

**Xi State History  
2015-2017 Biennium  
Prepared by Dorrie J. Powell, Ed.D.**

**2015-2016**

Dr. Dorrie Powell, Beta Sigma Chapter, took over the leadership of Xi State in July 2015 from Beverly Smith, Alpha Xi Chapter. Like Beverly, Dorrie worked fulltime while serving as state president. Since 1980, Dorrie had worked for Hardeman County Schools in West Tennessee as a classroom teacher of English and journalism at Bolivar Central High School, next as school librarian at the same high school, and then as GEAR UP college access coordinator for the two high schools in Hardeman County. This GEAR UP job is the one she held during her term as state organization president. She and her husband Wilson lived on farmland that had been in his family since 1830. Following a house fire in 1986, Wilson built their home “from the stump” using timber milled from trees cut on family property.

**2015 Xi State Convention**

Dorrie was installed as state president during the 80<sup>th</sup> Xi State Convention, held June 4-6, 2015, on the campus of the University of the South at Sewanee, with 282 members registered. Other officers installed during the convention included:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sherrie Collins (Beta Pi)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dr. Linda Eller (Alpha Lambda)
- Recording Secretary Dr. Beverly Hall (Alpha Rho)
- Corresponding Secretary Michelle Steen (Theta)
- Treasurer Nancy Davis (Gamma Mu)
- Parliamentarian Becky Sadowski (Alpha Lambda).

Related Personnel serving during the biennium included:

- Executive Secretary Elaine Warwick (Rho)
- Editor Orlean Bauman (Alpha Rho)
- Webmaster Dr. Dianne Anderson (Gamma Alpha).

The Society Representative for the convention was International Member-at-Large Barb Whiting from Minnesota. Dorrie’s close friend Nita Scott - DKG Membership Services Administrator, former teaching colleague, and former member of Dorrie’s chapter - surprised Dorrie by attending the convention at her own expense to see her installed as state president. Dorrie was also delighted to have her husband Wilson and several family members attend both the Friday evening banquet and Saturday morning brunch. During the Birthday Brunch on Saturday morning, Dorrie accepted the gavel from Beverly Smith and announced her theme for the biennium, “Xi State – Growing Possibilities,” with these remarks:

Under Beverly’s superb leadership, we have focused on the Real Common Core-with the C in this case, standing for “Cultivating.” That resonates with me as a farmer’s daughter and wife. I know firsthand the hard work required for cultivation, the need for proper tools and equipment, the unforeseen vagaries of weather and happenstance that

can sabotage the very best plans, the ongoing cultivation process that seems sometimes slow to show results. I also know that, in agricultural terms, we have to cultivate to create a favorable growing environment so that whatever we are trying to grow can reach maximum potential. And I also recognize that I will be doing a great deal of growing over the next two years as I serve as your Xi State president. It is with just such a growing environment in mind that I have chosen my theme for the coming biennium – “Xi State . . . Growing Possibilities.”

This phrase very possibly suggests different things to each of you. Frankly, that is one of the reasons I chose it. I want this biennium to be one of growth on as many levels and in as many directions as possible. I want the next two years to be a period in which our members grow as educators and individuals, one in which we “grow” more early career educators into seasoned career professionals, one in which we “grow” more members for our existing chapters or even “grow” a new chapter or two in parts of this state where we no longer have membership.

I want our chapters to grow more leaders to assume key positions at the chapter and state levels – and possibly beyond. I want us to “grow” more adept with technology, more invested in the legislative process, more aware of global concerns, more efficient and effective in our transaction of chapter and state business, more supportive of our colleagues and fellow members, and more visible and vocal in our communities.

For the next two years, I invite each of you and all Xi State members to explore and embrace “Xi State . . . Growing Possibilities.”

### **2015 Southeast Regional Conference**

The 2015 Southeast Regional Conference was held in Savannah, GA, July 15-18, at the Savannah Harbor Conference Center and adjacent Westin Savannah Harbor. Under the leadership of International President Dr. Lyn Schmid (2014-2016), the theme for this conference and the entire biennium was “85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life.” During the preconference Leadership Development (July 13-15), Dorrie and the other 2015-2017 Southeast state presidents received their training. A total of 63 Xi State members attended the conference in support of Southeast Regional Director Becky Sadowski (Alpha Lambda).

Xi State members played key roles throughout the conference. Breakout sessions were coordinated, presented, or facilitated by Beverly Smith (Alpha Xi), Dr. Dorrie Powell (Beta Sigma), Sharon McMahan (Alpha Phi), Dr. Elaine Alexander (Beta Epsilon), Dr. Beverly Hall (Alpha Rho), Donna Lamkin (Alpha Xi), Dr. Jensi Souders (Alpha Phi), Dr. Dianne Anderson (Gamma Alpha), Lin Marten (Alpha Phi), Sherrie Collins (Beta Pi), Carolyn Taylor (Alpha Lambda), Mary Jo Wilson (Alpha Lambda), Elaine Warwick (Rho), Deborah Gray (Alpha Lambda), Dr. Linda Eller (Alpha Lambda), Michelle Steen (Theta), Dr. Cathy Meredith (Alpha Lambda), Bonnie Cummings (Alpha Lambda), Dr. Kathie Harned (Beta Upsilon), Dr. Marcia Stewart (Beta), and Nancy Davis (Gamma Mu). Those presiding, presenting, or performing during general sessions and meal events included Becky Sadowski (Alpha Lambda), Linda McCrary (Alpha Gamma), Nancy Davis (Gamma Mu), Dr. Dorrie Powell (Beta Sigma), Dr.

Jensi Souders (Alpha Phi), Marsha Brewer (Beta Upsilon), Dee Dee Rives (Theta), and Dr. Jessica Mitchell (Beta Sigma). Xi State members representing international committees included Dr. Dianne Anderson (Gamma Alpha, Communications and Publicity Committee), Dr. Kathie Harned (Beta Upsilon, Leadership Development Committee), Elaine Warwick (Rho, Nominations Committee), and Becky Sadowski (Alpha Lambda, International Speakers Fund Committee). Judy Jackson (Rho), chair of the US Forum, also presided over the US Forum session at the regional conference. The Tennessee state event was a dessert reception organized by Sherrie Collins (Beta Pi), outgoing corresponding secretary.

### **Chapter Visits**

Dorrie began her official visits to Xi State's 76 chapters with a relatively short drive to Gibson County on August 20 to help Tau Chapter celebrate 50 year member Annie Laurie James on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Soon, however, she began to crisscross the state for chapter visits and was grateful when chapters met jointly or made meeting adjustments to accommodate her work schedule. In total, she visited with members of 38 chapters the first year.

### **Leadership Conference for State Committee Planning**

Members of Xi State's 17 appointed and three elected committees met at Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School in Murfreesboro on September 25-26, 2015, for the biennial committee planning conference. State recording secretary Dr. Beverly Hall (Alpha Rho) served as registrar for the 113 members attending the conference. The planning conference began Friday evening when committee chairs, area directors, state officers, and related personnel received their charges for the biennium and participated in a brief synectics activity to encourage synergy and coordination of effort among committees. On Saturday, Dorrie asked all committees to look for Growing Possibilities in their work for the biennium with four key words in mind: Propagate, Pollinate, Plant, and Prune.

Committee chairs for the biennium included the following:

- Achievement Award – Chrissie Allen (Alpha Lambda)
- Arts & Personal Enrichment – Marsha Brewer (Beta Upsilon)
- Awards – Wynonna Clayborne (Alpha Gamma)
- By-Laws and Rules – Diana Homan (Alpha Epsilon)
- Chapter Strengthening – Beverly Smith (Alpha Xi)
- Communications & Publicity – Dr. Jensi Souders (Alpha Phi)
- Convention Steering – Dr. Linda Eller (Alpha Lambda)
- Educational Excellence – Pam Egler (Alpha Alpha)
- Expansion – Linda McCrary (Alpha Gamma)
- Finance – Marge Lofstrom (Alpha Nu)
- Historical Preservation – Kathy Smith (Alpha Nu)
- Leadership Development – Marsha Carr-Talley (Beta Zeta)
- Legislation – Trish Stephenson (Alpha Sigma)
- Membership – Dr. Elaine Alexander (Beta Epsilon)
- Nominations – Wanda Castleman (Alpha Nu)

- Personnel – Carol Abernathy (Phi)
- Planning – Patsy Smith (Beta Gamma)
- Scholarship – Susan Young (Beta Beta)
- Special Events – Pam Jefferies (Beta Phi)
- State Projects – Allison Maynard (Gamma Lambda)
- Vision Foundation – Dr. Elaine Vaughan (Alpha Epsilon)
- 2016 International Convention – Becky Sadowski (Alpha Lambda)

Area Directors for the biennium included the following:

- Area I – Joy Branham (Iota)
- Area II – Freda Branam (Beta Phi)
- Area III – Amanda Pritchett (Gamma Zeta)
- Area IV – Martha McCluen (Zeta)
- Area V – Jennifer Lusk (Beta Xi)
- Area VI – Pat Tyree (Rho)
- Area VII – Susan Woods (Kappa)
- Area VIII – Mary Wadley (Beta Eta)
- Area IX – Carol Moling (Beta Gamma)

### **State Convention Planning Meeting**

On January 17-18, 2016, Dorrie, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sherrie Collins, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dr. Linda Eller traveled to Sewanee to make plans for the upcoming state convention in June. In keeping with recent practices, Dorrie and her vice presidents worked out convention needs and preferences on Sunday night before meeting with Chris Carlson and other key personnel at the University of the South the following morning. Together, they finalized plans for the 2016 state convention in June.

### **Legislative Symposium**

The first Xi State Legislative Symposium of the biennium was held January 26-27, 2016, at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville. Members met on Monday evening for a Q & A session with legislative panelists. On Tuesday morning, members met for a brief breakfast program before adjourning for a day on the Hill to meet with their legislators or attend legislative committee meetings. Despite good weather for January, attendance was reduced from previous years.

### **Beginning Leadership Management Seminars**

The first Leadership Management Seminar for the biennium was held April 1-2, 2016, at St. Columba's Episcopal Retreat near Memphis. Dr. Beverly Helms, Past International President (2012-2014), led 16 participants in understanding their own personality type and those of others, using parliamentary procedure, and finding one's place in DKG. The second Leadership Management Seminar was held September 30 – October 1, 2016, at Henry Horton State Park,

with Dr. Helms again leading 18 attendees in a discovery of their own personality preferences and other important leadership skills.

### **Chapter Leadership Training 2016**

Chapters were encouraged to send a “Grow Team,” made up of officers elected for the 2016-2018 biennium and other chapter representatives, to one of three Chapter Leadership Training sessions - April 9 in Knoxville (approximately 62 registered), April 23 in Murfreesboro (approximately 80 registered), or April 30 in Jackson (approximately 60 registered). Xi State Recording Secretary Dr. Beverly Hall (Alpha Rho) served as registrar for the three events. Chapters were encouraged to attend sessions for chapter presidents, treasurers, editors, and webmasters. Xi State committees also offered sessions on membership, strategic planning, communications and publicity, and educational excellence. Chapters were also invited to share chapter successes and concerns, which were compiled and distributed to chapters. Participants at each location also viewed a webinar by Nita Scott, DKG Membership Services Administrator, entitled “TN: The Power of Positive Change,” which discussed declining membership as well as possible causes and solutions.

### **Xi State Convention 2016**

The 81<sup>st</sup> Xi State Convention was held June 2-4, 2016, at the University of the South at Sewanee with Nita Scott, Membership Services Administrator, serving as Society representative and approximately 300 members in attendance, including 32 first-timers. This state convention, taking place only a month prior to the 2016 International Convention in Nashville, provided the perfect opportunity to disseminate information and train volunteers for many of the roles members would be filling during the Nashville convention. Inspirational messages – “Moments of Possibility” – were scattered throughout the convention program, and first-time attendees were treated to a bus tour of campus lead by Dee Dee Rives, past state president (2009-2011), who shared campus lore and convention logistics.

Guerry Hall was the center of convention business with registration for the entire convention set up in the lobby and the executive board meeting and both general sessions held in Guerry Auditorium. During Thursday evening’s moving Order of the Rose Ceremony, the Awards Committee recognized the faithful service of nine extraordinary members. A successful Silent Auction raised more than \$4,000.00 for leadership development, and chapters showcased their “Growing Possibilities” in beautiful displays.

With no proposed amendments to consider, business sessions ran smoothly. However, there were some items of note during the various business sessions. During the executive board meeting, two previous votes were read into the minutes endorsing Becky Sadowski for the offices of International First and Second Vice President. Finance Committee chair Marge Loftstrom presented a revised biennial budget reflecting reduced projected revenue and a declining trend in membership, and Dorrie filled a vacancy on the Finance Committee following a resignation.

Immediately following the Executive Board meeting, the board caucused about the upcoming International election to be held during the 2016 convention in Nashville where there were two candidates for the positions of International First Vice President, Southeast Regional Director, Member-at-Large, and European Representative to the Nominations Committee.

Friday morning, the Village Trail was dedicated in honor of Liz Whorley Bradley, past state president (1981-1983), who was on hand for the ribbon cutting. This walking trail was then traveled as part of the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, sponsored by Alpha Rho. Past state presidents then joined Dorrie on the balcony of McClurg Dining Hall for the Iris Circle Breakfast.

Friday's and Saturday's convention meal events were held in Upper Cravens. During the Awards Luncheon, chapters and individuals were recognized in a variety of categories. At least 23 chapters received Gold recognition on the Maycie Chapter Excellence Award, and Susan Young (Beta Beta) and Cheryl McHone (Gamma) were also recognized as recipients of International scholarships. Members with 50 or more years of membership were honored, including Dr. Alicia Tilley (Alpha Lambda), with 74 years of membership in DKG.

During the Presidents Banquet, incoming and outgoing chapter presidents were presented, the chorus under the direction of Julie Hughes (Alpha Xi) and accompanied by Janice Enck (Alpha Lambda) performed a beautiful medley, Nita Scott continued her International Update, and Bea Lyons (Gamma Lambda) was awarded the Xi State Achievement Award.

Early on Saturday morning, the Vision Foundation held its annual coffee on the balcony of McClurg Dining Hall. Next, members assembled for the beautiful Ceremony of Remembrance at All Saints' Chapel, followed by the Birthday Brunch, where Dr. Kathie Harned (Beta Upsilon) presented "Remembering Maycie" in recognition of Founders' Day. Dorrie was again delighted to have her husband Wilson and other family members attend both the banquet and the brunch. The convention ended with the singing of "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song."

### **Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar**

Marsha Brewer (Beta Upsilon) attended the 2016 Golden Gift LMS at the University of Texas in Austin.

## **2016-2017**

### **International Convention 2016**

On July 5-9, Tennessee welcomed the DKG world to the Nashville Opryland Resort and Convention Center for the 2016 International Convention. A total of 2056 members, non-members, and guests registered for the convention, including 268 Tennessee members as Dr. Lyn Schmid, International President (2014-2016), continued her theme: "85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life."

Becky Sadowski (Alpha Lambda) chaired the convention steering committee, which also included Beverly Smith (Alpha Xi), Nancy Davis (Gamma Mu), Dr. Jensi Souders (Alpha Phi), Marsha Brewer (Beta Upsilon), Dr. Elaine Alexander (Beta Epsilon), Carol Moling (Beta Gamma), Elaine Warwick (Rho), Dr. Kathie Harned (Beta Upsilon), Orlean Bauman (Alpha Rho), Camille Dolan (Alpha Lambda), Betty Only (Alpha Sigma), Susan Hoback (Alpha Lambda), and Dr. Dorrie Powell (Beta Sigma). More than 300 Tennessee members volunteered in some capacity in advance of or during the convention. Tennessee members presenting breakout sessions or “Hot Topics’ table talks included Dr. Joyce Swan (Gamma Eta), Lisa Roten (Gamma Eta), Judy Fox (Rho), Deborah Gray (Alpha Lambda), Maggi Vaughn (Beta), Donna Lamkin (Alpha Xi), Dr. Cathy Meredith (Alpha Lambda), Bonnie Cummings (Alpha Lambda), Trish Fowler (Rho), Lincy Reynolds (Rho), +Sherrie Collins (Beta Pi), Dr. Marcia Stewart (Beta), Carolyn Taylor (Alpha Lambda), and Robin Goddard (Beta Iota).

Convention keynote speakers included Kai Knight, violinist and composer; Mike Figliuolo, author of *One Piece of Paper*; Judith Viorst, author of books for both children and adults; and Anna Maria Chavez, CEO of Girl Scouts USA. The Educational Foundation hosted a very successful fundraiser event – “Call Me Country” – at the Wildhorse Saloon in downtown Nashville. With so many Xi State members involved in the business of the convention, the Tennessee state event, organized by Corresponding Secretary Michelle Steen (Theta) was a low-key beverage affair – “Tea Time in Tennessee” - immediately following Tennessee Night.

Tennessee’s Star of the Southeast, announced at the Southeast Regional Breakfast, was Marsha Brewer (Beta Upsilon). Cathy Daugherty (Virginia) received the Achievement Award, and Carolyn Pittman (Arkansas) was elected International President 2016-2018. Others elected included Barbara Whiting (Minnesota) as First Vice President, Becky Sadowski (Tennessee) as Second Vice President, June Bowers (Nebraska) as Member-at-Large 2016-2020, Bjorg Nakling (Norway) as Europe Regional Director, Carol Hughes (Illinois) as Northeast Regional Director, Dr. Rhonda Anderson (South Dakota) as Northwest Regional Director, Linda Navorska (South Carolina) as Southeast Regional Director, Patricia Park (Hawaii) as Southwest Regional Director, Joan Wolfe (Ontario) as Area Representative for Canada, and Flor M. Perez (Costa Rica) as Area Representative for Latin America. Dr. Beverly Hall (Alpha Rho) was elected to the International Finance Committee 2016-2020.

### **Death of Dr. Paxton**

Members of Xi State were saddened to learn that Dr. Willene Paxton, Xi State President, 1989-1991, died July 23, 2016, while traveling in England.

### **Creative Arts Retreat**

On September 23-24, 2016, the 2016 Creative Arts Retreat took place at the historic Donoho Hotel in Red Boiling Springs. Approximately 80 members gathered to enjoy great food, historic attractions, and beautiful scenery. Workshops included both arts and crafts as well as songwriting, line dancing, and guitar.

## **State Convention Planning Meeting**

On January, 15-16, 2017, Dorrie, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sherrie Collins and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dr. Linda Eller again travelled to Sewanee to make plans with the University of the South for the June 1-3 state convention. Because of a convention budget shortfall the previous year, Dorrie and her team decided to eliminate the registration package pricing and use an itemized registration form instead. The newly renovated Quintard dorm was again offered for on-campus housing, and, for the first time, attendees staying on campus could request a single room with a small upcharge.

## **Legislative Symposium 2017**

On February 13-14, 2017, state members again converged on Nashville for the Legislative Symposium, held at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel. Following Monday night's legislative panel discussion, members met the following morning for remarks by Dr. Candice McQueen, Tennessee Commissioner of Education. Members then took advantage of the hotel's shuttle to visit individual legislators or attend legislative committee meetings.

## **Advanced Leadership Management Seminar**

Eighteen graduates of the Beginning Leadership Management Seminar attended the advanced version at Montgomery Bell State Park on March 31-April 1, 2017. The presenter for the advance seminar was Tennessee's own Becky Sadowski (Alpha Lambda), who based her training on Mike Figliuolo's book, *One Piece of Paper*.

## **Chapter Visits – Year 2**

Dorrie visited 40 chapters during the second year of the biennium for a total of 78 chapters during her term as president. With her fulltime work schedule, Dorrie was not always able to accept each chapter or area invitation. However, she appreciated every opportunity to meet with members and did her best to find another state leader to visit in her stead when she could not personally attend. Dorrie especially appreciated invitations to regional, area, and joint chapter meetings. Her final chapter visits were anything but close to home. They came in late June 2017 as she was joined by immediate past state president Beverly Smith and incoming state president Dr. Elaine Alexander for a road-trip to visit Alpha Theta in Harrogate and Gamma Mu in Mountain City.

## **State Convention 2017**

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Xi State Convention was held June 1-3, 2017, at the University of the South at Sewanee with 259 registered to attend. Society representative for the convention was June Bowers (Nebraska), International Member-at-Large, 2016-2020, with Becky Sadowski (Alpha Lambda) serving as her escort. Julie Hughes (Alpha Xi) and Janice Enck (Alpha Lambda) again provided music throughout the convention, and inspirational messages – “Moments of Possibility” – were scattered throughout the convention program.



Convention program books were slimmer than usual as Dorrie and her officer team tried to trim the convention budget as much as feasible. To that end, officer and committee reports were posted on the state website instead of printed in the convention booklet. Also, the Birthday Brunch was moved to McClurg to reduce catering costs as well as to provide easier access for those tasked with decorating for the event. (When the brunch was held in Upper Cravens, the chapters in charge of decorations had to wait until well after the banquet on Friday night to set up their table decorations or gain entry early Saturday morning and hope they could finish in time.)

Business items during the Executive Board Meeting included reading into the minutes of two earlier executive board votes: the merger of Alpha Tau and Alpha Mu Chapters, and the approval of the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan. During the Second General Session, two proposed amendments to the state bylaws and seven proposed amendments to the state rules were approved, all resulting in minor changes in language or addition of clarifying details. The Nominations Committee presented a slate of officers and elected committees, all approved by acclamation.

The Orientation Tea was again held in Bishop's Commons for the 30 first-time convention attendees, including the incoming Kentucky state president. Past State President Dee Dee Rives (Theta) presided over the orientation and bus tour of campus.

Thursday night included a carillon concert between dinner and the First General Session where Society representative June Bowers delivered greetings from International. Following the general session, the Awards Committee presented a lovely Order of the Rose Ceremony honoring ten deserving recipients. The Silent Auction again raised crucial funds for leadership development, and the various state committees helped explain their key roles in the work of the state organization with informative and attractive displays.

On Friday, the past state presidents joined Dorrie and soon-to-be-elected state president Dr. Elaine Alexander in the McClurg Tower Room for the Iris Circle Breakfast. Friday also included three separate timeslots for breakout sessions in Gailor Hall on topics of professional and personal interest as well as sessions of benefit to chapters and members interested in applying for scholarships and grants.

During Friday's Awards Luncheon, 25 chapters received the Gold award on the Maycie Award for Chapter Excellence. Recipients were also recognized for Vision Foundation grants and scholarships, including Jamie Lawson, who received the Maycie K. Southall International Scholarship.

The Presidents Banquet on Friday evening included a lovely medley performed by the Xi State chorus. June Bowers, Society representative, delivered the keynote address, and Beverly Smith (Alpha Xi) was awarded the Xi State Achievement Award.

Immediately following the banquet program and dinner, the Nominations Committee installed the newly elected officers, committee members, and Vision Foundation directors. These included the following officers for 2017-2019:

- President, Dr. Elaine Alexander (Beta Epsilon)

- First vice president, Dr. Beverly Hall (Alpha Rho)
- Second vice president, Michelle Steen (Theta)
- Recording secretary, Ann Gann (Pi)
- Corresponding secretary, Dr. Elaine Vaughan (Alpha Epsilon)
- Treasurer, Nancy Davis (Gamma Mu)
- Parliamentarian, Linda McCrary (Alpha Gamma)

Those installed as members of the Nominations Committee for 2017-2021 included Kathleen Benedict (Pi) for East TN, Karen Garner (Delta) for Middle TN, and Shirley Bullard (Beta Iota) for West TN.

Those installed as members of the Personnel Committee for 2017-2021 included Carolyn Earnest (Gamma Zeta) for East TN, Jennifer Lusk (Beta Xi) for Middle TN, and Mary Frances Wadley (Beta Eta) for West TN.

Those installed as members of the Nominations Committee for 2017-2021 included Dr. Krystal Kennedy (Beta Lambda) for East TN, Carol Abernathy (Phi) for Middle TN, and Mary Jo Wilson (Alpha Lambda) for West TN. Rachel Weir (Beta Sigma) was also installed as a member of the Nominations Committee for 2017-2019.

Two new members of the Vision Foundation Board for 2017-2021 were also installed: Kathy Smith (Alpha Nu) and Holley Ziglar (Gamma).

On Saturday morning, Xi State Visionaries gathered on the balcony of McClurg Dining Hall for the Vision Foundation Coffee. Then all members assembled in All Saints' Chapel for the Ceremony of Remembrance before adjourning to McClurg for the Birthday Brunch. Once again, Dorrie was delighted to have her husband Wilson and other family members share the banquet and brunch with her.

During the brunch, Dorrie reflected on her time as Xi State president and shared one final message as state president:

Through my monthly *Leadership Links*, the president's column in each issue of the *Xi State News*, and my remarks delivered at your chapter meetings, I have had numerous opportunities to get my "message" across to you, to plant some seeds that I hope will sprout and grow. Well, this is my last official opportunity to sow a few more seeds, so here they are:

I believe that the near future of DKG, of Xi State, and of your chapter and mine is sitting in this room, but our future is also sitting back home. Our future includes the members we need to encourage and enable to attend state and international events because we really never grasp what we are part of if we never venture beyond the chapter. Our future includes the teachers we need to invite to membership and to whom we need to offer our support, especially in their early years of the profession. Our future includes the college students – in decreasing numbers – who are choosing education as their profession. Our future even includes the students in our elementary and secondary classrooms, who are

watching us and, I hope, admiring us, as they consider who they want to be when they grow up.

Two years ago at this very brunch, I announced that “Xi State . . . Growing Possibilities” would be my theme for the biennium. That morning I enumerated several possible ways in which we might grow as individuals, as educators, and collectively as an organization, but the list was far from exhaustive. And I acknowledged that I would no doubt be the one who grew the most. I am happy to report today that my hopes and expectations for myself and for this state organization have been met and even exceeded. Xi State and I have encountered and embraced more growing possibilities than I could have envisioned. While my season as state president is done, the growing still needs to continue.

To paraphrase Darwin - As any organism grows, it changes. And each generation must learn to adapt to environmental changes, or the species does not survive. We have had a wonderful span of 88 years in which DKG has seen remarkable change. It stands to reason, then, that the next 88 will also require change – in how we identify and recruit our members, in how we provide to our members the benefits of this organization, and in how we impact education worldwide.

Dorrie then handed over the gavel to newly installed president, Dr. Elaine Alexander (Beta Epsilon) who shared her theme for the new biennium. The Founders’ Day program “And Still She Persisted” was written by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sherrie Collins (Beta Pi) and presented with the help of Xi State members representing each of the founders. The convention concluded with the singing of “The Delta Kappa Gamma Song.”

### **Closing Comments**

Serving as Xi State president was one of the greatest honors and challenges of my professional life. I was deeply humbled to represent our state organization during the 2016 International Convention in Nashville, where so many deserve credit for the convention’s success. During my term as state president, I was gratified by the support and concern of members and chapters across the state as I balanced my duties at work and at home with my duties as state president.

One of the first lessons I learned as state president was that, just because I had the gavel and the title of president, I did not automatically have all the answers. I soon realized that I would need to rely on the same answer I often gave as a librarian when I was confronted with an unexpected or difficult situation or question: “I don’t know the answer right now, but I will find out and let you know.” Each challenge or unexpected question presented a new opportunity for growth. I certainly did not have all the answers (and still do not), but I had, and continue to have, access to incredible expertise – about DKG, about education, about life – thanks to my membership in this organization.

When I first attended Xi State Convention in 1990 as chapter president, I never dreamed that I would someday serve as president, but others saw potential in me. Members in my chapter and leaders at the state and international levels nurtured my potential and helped me grow. My chapter members supported me every step of the way, and my school system allowed me to take advantage of the leadership and service opportunities that DKG offers.

Finally, I could not have attempted to serve Xi State as president without the unconditional support of my husband Wilson and his family. He was always my biggest cheerleader and believed that I needed to pay back or pay forward the benefits that I had received from DKG. As usual, he was right. However, considering how much I have received from DKG, I am not sure I can ever balance those scales.

*Dorrie J. Powell, Beta Sigma Chapter  
Xi State President 2015-2017*

## Awards and Achievements 2015-2016

### 2016 Xi State Scholarship Recipients

Cheryl McHone, Gamma, Lois Jones Scholarship  
Sarah Cheek, Gamma Nu, Maycie K. Southall Scholarship  
Brooke Sampson, Gamma Iota, Eleanor Osteen Scholarship

### 2016 DKG International Scholarship Recipients

Cheryl McHone, Gamma, Maycie K. Southall Scholarship  
Susan Young, Beta Beta, Sixtieth Anniversary Scholarship

### Achievement Award

Bea Lyons, Gamma Lambda

### International Guest

Nita Scott, International Membership Services Administrator

### Xi State Vision Foundation Grants

#### *Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Award*

Alice Hines Carson, Zeta

*Teachers Teaching with Technology International Conference, Orlando, FL*

### Xi State Members with International Positions

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

### Order of the Rose

Mary Kathleen (Kathy) Bradfield, Beta Gamma

Freda Branam, Beta Phi

Jeanette Burkhart-Esch, Alpha Xi

Jennibeth King, Theta

Allison Maynard, Gamma Lambda

Sharon McMahan, Alpha Phi

Carolynne Ruth (Kay) Moss, Alpha Epsilon

Rosemary Ragan, Alpha Nu

Rosemary Holt Smith, Iota

## **Xi State Beginning Leadership Management Seminar Participants**

Laura Pullen, Alpha Nu  
Tara Younger, Alpha Nu  
Elaine Vaughan, Alpha Epsilon  
Star Adcock, Beta Beta  
Becky Sanderson, Gamma Iota  
Mary Martin, Beta  
Rhea Fuller, Beta Eta  
Terry Sharp, Zeta  
Jennifer Stanfield, Beta Eta  
Candyce Sweet, Beta Eta

Vickie Avrett, Omicron  
Krista Grace, Omicron  
Christina Atchley, Alpha Phi  
Sheila Stanley, Alpha Lambda  
Cami Mitchell, Alpha Phi  
Biyanka Wanigasekara, Beta Gamma  
Thishya Penera, Beta Gamma  
Patsy Todd, Alpha Lambda  
Deborah McDurmon, Alpha Sigma  
Brenda West, Alpha Sigma

## **2016 Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar Participants**

Marsha Brewer, Beta Upsilon

## **Awards and Achievements 2016-2017**

### **2017 Xi State Scholarship Recipients**

Jamie Lawson, Alpha Rho, Maycie K. Southall Scholarship  
Kimberly Thurman, Alpha Xi, Louise Oakley Scholarship  
Kathleen Roovers, Pi, Evangeline Hartsook Scholarship  
Brooke Sampson, Gamma Iota, Lottye McCall Scholarship

### **2017 DKG International Scholarship Recipient**

Jamie Lawson, Alpha Rho, Maycie K. Southall Scholarship

### **Achievement Award**

Beverly Smith, Alpha Xi

### **International Guest**

June Bowers, International Member-at-Large

### **Xi State Vision Foundation Grants**

#### ***Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Award***

Dr. Krystal Kennedy, Beta Lambda

*2017 Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, Boston, MA*

#### ***Doris Ann Hendrix Project Grant***

Freda Branam, Beta Phi

*Picture Perfect Science Lessons*

#### ***Marilyn Ivey Project Grant***

Lynn Cole, Kappa

*Second Step Program for Middle School*

#### ***Vision Foundation Project Grants***

Jill Warren, Gamma Alpha

*Coding and Robots*

Missy Locke, Phi

*Raider-Space*

### **New Visionaries**

Dr. Elaine Vaughan

Martha McCluen

Alpha Xi Chapter

Zeta Chapter

### **Xi State Members with International Positions**

Dr. Beverly Hall	Alpha Rho	Finance Committee
Becky Sadowski	Alpha Lambda	International Second Vice-President
Beverly Smith	Alpha Xi	Expansion Committee
Dr. Jensi Souders	Alpha Phi	Past International President 2010-2012
		International Editor, <i>DKG News</i>
Elaine Warwick	Rho	Chair, Educator's Award Committee

### **Order of the Rose**

Nancy Barnett, Beta Nu  
 Jo Ann Eckhardt, Alpha Nu  
 Billy Joyce Fine, Gamma  
 Pam Jefferies, Beta Phi  
 Brenda Moriarty, Iota  
 Pat Satterfield, Alpha Tau  
 Thelma Scott, Beta Gamma  
 Mary Smith, Zeta  
 Carolyn Winn, Alpha Gamma  
 Sherry Woods, Phi

### **Xi State Beginning Leadership Management Seminar Participants**

Judy Bailey-Ogle, Gamma Iota	Lori Hoskins, Kappa
Dr. Krystal Kennedy, Beta Lambda	Frances Durham, Alpha Kappa
Judy England, Alpha Rho	Wendy Morgan, Alpha Xi
Myra Martin, Alpha Rho	Brooke Sampson, Gamma Iota
Heather Whittenburg, Beta Lambda	Amanda (Mandy) Cannon, Gamma Iota
Kristina Doyle, Omicron	Janet Smith, Beta Xi
Audra Flippo, Alpha Rho	Connie Kyker, Beta Delta
Chasity Webb, Alpha Rho	Vickie Mackzum, Beta Lambda

### **Xi State Advanced Leadership Management Seminar Participants**

Tracy Collier, Gamma Iota	Starr Adcock, Beta Beta
Betsy Edmond, Gamma Iota	Janet Smith, Beta Xi
Cindy Young, Phi	Chasity Webb, Alpha Rho
Elaine Harper, Gamma Nu	Lori Hoskins, Kappa
Dr. Elaine Vaughan, Alpha Epsilon	Brooke Sampson, Gamma Iota
Becky Sanderson, Gamma Iota	Cami Mitchell, Alpha Phi
Amanda (Mandy) Cannon, Gamma Iota	Audra Flippo, Alpha Rho
Frances Durham, Alpha Kappa	Theresa Brown, Phi
Judy England, Alpha Rho	Judy Sanders, Omicron