

Kappa Kapers
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Kappa Chapter, Staunton, Virginia

Blue Ridge Council
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Organized 1941
November 2011

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November Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 –

Third Presbyterian Church – 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$12

Program: *Ndakuvara + Schools for Africa*

Our program will emphasize the DKG International project, Schools for Africa. Come dressed in animal print clothes and enjoy African crafts, movement activity, and gaining knowledge of Schools for Africa project. *Please bring a scarf for one of the activities*.

Purposes:

- To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.
- To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

*We will be voting on new members

We will be collecting canned fruit to benefit the West Rockingham Food Pantry.

Dinner reservations can be made when your Kappa Caller contacts you. Deadline for reservations is November 8.

Collect: Elaine Almarode

Favors: Scarlett Kiser

Music Director: Kathy Morzark

Accompanist: Dee Hoy

Collect Money: Bobbi Poats/Ginny Coffey

President's Corner

If you missed Dian Bennick's presentation at the October meeting, don't worry you can read up on her exercise tips on our chapter website www.iotakappachapter.weebly.com. She clearly defies her age by keeping active and agile and engaging in these time-saving exercises. Examples include climbing stairs, doing pushups from the sink while you wait for your coffee to brew, and doing the zipper reach by taking a towel and pulling it up and down over your shoulder.

As we approach the holiday season, I hope that we can all take a few minutes to reflect on our many blessings. We also have several opportunities to help others. First, we are collecting money for Schools for Africa, our International project. Some 11 African nations (and 5 million kids) will benefit from this campaign. Money will build schools, provide clean drinking water, supply

materials, train teachers and so much more. Roxanne O'Brien distributed wonderful boxes in which to collect money at the last meeting so be sure to bring those to the November meeting. The November meeting will be our last chance to contribute. Secondly, we are collecting specific items at each meeting that will go directly to area food pantries where our members are involved. What a great way to give back to our community. So, we can make a difference both locally and internationally.

Congratulations to Dee Hoy. Her name was drawn to receive the free meals at meetings. It pays to have your dues in on time!

Membership Information

November is upon us. This is an important month as we will be voting on new members for DKG. We have five candidates this year. You will be receiving their biographies to peruse. Please take time to read this information before the November 15th meeting. We will be voting at that time.

Leadership Lesson

Leading From the Front by Angie Morgan and Courtney Lynch

(p.36) Most women want to make a perfect decision – one that everyone is happy with and that results in success – and this slows them down. Such a perfectionist goal is unrealistic – no decision is perfect, not everyone is going to like the choices you make, and not everyone is qualified to give you the best advice. Women have the ability to make informed decisions on their own. They just need to recognize that they will rarely have 100 percent of the information they need, and it's just not realistic to shoot for that.

Many women put so much pressure on themselves to make the "right" decision that they end up with a case of "analysis paralysis" – they get stuck. If they do make a decision, they often can't enjoy the benefits of being decisive because they second-guess themselves, wondering whether they made the right call or should have considered other options. We all know women who probably lie awake at night replaying and almost obsessing over a decision they have already made. This unhealthy focus on a past decision puts them in danger of missing out on new opportunities. Leaders

make decisions based on the information they have, and then move ahead to the next decision. They don't look back.

Our Website is:

www.iotakappachapter.weebly.com

November Birthdays

3 Jean Smith
19 Christi Almarode
24 Liz Nicholson
24 Becky Park
29 Kathy Morzark

December Birthdays

5 Koressa Malcolm
7 Marilyn Long
Happy Birthday to ALL!!!

Dates to Remember

Feb 6 - Legislative Day
March/April – Leadership seminars in Abington, Bowling Green and Tidewater
July 24-28 – International Convention – NY City

Legislation Committee

Funding education has always been a problem; however, the basic beliefs about public education have never been in as much jeopardy as they are this year. Each one of us must do whatever we can to preserve and improve the profession on which all other professions depend; indeed, on which our country depends.

On October 26, Elaine Almarode, Shirley Crawford, Vrla Leach, Bev Wise, and I attended the VEA Pre-Legislative Workshop at the Holiday Inn in Staunton where we received information about the critical education issues that will be before the 2012 General Assembly.

On October 20, Liz Nicholson and I attended the afternoon session of the VRS Board meeting in Richmond where they certified the 2012 VRS contribution rates. The recommended rate for teachers is 24.26% of payroll. Factors in this rate include projected costs of benefit payments, health insurance credits, COLAs, scheduled

repayment of the \$620 million hijacked contributions last year, paying down the unfunded liability, group life insurance, and the 5% employees' share of contributions. The state pays a portion of this, but most of it is the responsibility of local school boards. We must encourage our legislators to fund this certified rate. They must be reminded that these high rates are the result of not following the recommended rate for 17 of the last 21 years, and now they are having to catch up. Local governments are likely to lobby against this rate because it is approximately 12% more than the 2011 VRS payment, and they may consider requiring employees to pay their 5% contribution. If they do, it will mean a 5% decrease in pay for those still teaching.

That morning, we attended a VEA press conference on the importance of maintaining the defined benefit plan and funding the certified contribution rate. Kitty Boitnott, VEA President, and Brittany Jones, President of the Student VEA, spoke, and I spoke representing current retirees. It was a very interesting day.

The House Appropriations Committee will hold its annual retreat in Staunton at the Stonewall

Jackson Hotel on Tuesday, November 15, from 1:00 p.m. until approximately four or five o'clock, and Wednesday, November 16, from 8:00 a.m. until they finish their business, usually a little before noon. Sometimes it is important for people just to show up. This is one of those times. It would be helpful to have a Delta Kappa Gamma presence there. Please let me know if you will go so that I will have enough name badges for all of us.

Iota State Legislative Day is Monday, February 6. Several Kappa members are planning to go. Mark your calendars now and join us in Richmond for a most interesting day. Registration information is in the Fall BRIDGE and on the website.

Let me know if you have questions about any of these events.

Bea

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