



Delta Theta Chi Sorority

Electra Province Pleiad



Education Director
Julia



President
Gail



Vice President
Cheryl

Electra Province Board

2023-2024



Corresponding Secretary
Cindy



Immediate Past President
Mindy



Treasurer
Vicki



Recording Secretary
Tammy

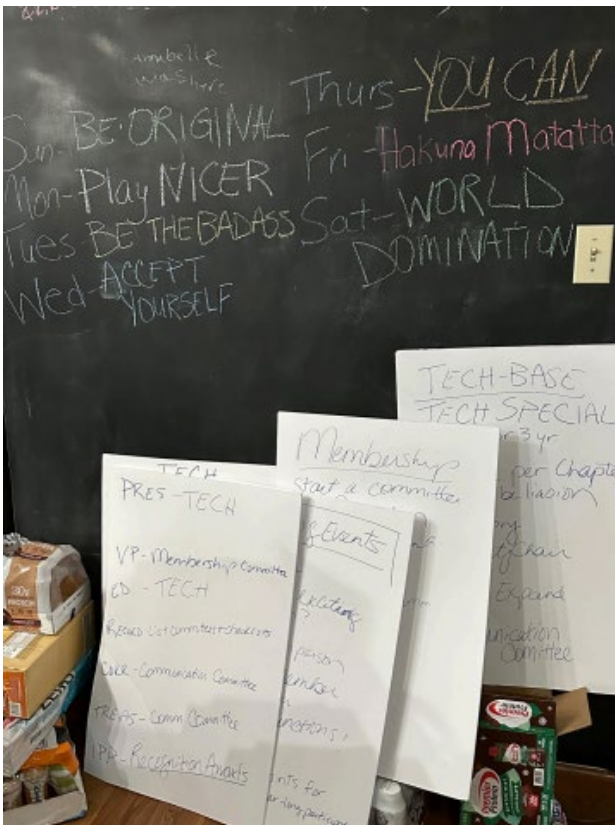
Spring / Summer Edition 2024

Message from Electra Province President

Ladies of Electra Province,

I cannot believe it's already late April! It appears that this sorority year is flying by but at the same time, going slowly. I accepted a new position at work and I'm now working 10-hour shifts but only must drive into town 4 days a week. With the extra day off, I have noticed that my ideas/to do list has exponentially grown. This isn't always a good thing as it leads to me being into so many things all at the same time. Everyone should send a prayer up for Bill since he always gets wrapped up in my shenanigans. This year's plan is a greenhouse; we started this with a small 6x8 dog run which Bill decided was too small for my garden. He said "Ok!" to a 10x10 framed greenhouse and within 48 hours, I had 40 wooden frame windows ready for him to start building with. He is thrilled (not really. Ha!)

As president of Electra Province, I have seen so much fire and passion from this board. We are really thinking outside the box about how to revitalize this passion within our members about this amazing sisterhood. At our midyear, we had a "throw out the rulebook and think unconventionally" session. I wrote down our brainstorming on giant poster boards and I have kept these boards in my kitchen as a reminder to myself that sorority is one of my largest priorities right now. These boards come out during our monthly board check-in meetings, so we stay accountable to each other AND all of you.



As I wrote in my midyear letter, the board has developed new committees:



Membership Recruitment and Membership Retention headed by Vice President Cheryl Neeley



Correspondence Committee headed by Corresponding Sec. Cindy Whiteley with Treasurer Vicki Lignitz.



Publicity Committee headed by myself and Educational Director Julia Ourecky.

Information will be going to members soon so be on the lookout for those emails. We have a monthly board meeting on May 8th and I'm sure more information will be sent out after that.

Also be aware of the changes to our officer emails (see last page). We have stopped using our personal emails for Province Board business.

Province Mid-Year Meeting, March 8 – 10, 2024

L to R: Front Row: Cheryl Neeley, Vicki Lignitz , Back: Tammy Cocannouer, Gail Allen



As this Pleiad is all about programs, rush events and socials - I'm called to remind all of you to invite your province board to any event your chapter holds. We love to be educated, meet new people, and always love to socialize with our sisters. I know my chapter have monthly programs / socials planned and will be adding to our guest list when we can. I hope to try to make a meeting or social event for every chapter this summer as my work schedule allows. I really enjoyed the Nebraska Eta Founders day! I learned how to make different shapes of pasta! I hope that every chapter will host a Founder's day as Electra is one of the few provinces who still have open founder day celebrations. It is a great way to meet sisters from other chapters and celebrate the continuation of the chapter.

If anyone has ideas, concerns or just wants to complain about something- please feel free to call me, text me, or email me. I'm always available for a conversation and sometimes the difficult conversations are where the greatest ideas come from. I hope everyone has an amazing 2024!

Hold High the Torch,

Gail

Gail Allen, KS Kappa



Message from Electra Province Vice President

Greetings Electra Province Sisters:

Spring has arrived and everything is in bloom ... a time of renewed energy and a desire to be more active.

I hope when you read this issue of the Electra Province Pleiad that you have received and read the Electra Province Membership theme for 2024 RUSH for Success. This may seem a bit basic and obvious, but the words were never more important than now. All members need to actively support and participate in your Chapter's efforts to strengthen and build your Chapter. That's where it all begins really, right? Each Chapter sustaining and building their membership, which in turn helps to sustain and build the membership on the Province and National levels. An important reminder that working together to retain Chapter members is equally important as working together to gain new members. With this in mind, I would ask each of you:

Retention: Are you reaching out to members missing from Chapter meetings and events? I would encourage you to pick up the phone and speak with your Sisters in person, please don't just send an email. If you don't see them at the next meeting or event, send a little note card signed by all members in attendance, letting your Sisters know that they were missed. Offer to pick them up for the next meeting. If you aren't already doing so, please give it a try!

Recruiting: Has your Chapter made plans for at least one RUSH event? Have you created a budget, prepared a guest list, and mailed invitations? Were invitations extended to the EP Vice President and fellow EP Board members? Do you have DTC printed brochures ready to distribute to all of your guests? Have color printed issues of the National and Electra Province Pleiads for review? Do all Sisters in your Chapter have a role to play?

Success in retention and recruiting depends on every one of us. Collectively we can do this ... we can all encourage and support each other in strengthening the bonds of Sisterhood thereby helping to secure the legacy and future of Delta Theta Chi Sorority.

Along with the 2024 Membership theme I provided a list of items to consider when planning a RUSH event. Some Chapters have a well-organized and perfected guideline they use. For those who may not have held a RUSH event recently, I hope you find these suggestions useful. Just remember ... no matter the size of your Chapter, do it your way, whatever works best for your event and within your budget.

If you have not already done so, please share the dates of your Chapter meetings and/or special events so I can add these dates to my calendar and can be informed and supportive to your Chapter's efforts.

Always remember ... you are not walking this path alone. Please know that your Electra Province Board is here for you and wants to be supportive to all Chapters. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns and let me know how I can best be of service to you and your Chapter. Hold High the Torch!



In Sisterly Love,

Cheryl

Cheryl Neeley, MO Delta

Electra Province Vice President

Message from Electra Province Educational Director

Hi!

I would like to start by reminding everyone that submissions to the achievement contest are due by June 30th for bonus points and by August 15th to participate. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the contest or a possible submission. I can't wait to see all the presentations at Conclave!

I hope everyone has been enjoying learning about the extraordinary women in my educational reports, so far, we learned about artists in the movie industry, scientists helping to better our understanding of bodies (both dinosaur and human), and most recently record-breaking musicians. The final issue will be sent out in August about women in the literary world.

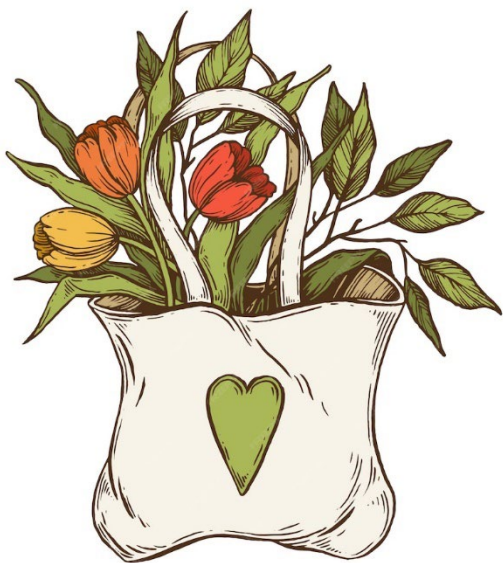
I have been having lots of fun helping develop and create a bigger social media presence for our province to help promote our sorority and encourage new members to join. If you have anything to submit, please remember to have your chapter representative send it to either Gail or myself. We would love as much content as possible to keep the social media pages active and fresh.

Finally, in April I asked each chapter Educational Director to send me a list of programs their chapter has presented in the past to compile into one mega-list to use as a resource for future meetings. By the time you're reading this, the mega-list will have been sent out to all the chapter educational directors and presidents. I will continue to update and add to this list by reading through chapter's meeting minutes for other programs hosted in the future, but I also will continue to take any other ideas chapters would like to submit to the list. If we work together, we can all learn new things in fun and exciting ways.

In Sisterly Love,

Julia Ourecky

Electra Province Educational Director



Message from Electra Province Recording Secretary

Hello Sisters!

Where has the time gone? Spring has all but blown away with the spring rain and tornados and summer heat and lake or pool time will soon be upon us. There are many chapters that are beginning to wind up or take the 'summer' break. So, as we begin thinking and planning your summer fun, don't forget to forward your chapter minutes to me as soon as they are approved. They are then forwarded to the Electra Province Board. Your chapter's minutes are the history of decisions and the legacy of your chapter, something to reference back to over the years. They also give us, as a Board, indicators as to how you're doing both as individuals, as chapters, and as a Province.

We as a Board are actively working towards better communication between us as a Province Board and YOU, the chapters we represent. We love each one of you and want each chapter to succeed and grow, both in membership and in educational programs. With the new Province committees, we hope to provide you with better opportunities to grow and to get to know each other throughout Electra Province and to become an extension of your chapter. Use the new publicity committee to let everyone know what you are doing. Look at the educational programs for ideas to promote our ideals that could spark an interest from other women looking to join such an organization as ours.

I really enjoyed the invitations and travel to the following Founder's Day's this past March and April. First to the KS Beta's, as their traveling representative, then onto the MO Delta's for a wonderful lunch and meeting two lovely women who are prospective members, and then rounding out my travels, in Wilber NE, with our NE Eta chapter where they also held a baby pinning ceremony. There's three more Founder's Days that I'd like travel to. You know who you are, so send those invites to me!

Enjoy your summer; keep looking for opportunities to learn, grow, and expand your and someone else's knowledge.

See everyone at Conclave.

Tammy

Tammy Cocannouer, KS Beta
EP Recording Secretary



Message from Electra Province Corresponding Secretary

Happy Spring to all my Sisters in Electra Province!

I have daffodils blooming with tulips to follow. And yet another snowstorm is predicted to hit tomorrow. In Colorado we do not plant flowers until June 1!

I am enjoying my position on the Electra Province's Board. If you are the corresponding secretary for your chapter, the I have probably spoken to you about all kinds of things.

Remember if there are any changes in addresses or telephone numbers to let me know. Next month I plan to make some calls to chat with sisters who are stuck at home getting well or cannot get out anymore to the activities, or just because I have not seen or spoken with you in a long time.

I feel more connected to DTC than ever since I moved to Denver.

Hold High the Torch!

Cindy Whiteley

Electra Province Corresponding Secretary , KS Kappa



Message from Electra Province Treasurer

Greetings Sisters!

Is it spring or winter? The temperature swing is like a roller coaster ride, and I am sure others are experiencing the same.

I had the opportunity to attend the KS Beta's Founders Day luncheon, the MO Delta's Founders Day luncheon, and the NE Eta's Founders Day luncheon. There was an initiation, and two chapters had a baby pinning ceremony with a total of three babies (one not exactly a baby).

How exciting to see our sisterhood grow!

At the mid-year meeting, the board decided to hold a fund raiser at our 2024 Conclave raffle with the prize equivalent to the 2025 Conclave registration fee. The price of the ticket(s) is \$10 for one or \$20 for three. There will be an alternate ticket drawn in the event the winner is not able to attend our 2025 Conclave.

I am looking forward to seeing my Sisters at Conclave.

In sisterly love,

Vicki Lignitz

Electra Province Treasurer, KS Kappa

Message from Electra Province Past President

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful spring weather! I am absolutely enjoying my role as Electra Province Immediate Past President. I cannot wait to see everyone in October when the Missouri Deltas host Conclave. It is going to be a very fun weekend! Please remember to hold high the torch!

In Sisterly Love,

Mindy Neeley

Electra Province Immediate Past President



Message from Electra Province National Trustee

Sisters,

As winter slowly loosens its hold on the land and we spring into summer, we need to each ponder how we, as a member of Delta Theta Chi Sorority, can help improve our sorority while still helping grow the sorority. We each need to think about who in our circle of friends and acquaintances might benefit from our sisterhood. Because I truly believe that our sisterhood is a benefit that we all enjoy.

Having just recently returned from the Missouri Delta's Founder's Day celebration, I reflect on the wonderful educational talk that Vicki Lignitz, their traveling representative, provided. Basically, she reinforced the concept that we are women supporting women and we need to keep that in mind at every meeting regardless of whether it is at the chapter level, province level or national level.

We all need to keep an open mind about inviting others to join. Do not be the one that says, "I don't have any friends that would be interested". You never know when the moment will be right for that friend that has been by your side but never expressed an interest in joining. Maybe tomorrow is the day!

If we do not grow our sisterhood, I am afraid our wonderful sorority will not last, and we do not want that to happen. So, get out there and recruit, Recruit, RECRUIT!

In sisterly love,

Cathie Barber

Electra Province National Trustee



Kansas Alpha

Greetings Dear Electra Province Sisters! This is a starting point for the KS Alpha Chapter:



**September 2023 - Meeting
Home of Janelle Clark**

Back row l to r: Edu. Dir. Karen Swogger, Treas. V. Kay Foster,
Front row l to r: Corr. Sec. Patricia Glidewell, Vice Pres. Karen Marsh
Not shown photographer Pres. Janelle Clark



**V. Kay Foster
2023 Past President Recipient**

Kay was unable to attend the October Conclave in Omaha NE so we presented her award at our first meeting.



**October 2023 - Lunch Meeting
Home of Karen Swogger**

Program: Book review on Killers of the Flower Moon

Back: l to r: Karen Swogger, Patricia Glidewell, V. Kay Foster
Front l to r: Karen Marsh, Janelle Clark



**November 2023 - Social & Celebration
August to December Birthdays at Paisano's**

Meeting with book discussion of the Haunting in Venice, the Novel vs Film.



Clark Family Trip to Texas

Janelle & John took a trip to Texas to visit family and watch grandson, Donavon Kynard, last High School marching band performance.

Front Center: Donavon Kynard

2nd row l to r: Janelle Clark, John Clark, Dawn Kricho and Amber Clark



Festival of Trees Nov 2023

Festival of Trees is a Topeka holiday tradition and the signature fundraiser for SLI – a nonprofit supporting the efforts of individuals living with intellectual / developmental disabilities.

L to R: John & Janelle Clark



V. Kay Foster, recipient of the KTWU Volunteer Shining Star Award



Social Outing: December 2023 Shawnee Choral Society

Kay Foster in Shawnee Choral Society, White Concert Hall, Washburn University



January 2024 outing at the
Topeka Civic Theatre
A MUST-SEE COMEDY SHOW



January 2024 – A beautiful sight



February Meeting & Valentine Celebration

Sister Sweethearts -l to r: V. Kay Foster, Karen Marsh, Janelle Clark, Karen Swogger, Patricia Glidewell



The Kansas Alpha's this Summer will be busy connecting and visiting with families, traveling, attending graduations, celebrating weddings, and taking vacations (which may or may not include sorority functions!!). We hope all sisters and their families will have a great time doing whatever their heart desires.

Reporting with sisterly love, KS Alpha Pres. Janelle Clark

March Meeting Tequila Mexican Restaurant

We chose to support a local family-owned business and enjoy delicious Mexican food.

L to R: Karen Swogger, Karen Marsh, Janelle Clark,
V. Kay Foster



Kansas Beta

In keeping with the theme, In Search of, the January program had the Kansas Betas reviewed and discussed the book, Post-Mortem, by Patricia Cornwell. The who-dun-it kept us guessing and what a surprise!

February had us discovering what Fat Tuesday meant with pancakes and goodies for dinner along with our version of valentine riddles and poetry.

We celebrated Founder's Day on March 23rd and were excited to host several out-of-town sisters from MO Delta and KS Kappa as well as a couple of prospective sisters. A catered lunch was followed by our secret sister reveal and a baby pining of Zipporah, daughter of sister Holly Oetting and granddaughter of sister Brenda



Thompson. We then held initiation of new sister Kim Garcia, new little sister of Tammy Cocannouer.

Following that we held a 60th birthday party for sister Brenda Thompson, President of the Kansas Betas. And if we weren't tired enough after a full day of partying, we met again, on Sunday, March 24th for a bridal shower for sister Holly Oetting who will be married May 4th . It was a wild weekend of sisterhood.

And the partying continues....Several sisters attended the bachelorette party for Holly held at a local Wichita restaurant. Can you believe a couple of us

had never attended a bachelorette party before?

After all that partying it was time for some exercise. Greg Schmidt, DTC guy and husband of sister Trish Schmidt taught us how to play pickle ball. Even for us old gals it was pretty easy and fun...but keeping score is a little hard to get the hang of.

After the great workout we all had wine and snacks and planned what we were wearing to the wedding! Wedding photos next time, for now just us getting in shape photos.

We're looking forward to our next adventure of searching for Alleyway Art in the downtown Alley Art Park for the visually impaired and area murals on alley doors featuring the works of various Wichita artists and muralists.



Photo Descriptions:

1. Brenda's 60th Birthday Party
2. Founder's Day Celebration, Two Group pictures
3. Wedding Shower, Holly Oetting
4. Pickleball for the Clueless, Greg & Cathie



Kansas Kappa

The Kansas Kappa sisters are a busy bunch spread across five cities and two states, but we do our best to stay connected in person and virtually.

In February, we had a dinner meeting at McAllister's where we exchanged our secret sister Christmas gifts as our holiday party was canceled due to weather and illness. We also celebrated our sisters with a "Galentine Day" We decorated valentine bookmarks during this meeting, and everyone wore shades of red.



We celebrated Leap Day (2/29/2024) as a social with guests at a local Mexican restaurant.



We supported the arts by attending a stage production of Into the Wood's Jr. where Candace's son Connor was Cinderella's prince. He was outstanding!

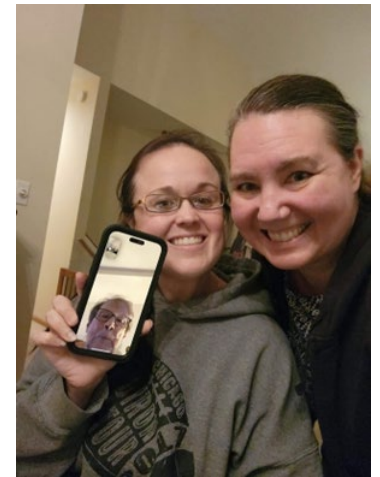


We had sisters attend the MO Delta, KS Beta, and NE Eta Founder's Day gatherings.



In April Debby gave an educational program *The Forgotten Senator: The Life and Character of Preston B. Plumb* by Johanna Wickman. This was super informative as an Emporia State campus building is named after him. Four of us Kappas are alumni of ESU and had classes in Plumb Hall. Cindy

joined us from Colorado via Facetime.



In May, we have planned an ice cream outing to Dairy Queen, and in June we plan to have a summer solstice educational outing. When the miles between us become too great and our schedules keep us running here, there, and everywhere we catch up with sisters virtually.

We are gearing up for our 20th Anniversary in September, stay tuned for a save-the-date to come this summer. Our social committee is working to secure a location to determine a date and time.



Missouri Delta

Dear Electra Province Sisters

The Missouri Delta Chapter just celebrated our 88th Founder's Day! We would like to thank our Electra Province Sisters who joined us in our celebration and all the lovely cards and messages we received. Since our Founder's Day we have been busy discussing and planning for the Educational Achievement program in October. A topic has been chosen, now to put a plan of action in place and have fun doing it!

In addition, we continue to review final plans for hosting Conclave October 4-6, 2024 at the Embassy Suites by KCI Airport in Kansas City, Missouri. We hope you have this date marked on your calendars, you have received and read the registration information – which is also uploaded to the Website -- and have made your hotel reservations. There will be a fun casual event Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. and a special live event for Saturday night banquet! You won't want to miss this fun-filled weekend of Sisterhood and "The Art of Giving".

Many of us have busy plans for the Summer ... time for a little relaxation, fun adventures and time with family. Whatever your Summer plans may be, we wish you safe travels and wonderful memories of time well spent. Then before we know it, school will be starting and then it will be time to get ready for Conclave.

In the meantime, we are happy to report that we have hosted two Rush Events, so stay tuned for our next report! We hope everyone is doing well and in good health. We look forward to seeing everyone in Kansas City in October!

In Sisterly Love,
Your Missouri Delta Sisters





Nebraska Eta

Nebraska Eta has been enjoying spending time with each other since the last issue of the Pleiad.

In December Deb hosted our annual Christmas Craft and Calendar Exchange (we made wooden Grinch and Snowmen ornaments) and we gathered donations for the Boys Town Giving tree. Beginning in the new year, we have had two guests joining us for meetings and we are working on possibly pledging and initiating them this year!



We took a break in January, but in February got right back into it with Mariah hosting a stress-relief meeting where we all built Lego Flowers. In March we got crafty with Deb and started working on our Achievement Contest presentation. April was a fun

meeting hosted by Teresa learning about different things each of us do for entertainment; such as model making, crocheting, video games, reading, tv shows, and drawing.

We also hosted our Founder's Day in April, the first one we've had in 8-ish years, we'd like to send a huge thank you to everyone who attended! During the event we pinned two babies, Asia's daughters Harper and Hadlie, and we had fun making and eating pasta, Non Regredi It's Spaghetti! We are excited for our upcoming year, including our chapter cook-out, more fun educational programs, and working on our submission for the Achievement Contest!



Photo Descriptions:

1. Christmas Craft: L to R: Asia, Izzy, Rey the Dog, Julia, Paula, Mariah, Deb
2. Lego Flowers: L to R Back: Teresa, Guest Tiffany, Rey the Dog, Julia, Izzy, Guest Sam
L to R Front: Deb, Paula, Asia, Mariah
3. Founder's Day: L to R Back: Deb, Teresa, Mariah, Julia, Paula L to R Front: Izzy, Harper, Hadlie, Asia

Z

Nebraska Zeta



DTC National Book Club



Dear Sisters:

The DTC Book Club had a very exciting guest speaker in February ... author Joey Hartstone presenting "*The Local: A Legal Thriller*". He shared how he began writing, about the characters in his book, how he got the idea for the book, described his writing style, and about how long it took to write the book. He took many questions and was very gracious and entertaining. Thank you, Teresa Carter, for sharing your cousin with us. We truly enjoyed the opportunity to meet him and hear the many behind the scenes stories leading up to his final product. We can't wait to learn about his next book and wish him many years of continued success!

March was a fun and personal meeting getting to know "*My Favorite Childhood Books, Authors and/or Series*" presented by DTC Sisters Pam Ricci (CA Omicron), Karen Kammer (OH Mu), Janelle Clark (KS Alpha), and Linda Colton (CA Eta). I won't go into personal histories, you just had to be there, but will share some of their favorite books and/or series:

Sister Pam presented The Bobbsey Twins books – some of the most popular books about everyday life of children. **Sister Karen** shared that she learned to read Dr. Seuss books, particularly "*Cat in the Hat*" and "*Green Eggs and Ham*" which she can still recite! She also shared a little about Dr. Seuss that I did not know. **Sister Janelle** shared a book "*The Middle Child*" written by Miriam Mason. It is not always easy being the middle child, but the main character of this book learned to be brave with the support of a dearly loved Uncle who really saw her and encouraged her to find a way to be brave ... and she ultimately was! **Sister Linda** presented Nancy Drew books, the well known fictional female detective solving mysteries, which eventually turned into movies, comic books, games and more.

We all enjoyed remembering these books and others, and how they were special for these Sisters, as well as those who were able to attend the discussion.

Sharon Braden (TX Zeta) presented an excellent book review of "*They Call Her Dirty Sally*" by Amy Matayo in April. I will be presenting "*If You Ask Me (And Of Course You Won't)*" by Betty White on Wednesday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m. CST. We hope you can join us for a light and entertaining evening.

For an extended list of future book reviews/presentations, please see an extended list in this issue of the Electra Province Pleiad – and/or visit the Website. As always, if you have a book to recommend, please contact me at cheryl.neeley@yahoo.com and I will gladly add your recommendation to the proposed reading list.

If you are not currently receiving the DTC Book Club monthly Zoom link, please reach out to Karen Kammer at kammerkh@muohio.edu so we can add you to the email distribution list.

Happy Reading!

Cheryl Neeley
DTC Book Club Chair

DTC Book Club Reading List & Schedule

Last Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm CST

May 29, 2024

Betty White: If You Ask Me (And of Course You Won't) by Betty White
presented by Cheryl Neeley, MO Delta

June 26, 2024

Sister Where Are You by A.M. Strong & Sonya Sargent
presented by Jane Harrell, TX Nu

July 31, 2024

Women in White Coats by Olivia Campbell
presented by Kathleen Hull, CA Omicron

August 28, 2024

Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult
presented by Janelle Clark, KS Alpha

Monthly Zoom Invitation Contact:

Karen Kammer, National Educational Director, kammerkh@miamioh.edu

For any Questions:

National DTC Book Club Chair, Cheryl Neeley, cheryl.neeley@yahoo.com



SCHOLARSHIPS ELECTRA PROVINCE RECIPIENTS

Allison Nelson Gates

Lawrence KS

Niece of Gail Allen, KS Kappa

Master's Special Education; High Incidents, Fort Hays State University

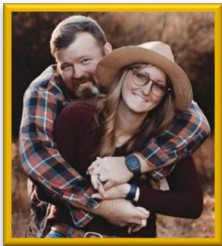


Karrissa Schmidt

Clearwater KS

KS Beta Member and Daughter-in-law of Trish Schmidt

BSN – Nursing RN, Butler Community College



Victoria Cocannouer

Wichita KS

Daughter of Tammy Cocannouer, KS Beta

Bachelor of Music Education, University of Nebraska-Lincoln



ELECTRA PROVINCE BOARD & TRUSTEE NEW EMAIL LIST

Specific email addresses have been assigned to each Province Board Office and our Trustee to communicate with our members ensuring continuity from year to year.

Review your junk folder occasionally to make certain you don't miss any correspondence.

President, Gail Allen: dtc.ep.president@gmail.com

Vice President, Cheryl Neeley: dtc.ep.vp@gmail.com

Education Director, Julia Ourecky: dtc.ep.edudir@gmail.com

Recording Secretary, Tammy Cocannouer: dtc.ep.recsec@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary, Cindy Whiteley: dtc.ep.corrsec@gmail.com

Treasurer, Vicki Lignitz: dtc.ep.treasurer@gmail.com

Immediate Past President, Mindy Neeley: dtc.ep.immpastpres@gmail.com

Electra Province Trustee, Cathie Barber: dtc.ep.trustee@gmail.com

