Chapel as a 50+ year member. So many wonderful ladies come to mind over the years and if I weren't a part of Delta Kappa Gamma, I would not have had the privilege to know them.

**Elaine Householder McIntosh, Gamma Nu Chapter**

I had the pleasure of presenting a fifty-year member award to 2 of our members. Linda Newton received a 50-year necklace at the meeting in April 2022. The other 50-year member lives in a nursing home. After the April meeting, several of us went to the nursing home to present a wooden clock to Rebecca Drone. I was so glad I could be a part of it all.

**Carole Cheatwood, Phi Chapter**

When I was initiated, we were in 4 counties, so most meetings were on Saturday, because some travel was involved. The banquets were formal, and we wore long dresses. Finding long dresses that didn't look like wedding apparel was difficult. Driving in a long dress was even more difficult!

**Linda Newton, Phi Chapter**

At the Xi State President's Banquet, the outgoing chapter president would go in with the incoming chapter president and introduce themselves and the incoming chapter president. The year I became chapter president (2004), Frances Pinckley filled in for our outgoing chapter president, Lynn Caruthers, who could not be there. We went to the platform. Frances introduced herself, presented a red rose to me, and instead of saying this is our incoming chapter president, Sherry Woods....she said, "I'd like to introduce our incoming chapter president." And she started singing the song, "Sherry, Sherry Baby"!

**Sherry Woods, Phi Chapter**

When I received my invitation to join Phi Chapter, it was in the late 1990's, when DKG was still more private about membership. Nothing was said prior to receiving the invitation, and you were not supposed to talk about receiving it to others. I remember being in awe that I had been asked to join. The initiation was at the 1800's former girls' school, Athenaeum, in Columbia, TN, which added to the almost magical experience of the initiation ceremony. Being escorted in by a member who had nominated me, hearing the words spoken at the ceremony, signing the membership book also signed by the members from long ago, lighting the candle, and receiving the rose and membership pin in the 1800's venue, all added to the magical feeling of the experience. At the banquet following the ceremony, the favor was a small, starched crocheted hat, inspired by the historical venue. I have had the little hat sitting on my dresser ever since, to remind me of that special memory.

**Marilyn Shaver, Phi Chapter**

I think the highlight of my DKG Moments would be my first Xi State Convention. We left home with torrential rain and flooding. The weather on the mountain was dry and the experience really opened my eyes to why/how the organization is structured. The Ceremony of Remembrance showed the love and respect each chapter has for their members who passed that year. Love remains...

**Beth Johnson, Phi Chapter**

One fond memory I have is Initiation in 1977. It was in the basement of Davy Crockett Restaurant, when Annie Mary Springer was President, and when we dressed up and wore long dresses. Initiation services have always been special events for me. I also appreciate meeting and working with wonderful women teachers across the state on Tennessee State Committees and local committees. One special memory was when I was on the music committee, and I got to play the piano for the opening and closing ceremonies, and for the presentation of the Presidents. I also got to sing in the choir many times.

**Carole Ivy, Phi Chapter**

### **Next Set of Membership Moments are from Dr. Dorrie Powell, Beta Sigma**

When you have been a member for as long as I have – this is my 40<sup>th</sup> year – there are countless membership moments. It is so difficult to share only a few.

Before I was invited to membership, I knew nothing about DKG. I taught with several members at Bolivar Central High School but never had any of them tell me about DKG or suggest I might join. After teaching at this school for three years, I received a phone call that summer from a local retired educator who asked me several specific questions about my teaching experience, education, community activities, and such. I later learned that these were questions on the membership recommendation form and that three years' experience was, at that time, the minimum requirement for membership. I am so glad that DKG is no longer such a secret society. I am also glad that DKG is now open to developing through membership the potential in beginning and preservice teachers. I am glad that retired educators can join even if they did not feel the need or find the time to join when they were actively employed. I am especially glad that I received that invitation to membership and joined Beta Sigma Chapter and DKG in 1983.

My first trip to state convention came in 1990 when I was incoming chapter president. Chapter mentors made sure that I had a seasoned convention attendee to guide me through every event and responsibility. Her name was Tennie Zue Armour. She will always hold a special place in my heart. I applaud every member who attends convention whether alone or with chapter members, but it was certainly much easier for me to have someone show me the ropes. Thank you, Miss Tennie Zue.

When I worked on my doctorate from 1995-1998, I had to take summer classes and was lucky to attend even part of the state convention. During that time, several chapter members liked to rent a cabin at the Smokehouse and relax for a day or two before the convention began. Always supportive and considerate, these members told me there would be a place for me to sleep whenever I could make it to Sewanee. One year, we must have been given a cabin that was originally built for a different purpose than to house a group of school teacher DKG members. Perhaps it had been designed as a honeymoon suite because, despite multiple beds and sofas for sleeping, the only bathtub was a very large one in the middle of the cabin – and there was no shower at all. By the time I arrived, my chapter members had contrived a privacy curtain of blankets suspended from the ceiling to enclose that huge tub. After that, we made a point to ask not only how many could sleep in the cabin but exactly where they might have to bathe.

Beverly Smith and I became fast friends about 20 years ago outside the Tennessee Breakfast. Somehow, we had two more members and guests show up for the breakfast than the hotel could accommodate in the small banquet room. Beverly and I volunteered to give up our seats, expecting we would also give up our meal as well. Instead, the hotel staff served us at a table in

the hallway where we missed most of the program that was going on inside but entertained ourselves by talking nonstop at the “children’s table” outside the Tennessee Breakfast.

One year at the state convention, my chapter was assigned rooms in Humphreys dorm. We checked in early at registration since a couple of us needed to attend flag bearer practice on Thursday afternoon. Before dinner, we headed to the dorm for the first time and tried to locate our room - L4. We searched every floor looking for our assigned room but without luck. No one we asked seemed to know the location of L4, including the members working at the registration desk. We needed to change clothes for the flag ceremony but had no available dorm room. In desperation, we took turns in the ladies’ room off the first-floor lobby. After the general session, we still struggled to find anyone who knew the location of L4 and thought we might end up sleeping in the dorm lobby as well. Finally, someone on the university staff had the answer. L4 was a loft that had to be accessed from a room on the floor below. The bathroom for the loft was also located in the room below. While that kind of arrangement might work for college students, we suggested they not use those L rooms in future for our DKG members.

Years ago, I served on the state membership committee and was helping with the first-timers tea at the state convention. Part of the program was a presentation on the opportunities and benefits of DKG membership, including the International Leadership Development Seminar (at that time called the Golden Gift Seminar). When the program concluded, Dr. Jensi Souders walked over to me and told me that I should apply. I did apply and, to my amazement, was accepted. If Jensi had not encouraged me, I am not sure I would have had the self-confidence to apply on my own. One of the special benefits of my membership in DKG has been having others recognize my potential and encouraging me to embrace opportunities.

After attending the Leadership Development Seminar in Austin in 2002, I knew I needed to step up to leadership opportunities in our state organization. I applied for the position of state corresponding secretary. To my horror, the nominations committee asked me to serve as recording secretary, the one job I never wished to hold. As I hesitated to respond, they offered me a spot on the nominations committee instead. Two years later, it was my responsibility as a member of the nominations committee to persuade Beverly Smith to take the job of recording secretary. When I was asked a second time to take the job of recording secretary, my own words to Beverly echoed in my head. I took a deep breath and accepted the one office in DKG that I had thought I would never hold!

When I served as TNSO second vice-president, I chaired the convention steering committee for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention in 2010. Obviously, this convention was special. We had an anniversary music CD, a commemorative book, a special skit, extra pieces to the program, and special guests. We also had over 400 register to attend. That meant more dorm rooms to assign, some in dorms we had not used in recent years, and extra tables and seats to squeeze in at meal events. I needed help, especially after my husband had a heart attack in May and required bypass surgery. My steering committee did a wonderful job. Dee Dee Rives was president but found time to assign table numbers for the meal events. Members from some of the Memphis chapters helped my own chapter members as we stuffed convention bags with meal tickets, name badges, and handouts. I thought I was finally organized and prepared for the convention until soon after registration opened on Thursday at the old Sewanee Inn. As the rest of the steering committee prepared to hand out registration packets and room keys, I rushed to set up signs to identify important locations on campus. After removing the first sign to post outside registration, I slammed my trunk to race to the next location. Unfortunately, my purse and keys were inside the trunk. After my initial panic and with the help of my steering committee members, I contacted

campus security and my vehicle's OnStar service. Eventually, I was able to unlock my car, retrieve my keys, and post the rest of my signs. It was an inauspicious start to a most memorable convention.

I had the honor of serving as state president for the 2015-2017 biennium. As I stood in line to pick up my 2015 convention registration, I felt a tap on my shoulder and heard a familiar voice. Nita Scott, former teaching friend and member of my chapter, had come from Austin to share in my installation as state president. Nita had plotted with several Tennessee members to surprise me with her visit to the convention. Having Nita present along with my husband, family members, and chapter members made my installation truly special.

I have never been so proud of my DKG membership as I was when Tennessee hosted the 2016 International Convention in Nashville. I was state president at that time, but I deserve none of the credit for the fabulous success of the convention. That credit goes to the extraordinary Convention Steering Committee chaired by Becky Sadowski and the hundreds of chapter volunteers who worked in advance of and during the convention.

**Dr. Dorrie Powell, Beta Sigma Chapter**

We have all heard the saying, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade." That aptly describes what our Xi State/TNSO President Nancy Davis did in 2007. Alpha Omicron was celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, having been installed by Miss Louise Oakley and others from Theta Chapter in 1957 in Jackson, TN at the New Southern Hotel. With an aging membership, the difficult decision was made to give up our charter and combine with Beta Eta members locally. Before that merger/consolidation, we wanted to honor our Alpha Omicron members who had 50 years of continuous membership: Alta Freeman, Rubye Williams, Frances Crosson (the first president of Alpha Omicron), and Estie Ripley. I cannot recall the name of the fifth member who had 50 years of membership but she was not able to attend in person. To mark this momentous occasion, we invited President Nancy Davis to attend and to sing a special song in their honor. Unfortunately, the weather did not want to cooperate. We got 5-7 inches of rain in a short time that Saturday morning. Nancy basically had to swim through the flooded streets to get inside the Episcopal Church fellowship hall for our program. She was unflappable even when her portable boombox was so full of water that the cassette tape was useless. No matter. She sang a cappella and did a magnificent job! I admired her then for her ability to make lemonade from more than a bucket full of lemons. We were able to honor our oldest charter members and celebrate this milestone with the lovely voice of our amazing Nancy Davis.

**Mary Frances Wadley, Beta Eta Chapter**

The year was 2005; the place was an Alpha Xi meeting at the UTC Faculty House. Several members were seated at tables of four on the glassed-in sun porch. Since I was inducted only one year earlier, I was still in the process of getting acquainted with members of Alpha Xi. As I sat down and introduced myself, one of the ladies at our table asked if I was related to the Cate family from Jasper where she used to reside. I responded that indeed I was and that I was married to Jim, a son of John and Christina Cate. Charlotte Lassiter then told me that she and her husband and two children lived next door to my husband's family for many years in Jasper before moving to the Chattanooga area. As a new DKG member, what a sweet connection with one of my Alpha Xi sisters.

**Norma Cate, Alpha Xi Chapter**



Back a few years ago, one of my former kindergarten students invited me and my husband to her Bat Mitzva. The evening event suggested cocktail attire. I went and looked for the right little dress to wear for the occasion. I found the cutest little black cocktail dress. It had a round, rhinestone belt buckle. My former student, her younger sister, and some other girls from class whom she had invited were in the receiving area when we arrived. They had never seen me so dressed up and said that I looked like a princess. Since the dress was such a hit at the event, I decided to wear my special little black cocktail dress to the Friday evening dinner at Xi State. Back then, we had a big reception for new chapter president downstairs. As I started walking from the dinner table, an old friend from another county called to me. I turned around to greet her, and we were both wearing the same dress! We laughed about it as we proceeded downstairs. When we got downstairs, and were going through the receiving line, someone caught our attention. She was wearing the same dress also! I wish we had taken a picture. When I got back home, I put my special little black cocktail dress in a bag with other items and took it down to a local charity donation shop. I told them there was a really cute, little black cocktail dress in with the other items.

**Donna Lamkin, Alpha Xi Chapter**

Julie Hughes, Kim Thurman, Betty Julian and I, participated in the DKG Arts Retreat several years ago. We represented Alpha Xi. We dressed as the Beatles and preformed (lip synced) some of their hits. It was so much fun! We practiced and really got into our characters. We also got to know each other better. It was great to work together to decide which songs to sing and which Beatle each one of us would portray. We wore wigs and dressed like the Beatles. We really played up our individual parts. Our performance was a big hit. It is a DKG memory that I will not forget. Every time I hear a Beatles song, I think of the Fab Four---Julie, Kim, Betty, Suzanne. "We love ya yea, yea, yea," now "Shake it up sisters...Twist and Shout"!!!

**Suzanne Rushworth, Alpha Xi Chapter**

Each year at the TNSO Convention, a highlight of the Saturday morning Remembrance Ceremony is the march of all the 50-year DKG members in attendance down the length of the church to their seats in the front row of the chapel. The year Alpha Xi's beloved Eloise Litz first marched down that aisle, the organist (who, we'll hope, didn't realize who was marching to his music---the next year, their processional hymn was much more sedate) played them in with a very lively, peppy tune. Eloise, who was at least 90 years old at the time, was startled, but gamely marched in with her head held high and didn't miss a beat! Now that I'm in my mid-eighties, I sometimes find myself moving slowly with head looking down and shoulders slumped. Once I think of Eloise, though, I lift my head, straighten my spine, and quicken my step---she inspires me still!

**Nancy Bibler, Alpha Xi Chapter**

My induction ceremony is one of my favorite memories. I felt I was joining an organization in which I would be encouraged and valued. It was a joint ceremony of the Chattanooga chapters. The candle lighting ceremony and special entertainment gave the entire event a special significance, marking the beginning of my journey with DKG. I will forever be grateful to Beverly Smith who saw something valuable in me. Thank you, Beverly and DKG.

**Kim Thurman, Alpha Xi Chapter**

My membership moment occurred when a group of women came to East Lake Elementary School and spoke to the teachers about being in an organization that benefited women and their prowess for education. These ladies were so professional and excited about their organization that they captured my interest immediately. Not only that, but they were there to serve the children and teachers in any capacity that we needed them to as educators. I immediately felt a connection and wanted to know more about them and how to become a part of this society. I spoke with one member, Donna Lamkin, and she straightaway took me to the side and explained the benefits that I would have as a member, and not only that but how I would enhance Delta Kappa Gamma by becoming a member. Well, that did it right there for me, I was hooked, and I joined. That same year, we had a Christmas Store at East Lake for the children to shop at who did not have money to buy gifts for their families. They earned Lion Bucks by being good in the classroom and by getting their assignments completed on time. The Delta Kappa Gamma ladies showed up and out with all their donations and their help to assist with the store while the kiddos were shopping. It was such a big success and it made me proud to be a member of such a great group of caring individuals. I just adore DKG!!

**Pam Thompson, Alpha Xi Chapter**

I joined by chance many years ago when I met a fellow member on Earth Day watching a movie in the theatre. She sensed we had something in common and invited me to a meeting. From that moment I felt welcomed and embraced by the membership. I grew as an educator and professional. Alpha Lambda embraced me through the pandemic with cheerful cards and they embraced me when my father passed with caring notes. I am not always the most present member, but I love to jump in when I can. I am proud to be a member of DKG Alpha Lambda Chapter.

**Dr. Teresa Handy, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Alpha Psi Chapter celebrated our 61<sup>st</sup> year in DKG on April 28, 2023. I, fondly, remember 10 years ago, as we celebrated 50 years of Alpha Psi Chapter. We had a lovely luncheon on Lipscomb university campus in the Avalon Hall. We celebrated two of our charter members, Nila Jo Sherrill and Elba Ann Cole. Unfortunately, Nila Jo has since passed away. Elba Ann continues to be the glue of our chapter. She is not able to attend meetings, but we lean on her for her support and her level head. She has attended many meetings recently using ZOOM. Alpha Psi Chapter will always be indebted to her for her contributions to the chapter since April 28, 1962!

**Linda Wyatt, Alpha Psi Chapter**

The Beginning Leadership Seminar was a turning point for me. I realized that DKG was bigger than my little chapter. I went on to participate in the Advanced Leadership Seminar and served on the state Leadership Development Committee.

**Dr. Dianne Anderson, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

I have traveled to places I would not have gone to on my own. Absolutely loved the trip to Iceland.

**Nancy Davis, Gamma Mu Chapter**

One of my dearest membership moments was receiving the Star of the Southeast Award at the International Convention in Nashville. I was in total shock, as I was not even fully aware that the award existed, and I did not even pay to attend the Southeast Regional Breakfast. I think the person who nominated me must have bought me a ticket because it was in my packet. It was so rewarding and encouraging to know that my DKG sisters valued my contributions to the Society.

Being selected to attend the International Leadership Management Seminar in Austin, TX in 2016 was a highlight of my DKG journey. The experience was two weeks of intensive training on personality type, negotiation, public speaking, health, and wellness, and so much more. An unfortunate part of the week was having to spend two evenings in the ER for reaction to a medication for a UTI. I was late to our graduation and feared I would not be able to make my flight home, but all was well. Our “Golden Gift” group still stays in touch and enjoys seeing each other at conventions.

The first International Convention I attended was in Chicago. I was fairly new to DKG and wasn't much interested in the “business meetings”. One day I got a cab to Oak Park and visited the Frank Lloyd Wright home and studio. Another day, Brenda Oldham (my chapter member and roommate) agreed to take the train with me to downtown Chicago if I would go on a bicycle tour. I had not ridden a bicycle in over 15 years but agreed to go. (I secretly hoped the bicycle tours would be closed by the time we arrived). Unfortunately for me, the last tour was just leaving, and they let us join. Parts of the trip were nice, but some were terrifying because of the traffic. I found out later that we had ridden over 12 miles around Chicago! I started “feeling the burn” at the Banquet later that night!

**Marsha Brewer, Beta Upsilon Chapter**

I remember the honor I had when Nancy Davis asked me to give the meditation for the opening ceremony of the Xi State Convention. Her theme was about climbing the mountain and reaching goals. I still have a copy of the talk I gave. Several people complimented me afterwards, which gave me more confidence to stand in front of large groups.

**Harriet King, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

One of my favorite and most vivid memories of DKG was the comradery I felt with other members at the onset of my membership. I was surrounded by talented and dedicated educators who were devoted to their students and the other members of the chapter. I value the mission and goals of the society.

**Anonymous, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

One of my favorite memories of DKG is my induction ceremony. We were at a large old church in another county (Humphreys or Houston) for a brunch meeting with an induction service. It was Saturday morning and very pleasant. Three counties represented our organization. There were approximately 40 people there. It was a beautiful day for our meeting. It was very pleasant meeting new people there.

**Anonymous, Gamma Omicron Chapter**

I arrived early for my initiation. I was directed to the room where the meeting and luncheon would be taking place. When I walked in, several things needed to be completed. The president of our chapter (whom I didn't know) responded to me with a task when I asked if I could help. Immediately, I was arranging roses for a table. It made me feel such a part of the group. My talents were needed. That special lady that asked me to help became a dear friend and I have been working in DKG ever since. I knew I had found my special place.

I knew and respected several ladies in DKG before I joined. After joining, I began accepting the opportunities that were made available to me as a member. Each time I attended a seminar, served on a committee or visited "the mountain" I have grown as a professional and increased my love of DKG and its members.

What a special joy it is to have sisters around the world. As an only child, I find it a blessing to have caring and loving sisters in my chapter, in my area, in my state and beyond. Building each other up happens as DKG sisters gather supporting each other. What memories I have of special times being with my DKG sisters.

I have attended many conventions on the mountain. Each time I watched as ladies were recognized and awarded The Order of the Rose. In my mind I wondered if I would ever be considered for this honor. As my years in DKG grew and I was eligible, my chapter chose to nominate me, and I was given this very special award. It was a night I fondly remember as my name was added to the group of ladies that had been honored before me. What a treasured memory.

Being able to attend the Leadership Seminars, both Beginning and Advanced, is a special moment for me. These two quality seminars are offered to each member as openings are available. Few organizations train their members to be leaders. The content presented is top notch with exceptional presenters at every session. This training is available to every TNSO DKG member. I am so fortunate to have attended these seminars with wonderful ladies from around Tennessee. The friendships I made at these seminars are treasured.

At the Silent Auction one year a piece of jewelry from a member that had passed away was included in the auction. I fell in love with this special pin. It was perfect for me with red and crystal sparkles. I made it my mission to win that piece of jewelry. I kept an eye on the bidding sheets throughout the convention. As the bidding ended, I quickly stepped in and raised the bid. I just knew my husband would want me to have it. Not only was I privileged to win that pin, but I also made a very special friend of the lady that displayed it and cared for it during the auction. Every time I see my pin, Mary Jo Wilson comes into my mind. Her beautiful smile and enthusiastic personality brings a smile to my face and warmth in my heart. Not only did I get the pin that year, but I made a friend for life.

**Kathy Smith, Alpha Nu Chapter**

Going to my first state convention. It was so inspiring! I loved the rituals and ceremony and the HATS!

**Mary Fell, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

My DKG moment was when a very respected teacher at my school asked me to join the local chapter. It inspired me to be the teacher she thought I could be.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

In 1995 or 96, Judy Collins told me that I would be chapter president one day. I thought that was the biggest compliment, but I didn't really believe her. She was right. I was chapter president 1998-2000.

**Dr. Linda Eller, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

When I was invited to join DKG, I felt very honored. Immediately I was asked to do things in the chapter. As an elementary teacher I wasn't comfortable being up before adults, so I was always hesitant to take on a job. Until after one chapter meeting a member I did not know before joining said to me, "You can do this. I have done it before. I will show you and help when needed." And she did. Dee Dee Rives saw in me more than I saw in myself. This is what DKG is all about. I will always remember that conversation. From her support and encouragement, I have grown through the years; serving on chapter and state committees, as chapter officers and on various local committees.

**Anonymous, Theta Chapter**

The opportunity to work, share and dream with ladies who have a like vision.

**Joan Vicary, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

DKG means fellowship and a place where I can find likeminded people. One of the DKG programs in 1999 introduced me to a person that was able to diagnose and treat a visual impairment my son had. He was able to get extra time on the ACT due to the diagnosis and eventually was admitted to and graduated from Mississippi State. This may never have happened without that DKG program!

**Teresa Cloar, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

The first convention that I attended was the 1992 convention in Louisville, KY. Tennessee members were charged with inviting the international members to attend the International Convention in Nashville in 1994. We borrowed band uniforms and instruments from a local high school and transported them from Knoxville to Louisville. You should have seen the look on the bellhop's face at the hotel when he saw the enormous task facing him as he moved everything from our car to the hotel room! Near the close of the convention, the Tennessee group strutted and paraded in front of the membership to the tune of "Rocky Top," led by an energetic elderly majorette, Eloise Litz, and drum major, Jensi Souders. Needless to say, it was a performance that was enjoyed by the audience and the "band" members as well.

**Kaye Williams, Zeta Chapter**

Fran Young and I met Astrid Skaaland from Norway at an international convention in Minneapolis, MN in 2004 while waiting to go on a riverboat dinner cruise. We invited Astrid to join us and connected with her several more times during the convention. At every DKG convention Astrid and I look for each other. Sometimes we have even been assigned to the same table. Once we are together, we never run out of things to talk about!

**Beverly Smith, Alpha Xi Chapter**

My first knowledge of DKG came when I had been a teacher for many years. I was asked to present a program on my author/illustrator quilt project in my school library to Iota Chapter in Kingsport. I had received state and national recognition for that project, so I brought some of the quilts we had made at Kennedy Elementary School, along with one of my own favorite quilts to show and talk about. I was surrounded by friendliness, acceptance, and appreciation from the Iota members. When I was asked to join the next month, I did so enthusiastically!

One of my most ambitious projects in Iota Chapter was a group quilt that we made to be raffled off to finance a college scholarship to a local graduating high school senior intending to become a teacher. It was also one of the most rewarding projects. Since it was my idea, I drafted 30 patterns for 30 different blocks, cut the fabric pieces from my stash, and packaged them in freezer bags with directions. At the next meeting about 20 members volunteered to sew each block. When I received all of them back, I assembled the blocks into a sampler quilt and hand quilted it. When we auctioned it off, we raised \$875.00 and then announced a scholarship to all the local high schools. The scholarship was won by a young woman who did go on to become a teacher in Kingsport City Schools!

I've been heavily involved in Iota Chapter since I joined, serving twice as president and in many other capacities. I think the most rewarding has been producing the chapter newsletter. It has been a delight to communicate with my DKG sisters 6 times a year and has been very satisfying to receive a Highest Honors award each year. The newsletter had always been done by the president, so I did it during my biennium, but I didn't let go of it afterwards! I do personally think that it is a burden that shouldn't fall on a chapter president and can be done well by a chapter editor, and I get a great deal of pleasure from it.

Some of my most pleasurable "membership moments" have been at Sewanee for the TNSO convention. It's always wonderful to see old friends from across Tennessee who only became friends when we met at Sewanee. Those relationships have been priceless.

Serving at the state level has been extremely rewarding. I served on the state Bylaws and Rules Committee for 3 biennia (was chair for 3 years) and was the Area I Director for one biennium. That was a revelation! Attending meetings in all the other chapters and seeing how they did things gave me a new perspective on my own chapter!

Another particularly enjoyable part of DKG has been the Area I Christmas Brunch. Started by the Johnson City chapters, it has been passed around among Area I for many years now. Iota has hosted it twice, the latest being 2022. Each has been unique and wonderful!

Some of my favorite memories of DKG—

- \*Receiving Order of the Rose.
- \*Presenting the updated Rules and Bylaws at Sewanee.
- \*Participating in presentations and a play at Sewanee.
- \*Putting on a "ladies' tea" for Iota chapter with my fine china.
- \*Decorating tables at the December meeting with my antique baskets, toys, books, and greenery from my garden.
- \*Putting together a panel discussion of local authors and publishers.
- \*Presenting workshops at Sewanee on children's books.
- \*Attending the first Fine Arts retreat.
- \*Making many, many dear friends!

**Joy Branham, Iota Chapter**

My DKG moment was when a very respected teacher at my school asked me to join the local chapter. It inspired me to be the teacher she thought I could be.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

Serving as an Area Director. It was great fun traveling to different Chapters and meeting all those wonderful ladies. Plus, the other directors and I had a fabulous time doing Go to Meetings. We became really close and still are today.

**Donna Campbell, Beta Pi Chapter**

Emily Johnson and I were driving to Sewanee for the state convention. Betty Only had given us directions for a new road to take. We were making good progress until we crossed a state line and saw a big sign that read "Welcome to Alabama." We never asked Betty for directions again.

**Janice Sorsby, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Delta Kappa Gamma has provided me with numerous moments of friendship, continuing education, and opportunities for growth in my personal and professional life. One of the most memorable was receiving a grant from the International Educational Foundation in 2014.

In early December of 2013, I decided to apply for a vision grant with Xi State. The deadline was December 31<sup>st</sup>, and I had very little time to get it finished. I wanted some café tables and highchairs for my school library to create some excitement with my seventh and eighth graders. I got the grant application all finished and just knew that I would get it. Little did I know that I had used the wrong application form. I had put it on the "teaching the teachers" form not the project form. The Librarian had not read correctly!

While writing the grant for Xi State, I decided that I should send one to the International too. Reading is my passion with my students. I was at an at-risk school where reading scores were very low. I used the Accelerated Reader program, so I built a grant proposal around it to improve the reading abilities of my students. The theme of the proposal was "Practice Makes Perfect". My principal signed off on everything I included with even a 30-minute silent reading time each morning. I don't think she thought we would get the grant.

In early April, I came home from school and stopped to pick up the mail. There was a letter with DKG in the mailbox. I tore it open and screamed "I got it". I got \$1,500 from Xi State so I could get the café tables. Yea!! By that time, I had calmed down, so I read the letter again. My eyes got very big. Again, the Librarian had read incorrectly! The letter was from the International Educational Foundation.

The letter informed me that they were pleased to award my grant proposal request. I would be receiving \$15,000 to carry out my plan to increase student reading abilities for the coming year. And, we did just that! The first semester we had an increase of 60% schoolwide. The second semester produced another 54% increase. One special education classroom went up 91%. We could not have managed this success without the plan that the grant allowed us to utilize. Our students benefitted greatly from DKG's monetary involvement in our school. I am grateful!

**Pat Parker, Beta Upsilon Chapter**

As a member of the International Finance Committee, I was asked to conduct the call for contributions for the Emergency Fund at the 2019 International Conference in Mashantucket, Connecticut. The morning of the event, the button on my pants popped off. The only thing my roommate, Janice Stooksberry, and I had to close the waistband was a band aid. When walking up the stairs of the stage, the band aid snapped apart and my pants rode lower and lower on my waist. Instead of having ladies wonder why I was gyrating behind the podium, I just explained that I had a bit of an emergency of my own. After leaving the stage, I was bombarded with ladies who brought me safety pins, paper clips, binder clips, and even a sewing kit to assist me in keeping my pants up. It was an embarrassing membership moment, but great fun meeting wonderful ladies.

I can't remember at which Tennessee State Convention this happened, and it didn't happen to me – but I was a witness, and it is one of my most funny memories. Orlean Bauman, Alpha Rho, sustained a cut on her head/scalp at the officer's dorm which would not stop bleeding. Orlean visited the dorm where her chapter members were rooming to see if anyone had a band aid. None of us did – except for Linda Shelton, Alpha Rho. Linda had a bandage on her leg from a cut she made while shaving. Linda took the band aid off her leg and placed it on Orlean's head injury. True sisterhood!

Patsy Smith, her sister, Betty, and I were roommates at the DKG International Convention in Spokane, WA in 2010. I attended the convention wearing an eye patch and an orthopedic boot-pesky virus in one eye **and** tendinitis in my foot. (My son told me all I needed was a parrot on my shoulder.) Patsy and Betty helped me hobble along—taking paths less travelled to accommodate me, and faithfully applied my eye drops throughout the week. I have long remembered their kindness. And, on the last evening after the crowded elevator left only two of us going to the top floor, I looked into a familiar face. And she recognized me: We had taught together and carpooled to graduate school from McNairy County in 1974. She had moved to New Mexico and I to Memphis only for us to reunite as DKG sisters 37 years later and about 2,100 miles from home. It is the relationships!

**Carol Moling, (Former) Beta Gamma Chapter (Now a DKG member in Nebraska)**

I have been blessed with wonderful teachers in my life both in my professional life and as a student. Being a part of this organization of strong, encouraging teachers helps me be the best teacher I can be. This group is a blessing.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

My fondest, proudest membership moment was when TN hosted the 2016 International Convention at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. I learned so much, worked so hard and had such FUN!

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I am following in my mama's footsteps. She was a member and eventually held every office of Memphis' founding chapter of DKG, Epsilon. My proudest DKG memory was when my mother, Avis Foreman, transferred her membership to my chapter, Alpha Sigma. I was able to enjoy functions with her for about eight years after that.

**Penny Powers, Alpha Sigma**



I joined Beta Pi Chapter and ended up learning one of the members was my sister's best friend in college. Every time I meet with my group, they make me feel valued.

**Pam Richardson, Beta Pi Chapter**

My fondest memories are ones of attending our state conventions. I met many new friends. Each night our chapter members had a pajama party with Cheetos and additional snacks and beverages. We went up to see the beautiful cross. I sang in the choir each year, what FUN!

My sister and I always travel there together. One year she had a broken ankle but still insisted on going to the convention. There she was walking with crutches, and me having to keep her cast dry, with a tall garbage can liner on her leg as we walked from building to building.

**Celestine French, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Too many moments to fit on one card, but two come to mind:

Being chosen to receive the State Achievement Award---this was a complete surprise and one of such honor.

Elaine Warwick asked me to speak at the Arts and Humanities Conference in Ashville. Doing so was way out of my comfort zone, but the experience turned out to be one of the best things I have ever done.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

Going to the convention in 2021 was a special time for me. Amid professional and personal upheaval, the sweet sisterhood I found among my TNSO new and old friends helped me leave some troubles behind and be able to smile and enjoy a wonderful time!

**Dr. Dawn Viles, Beta Pi Chapter**

When I sang "It Is Well with My Soul" at an international convention and at Xi State.

**Nancy Davis, Gamma Mu Chapter**

At the beginning of my first year of teaching in Anderson County, Lucille Hill, the elementary supervisor, appeared unannounced and was only able to observe my first-grade students washing their hands in preparation for lunch. She left a message with the principal that I was going to be a wonderful teacher. Three years later, she appeared once again in my room with a cadre of educators in Anderson County to issue an invitation to join Pi Chapter. Only recently did I find out that Miss Hill had been the person in 1943 to identify key women educators in the county to become the founders of Pi Chapter. Pi Chapter will be 80 years old in 2023!

**Diane Alsop, Pi Chapter**

My first experience at the State Convention was last summer. I had heard for years of the wonderful environment and enrichment that convention offers. The connection with women from across the state was a wonderful experience and really opened my eyes to the magnitude of this organization and the power of the women who are members.

**Jean Marie Walls, Beta Eta Chapter**

We rented a van to attend the convention in Indianapolis. We started in Memphis and picked up several TN members along the way. There were eight of us in the van and you couldn't get another person or piece of luggage in there if you had wanted to. One of the activities offered at the convention was a night at a local cabaret. My van group decided to do the activity on our own on a different night. So, on the night of our tickets, we loaded up in the van, (there were more than eight this time), and headed to the event. We had barely left the hotel when it started to pour down rain. You could barely make out the car in front of you and I was driving on an interstate I was not familiar with. But being the determined group we were, we kept heading to our event. Thank goodness for our talented navigator, Martha Bailey, because her calm directions got us off the interstate and onto a dark country road. Before you knew it, we were driving through a corn field. I asked Martha if she was sure of the directions, and she said that's what the GPS said. I mean who puts a cabaret in the middle of a corn field!! After a long bumpy ride through the corn field, we finally reached the cabaret. We had a wonderful time, enjoyed a wonderful meal and super entertainment. When we left it was very dark (country dark) and again we had to drive back to the interstate through the corn field. As we were driving these "things" kept flying in front of us, over and around the van. I looked at my trusty navigator and asked her what she thought those things were. She said she didn't know, probably birds, but to just keep driving. A little further up the road there was a horrible "thud" on the grill of the van. I looked at Martha and asked, "what was that?" She said she didn't know but the van was running smoothly so just head back to the hotel. No one else in the van heard the "thud" as they were talking, laughing, and having a great time. We finally reached the hotel, and I dropped the group off at the front door of the hotel and headed to the underground garage. Martha stayed with me so I wouldn't have to walk out of the garage by myself and to help me get the van in a parking spot out of the way of other cars. Martha jumped out of the car and walked to the front of the van to direct me. As I watched her for directions, she got a funny look on her face and walked to the passenger side of the car and told me to roll down the window. I did and she said she finally knew what the "thud" was earlier in the evening. It was a BAT! It had smashed on the grill of the car and was plastered there. She said it looked like a little naked human with spread out wings. She wanted to know what we were going to do about it, and I said I wasn't going to look at it or touch it and I was fine with leaving it there until we returned the van in Memphis, then they could deal with it. She said that wasn't a good idea and we had to come up with a better plan. We decided to go get our roommate Chrissie Allen, a boy scout leader, to help us with our bat problem. She was already in bed, and we woke her up and told her about our problem. She got dressed, walked to the closet, got a plastic dry cleaner's bag and a metal clothes hanger, and went down to the garage with us. I got back in the van and backed it out so Chrissie could dispose of the bat. She spread the plastic bag on the floor and started to remove the bat. Every time she touched the bat, Martha squealed, and I laughed. This went on for a while until Chrissie managed to get the bat off the grill. She wrapped up the corpse and we started walking to the nearest trash can. After a moment of silence for the bat, he was thrown in the trash can. As we were walking away Chrissie started humming the Bat Man theme song and when she came to the end all three of us said "Bat Man"! Laughter followed and we headed to our room. The next morning, with much laughter and drama we told our van group about our nighttime adventure. Elaine Warwick was in the row in front of us listening to our tale and after we finished our story, she very calmly looked at us and said, "in other words what you are telling all of us is that last night you were driving the Bat Mobile!"

**Chrissie Allen, Martha Bailey and Mary Jo Wilson, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Growing up, my mother was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. I remember when she would come back from her meetings she would sing “Oh Delta Kappa Gamma!” It always let me know that DKG was something she loved and enjoyed. It was never a question that I would one day be a member also.

**Jan Brown, Beta Chapter**

Thank you so much for your hospitality and warm embraces. From the moment I received the invitation to the First Timers Tea until I left my angel at the gate, I had a wonderful time. Your convention was well planned, and I loved every event, every moment and being “on the mountain.” Here are some of my special First Timer Moments:

- \*When I approached the registration desk and received hugs from TNSO members that I know
- \*When the flag procession began—I felt like I was attending an international convention.
- \*I was invited to walk in with TNSO leaders at your banquet!
- \*The Celebration of Remembrance. The bells playing, the DKG song outside and marching and then circling up.

**Dr. Bonnia Cook Fouts, Alpha Chapter and Kentucky State President, guest and first time attendee at the TNSO 2022 Convention**

The DKG Convention at Sewanee has been very inspirational to me. I felt a beautiful and meaningful sense of camaraderie. Our members are so kind and supportive and truly form a beautiful community. My memories began with traveling to the convention with Dovie Kimmins who has guided me through the whole process. The First Timers Tea was so welcoming. I enjoyed the Vision Foundation Workshop and the chapel tour. Doris Ann, Fran, Regina, Mary, Mary and Dovie and I shared laughs and DKG history during a pajama party. Becky Sadowski and Linda Eller kindly talked to me about international service. I had a great time and looking forward to next year.

**Debbie Sickler-Voight, Beta Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2022 TNSO Convention**

We arrived at the TNSO Convention on Thursday. It was just a “bit” hot and humid outside and by the time my friend and fellow chapter member rolled our luggage to the dorm, we were drenched with sweat. Of course, Mother Nature has a sense of humor, so by the time dinner time arrived, it was pouring rain! Krystal and I realized... 1. Dinner was in another building, and 2. We only had one small umbrella between the two of us. Luckily, two kind ladies from Pigeon Forge offered us a ride in their van. We still had to get from the dorm to the van and then to the dining hall with just that one umbrella, so we “snuggled” up under the umbrella to try and stay dry. We were somewhat successful at keeping dry and had a wonderful dinner. DKG will sell you an umbrella for \$5, so buy one. It is a great deal (:

**Emily Ferguson, Beta Rho Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2022 TNSO Convention**

I wanted to come to this convention for many reasons. The most important was to attend the Ceremony of Remembrance to honor my first principal, Miss Trudy, that I taught under for 12 years.

**Missy Posey, Gamma Zeta Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2022 TNSO Convention**

WOW, my first time at Sewanee coincided with my ten-year recognition as a member. My First Timers moment was getting caught in the rain and arriving at the buffet dinner wrapped in a tablecloth to repel the raindrops all while saying hello to the familiar faces that I have met the past two years on President-to-President zooms! I also must include the dorm experience; having been a commuter student this was a new experience for me. I also learned about the tradition of the Sewanee angel---I will remember to give her back tomorrow until we return next year with a gaggle of new members!

**Elise Rodriguez, Beta Gamma Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2022 TNSO Convention**

This convention has been a great blessing. It is so nice to meet all the wonderful ladies who love DKG so much. Rarely these days do you meet positive people who want to help and encourage others so much. I enjoyed all the meetings. I must admit I truly enjoyed the tour of the chapel and the tower. I am not fond of heights, but I forced myself to go. I am pleased I did. Thank you for the chance to be included.

**Teresa Loveday, Gamma Nu Chapter: First Time Attendee at the 2022 TNSO Convention**

During the COVID pandemic, we found ourselves staying safer at home. Our chapter started a “calling tree” to keep in touch and to keep everyone informed. I had a heart-warming moment when Kathy Smith called and asked me to be a Calling Tree Captain. I accepted the task with delight. I didn’t know many members, so this gave me a great opportunity to talk to my Alpha Nu sisters. We bonded through this simple act. For two years, I called Alpha Nu sisters. My groups changed but sisterly love and bonding grew. What an awesome experience!

**Linda Mann, Alpha Nu Chapter**

At TNSO Leadership Training every DKG participant wore red superhero capes throughout the day. It feels great to be a part of a valuable learning experience full of fun, positivity, and encouragement. DKG reminds me “I am a superhero because I am ME!”

**Anonymous, Zeta Chapter**

I have made lifelong friends.

**Nancy Davis, Gamma Mu Chapter**

I still fondly remember a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Annie Glenn Templeton, inviting me to become a member of DKG. At the initiation ceremony all the ladies were so lovely, well spoken, and friendly. That was in 1982...and I cherish the memory of this fellow teacher, whom I admired, wanting me to join the DKG organization.

**Meri Bigham, Beta Kappa Chapter**

Being a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Iota Chapter for 50 years. TNSO State President Dr. Elaine Alexander presented me with my 50-year membership certificate at our local meeting in 2019.

**Margaret Wolfe, Alpha Iota Chapter**

Membership Moment: “The Ceremony of Remembrance at the state convention in Sewanee is the most impressive part of the convention for me each year, especially the end when all the members file out of the chapel and join hands while the Delta Kappa Gamma song is playing. I always get emotional and have shed lots of tears during these times. It is a great tribute to our members who have passed during the year, and I hope to be honored in the same way when my time comes.”

**Betsy Holtam, Alpha Upsilon Chapter**

For several years, a few members from our chapter would attend the Xi State Convention together. One of our members had family who lived essentially at the foot of the mountain, so we would stay with the family when we went to the Xi State Convention. Even after our chapter member had retired and no longer participated with DKG, we continued to stay with her family because we had developed such a relationship with them. When I joined in on the trips to Xi State, I also stayed with the family. They were related to one of my cousins by marriage, so it was always fun to tell stories, and they were always so warm and welcoming.

I was sick for several years with a chronic illness that had not been diagnosed. Somewhere around 2015, I was so sick that I had become allergic to everything but about 6 foods. I had lost 52 pounds. I was really sick, and I was having bone pain from not being able to absorb nutrients correctly at that time, but I wanted to go to the Xi State Convention. One of our chapter members drove, and I made fascinators on the way down! At the Convention, I didn't attend many workshops because I didn't feel up to it, but I stayed at the Mini Mall with the fascinators. At meals, I was absolutely terrified about eating because I had reactions to so many different things, but people like Lynn Caruthers and others tried to help me navigate the Convention and meals, and no one was ever mean or incredulous about my condition. It really meant a lot to me to be able to be able to attend and to be surrounded by supportive people who tried to help in every way possible. (After going to the Cleveland Clinic, I was diagnosed with an infection, and after treatment, I have essentially made a full recovery!)

In high school, our local DKG chapter gave an award at the local level for the essay contest. I was the essay contest winner for our local DKG chapter--Alpha Iota. Later, I was blessed with the opportunity to become a DKG member, which I have enjoyed abundantly, being able to continue a fellowship with former teachers that I loved dearly.

Mrs. Mildred Welch is a member of our DKG chapter, and she, of course, went to many, many events. I was able to go on several trips with her and other chapter members, and it was always the best time! First of all, we had such fun together, and secondly, Mrs. Welch was DKG royalty and knew people everywhere, so all we had to do was follow closely, and we met so many amazing people. It was an honor to be able to travel with her knowing how much time she had invested in so many people and projects. I was one of her travel companions the year that she received the Achievement Award at the Xi State Convention. It was a very special time.

**Laura Pearson, Alpha Iota Chapter**

One of my special DKG moments occurred in 1987. It was in the spring of that year that I was initiated into the Alpha Iota Chapter which included a community of women educators from Hawkins and Hancock counties. Over these past 35 years, a sisterhood of love and nurture afforded me many opportunities. I have been taught, my talents have been recognized and my leadership skills have been strengthened. Thank you DKG!

**Jane Pearce, Alpha Iota Chapter**

## **Next Set of Membership Moments are from Dr. Elaine Vaughan, Alpha Epsilon**

**Kay Moss** came to my classroom and told me about this “wonderful organization for women educators” and that I was the type of member that DKG was looking for. I felt so honored and when I attended my first meeting which was my induction (used to be initiation) meeting, I was so nervous but also so proud. Many of my former teachers were members and that made Alpha Epsilon even more special for me.

I became the treasurer of Alpha Epsilon in 2010. By serving as treasurer, I got to know and recognize every member of the chapter. I remember calling **Helen Catron**. I never did get to meet her face-to-face but we had the best conversation. She kept saying, “Well honey, you know that I am 92 years old, right?”

I remember attending my first state convention. **Twinkle Tindall** and I went together. Twinkle had to leave a day early because she served on the Convention Steering Committee. I had so much fun helping out with anything the members of the committee asked me to do and I also met so many ladies who served on that committee. That experience helped me to realize that I wanted to serve on a state committee

I will never forget the times I have spent with **Twinkle Tindall**. Twinkle took me to my first state convention. She was serving on the Steering Convention committee so I went up early with her to attend the state convention. Ladies put me to work stuffing registration envelopes and helping with setting up registration tables. I had planned on going back to the St. Lukes dorm and figure out where I had to be the next day. I was so tired I just went to bed. Twinkle and I also went to our first Creative Arts Retreat together in Dunlap, Tennessee.

I decided to attend my first state convention in 2011. My reason for coming was to receive the check for winning the state scholarship. I thought I would show up, get the money, and that would be it. How wrong I was!!!! I met ladies from all over the state and one in particular was so interesting and fun. **Eloise Litz** was around 4 foot 8 inches tall and she was also a little miniature spitfire. She was always raring to go and when she came up to me, she gave me a hug. She then asked me, “You want a hug means, don’t you?” I said I did not so she proceeded to tell me that HUG stands for Hope, Understanding, and Gratitude. I will always remember what a HUG means.

I stayed in St. Luke’s during my first state convention and I happened to be in the same suite of rooms with Alpha Gamma. When they found out that I was a first timer, ladies such as **Wyonna Clayborne and Linda McCreary** treated me as if I were royalty. They shared food and drinks with me and they checked up on me to see how I was doing. I know that they did not realize how important those things were to me. I felt so special.

My first President’s Banquet was amazing! I did not know anyone who was sitting at my table but the hostess was wonderful with providing conversation for all at the table. I just happened to be sitting with **June Silver**, a Zeta Beta member, and we started talking about birthdays. We could hardly believe that both of us have the same birthday. Now, we are birthday buddies and every year we exchange birthday cards, facebook messages, or some kind of greeting. She’s the best!

For many, many years Alpha Epsilon held the December holiday meeting at a member’s house. On one such occasion **Nancy Davis**, who was serving as state president, was the guest speaker at the meeting. On my goodness! I could not believe the eloquence of this lady. First of all, her hat

was beautiful, her jewelry was beautiful, and her outfit coordinated perfectly with everything else. Then she opened her mouth and started to sing. Her voice was that of an angel. I was mesmerized that it took me a moment to recollect my thoughts. Little did I know that Nancy and I would cross paths over and over again.

The first state committee that I served on was the Special Events. The committee met in September to plan our Silent Auction for the Convention. I met **Brenda Oldham** at this committee meeting and was so impressed with how articulate and organized she was. I loved working with Brenda for a total of 4 years on the Special Events committee. Brenda is the best and I will never forget working with her. She also made the aprons for each one of the committee members. My apron was purple with a stitched embroidered iris on the front.

As state president, I was invited to **Alpha Gamma's** Daddy-Daughter dance. I did not realize how much this event impacts the schools and the community. All the girls dress up in a prom dress or their best Sunday dress and some of the dads even coordinated their outfit what that of the daughters. This event sells out every year and the chapter raises money for the Grant-In-Aid scholarships. I also had the opportunity of visiting with chapter members.

**Kay Moss** served as area director II during the 2019-2021 biennium. I had the opportunity to visit with chapters in the area by accompanying Kay when she visited with the chapters. On several occasions we became lost at some point or the other. The GPS was not always reliable and even though we left in plenty of time to get to meetings. In Cookeville, we could not reach the chapter president on the phone and kept driving around the same area for about 30 minutes. We finally stumbled upon the house by seeing many cars parked out front and just took a chance at going to the front door. We were so relieved when we realized we were in the right place.

My first state convention was the first time I met **Mary Jo Wilson**. I could not believe this lady that had so much energy and vitality. She was just like the Energizer bunny but without the ears. She was the chair of the Special Events committee and when it was time for her to advertise the Silent Auction, she had no problem doing so. There was a beautiful DKG red pin with red stones around the border. The pin had belonged to a very prominent member of DKG up for auction and Mary Jo was so excited about this pin that she had everyone coming into the Art Gallery where all Silent Auction items were on display. The pin was auctioned off at quite a high price to Kathy Smith of Alpha Nu. Wow, what a beautiful item. I hope that maybe one of these days I might convince Kathy Smith to sell the pin to me but I highly doubt it.

The first state committee that I served on was the Special Events. The committee met in September to plan Silent Auction for the state convention. I was so impressed with **Brenda Olham** because she was so knowledgeable about everything DKG and I knew very little if any about how the Silent Auction would work. I believe that she knew I was very nervous about the whole process and assured me that all I had to do was ask and someone would help me out. The day of the convention arrived and the door to the Art Gallery was locked. My first task was to find someone with keys that could open the door. We already had many, many ladies waiting to drop off items and ready to go on to other things. I did not take my job lightly. I was on a mission. I searched the entire Guerry and it was fun meeting ladies that came through the Art Gallery to be on baskets or items.

I met **Kathy Smith** at the first state convention that I ever attended. She was around all over the place so it was very easy to find her. She bid on and won a beautiful pin at the Silent Auction during my first state convention. She said that the secret to winning something if you really want

that item is to just stay around until the very last minute of bidding. Also, Kathy was selling name tag holders for her chapter that year and after the convention was over I tracked Kathy down at the dorm and purchased one from her. I still have it and use it for every state convention. Kathy and I have become friends over the past few years and we call each other on a frequent basis sometimes just to talk about nothing in particular. I found out that Kathy wanted to serve as Area Director V during my biennium. When I called Kathy to ask her to serve, I let her know that a “little birdy let me know.” Kathy not only served as the Area V director, but also on the Planning Committee as well as the Arts and Personal Enrichment Committee. She is one lady that will do whatever you ask her to do. She never says no.

I did not ever believe that I would have a female relative serving in Delta Kappa Gamma. However, in 2022, **Christen Ball** and her husband, Michael, were the entertainment at the Creative Arts Retreat. They performed all sorts of songs ranging from “I’ll Fly Away” to “Hey Jude”. Everyone loved them and started talking about joining Delta Kappa Gamma. Christen is a professional music artist; however, she works with women’s groups, teaches private lessons, and has held retreats for children and youth. I will never forget the Induction Ceremony for the Nashville chapters and the induction of not only Christen but the other ladies as well.

I was invited to speak at **Beta Phi’s 40<sup>th</sup>** Birthday Celebration. They not only celebrated but also inducted new members. Beta Phi’s charter was framed and chapter members posted photos of the charter along with their charter members on Facebook. However, when members from other chapters realized that Beta Phi had their charter, other chapters were wondering where their charter was and started reaching out as to how they could get another charter. It was a wonderful way to research the history of the chapter.

**Carrie Daniels, Emily Ferguson, Kristi Hargis, Nicole Blankenship, Angie Justice, Melissa Blalock, Sheron Smith, Megan Liles, Relva Lewis**, all new first time chapter presidents 2022-2024. I will never forget meeting them and visiting their chapter members. They all are “From the Heart”. Even though all have struggled at times, they have continued to work for the good of the group.

I got to know **Melissa Blalock** by going with her to several events. Everytime there was some event happening, I asked Melissa if she would like to go. We have had a great time traveling across the state through storms, floods, but not snow, or hail. It’s always great to have a DKG sister who wants to travel along with other members.

**Peggy Rubel** was a proponent for retired teachers and keeping them active in DKG. Bettye Haste was a long time treasurer for Alpha Epsilon and at some point in time she developed Alzheimer’s Disease. Her husband contacted one of our members and said that he would not pay for Betty’s dues. Her dues went unpaid and she was dropped from Delta Kappa Gamma. A long time, member who served as treasurer for many years was not honored at the state convention. After this happened, Peggy advocated for our veteran members to always stay a member of DKG and take care of the dues. Peggy also advocated for our early career educators and collegiate members. She was a staunch supporter of our Alpha Epsilon’s Grant-In-Aid scholarship that supported a student pursuing her degree in education. Peggy was also my friend and encouraged all throughout my years as a young member of DKG. Peggy received the Order of the Rose at one convention and she was so proud of that award. She was so proud of the award and invited her daughter to the state convention. When Peggy passed away, her daughter called me and to let me know how proud Peggy was of DKG and that she was buried wearing her Order of the Rose pin.



**Greta Hensley** is a 25 year member of Alpha Epsilon chapter. Greta has served on many different committees and as treasurer for several bienniums. Greta created our “Permanent Roses” for ladies who had served faithfully for many years in DKG. A Permanent Rose is a lady who is placed on a reserve status due to health conditions or some other factor preventing a member from attending meetings. Greta was very influential in making sure that ladies membership was not dropped and they are honored at the Ceremony of Remembrance when they pass away.

**Amanda Ragan** is the choral director at Oak Ridge High School and has been a member of DKG for several years. Amanda’s ensemble has performed for the governor, the Tennessee House of Representatives and many other prominent organizations. Therefore, it is an honor for the ensemble to come to Alpha Epsilon’s December meeting and sing. Amanda, along with the group dresses up as madrigals with a king, queen, and other members of the court. All music is acapella. Amanda and the ensemble bring in the holiday season with hope and a “be of good cheer” ambience Amanda is also a wonderful friend and DKG sister. She has encouraged me and supported me through many trials and struggles. She is truly “From the Heart”.

The first time I met **Beverly Hall-Maughan** and talked with her, things did not go too well. She was very “over the top” and I did not know how to react. However, within a FEW minutes, I knew that Beverly and I were destined to be friends and sisters in DKG. We have several things in common. We both have cats. However, she has seven and I am now down to 1 cat. So I am nowhere near the cat lady that she is. Over the past 4 years (two years serving as state 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president and two years serving as president), Beverly has not only served as a mentor to me but also a friend. We have discussed membership of DKG and how to break out of the COVID era. Beverly has also been there for me this past year as Brad, my husband, has faced multiple life threatening illnesses and through the loss of two of the family’s 17 year old kitties. I cannot even begin to thank Beverly for all the love, support, and prayers she has offered up for my family and me. She is truly a friend from the heart.

I met **Doris Ann Hendrix** for the first time at a state convention when I was installed as a Vision Foundation member. I was sitting at a table with Doris Ann and she said, “I am just wondering what you have in mind to do while you are on the Vision Foundation.” I really did not know how to respond to her to begin with. Doris Ann took me by surprise. I did know that I would do the best I could do with finding out about the Vision Foundation and working with the other members of the Board. I answered Doris Ann by saying, “I don’t know a lot about the Vision Foundation but I plan on researching, working with the other members, and doing my best as serving to promote and support the vision and goals of the Vision Foundation.” From that time forward, Doris Ann and I shared a common bond with the ideals that she knew were important for teacher educators and the ones that I would be so blessed to learn about.

Doris Ann also served as the State Editor and took pride in the work that she accomplished for the *DKG Tennessee News* (formally known as the *Xi State News*). She also is a past state president. Doris Ann taught me through all her wonderful experiences with DKG that we should be constantly examining how to be “Moving Forward Ever” and be passionate about the work of DKG by the work we are doing for women educators. Stay true to the cause of Delta Kappa Gamma.

**Mary Jo Wilson** has been an inspiration to me. When I first asked Mary Jo about chairing the Membership Committee, she was hesitant and said that she would call me back. I thought to myself, “Oh, no! Get prepared for a rejection.” However, when she called me back, Mary Jo said that she would be membership chair for the 2021-2023 biennium. Mary Jo attended State

Leadership Training and that's where she came up with the idea of Membership Moments. As we visited across the state, Membership Moments were advertised and promoted. Many members have shared their memories of happy, sad, funny, and just down outrageous times that have occurred over the years. Mary Jo has become a friend that I will always cherish and for her dedication, love, and faithfulness she is one of the "Stars of the Southeast".

I will also always remember **Mary Jo and Martha Bailey** for the trip to Memphis as state president in October of 2021. It was so much fun speaking to the four Memphis chapters but after the event Mary Jo and Martha Bailey took me on a tour of Memphis. We drove by Graceland, the University of Memphis where I saw all the different Tigers (statues of course) around the buildings. The most fantastic part of the tour was going to the Peabody Hotel and seeing the ducks promenade in an orderly single file fashion down the red carpet.

**Benita Albert, Martha Goins, and Margaret Wait** (charter member, deceased) were my high school and elementary/junior high school teachers. Margaret Wait was my 5<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher. I had just moved from Cincinnati, Ohio with my family so it was definitely an adjustment moving to the south. Everyone thought I spoke funny and was not very good at all in sports (Kickball was the favorite recess time event for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.) I became very shy due to the fact that my accent made me feel different and decided it would be better for me to not talk at all. However, Ms. Wait helped to encourage me to not be afraid to talk. Also, I was having trouble with doing long division the short cut way and within one minute she had helped me to learn how to do long division. Ms. Wait was that way with everyone. She cared about her students and working with them in any way she could.

Martha Goins was my 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher and high school guidance counselor. I had so much fun in her science class. One time we were working on separating and identifying chemicals from a sludge type mixture. Martha worked with each group if they did not know how to start. Before long, we felt very confident that we were able to figure out what was in the sludge. I remember feeling so excited when we accomplished the task that first felt impossible to do.

Benita Albert was the third teacher that helped to encourage and inspire me to do my best at everything. In a class of 22 males and only 4 females it was very hard to not feel intimidated especially when the males in the class did not hesitate to speak in the class or voice their opinions. However, Benita made sure that every student in her class felt welcome and accepted. All three of these DKG ladies helped inspire and encourage me to reach for the stars and that I could do anything that I desired to achieve. They touched the hearts and lives of so many students, including mine.

**Beverly Smith** saw something in me that I had no idea was there. When I first met Beverly Smith, she was installed as state president. I was going through the receiving line and when I shook her hand, I just knew that she would be something special to us all. She also has been an encourager, supporter and motivator for me. I can call Beverly at any time and she is willing to advise and be there for me. Beverly continues to push me out of my comfort zone and allow me to think "out of the box". Beverly will always be one of my go to sisters and friends that I know I can count on no matter what.

**Harriet King** has been a true blessing for me. Harriet has made a point to send cards every month to me. These cards have arrived at the time that I needed some encouragement, something funny to laugh at, or just say, "How nice is that!" I cannot express how much the cards have meant to me. Harriet is always there to support in any way she can. Harriet has always been a

worker bee for Delta Kappa Gamma and continues to remain true to helping to serve in any way she can.

When I grow up I want to be like **Becky Sadowski**. I have never seen Becky use scripted notes at anytime she has spoken for groups of Delta Kappa Gamma ladies. She is amazing!! Also, I have called on Becky many times for advice or to just talk and she is never too busy to talk even when she served as international president. Becky will always hold a special place in my heart. Her advice has been priceless and I will always cherish the time that I have spent with her.

**Dee Dee Rives** is a motivator in so many ways. When I went to visit Theta Chapter for their area-wide game night, I thought that I could just sit and watch as everyone played games. No, no, no, not when it comes to being around Dee Dee Rives. She said, "Come on, Elaine. This group right here needs one more player and that's going to be you." I joined the group and did not win but it was the beginning of playing many games. One of the other games was corn hole. I knew I was going to be horrible at this game. Dee Dee matched Dorrie Powell and I up as partners and we started playing. I found out that I was pretty good and Dorrie and I won. Thank you Dee Dee for encouraging us to play. It turned out to be a lot of fun.

Picking up a fellow sister that I had never met and driving across TN to the Leadership Seminar in/around Memphis.

**Tracy Collier, Gamma Iota Chapter**

I have been pushed out of my comfort zone! So, I have grown as an individual. The beauty of DKG is there is always someone there to help you---you are NEVER alone.

**Nancy Davis, Gamma Mu Chapter**

We toured the Crosstown Concourse in Memphis. It was amazing. I didn't grow up here and the history was amazing. I found out about so many things that were going on there. Now, I go there often. We had lunch at a burger place, and I had a tea incident. They ran out of sweet tea, so our new little waiter went to make more. He accidentally made it with SALT! We laughed so hard.

**Sandy Zorn, Beta Iota Chapter**

I really enjoy the camaraderie between members and all of the activities we do together, the laughter and support. I'm happy and proud to be a part of this organization.

**Lisa Sellers, Gamma Iota Chapter**

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, the first after the pandemic hit, I received a card in the mail from one of my chapter members. The card was just to encourage me in the coming school year because she knew how different and difficult it would be. She also included a \$50 gift card for me to use however I wanted. That retired teacher helped to start my year in such a positive way!

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I value encouragement from older teachers. Networking with many at Xi State – fabulous!

**Toni Ellen Hunt, Alpha Omega Chapter**

My first experience with DKG was when I was asked to be a guest speaker at a Zeta Chapter meeting. I looked out at all the Zeta members, many of whom were the most well-respected professional educators at my school. Awhile later when I was approached about the possibility of Zeta membership, I was honored to even be considered for an organization that so many of my professional role models were leading. Through Zeta, I am still able to continue walking alongside my mentors.

**Julie Golden, Zeta Chapter**

The year that our Pi Chapter “mother hen” Vera Jo Henegar, was honored as a past State President and past Pi Chapter President at the Ceremony of Remembrance. This was a most special moment for me. The holiness of the place, the special prayers and the love present was something I’ll never forget!

**Kathleen Benedict, Pi Chapter**

I remember being a brand-new chapter treasurer. I went to Xi State scared of my new commitment. But as soon as Linda McCreary met with the “newbies” my fears were put to rest. When I asked her about what happens if we make a mistake, she reassured me (meaning she) could “fix anything.” From that point on, I relaxed and enjoyed the job as treasurer.

**Anonymous, Pi Chapter**

My favorite moment was the evening we honored Vera Jo Henegar. She was such a driving force in Pi Chapter and in the Tennessee (Xi) Chapter. She was an inspiration to all of us and we could hardly keep up with her.

My second favorite happened at State Convention. Kathy Hurst drove her car up on the sidewalk at Sewanee. She said, “If we get caught, I’ll play the senility card.”

**Pat Stonecipher, Pi Chapter**

My first trip to Sewanee was filled with meeting new teachers. Great time.

**Gina Pickens, Beta Iota Chapter**

My memory is how I prepared to be a presenter, had my bags and supplies packed the night before and looking forward to Sewanee. Then I woke up the next morning with a swollen face and was diagnosed with Shingles. Disappointed I had to miss!!

**Paula Sanders, Beta Iota Chapter**

Every year we have an annual Christmas party. This is always so much fun, and we have a tradition of playing games, trading ornaments, and fellowshiping.

**Leigh Ann Davis, Gamma Iota Chapter**

One of my fondest memories of Beta Phi involves our esteemed leader, Nancy Leach. She called me on the phone one Sat. morning discussing, the upcoming program. And she said, Oh Carol, don't forget ... dress up for a program." So, I did!

**Carol Heath, Beta Phi Chapter**

My major memory for the last year was my initiation in April 2022. I was the only one from Beta Iota and I was both nervous and excited. I have friends in Beta Iota but saw friends I knew from other chapters. I enjoyed all the events I came to before initiation – loved getting to know other people.

**Nancy Jo Tyner, Beta Iota Chapter**

The Ceremony of Remembrance the year that our Pi Chapter "Mother Hen" was honored as a past State President and past Pi Chapter President – Vera Henegar – was a most special moment for me. The holiness of the place, the special prayers and the love present is something I'll never forget!

**Kathleen Benedict, Pi Chapter**

I have been a member for over 30 years. Going to Sewanee through the years, I experienced many wonderful moments. What stands out is the friendships which I have formed throughout the state of TN.

**Lynn Caruthers, Phi Chapter**

I enjoyed participating in a donation to Forever Young Veterans. It reminded me of my dad's service in the Army. He retired as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Intelligence Division. He did not serve in WWII, but he did serve in the Korean War.

I have also been truly blessed by renewing my friendship with Linda Bond. We met at Memphis State. We took some classes together. Lost touch. I discovered in 2017 she was my neighbor. She invited me to join DKG. She is such a good sponsor and friend.

**Becky Cooper, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

At one of our Founders Day celebration meetings, we wore vintage hats, and some dressed as the founders would have. There was a cute and entertaining skit about our founders, and then there was a fire alarm pulled somewhere in the building and we had to evacuate. We soon re-entered the building and resumed our meeting.

**Sharon Webster, Beta Phi Chapter**

My favorite part of DKG is hearing the stories from the retired teachers in my chapter and learning from their wisdom. Mrs. Paulette & Mrs. Geneva are the best!!

**Ladonna Herrin, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

My moment with DKG on becoming a member was so refreshing. The members were so compassionate, loving, and caring. I look forward to all of our meetings. The State Convention at Sewanee was outstanding. I was so royal.

**Darlene Johnson, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

Riding with Betty Only to a DKG meeting in Nashville in a driving rainstorm. She kept me from panicking in the storm by never drawing a breath. I never forgot her support and treasure our friendship.

**Kathy Bradfield, Beta Gamma Chapter**

A momentous experience was my first day attending a meeting with DKG. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I imagined it would be an opportunity to learn about a topic that supported the TEAM Rubric and earn professional development hours. What I truly found was a group of positive, pleasant, inspiring, fun-loving, women. Many who I have enjoyed working with in school at different stages of my Knox County career. Each one of these ladies and I had a special connection, a mutual love of education, poise and professionalism and I was thrilled to see them again – That's when I knew DKG was family!

**Madeline Ferguson, Zeta Chapter**

I was a young teacher when I became a member. I was able to meet several outstanding seasoned educators who became lifelong mentors and friends for life to me. And I am continually thankful and grateful for the bond of friendship we have created.

**Kim Malone, Beta Phi Chapter**

Meetings in general, because they are a way for me to get with like-minded ladies to talk, have fun, and do crafts and activities.

**Leigh Ann Davis, Gamma Iota Chapter**

On my initiation day, there was also a UM football game. I attended the initiation held by the Coordinating Council (Memphis Area Chapters) at a local country club; did the ceremony, received a rose. I went to the bathroom to change my clothes because my husband was picking me up on his motorcycle to go to the game. When I got home, Betty Only (my sponsor) brought my rose to me. Friends are a real part of DKG.

**Sue Mason, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

I enjoy chairing the Scholarship Committee and having the annual recipient and her mother attend our June meeting and read her winning essay and tell us about her college plans.

**Mary Pitts, Beta Phi Chapter**

My first DKG convention was the Southeast Regional Conference in New Orleans not long after the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. I didn't know a lot of members at that time so kept pretty close to my chapter members. Nancy Davis was state president and she asked Betty Only to go to the store to pick up snacks for her to have in her room when TN members came to visit. Betty immediately volunteered yours truly and Martha Bailey to help in this task. Nancy gave us her car key fob and told us it was a blue Toyota with a designer license plate. She told us the car was parked in the hotel parking garage. So off we went. We went to the garage, clicked the key fob, and heard the beep, but we couldn't find the car. We kept clicking the key fob but no matter how many times we clicked and heard the beep we could not find the car. After a long time, a security guard approached us and asked if he could help us. We told him we were looking for a blue Toyota but could not find it. He looked at the key fob and then very patiently informed us that the car we were looking for was NOT a Toyota but a Honda!! He clicked the key fob and realized the car we were looking for was behind a low wall that we didn't realize was part of the garage. We finally located the car only to find out it wasn't blue but silver. When we finally got back to the hotel with the snacks, we informed Nancy that she was the proud owner of a silver Honda NOT a blue Toyota.

**Mary Jo Wilson, Martha Bailey, Alpha Lambda & Betty Only, Alpha Sigma Chapters**

DKG means meeting with friends and people that have the same interest. (Love of Children)

**Marcia Webb, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

Fellowship of like-minded ladies.

**Geneva, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

Friendship with my sisters in education.

Nominated by mentor during my student teaching.

**Mary Ann Clark, Alpha Omega Chapter**

I've always thought the Valentine's Day event at DeNeuville was extra special – an event intended to make the women there happy.

**Helen Erskine, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

I remember driving into Sewanee, someone telling me to touch the roof of the car to grab my angel. When we left, I was told to touch the roof to leave my angel at Sewanee.

**Sonja Glaser, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

Teaching through COVID was difficult but, I was comforted by my Gamma Iota sisters and that helped me get through it.

**Laura Ogle, Gamma Iota Chapter**

My favorite memories are friends that I have made through the years.

**Jerri Russell, Beta Iota Chapter**

The first time I went to Sewanee I was amazed at the Gothic architecture. However, it was the chapel where the ceremony of Remembrance was held that took my breath. The stained glass, so beautiful and so unique, was hypnotic. Who would expect to see a yellow Volkswagen in a chapel's stained-glass window?? Such a lovely chapel and a reverent ceremony.

**Debra McDurmon, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

I was originally initiated in 1981 in Massachusetts. I had no idea what DKG was but went to a meeting with a colleague in my building. Fast forward to 1995 and I had the most meaningful experience of my life when I was given the opportunity to go to "Golden Gift" in Austin, Texas. I learned so much about myself and loved all the other members who came from all over the country (in fact, we are all still in touch to this day!)

Another adventure awaited me when I transferred my membership to Memphis, Tennessee. Woohoo! How lucky I was to meet all the fantastic members in my new chapter - Alpha Lambda – the best chapter in TN!! – in my humble opinion. Really it has been the best thing (except for my family) about being in Memphis.

**Carolyn Taylor, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Marsha Brewer (Beta Upsilon) is a certified Myers-Briggs consultant. I had the privilege of driving to Hixson, TN with her where she presented the program to two local chapters. Myers-Briggs is an exercise in professional development and team building. Two DKG chapters were in the process of combining and this program was designed to help them work together and build their strengths.

**Carole Belles, Beta Upsilon Chapter**

The honor of carrying a flag at my first state convention. I was thrilled and nervous.

**Becky Sanderson, Gamma Iota Chapter**

Shoes, shoes, shoes!! Louisville, KY SE Regional. Dorrie Powell drove her BIG Cadillac and we went (8 of us) to Zappos for shoe shopping. Most of us got 5-6 pairs of shoes but Susan Hoback topped everyone with I think 12 -15 pairs. But we made a big deal about her having more than anyone.

**Dr. Linda Eller, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Making a poster for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I got to look over all the years in our scrapbooks.

**Kacey Yonkovitz, Beta Pi Chapter**



The friendships I have made in DKG have been wonderful! I love going to the state conference and meeting new people.

**Rosemary Ragan, Alpha Nu Chapter**

Friendship Everlasting.

Special Projects: Africa, Serving At-Risk population

Lunch with my sisters

Service Dog Presentation

How to Pack for Travel

**Mary Helen Sinclair, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Our chapter made pillowcase dresses for girls in schools in Africa. I brought a friend to the meeting where we were organizing them and placing them in bags. She became a member after that because she saw how much fun we were having while doing something for the education of girls.

**Dr. Cathy Meredith, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Being initiated into the same chapter, Alpha, as my mother, Betty Lee!

**Angela L. Neely, Alpha Chapter**

From watching my mother leave for her DKG meetings as a child to making sure she gets to meetings 5 years later; it is a joy!!

**Anonymous, Alpha Omega Chapter**

Pat Satterfield sat with me during the first Xi State Convention that I attended. During one of the workshops, I was alone, and she made me feel very welcome. I've not missed a convention since! I love seeing her every year.

**Amanda Pritchett, Gamma Zeta Chapter**

Table hostess at state and international Convention.

**Connie Silvey, Zeta Chapter**

I have met some very good friends. At Sewanee I remember the hot room and sharing a bathroom.

**Betty Lou Jones, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

I always love to see friends at Sewanee. I remember seeing a former student teacher that I had lost touch with. How wonderful to know she is a DKG sister.

**Pam Ramage, Beta Iota Chapter**

Crosstown Concourse – We toured the facility. It was amazing. I didn't grow up here, and the history was amazing. I found out about so many things that were going on there. Now, I go there often. We had lunch at a burger place, and I had a tea incident. They ran out of sweet tea, so our new little waiter went to make more. He accidentally made it with salt. We laughed so hard.

**Sandy Zorn, Beta Iota Chapter**

Participating in the “IN PERSON” INDUCTION ceremony at the LIGHTHOUSE at the lake in Hendersonville, TN.

Observing my DKG sisters on a zoom call positively brainstorming about how to organize the Beginning Leadership Conference.

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

I can't imagine my life without all my friends that I made in DKG. When I suffered a tragic event – the visits, texts, phone calls and cards kept me going. When I feel like I might need a lift, I read the cards and letters. Thanks to all my friends in TNSO.

**Dr. Dianne Anderson, Gamma Alpha Chapter**

Visiting with teachers, especially retired teachers, and teachers from other schools, is the most rewarding and enjoyable experience from DKG.

**Anonymous, Alpha Omega Chapter**

At the beginning of the 2020-21 school year – the first after the pandemic hit – I received a card in the mail from one of my chapter members. The card was just to encourage me in the coming school year because she knew how different and difficult it would be. She also included a \$50 gift card for me to use however I wanted. That retired teacher helped to start my year in such a positive way!

**Anonymous, Chapter Unknown**

My first Ceremony of Remembrance - The pride I felt in the history represented by those who have gone before us. Keeps me coming back – I need that “feel good”!

**Betsy Edmond, Gamma Iota Chapter**

My favorite memory is meeting the ladies and family members of Alpha Lambda for dinner and then attending a play at Playhouse on the Square. The food and fellowship are always great together. I enjoy trying the different foods and attending outside activities with my Alpha Lambda Sisters.

**Dr. LeCharle Harris, Alpha Lambda Chapter**

Kris Light and I have been privileged to recognize all of the new teachers in the Oak Ridge School System on behalf of DKG. It has been a joy to be a part of this project and to work with Kris.

**Carroll Ann Welch, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

Last summer, my chapter, Beta Rho, decided to offer the chance to apply for \$250 grants for classroom items and projects. I was lucky enough to apply and transfer to a wonderful school in Maury County, Woodard Elementary (Go Wildcats!) I would be unable to take my classroom document camera with me, so I applied for one of the grants to get a new one! I won a grant and purchased a Ladibug document camera for my new classroom. It's such a wonderful tool for showing science and social studies artifacts, modeling writing strategies, showing sections in books, and much more. Each time I use it I think of DKG and my wonderful sisters in education.

**Emily Ferguson, Beta Rho Chapter**

At this past December's Alpha Epsilon meeting we had requested items for a silent auction from our members. Although we recommended a response to know how to organize the items, there were only 3 members who contacted us before the day of the event to say that they were bringing something. We were definitely working on the belief that our sisters would be unwavering... and they were! We had over 40 percent with more attending virtually. We also had to keep asking staff for tables to put auction items on! We raised over \$1000 that day for our Family Resource Center located at one of the schools, I was overwhelmed by the response of our Alpha Epsilon Sisters and humbled by their generosity. I will never again question their desire to be present and active, especially taking the opportunity to help our students and their families.

**Karla Mullins, Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

Meeting sweet Betty Only!

**Anonymous, Alpha Sigma Chapter**

I was feeling sick at home and got an email from the wonderful Sheron Smith about joining, and I felt so honored that it came from her. I respect her as a teacher and a person. It took a rough day and made it better.

**Megan Van Benschoten, Beta Phi Chapter**

I appreciate the "sisterhood," the support and help we have for each other and our community.

**Traci Lauderdale, Gamma Iota Chapter**

"I joined DKG in 1995 at the invitation of Eula Brashear. We have a small chapter here in Jackson and it has been a pleasure to get to know all of our members. They are so supportive and willing to give of themselves for the organization and to guide me as I assumed the office of president. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as president the past few and get to know more about the DKG at the state and international level. Opportunities like Beginning and Advanced Leadership have helped me get to know members statewide and deepen my understanding of the wide reach of DKG around the world. I am grateful for our regional network of chapters as well and the opportunity to connect with educators in our area."

**Jean Marie Walls, President of Beta Eta Chapter**

“The implementation of a backpack program. The program has grown from providing for two children to six stuffed backpacks. This community outreach project benefits the children of local schools.”

**Diana Collins, President of Omicron Chapter**

“My favorite memories to date include events with one of our founding members, Thelma Scott. I have loved meetings hosted in her home with fine china, her guided tour of what was once the Chisca Hotel and the site of the founding of the Beta Gamma chapter and her detailed retelling of being the acting principal of a Memphis City School and locking down on the day that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.”

**Elise Rodriguez, President of Beta Gamma Chapter**

*Thanks  
For The  
Memories!!*