



# BETA KAPPA BITS



SEPTEMBER 2020

## MESSAGES FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS:

### Message *Co-President Cecelia Johnson*

Tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, police brutality, protests for racial justice, and, the relentless coronavirus pandemic have dominated our attention for almost all of 2020. At the same time, we are celebrating the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, women's right to vote in the United States, during this election year. It would be easy to withdraw and hope for things to return to normal, whatever that was; but, nothing will return to its former state.

Actually, we have an opportunity to improve our state of affairs. Now is the time to act—first, to learn what situations contributed to the current events and to determine what will better our circumstances; next, to speak up and work for change. We must teach others kinder, more thoughtful and harmonious ways to live on this planet. Examining issues from multiple perspectives and understanding the history associated with them is essential. We must make our voices heard in our families, in our schools and communities, and across the state and nation. We are challenged to unite with others to advocate for world changes. Never has it been more important for us to keep up and educate! The quality of our very lives depends on it.

I challenge each of you to read more broadly, listen more intently, question more critically, and engage in courageous conversations to advance change. Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, DKG founder and suffragist from Texas, first offered the challenge: Be progressive. Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. But, don't cling to the old when its worth has passed. Don't be a person who is so set in your views that nothing can change you.

Therefore, the theme for this biennium is "Keeping Up with the Moving World". Over the next two years, we will explore how we in Beta Kappa can stay abreast of issues that foster professional and personal growth and that promote excellence in education. ----Cecelia Johnson

### Ladies, *Co-President Teresa Brown*

Everything we are doing has never been done before. I have now attended one Zoom meeting. Cecelia is in charge of technology! I have been attending the DKG Legislative Symposiums for many years. State senator Deloris Grisham is retiring. I will not tell anyone how to vote but I will ask you to vote for candidates that support public education. Also, I serve on the state level of the legislative committee with Retired Teachers. I feel strongly that when you vote, look at your self interest. For example: state senator Shane Reeves was a yes vote for Education Savings Accounts. If teachers are not putting money into Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, it will not be actuarially sound. (bankrupt) Governor Lee's education plan will slowly remove teachers from public education into charter schools and public money will be spent on private schools. I am not in the classroom but I attend meetings and stay current on these things. Starting on October 14th, you can early vote. The polls are open after school hours and on Saturday. Go vote and save TCRS! Please call me if you just want someone to speak about things in the classroom. No one can touch me. I would be honored to help classroom teachers.

----Teresa Brown

## NEXT BETA KAPPA MEETING

The next Beta Kappa meeting is planned but due to COVID the date isn't set at this time. Our speaker will be Emily Gordon to speak about women's suffrage and winning the right to vote! This will be a very informative and timely topic-- More info on the meeting *date* will come as soon as possible!

## FUTURE EVENTS

The TN Creative Arts Retreat will be via Zoom on **Sept. 19, 2020**. There are six thirty minute sessions from 9 am to 12:00. The free fun sessions include books, technology, cooking, tea, and more. Find out more and register for one or more sessions at this link: [Creative Arts Zoom Retreat 2020](#)

NEW!! "DKG Goes Country"- This TN DKG Zoom event is Sunday, Oct 11 at 6 pm. Registration is by Oct. 3. The award-winning duo *2Country4Nashville* will perform. To register go to this link: [2Country4Nashville Zoom event](#)

Facebook for "Fraidy" Cats- Zoom event Saturday, Oct 17 at 10 am. [Registration Link here](#)

## DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

- September 15- Registration for Creative Arts Zoom Retreat
- October 3- Registration for "DKG GOES COUNTRY" zoom event
- October 31- submit Chapter Website Compliance Form 72 to international to receive compliance seal on website
- November 1- all chapter strategic plans are due
- December 15- Chapter Yearbooks due

### **Congratulations to Teresa Brown**

The **Trails for Kids** at Don Davidson Park in Fayetteville has just opened the Imagination Library Trail. It has been named the **Teresa Brown Storybook Trail**. Teresa has been an Imagination Library board member since the first day, an avid supporter and organizer of the IL, and a lifelong supporter of books and early literacy as a former Kindergarten teacher. This new trail at the park recognizes promoting literacy and using your imagination.



Beta Kappa past-president, **Helen Lowe**, has recently moved from her home. Her address is:  
Lincoln Manor  
115 Medical Center Blvd.  
Room 107  
Fayetteville TN 37334  
phone: 931.286.4578 (cell)  
or 931.438.3597 (landline)



**Martha Wolf** recently went in for more scans and they showed that she is now cancer-free! Martha thanks everyone for the many thoughts and prayers!



One of Beta Kappa's founding members and still an active member, **Erline Patrick**, recently celebrated her 99th birthday!



Thanks to members **Andrea Hardison** and **Carla Caldwell** who have written about teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. See page 3 for their thoughts.



**Betty Burgess** had two of her grandchildren get married this summer. Grandson Burgess Rye married Morgan Graham Rye on August 1st. Granddaughter Laura Beth Adams, pictured with Betty, married on July 7th. Congratulations!

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Martha Wolf's** granddaughter Meghan will be getting married Oct. 17th in Trenton, Georgia which is very close to Chattanooga. **Marie and Martha** plan to go to the outdoor wedding ceremony. They plan to be careful, too!



Meghan received the DKG scholarship when she graduated in 1993. She is now a seventh and ninth grade biology teacher. She will get her Masters degree next June. She still thanks all of us for her scholarship!

Beta Kappa Chapter was a 2020 Macie Award of Excellence Recipient

# Teaching during a Pandemic

by Andrea Hardison

The following are things that you will hear daily in my classroom during the current pandemic. These are things I never in my 23 years of teaching have heard or said until now.

*"I can't find my water bottle."* And *"I left my water bottle at home."* Students aren't allowed to drink from the water fountains, hence the need for individual bottles.

*"I think I accidentally threw my lunch card away."* Students have a lunch card with their number that they show to the lunch lady behind Plexiglas. The ladies can't hear behind the glass, and the students are no longer allowed to type their numbers in.

*"Ms. Hardison, did you remember to hit record?"* And *"Ms. Hardison, did you remember to stop recording?"* It's a real struggle to teach students in person and remember to record each lesson for the 25% of my students that are at home doing virtual learning.

*"Go stand on your circle."* Every student has a circle he or she stands on when lining up to help with social distancing.

*"Ms. Hardison, have you cleaned the desks yet?"* Students' desks are cleaned with disinfectant between each class. Students know to stand on their circle until I can clean all the desks.

Honestly, this is the hardest year I have ever had. The virtual learning has been beyond challenging with both the technology and parents of virtual students. Sadly, many parents signed up for virtual because they didn't want to get up every morning to take their child to school or thought it would be easier than "real school". Unfortunately, a couple of the parents aren't helping, assisting, or guiding their children at all during the virtual lessons, and their children are suffering greatly academically. Thankfully, my in-person teaching is going pretty well. The students in my actual classroom are sweet and so happy to be at school. They are eager to learn and have adapted well to all the changes. *They make me laugh and remind me daily why I am in this profession.* -- Andrea Hardison

## What is Normal?

by Carla Caldwell

As years have passed in my years of teaching I have always looked forward to meeting with all my children on the carpet area every morning. They would share stories, thoughts, and silly things they had brought. This carpet area is where we bonded. We learned together there. We danced together there. We sang songs there. We even listened to wonderful imaginative stories there that would take us to a different place just for awhile each day. We often had many unexpected impromptu life lessons learned there. They were free to go to the classroom library and pull books to read and enjoy.

Now our new "normal" routine consist of children entering the classroom and immediately going to a chair and sitting there from the beginning to the ending of class, leaving the seat to go to lunch and to their pull out. Sometimes the children can't see my face for the covering of the mask when I am going to be working in close proximity with them since we do lots of oral testing. My children now sit at those seats and listen to a story that I hold up in front of the class. They choose books from an electronic library on the computer instead of a shelf. They no longer can high five their buddy for a congratulatory celebration. Children have lost lots of freedoms. They have strict procedures they now follow such as gel in or out, stand on a dot for social distancing, no tag being played on the playground, or Duck Duck Goose. These children are brave and adapting well.

Yes, I have had my moments of tears, anger, frustration and fear as we have been bombarded with a vast, ever so swiftly changing way of educating our children. Things are happening so fast with decisions related to the Covid in the schools that we can hardly process in thought until another change is made. I have worked longer hours, watched many tutorials online, taken many notes and attended more training to be prepared for the virtual teaching that takes place in my classroom and for what could be the unknown that could happen. It seems we are preparing for the unknown constantly while teaching in the known. A balancing act that requires so much organization that my head is constantly spinning.

Normal defined as a noun is the usual, average or typical state or condition. Defined as an adjective, normal is conforming to a standard, usual, typical or expected.

I feel like we have moved away from the normal of teaching we knew as defined from a noun to a new normal that is defined as an adjective. Teachers keep moving forward and adapting as we accept the challenges we are given. We know that God has provided a way for us to deal with these challenges. Many have asked what they can do to help, but the things that need to be done these days are not physical acts, but spiritual. Please pray for teachers and our students and pray for the leadership of our country as they make decisions they once thought they would not be making due to the pandemic. Pray for our country.

There is so much more that could be written, but you really have to experience it to understand it. -- Carla Caldwell

# DKG State and International News

## WEEKLY BLOG.....

International President, Cathy Daugherty, has a weekly blog to communicate DKG news during the pandemic and share information. To read her latest blog go to:  
<https://dkgpresident.blogspot.com/>



It's not too early to apply for the Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Award and Vision Foundation Grants. Applications and guidelines are available on the state website on the Vision Foundation page. Applications must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2020.



*Future International Conference and Convention Dates:*

International Conferences:

Portland, Oregon - July 7-10, 2021  
San Antonio, Texas - July 21-24, 2021  
Tampere, Finland- July 28-31, 2021

International Convention:

New Orleans, Louisiana- July 12-16, 2022

The 85th TN State Meeting at Sewanee  
will be June 3-5, 2021  
It's not too early to mark your calendars!

Beverly Hall, TN President sends chapters the following information

"Charlene Russell from Phi Chapter has informed TN DKG members of an opportunity which she thought might be of interest to our retired members. Her e-mail and contact information are below. Please forward to any of your chapter members you feel might be interested.

My team and I recently registered an apprenticeship for Direct Support Professionals. The training for this occupation would be online through QuILTSS at no cost to the apprentices. The apprentices would be hired by providers. I thought this might be a good opportunity for retired teachers to supplement their retirement income."

Contact info:

Charlene Russell

[Charlene.Russell@tn.gov](mailto:Charlene.Russell@tn.gov)[www.ApprenticeshipTN.com](http://www.ApprenticeshipTN.com)

Regards,  
Beverly Hall



Until next time...Enjoy the beauty of Fall...Take care and stay well!!