

**PSI STATE LITERACY HANDBOOK
LITERACY PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND IDEAS
FROM INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS
2009-2011**

Many thanks are extended to the Chapter Presidents and members for their time in submitting the wonderful contributions to this Psi State Literacy Handbook. Your ideas are invaluable and will assist others in promoting advocated Psi State literacy projects (i.e. Action Plan Dictionaries for 3rd Graders, Books for Babies, and the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy). Thank you, also, for submitting other literacy projects or programs that you sponsor, implement, and/or fund such as supporting and/or developing an appreciation of literature for both youth and adults as well as improving reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, spelling, speaking, listening, and/or technology skills. May your love for literacy continue to grow as you shower the young leaders of tomorrow with your passion of noteworthy literature and excellent communication skills!

Compiled by Dr. Cheryl Hunt Clements, Psi State Literacy Liaison Chairman



GAMMA: Collected books for Project Safe – a shelter for local domestic abuse & battered women. Most of the women are accompanied by children. Contact: Alice Josey

DELTA: Literacy project emphasis is children’s health care and support for the families of children in hospital care. Contact: Dr. Cindy Gibson

ZETA: Books to Toys for Tots in December; \$25.00 to schools in Africa. Contact: Sherry Richter

ETA: For the past two years, Eta Chapter has provided every 5th grade student in Bulloch County with a Webster’s Thesaurus. These reference books are used throughout the year to help improve vocabulary and writing skills. The funds for this project have been provided through a Psi State Elise Boylston Memorial Foundation Grant. Contact: Dr. Patia Rountree

THETA: This chapter is working to create a learning center for the Gateway Domestic Violence Center. This center will include a small library of books for women (inspirational & self-help) and children (about 200 books) in a bookcase, along with 6 computers, a wireless router, printer, and a Spanish-English Learning Center. An art teacher has volunteered to paint a mural on one wall. The chapter hopes to complete this project by March or April 2011. Contact: Marie G. Dawson

IOTA: This chapter purchases dictionaries for all 3rd graders in Rome City and Floyd County Schools. Contact: Donna Riordan

LAMBDA: Money is donated to the DeKalb County Library Foundation. Also, money and books are donated to the Global Village Charter School. Contact: Carol McCullough

MU: This chapter supports Books for Babies (members donate books with Stepping Stones), the Ferst Foundation (through member donations as well as games played to collect

money) and Puddle Jumpers. As a chapter, sisters enjoy book swaps and sales. Contact: Kathy Brown

NU: Collect books (2 meetings a year) for children in Savannah shelters and centers. Book swaps for members. Retired members read to school children and at some centers around Savannah. Local authors speak to the chapter. One of the members reads/tapes for the blind. Contact: Katherine Looper

XI: This chapter provides backpacks filled with school supplies. Another chapter project is the giving of supplies to beginning teachers. Contact: Joy Breeden

OMICRON: This chapter started the Dictionary Project nine years ago and donations continue to increase each year. This school year over 1124 3rd graders received their very own dictionary because this chapter initiated this project! This chapter also participates and supports the Ferst Foundation. Sheila Hawthorne, Chapter Co-President, has presented numerous programs for the Dictionary Project at the Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention and many civic organizations. Contact: Yvonne Jett and Sheila Hawthorne

PI: This chapter contributes to the Ferst Foundation in its community. Also, this chapter collected books and gave them out at the chapter's booth at National Night Out. Contact: Charla Brinson

RHO: This chapter published "Welcome to the World" for new parents and babies. This chapter also provides magazines and books for adults and children at the Grand Central Station Laundry in Augusta each month. Sisters volunteer to read to school classes on March 2nd during Read Across America. The chapter supports ASU Literacy Center and ASU Scholarships. Contact: Jeanne Stroebel

SIGMA: This chapter is proud of its dictionary project in which it provides 13 cases of dictionaries to local schools. Contact: Dr. Dianne Dees

OMEGA: During the 2008-2010 Biennium, the Omega Chapter made a \$100 donation to each elementary, middle, and high school media center in both the Whitfield County and the Dalton City School Systems. The monies were to be used at the media specialists' discretion for books, supplies, and equipment as needed by that individual school to better serve the student body. Contact: Teri Cross

ALPHA ALPHA: Paperback books and magazines are collected and distributed to local senior care centers and laundromats. Children's books are collected at Christmas time for local health departments and child assistance centers. Magazines are also collected for the International Seafarer's Center at the Port of Brunswick. This chapter is in the first stages of supplying Dictionaries for 3rd Graders. Contact: Betsy Simmons

ALPHA BETA: This chapter donates books to a local shelter and schools usually each year. Contact: Elaine Womack

ALPHA GAMMA: This chapter participates in the Stephens County Read at Home Program (RAH) – a part of the Imagine Literacy, a Dolly Parton sponsored event. Contact: Daphene Paxton

ALPHA ETA: This chapter contributes to the Ferst Foundation in support of Jasper, Morgan, and Putnam counties. Also, this chapter sends monetary donations to support teacher education in Afghanistan. Contact: Amy Wade

ALPHA KAPPA: This chapter participates in the Books, Blankets, and Babies Project to make tie-blankets for the Women's Resource Center in Decatur, Georgia. The center serves women and children who are leaving abusive environments. Each child receives a blanket and a book which they take with them when they leave the center. Alpha Kappa members made all the blankets. Members also tutor school students. Contact: Betsy Barb

ALPHA LAMBDA: This chapter gives dictionaries to all 3rd graders in elementary schools in Peach, Crawford, Macon, Taylor, Houston-Perry, and Houston-Warner Robins counties on an annual basis with the support of several civic organizations in the area. Contact: Susan Pearson

ALPHA OMICRON: This chapter is very active in the Ferst Foundation, receiving two Boylston Memorial grants totaling \$7000 for literacy in Seminole County. Contact: Martha Register
In addition, this chapter has given financial support to the Miller County School District for the Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition. The money is used for student awards. This is an essay contest sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education. Contact: Jo Mock

ALPHA SIGMA: This chapter set a goal in the 2009-2010 school year to spend at least 75 hours volunteering in the area of literacy and is pleased to report that as of February 2010 the dedicated members of this chapter had logged 315 volunteer hours for the literacy program! These volunteer hours included reading to and tutoring groups of students in the local schools. Contact: Brook Bauer and Dr Sally Combs

ALPHA UPSILON: This chapter donates children's books to the Children's Hospital at the Medical Center in Macon and also to the Ronald McDonald House in Macon. Contact: Beverly Clark

ALPHA PSI: This chapter's literacy project includes donating magazines and books to adult learners at technical colleges. Contact: Marilyn Arrington

BETA GAMMA: Books are collected and donated to the Harbor House in Thomaston, Georgia, DFACS, and to foster families. Contact: Merle Teal

BETA DELTA: Through various fund-raising methods (such as Literacy Basket Raffles, etc.), this chapter provides grants for classroom/school/community projects. Members have used grant money to sponsor Books for Bingo in elementary schools and to give dictionaries to students. This chapter also provides monetary donations and gives school supplies & book bags to flood victims (at a local school), the Women's Shelter, and Destiny's Daughters of Promise (girls in abusive relationships with boyfriends). Members participate in book swaps during the year. Retired members are invited to read in local schools in Read Across America programs on March 2nd. Contact: Lori Chastain

BETA EPSILON: Literacy Project #1 -- This chapter received Bolyston Memorial grant to provide display cases and materials for Learn and Play Kits developed by member Donna Howell, director of the Mountain Regional Library. The kits will be used in the four

libraries served by the Mountain Regional Library. The kits designed around a theme may be checked out by caregivers to take home to enrich learning for their child.

Ms. Howell and her staff have completed 20 learning kits and have planned for 10 additional kits. Literacy project #2 is the annual book donation in March, again filling a table with books for children, young adults, and adults to be divided between the Fannin County Crisis Center and the Towns/Union S.A.F.E. House. Literacy project #3 involves the support of The Byron Herbert Reece Society. This group promotes the writing and poetry of Georgia author Byron Herbert Reece. Several chapter members belong to the Reece Society. One member, Carol Knight, has led in the development of instructional curricula that is being introduced and implemented in Georgia schools. The home of Reece is being preserved and will be a center for classes to come and study the works of Byron Herbert Reece. The Beta Epsilon chapter members will be part of the volunteer staff at the center. Contact: Janice Cochran and Julie Thompson

BETA ZETA: For several years, this chapter has collected children's books for donation to the Medical College of Georgia's Hospital. This year members hope to donate over 75 books in honor of Psi State's Birthday. Customary, this chapter donates approximately that number each year. Contact: Lora Raines

BETA THETA: This chapter (comprised of 5 counties) participates in Books for Babies as well as donates books to local hospitals, laundromats, and daycare centers. In addition, the members are involved in the Matthew Freeman Project, providing paper and pencils to children in Iraq and Afghanistan. Matthew Freeman, a citizen of Bryan County, was killed in action while serving our country. He had expressed a desire to his parents to see the children in those countries, so his mom created this nationally recognized project in his memory. Contact: Iris Sims

BETA IOTA: Currently, this chapter is working with Union Mission to provide books for mothers and children. Previously, the chapter has participated in Dictionaries for 3rd Graders. Contact: Beverly Colwell

BETA KAPPA: This chapter sponsors a GED scholarship for a needy, qualified student. Members also donate both adult & children's books to women's shelters and give to children living in motels. Each February, the chapter has a joint book-swap meeting with one or two other chapters. Contact: Sealy Harper and Betty Richardson

BETA NU: At the chapter level, monetary contributions are made to an orphanage/school in Uganda for literacy/media materials in honor of Psi State's 75th Birthday. An annual scholarship (\$400 last year) is given to a student with learning disabilities at the Bedford School. Member Linda Gravitt organized student tutors to assist in the after-school program at the Jesse Draper Boys and Girls Club. Contact: Peggy McNash

BETA RHO: This chapter funds educational grants for members and non-members in the Gwinnett County Public Schools. Media specialists and teachers throughout the county apply and the chapter votes on award recipients. Contact: Geraldine Tilson

BETA TAU: This chapter participates in Books for Babies. In addition, members donate books to a family resource center. Beta Tau donated 75 books written in Spanish to the local library. These books were obtained from the Mexican Embassy. Contact: Amelia Lord

GAMMA ALPHA: Two projects are promoted through this chapter: (1) Books in a Bag – members bring in 3 books, 2 being for elementary and 1 being for middle schoolers – to be distributed to organizations in need in Clayton County and (2) Teachers Giving Books to Teachers – members bring in books that are distributed to teachers to use in their classrooms to promote literacy in Clayton County Schools. Contact: Dr. Maria Valeri-Gold

GAMMA DELTA: This chapter provides books for needy children for summer reading. In addition, “big books” were donated to 3rd grade teachers to support language/reading and science programs at Blue Ridge Elementary in Martinez, Georgia. Contact: Jerry Ann Martin

GAMMA THETA: This chapter has a project that combines promoting literacy with supporting new teachers. At each chapter meeting, members donate new or gently used children’s books. The books are then given to beginning teachers at a selected elementary school to help them build a classroom library. A sticker with the chapter name, etc. is placed in each book welcoming the teacher to the profession. Also, children’s books are donated to hospital waiting rooms. Contact: Phyllis Hart and Tara M. Trobaugh

GAMMA OMICRON: This chapter has grown the Power Pack Program to promote literacy in Houston County. Beginning with one school, the chapter now serves five schools! Gamma Omicron gives grade-level appropriate books to students in those schools to help build their own home libraries. As the program has grown through generous donations from the community, the chapter has been able to follow the same group of students every year through elementary school. As an added personal bonus, retired chapter members present the books to the students in person. They enjoy reading to the students and the students look forward to chapter members’ visits. Gamma Omicron has been able to expand the number of schools that are served each year. Contact: Jennifer Yawn

GAMMA TAU: This chapter collects children’s literature books at each meeting and donates the books to the various causes (Family Connection, Ferst Foundation, health departments, first year teachers, etc.) supported by the counties in which the different chapter members live. Books are “book plated” for recognition of donation. Contact: Barbara Maddox

GAMMA CHI: This chapter participates in Books for Babies (visits with and distributes new books at Walton Regional Medical Center to new mothers). Chapter members are library readers in Loganville, Monroe, and Social Circle, Georgia. The chapter also sponsors the 5th Grade Essay Contest (3 places per school) in nine different elementary schools. Contact: Gina R. Luck

GAMMA PSI: For the past two years, this chapter has sponsored Books for English Language Learners by buying book sets w/ tables that go home with Henry County students to use at home and then return to school. Elementary schools with the highest ESOL population are targeted for this program. The chapter volunteered to help Henry Medical with Books for Babies, but no assistance was needed at this time. Another favorite project of Gamma Psi is reading at Christmas at the Tanger Outlet, while giving away gently used children’s books. This chapter also works with a local shelter for moms and children to host special events and gatherings such as Halloween, Christmas, Spring Fling, etc. through story telling, book sharing, and, of course, FOOD! Contact: Sheri Black In celebration of Psi State’s 75th birthday, Gamma Psi plans to donate the amount of \$75.00 to at least one school. Contact: Mary Miller

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AGENDA FOR THE PSI STATE LITERACY WORKSHOP
PSI STATE CONVENTION
2009-2011 BIENNIUM

The Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club at Cordele, Georgia
March 26, 2011

Dr. Cheryl Hunt Clements (Beta Delta), Psi State Literacy Liaison Chairman -- Distribution of the 2009-2011 Psi State Literacy Handbook and Introduction of Presenters -- 5 minutes

Joy Breeden -- Facilitator

PRESENTERS

Dr. Patia Rountree and Shannon Robertson (Eta) -- Webster's Thesauruses for 5th Graders via a Elise Boylston Memorial Foundation Grant -- 10 minutes

Martha Register (Alpha Omicron) -- Ferst Foundation Supported through Boylston Grants - - 10 minutes

Susan Pearson (Alpha Lambda) -- Dictionaries for 3rd Graders -- 5 minutes

Iris Sims (Beta Theta) -- Mathew Freeman Project, Providing Writing and Literacy Materials for Children in Iraq and Afghanistan; Books for Babies -- 5 minutes

Barbara Maddox (Gamma Tau) -- Book Collections for Various Causes -- 6 minutes

Lori Chastain (Beta Delta) -- Chapter Grants for Classroom & School Projects and other Literacy Programs -- 5 minutes

Janice Cochran (Beta Epsilon) -- Learn and Play Kits Financed through the Boylston Grants -- 5 minutes

**Questions, Answers, and Additional Sharing by Audience and Presenters --
Remainder of Time**

