



Beta Mu Chapter

January 2023 Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 3

Your 2022-2024 Executive Board Members

<p><u>President</u> Sharon Joca</p> <p><u>1st Vice-President</u> Jennifer Eason</p> <p><u>2nd Vice-President</u> Maryjane Edgar</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> Carol Cochuyt</p> <p><u>Corresponding Secretary</u> Lisa Forster</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Pat Litterick</p> <p><u>Parliamentarian</u> Ruth Paine</p>	<p><u>Personal Development Committee Chair</u> Beverly Wilber</p> <p><u>Professional Development Chair</u> Susan McInarnay</p> <p><u>Impacting Education Worldwide Committee Chair</u> Lisa Allen</p>
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Left: Sheriff Michelle Cook and President Sharon Joca at our November Chapter Meeting.

Right: Sheriff Michelle Cook and President Sharon Joca and 2nd Vice President Maryjane Edgar at our November Chapter Meeting.

A MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year DKG!!!!

I hope everyone's year is off to a great start!

Beta Mu of DKG is very generous as evidenced by the outpouring of support for our holiday family. It was teamwork at its best when we provided a huge Thanksgiving meal to a very appreciative family of 7. I told them that I would return at Christmas, and man did this group pull through!!! My car was loaded down with beautifully wrapped gifts, not only for the children, but also for their parents. Shaundricka and I were able to deliver them in person. The mother hugged me tightly and said she had no idea how she was going to provide Christmas for her family without our help. We gave the 2 year-old an early gift of a unicorn in its own carrier, and she was thrilled with it!



We donated 100 pounds of food to the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs from just our last meeting alone. Andrea Geiger, a Beta Mu member since 1985, volunteers there and states that the need is increasing substantially and how much our contributions are appreciated.



We helped Karen Robinson provide over 100 grandparent gifts for nursing home residents.



We volunteered at the Tools 4 Teachers events to provide supplies to Clay teachers at no cost to them.

Our Dolly Parton Imagination Library has registered more than 900 children in just two zip codes in Clay County. If we can raise more funds, we can include more recipients of free books. We recognize that early literacy benefits everyone and want to pour more resources and effort into this project.

At our January 21 meeting at 10:00 we will welcome new members. At this time Jill Maunz, Jennifer Mulcahy, Constance Higginbotham, Heather Obermiller, Kimberly Wertz, Kimberly Lowe, Jody Thompson, Alma Coursey, Meg Nesi, Sabrina Tompkins, Caroline Chandler, Vanessa Morrard, and Lindsey Cochuyt will be officially inducted into our chapter. We always welcome women educators and are so proud that they will join us.

One week later, on Saturday, January 28, there will be a District 2 planning meeting at 10:00. Everyone is welcome and we'll announce the exact location later.

Please keep the last weekend in April open for our state convention in Orlando when the vote for state president will be finalized. Our own Terry Stanilonis is nominated. We hope to have a large contingent of Beta Mu sisters there to support her.

Keep up the great work!!!!

Take care,

Sharon

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Beta Mu Save the Dates for 2023

Saturday January 21, 2023	10:00 am, Beta Mu Chapter Meeting hosted by Personal Development Committee
Saturday, January 28, 2023	District 2 Planning Meeting, Palatka, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday March 9, 2023	5:00 pm, Beta Mu Chapter Meeting hosted by Impacting Education Worldwide Committee
Friday April 28, 2023-Sunday April 30, 2023	State Convention in Lake Mary (Orlando)
Saturday May 13, 2023	10:00 am, Beta Mu Chapter Meeting hosted by the Executive Board
Saturday March 2, 2024	District 2 Meeting in Palatka



Food Pantry Donations

We will be accepting donations at each of our chapter meetings, with our next meeting being Saturday January 21st. Clean out your pantry of any unwanted non-perishable items or grab an item or two on your next shopping trip. We are looking forward to supporting our community during these times.

INFORMATION FOR
MEMBERS



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Clay County - Zip 32043/32073

We are excited to announce the program community for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Clay County has grown, and now includes both the 32043 and 32073 zip codes! You can see this expansion reflected in the change we've made to our official name. At this point, there are 754 active children enrolled in the program, and 107 children have graduated from it.

Our growth is due to the enthusiastic support and generosity numerous citizens in Clay County have shown for the Imagination Library. We are very grateful to them and also all of our Beta Mu Sisters who have helped increase public awareness of the program and donated their time and money to help make it a successful program for our community.

Please let Ruth Paine or Pat Litterick know if you would like to join our Beta Mu Committee for DPIL of Clay County - Zip 32043/32073. We need you and we know you would enjoy being a part of this effort to help increase the early literacy skills of our youngest Clay County citizens in order to better prepare them to start kindergarten. If you would like to donate or share the donation form, here's a [LINK](#) to the donation form.



Left: Lisa, Sharon, Ruth, and Pat at the Dolly Parton Booth at the Green Cove Soul Food Festival

Right: Sharon, Lisa, Kim, and Mary at the Dolly Parton Booth at the Green Cove Soul Food Festival



Lisa, Mary, Pat Jenny, Constance and Sharon are on hand at the Green Cove Christmas festivities to enroll children in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Membership



Is there a special woman educator you know who's working in the field, or may be retired, and you would like to recommend her for membership in DKG? ALL types of educators are welcome! Prospective members may be recommended year round and we are always looking to grow our chapter. If you have someone in mind, [please complete this online form](#) and email it to Ruth Paine.

Celebrate, Support, Involvement

We are always looking for new ways to connect with our members. If you are involved with an outside commitment, we would love to celebrate and support you! This includes school organizations, sports organizations, community theater groups, etc.! Use [this Google Form](#) to let us know what you are involved in and when your event(s) are. Physical hard-copy forms will also be available to fill out at chapter meetings.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!



JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Pat Litterick Heather Obermiller Laura Taylor Tara Richardson Lisa Forster	Alma Coursey Lindsey Cochuyt Vontrese Butler Gussie Solomon Debbie Rich	Dunia Jean-Baptiste Sarah Johnson Susan McInarnay Leslie Rickabaugh Helen MacInnis Sue Hoyt Anna Nesi Carolyn Ayers

CHAPTER
MINUTES

Welcome

Beta Mu President Sharon Joca welcomed us and introduced our speaker. Program Sheriff Michelle Cook was our Guest Speaker. She grew up in Clay County. She mentioned the partnership with Operation New Hope. We will be the first Jail they have partnered with, and they are very excited. The Sheriff's Department has received a grant from Operation Life Shine. It is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. We now have a co-responder program, so a mental health specialist will go to a call with the police officers when needed. This is organized with Clay Behavioral. The Sheriff's Office handles over 250,000 calls per year.

Beta Mu President Sharon Joca called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

Joanne (Tippy) Roberts completed our Inspirational Message. We recorded things we are thankful for today. She challenged us to write a total of 4 each day in a journal. Tippy was presented with her 50 Year Anniversary Certificate. Janet Hallstrom conducted our Ice Breaker. We had wonderful topic cards.

Pat Litterick gave the Treasurer's Report.

Secretary's Report

Dolly Parton Imagination Library update – Pat Litterick and Ruth Paine. Thank you to those who went to the Soul Food Festival and the Middleburg Historic Festival. There are 7 more

elementary schools to add to our list. We have met with all but 2 schools in the 32043 zip code. We are looking for School Liaisons. We need some School Liaisons for Orange Park Elementary. Please let Pat or Ruth know if you are willing to serve. Please continue to ask people to make donations, so we can continue to grow the program. Tommy and Karen Robinson made t-shirts for our volunteers. We began fundraising a year ago and have raised \$35,619. We've had 106 donations, with 57 coming from DKG members. We have spent \$9,382 for books. We have 768 children currently registered and 107 children who have graduated from the program.

Lisa Allen told us about the Fall 2022 Workshop in Orlando.

During her summer seminar, she met Glenda and they have become great friends. They went to all of the Breakout Sessions together and decided to host a session at the Fall Workshop. Lisa went to the workshop and called Glenda, who was at home sick.

Lisa told us about the sessions she attended. **Spring Convention is in April in Lake Mary and Terry Stanilonis has been nominated to become the next State President!** Everyone is invited to participate.

We took 39 pounds of food to the Food Pantry in Green Cove Springs following our last meeting.

The Food Pantry sent us a thank you card. Andrea Gieger is a volunteer at the Green Cove Springs Food Pantry. She told us that canned fruit, desserts, Jell-o, pet food, and condiments are items they must have donated that are not purchased. They are moving to 6 times every year now.

We received a thank you from Kathie Langevin for her arrangement.

We have new members, and we have some new members who have been recommended.

Kimberly Lowe

Jill Maunz

Jennifer Mulcahy

Jody Thompson

Kimberly Wertz

Kimberly Lowe

Caroline Chandler

Vanessa Moran

Meg Nesi

Sabrina Tompkins

Constance Higginbotham

New Business

We have a new family to help this Christmas. The family is living in a hotel, so they must move every so many days. There is a husband, wife, and 5 children. They want t-shirts, sweatpants, and shorts. The little girl would like a Barbie. We are providing the Thanksgiving Meal and Christmas Meal. Please wrap the items and label them with the child's age.

We have a request from Tools For Schools for Volunteers.

Karen Robinson talked about the Gift a Grandparent Program.

They have gifted over 700 residents of nursing homes with leg lotion, socks, and hand written notes. There are no profits to Karen of any kind. They will be delivered the week

before Christmas. If you would like to donate, please contact Karen Robinson. Governor's Creek Rehabilitation in Green Cove Springs is where they are starting this year.

Dr. Sharon Walsh asked us about Professional Development, and what kind of Professional Development we need. Please email your requests to Sharon Walsh.

Constance Higgenbotham told us about a Retired Educators Group. They are working in the community and volunteering in schools. They are also working on legislation with FEA and they are trying to reach out to local Politicians. She mentioned how retired teachers cannot volunteer and that retirees need some ability to keep their certificates through training. She has applications for anyone who wants to Join.

January 28 th at 10 a.m. we will meet in Palatka at District 2 to plan the 2024 meeting.

The State Convention is April 28th-30th

Terry Stanilonis is on the slate to be elected President.

Everyone is invited to attend. Terry told us how she is a Clay County native and she mentioned all of the past presidents for our Chapter. Saturday night will be the installation of the President.

Our Christmas Social will be at the Argyle Olive Garden at 5:00.

All are welcome to attend. There is a sign up for favors and games.

Our next meeting is Saturday, January 21 st. We ended our meeting with Happy Dollars. Sharon called the meeting to a close and we moved to our Committees.

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[click here](#)

View the Beta Mu website [here](#)

Requests for the newsletter? Feedback? Send an email to Maryjane Edgar
mjkiffmeyer@gmail.com

Pictures for the newsletter email/text 904-652-4201