



Cathy Tenney, Editor

# Beta Kappa Chatter

Ohio State Organization  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



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Merry Christmas DKG Sisters!

Where in the world did 2025 get to?? I'm almost afraid to blink because I know another month will have passed! I'd like to wish all of you a *VERY* Merry Christmas. Such a blessed time to remember the birth of our Savior.

I hope all who attended the December meeting had fun even if we had to cut it short due to Mother Nature bringing us snow. Hopefully, everyone made it home safely. This meeting is my favorite of the year! It's a time we can relax, laugh, and get to know each other better while enjoying ourselves. I know a few of you are a little uncomfortable with us mixing up your seating arrangements, but your officers notice ramped up conversations at the tables.

Hopefully, you have already read The Essay by Robin Yocum. I'm not sure how much discussion time we'll have due to Mr. Yocum speaking to our group, but I hope you'll be familiar with the book...or any of his books for that matter. I'm forcing myself to not read any of his other books before our meeting so I may purchase from him that night.

Just a reminder, we have January "off" and I'll see (hopefully) all of you in February back at the First Methodist Church with Mr. Yocum. PLEASE pray for good weather!!

Thought of the month. . .

*Of all the months of the year there is not a month one half so welcome to the young, or so full of happy associations, as the last month of the year.*

*-Charles Dickens*



Take care, stay warm and happiest of holidays to you!!

Melissa

## Beta Kappa Officers

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Melissa Bowers

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*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

Beta Kappa Chapter Minutes  
December 1, 2025

Beta Kappa Chapter President Melissa Bowers welcomed 30 members to the December meeting.

Mary Beth Riddle gave the invocation. Melissa thanked the hostesses, Helen Ward, chair; Bertie Ely, Tina Hottle, Vicki Fulk, Kay Straman and Candy Clayton.

There were no additions or corrections to the November 3, 2025, minutes, and they are approved.

Kim Jordan gave the treasurer's report. We have \$7,9510.33 in checking. The designated amount for the Scholarship Fund is \$2,971.00 as of November 30, 2025, which is included in the checking account balance. As of the November reporting, the Brown Bag Auction brought in \$1,258 and a check for \$50 had just been received and will appear on the next fiscal report. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

There were no committee reports.

Melissa thanked the following members who helped to construct 421 gingerbread houses on November 19 for the Shelby County Historical Society's Christmas of Yesteryear: Regina Hunsucker, Barri Jill Grandey, Becky Michael, Nancy Russell and Melissa Bowers.

All members are strongly encouraged to read monthly *The Voice* as well as the *Beta Kappa Chatter*.

An envelope was passed around to accept donations for the Shelby County Historical Society's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. the envelope will be passed around again at the April meeting.

All members are asked to read The Essay by Robin Yocum who will be our guest at the February 2, 2026, meeting which we have invited Alpha Upsilon (Miami County Chapter) and Beta Upsilon (Auglaize/Mercer County Chapter) to attend.

**Birthdays**

Members with December birthdays are Phyllis Clinehens, Jeanie Putnam, Connie Schneider and Janet Busse. January birthdays are Kay Borchers, Kris Frazier, Vicki Fulk, Cheryl Michael, Vicki Quinter, Helen Ward and Lorma Baber.

**Concerns/Praises:** Tina thanked everyone for the cards she received after the passing of her mother earlier in November. Vicki Quinter's father in-law recently passed away, and Helen Ward's mother-in-law passed away in early November. Kay Straman is recovering from knee replacement surgery on November 19.

Congratulations to Molly Helmlinger who was recently honored with the Tri-County Geraldine B Nelson Advocacy Award.

Door prizes were awarded.

The next meeting is February 2, 2026, at Sidney First Methodist Church with guest speaker Robin Yocum, author of The Essay. Leslie Huelskamp will be catering the meal. The hostess committee for February is Connie Walker, Chair; Gwen Shoemaker, Greeter; Becky Michael, Invocation; Coleen Lumpkin, Joyce Neth, and Charlotte Phipps. Reminder, the hostess checklist is the last page of your program book.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m. and the Holiday Fun commenced!

Cathy Tenney, Recording Secretary





Beta Kappa members helped to construct 241 gingerbread houses for the Shelby County Historical Society's Christmas of Yesteryear to be held on Saturday, December 6.



## Molly Helmlinger honored with Tri-County Advocacy Award

The 2025 recipient of the Geraldine B. Nelson Award is synonymous with Advocacy in our area, and a name familiar to many. The recipient's mother's photo is on the wall outside this very room as a person instrumental in promoting mental health awareness and support in Ohio through the establishment of state and local affiliates of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. But this is not a "legacy" award – our recipient has earned the honor in her own right.

In addition to taking on the role of caregiver of a sibling with severe and persistent mental illness, she is a nationally-recognized educator and administrator. In her current role as State President and Leadership Chair of the Ohio State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional organization of leading women educators, she has chosen as her theme "Mental Health and Wellness Awareness," both recognizing and elevating the importance of mental health awareness in the education environment.

She currently serves as President of NAMI Darke, Miami and Shelby Counties, and she is a tireless dynamo who signs her emails with "Energetically, Molly."

In recognition of her leadership with NAMI Darke, Miami and Shelby Counties; her tireless support and advocacy for her family; her willingness to share her family's experiences with others; and her tireless energy, the Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services recognizes the 2025 recipient of the Geraldine B. Nelson Advocacy Award, for supportive measures on behalf of another, by promoting the recognition of consumer rights and encouraging positive change in the realm of mental health and addictions issues, presented to Molly Helmlinger.

(reprinted from the Tri-County Board website)







Holiday Fun  
Christmas Plate on the Head