



SUMMER - one month left on the calendar and the forecast is for middle and high 80's. For those of you returning to the classroom that month will be spent setting up classrooms, meeting new and returning students, and sorting the mounds of paperwork. As you do this, take time to **EN**joy the young people entrusted to you for their education. Using our Engage, Equip, and Empower key words for this biennium: **EN**gage the students in activities that will be fun, creative and educational; **EQuip** the students with the knowledge needed to succeed now and in their future; **EM**power the students to be positive role models in the school community and beyond. One of my favorite quotes from teaching is "Be Kind to your students; you never know who they will become."

SUMMER - grab a few of those sun-filled moments to reflect and dream as you settle into the back-to-school routine.

For those of you not returning to the classroom, I hope you have planned something exciting and fun whether it be an end-of-summer get-away or just getting ready for fall by finishing up the garden bounty, storing the lawn furniture, or getting the indoors ready for a relaxing fall-winter retreat.

Summer Events

Alpha Zeta sisters attending the Alpha Alpha State Convention in June were Linda Nickerson, Joyce Roof, Linda Ferrario, Mary Herman, Ruth Olson, Stephanie Olver, Carol Lane, Shirley Allis and June Wynne . Claire Waldmeyer, Deb Fitzwater, and Vicki Van Noy joined the group on Friday night for the Album of Distinction ceremony. Linda Ferrario, Joyce Roof, Joyce Van Dusen and Vicki Van Noy were honored as recipients of this distinguished award. We appreciate the work done by these members not only for Alpha Zeta but for their volunteerism in and for many organizations. It was my good fortune to travel with and share a room with Stephanie Olver who is known for frequently winning a raffle basket at conventions as I, too, was the winner of a beautiful patriotic-themed basket. Yes, Stephanie won a basket also!

The Alpha Zeta sisters are always involved in volunteering at the convention: Linda Nickerson with the musical entertainment, Joyce Roof and Linda Ferrario (and others) can be found selling raffle tickets near the registration table, and Carol Lane leading the "Sweet Walk" .

Linda Nickerson, Carol Lane and Shirley Allis journeyed to Indianapolis for the International Convention in July. We will ask them to share some highlights from the convention at our September meeting.

In Memoriam

We regret the loss of Sibyl Pyle-Stump and Dr. Marcella Hyde-Smith who were dedicated Alpha Zeta members. Each one who knew them has a special memory of these members who devoted their lives to educational involvement. They will be missed.

Caring and Sharing

Grace George responded to the many good wishes she received:
"You are a rare treasure. Thank you for the many wishes for a speedy recovery after my surgery."

Joyce Van Dusen, in her note, wishes to thank everyone for the beautiful flower arrangement that she was given at the Alpha Zeta Birthday Party in March. "I really enjoyed it as it lasted a long time, and it helped to remind me that Spring was, indeed, coming again this year. We have a great organization.

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Congratulations to Sherry Spencer upon her retirement as Director of the Bradford-Wyoming Literacy Program. Sherry received a letter from the former First Lady Barbara Bush congratulating her for 33 years of service to the Literacy Program.

Congratulations to Nicole Bradley and her husband on the birth of a daughter Alexa Nichole on August 3, 2014.

2014 Initiates

Our 2014 initiates are Maurine H. Gehring, Amanda Jenkins, Amanda L. Malanoski, Susan Serfass, and Stacy Wagner.

Summer Journeys

Thank you to Marilyn Ayres for sharing with us her story of a truly inspirational trip to Israel in early summer.

Thank you to all the members who have accepted Committee Chairperson roles and officer positions. One of the goals for this year is to get everyone involved in the chapter activities. New ideas are always welcome.

Looking forward to working with everyone in the coming biennium.

June Wynne

Date to Remember: September 18, 2014 Meeting at the Towanda Country Club

From Marilyn Ayers:

I spent June 11-22 in Israel, traveling with Moody Bible Institute. Having been there before, I dreaded the 12 hr overnight flights, but being in the land of the Book with Charlie Dyer as teacher was a profound blessing. We sailed the Sea of Galilee, visited Capernaum, Bet Shean, and the Golan Heights (where we were 1 mi from Syria and 36 mi from Damascus and could hear gunfire.) We were at the Church of the Beatitudes, climbed atop Mt. Arbel, in the barren Judean wilderness, at the Jordan River, atop Masada and Megiddo, and tried out the mineral rich Dead Sea. We were in the Valley of Elah where David killed Goliath, and at the brook where Gideon choose his 300 men against the Midianites. In Jerusalem we were on the Mt. of Olives, in Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb, walked the Via Dolorosa and the streets of the Old City, went through the Holocaust Museum. Temps were 90s and above and we poured in water. Both breakfast and dinner buffets included massive spreads of colorful veg and fruits, and always olives. I pray I can retain all I've heard and seen but the Bible was before me in living color. An added blessing was meeting former Troy resident Walt McCord who is a teacher at Moody.