



DKG International

ALPHA PHI CHAPTER – ALPHA ALPHA STATE PA– Winter Issue Number two

Alphie-Gram Newsletter-



TEAMWORK

IS THE NAME OF THE GAME



Teamwork, Teamwork, When Everyone Works Together,

It's Called Teamwork.



We, sisters of Alpha Phi, now have had two chapter meetings under our belt. The success of both of those gatherings could not have occurred without an enormous amount of teamwork by members of Alpha Phi/

There was a great deal of preparation prior to the meetings as well through the summer and into September. I met and/or conferred with our officers to garner information about each office's responsibilities, role, and plans for this year. This presented me the opportunity to share my expectations and process changes for the work of that office. Those conversations were quite the learning experience for me. I also participated in the Finance Committee review of last year's budget and the establishment of this year's budget to grasp how we acquire and dispense resources throughout the year.

One of my issues was about my own work in conducting a meeting following Roberts Rules of Order since I had not done that for many years. As luck would have it, I sat next to Carolyn Sutton, former PA State President, at the multi-chapter planning meeting. I expressed my concern and told her that I had heard that she distributed some task cards at the Leadership meeting for

presidents which I was not able to attend. (Becky had clued me into that information). Carolyn quickly sent me the cue cards which guide me in preparing and implementing the meeting agendas.

I conducted a chapter committee meeting in August to generate ideas with committee chairs and the Executive Board on how to give each committee a voice in our meetings which is one of my goals. I turned to assistance from Liz, Jean, Donna S. and Ann in sending out minutes, invitations and agendas to our members; some of these processes were new to our members. In addition, I had numerous conversations with Donna S., Haddie and Suzanne to ascertain the correct procedures to employ for the good of the order. The learning curve was steep, but each sister was able to round out the vision of our chapter in a strong manner.

Then came the execution of our chapter meetings and I am very dependent on everyone carrying out the designated responsibilities in preparation for informing our members about all that we hope to achieve this year. Beside the officers and committee chairs completing their assignments, other members have helped to distribute print materials and favors brought by members, greet our members and guests, present wonderful inspirational thoughts, take pictures, collect for our 50/50, set up and take down equipment and the room decorations, plan interesting programs, warmly welcome new members, and collect money/checks for dues, charities, and meals. Pam and Mary have initiated the work of the Help Committee enlisting assistance from other members.

The October 20th meeting was especially a demonstration of teamwork to me. Several officers and members were unable to attend. Those sisters contacted Suzanne and Donna Watson to present the Inspirational Thought, distribute favors and minutes, introduce the speaker, and capture minutes of the meeting. As I watched these two and other members complete their responsibilities without missing a step, I realized how much teamwork it takes to get the job done. When called to serve, our members step forward and answer YES!

I want to thank Haddie for organizing and setting into motion our first two fundraising projects for the year of Enjoy books and candy orders for Christmas. I also want to recognize all the diligent work of our **Treasurer**

Donna S. who has wrapped up the dues collection process in an efficient manner. You are excellent examples of teamwork.

So why take time to explain all of this to you? There are many reasons for this. One of my goals for this DKG chapter is to increase participation of more sisters to serve the organization in meaningful ways beyond just the chapter officers and committee chairs. I wanted to illustrate just some of what work needs to be completed prior to, during and after we have an event or meeting. Many hands make light work they say and there are certainly many hands in our organization who assist in sharing in the work at each meeting and event. I am grateful for all you do to serve Alpha Phi.

It takes dedication, purpose, responsibility, commitment, and follow-through to conduct a successful event, a chapter meeting, an induction of a new member or a project. I am reaching out to all my sisters of Alpha Phi to consider helping in some way. Every contribution of service grows the organization and the impact of efforts of our chapter. Again, I encourage you to be on this journey toward excellence with me.

I am planning some events that will be taking place over the next few months which I will share in a separate mailing. It appears that there will be a great showing of our members at the multi-chapter meeting in November for which I am most appreciative. I look forward to introducing you to DKG members from other chapters whom I have recently met.

THIS AND THAT

By Mary Anne Battaglia

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our 4 transfer members. We welcome LuAnn Sebastian, Dr. Beverly School, Mary Anne Smith, and Zoe Akhtar to our chapter. We are delighted that you have decided to join Alpha Phi. Please feel free to offer suggestions and ideas for our events and activities as we are always looking for new ones.

A warm welcome is sent to our newest member, Mary Ann Busdosh. Just like a teacher who has students with the same first names in their classroom, we are going to have to start calling all the Mary Anne's by their last name!

JUST KIDDING, of course. Thanks to Jan Whetsel for bringing Mary Ann into our chapter. As I understand it, Mary Ann knows a couple members in our chapter already. Welcome aboard to all our new associates.

I appreciate our members' promptness in assisting Donna S. in rounding up all the funds so that we could be timely in submitting our dues. Also, your generosity in your charitable giving just amazes me. You truly serve your communities well. You recognize the needs of people in our communities and you respond in a notable manner. Thank you for all your service through charitable donations.

Just wanted to tell everyone that our sisters Lindy Marwood has had surgery this month and Kristen Koronoski will be having surgery later in the month. Please keep them in your prayers for a speedy recovery. Sending you sisters positive thoughts

Happiest of birthdays to our members who have celebrated birthdays in October, in November and then in December.

STATE AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

By Mary Anne Battaglia

I have received several letters from our state president, Barb Gasperini, and our International President listing items which they wanted me to share with our members. Barb has just announced that if any DKG State chapter brings 10% of their chapter members to the 2019 DKG PA State Convention, the chapter will receive a \$35.00 registration fee award. The members attending the convention must be at all sessions on Saturday and Sunday of the convention. Those chapters receiving the Convention Attendance Recognition Award will have their names announced at the General Session on Sunday. A monetary award and a certificate will be presented. I think we have this in the bag ladies. Ten percent of our membership is 4.5 people since we usually have a larger number of members who attend. The award may be used for one of the members.

There is a new application, rubric and criteria for the Album of Distinction Award which are located on the state website. There is too much information to include here, however, if you know of a member who has received an award outside of her work with Alpha Phi and DKG, please let me know. We will nominate her for the award.

If there are any of our members who would like to present an interesting workshop at the 2019 state conference, you may complete the application that will be in the next *Keystonian* from the state planning committee.

Barbara mentioned the devastation to property in the Southeast due to Hurricane Michael. People in that region are faced with dangers and difficult situations due to the storm. Please keep in mind our Emergency Fund at www.dkg.org if you wish to send a donation directly to those in need.

Our International President and Staff have urged our chapter to begin looking at our chapter rules as the new amendments will warrant us updating them later this year. In addition, our chapter treasurer has received all the new dues collection information from International. She has informed you that next year's dues will be collected in the Spring of 2019 for the 2019-2020 year versus in October of 2019.

DATE TO REMEMBER: Northeast Conference called Global Awareness is in Mashantucket, Connecticut, July 30-August 1, 2019

RUNNING FOR STATE OFFICE

By Mary Anne Battaglia

As I was reading the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette one evening last week, I came upon an article on the front page about two women running for an office in the Pennsylvania State Legislature. By the time this newsletter is released, the outcome of the election will be known.

Michele Knoll, our sister in Alpha Phi, is running on the Democratic ticket representing District 44 which includes Moon, Findlay, North Fayette, Crescent, Aleppo, Ohio Township, Sewickley and Edgeworth, areas surrounding the International Airport. Her area is mostly made up of middle-class people including seniors, teachers and blue-collar union workers.

She is an educator who works as a therapist with children ages 3 and under with developmental disabilities. This is the first time Michele is running for a state office.

Michelle states, “ We have very few educators in the General Assembly and that’s the second-biggest block in the budget. People making decisions on education have never stood in front of a classroom. They’ve never done without supplies because there aren’t enough supplies in the school. Having those experiences informs decisions I could make.”

Update: unfortunately Michelle was not successful in securing the seat in Congress. We encourage her to keep trying!

Information for this article was retrieved from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article about Michelle Knoll

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Judy Bookhammer
1st Vice President

The December 1 program for the DKG Alpha Phi Chapter focused on First Ladies of Western Pennsylvania, not governors’ or presidents’ wives, but women who were groundbreakers in their respective fields. Some of the women had strong ties to the Mon Valley.

Featured speaker Judy Sutton is a Volunteer Ambassador of the Heinz History Center who delivers history lectures and presentations on various topics related to Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. Her presentation includes extensive information on women who, as early as 1835 were impacting the history of western Pennsylvania. Such ladies included among others, journalists Jane Grey Swisshelm, Ida Tarbell, and Nellie Bly; aviator Helen Ritchey; jazz pianist and composer, Mary Lou Williams; Engineer on the Pittsburgh inclines, Caroline Endres Diescher; and Founder of the National Negro Opera Company, Mary Cardwell Dawson.

Like DKG Society founder Dr. Annie Webb Blanton the First Ladies of Western PA impacted their respective career fields.

FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN

submitted by
Becky Johnen 2nd Vice President



Claudia McClelland, President of the Three Rivers Moss Chapter, and Carol Megill, a Three Rivers Moss Chapter member, through their dynamic presentation on American artist, P. Buckley Moss (seen below), provided insight into the background, works, and philanthropic efforts of this amazing artist.



Patricia Buckley was born on May 20, 1933, on Staten Island, New York. She was the second of three children of an Irish/American-Sicilian marriage. In grade school, young Patricia was perceived as a poor student, a circumstance at tributable to her dyslexia which, especially at that time, was not well understood as a learning difficulty or as a reading and perceptual “disorder.” Nonetheless, one of her teachers determined that this little girl, who was labeled, “Not Proficient in Anything,” was artistically gifted. This outside opinion helped to convince Pat’s mother to enroll her daughter in an extraordinary public school for girls in downtown Manhattan, the Washington Irving High School or the Fine Arts. It was there, in what obviously was a friendly learning environment, that Pat’s artistic abilities were finally encouraged and seriously nourished. With the coaching of her teachers and the unconditional support of the school’s principal, Mary Meade (sister of the famous anthropologist Margaret Meade), Pat created her first art portfolio and began to thrive.

In 1951, Pat received a scholarship to New York's Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. She studied at this prestigious art school for four years and specialized in fine arts and graphic design. Known for its intellectual rigor, the time spent at Cooper Union encouraged Pat to seek a more personal expression of her ideas through her art. The intense study, discussions, and exchanges with professors and fellow students expanded Pat's artistic horizons and gave birth to her unique style, which is freely expressive and often rich in symbolism.

In 1964, Pat's husband's work took the family, by then five children with a sixth child on the way, to Waynesboro in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It was here that she came to appreciate the quiet beauty of rural scenery and to know the picturesque and deeply religious Amish and Mennonite "plain" people. Soon she was incorporating these new elements into her art, creating an impetus that revitalized her artistic career and reignited her ambitions.

P. Buckley Moss is one of America's most prized and internationally acclaimed living artists. She works abundantly in a variety of media, including oils, acrylics, watercolor, mixed media, etchings, and giclée. Over the course of her almost four decades as a successful commercial artist, P. Buckley Moss has received many honors, awards, and accolades (both for her work as an artist and for her philanthropic work), inspired by her dyslexia and use of her art to help and support children and adults who "learn differently" as she does.



Carol Megil
*sharing the history and works
of P. Buckley Moss*



**Alpha Phi President, Mary Anne Battaglia (left)
with Three Rivers Moss Chapter President, Claudia
McClelland (right) show off a P. Buckley Moss
prints being raffled to raise funds for the foundation**

Pat has become a role model for the learning impaired and was frequently asked to speak to special education classes in schools around the country, relating her experiences and inspiring others to overcome their difficulties and develop their personal talents to their highest potential. Pat began to donate original works and prints to various children's charities and other organizations whose mission mirrored her own passionate interest in this area. These donations and collaborations have raised millions of dollars for many of these charities. In 1987, a group of dedicated collectors of Pat's work established the P. Buckley Moss Society to assist the artist and her family in all of their philanthropic endeavors. This Society now has some 38 active chapters and a membership of approximately 15,000 members. P. Buckley Moss is both the Society's inspiration and its "battle cry" as it spreads the artist's messages of concern and optimism for what might otherwise be forgotten and misunderstood children and adults. To learn more about the Society, visit their website, www.mosssociety.org.

In 1995 the P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education was formed to help children with learning disabilities to succeed in school and in life. The Foundation encourages the use of the visual and performing arts in all educational programs, but especially those involving children who learn differently.

The Foundation hosts an annual teachers' conference, a forum for sharing cutting edge methods of art-based education. The Foundation also grants regular teacher and student awards. To learn more about the Foundation, visit their website, www.mossfoundation.org

A LIGHT HEARTED LOOK AT ROMANCE NOVELS

Local author Audrey Iacone (who publishes under the name Audrey Abbott) kept the membership spellbound with her lighthearted look at romance novels. Writing since she's been 10 years old (her first book, unpublished, was *The Mystery at Spirit Lake*) Audrey produces adult historical suspense romance, YA historical fiction, and nonfiction. She is a member of the Romance Writers of America, the Three Rivers Romance Writers, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and Pennwriters. The original manuscript for her current novel, *The Lady's Desire*, was a finalist in the NEORWA (Northeast Ohio Romance Writers of America) 2017 Contest. That notoriety caught the attention of an agent with Soul Mate Publishing and as they say, the rest is history...

The Lady's Desire is her first adult historical suspense romance novel and is the first in a trilogy in the Abbey Mead series (*The Lady's Prayer* and *The Lady's Wish* will soon follow). Abbey Mead is a fictitious setting "located" in Surrey, England just south of London. The story begins in Abbey Mead where William and Anne meet in 1812 at Addiscombe Military Seminary. For more about their adventures, check out the paper book which will be released on November 6, 2018 (or in the e-book which was released on July 11, 2018).

Audrey shared that romance novels are popular because they give us emotional welfare, joy, life, love, and happily-ever-afters. Some rules for romance novels include:

1. They provide a central love story where physical interaction progresses after both parties give consent.
2. They are emotionally satisfying; have a happy ending,
3. Love scenes further the story line.
4. There is an element of sexual tension that propels the story.
5. Intimacy creates conflict which makes the readers turn the page.

Romance novels vary from mild to nuclear. Audrey provided insight into how to determine the "hotness" of a romance novel:

1. Mild/sweet. These are G-rated novels. They include lots of hand holding. The works of Debbie Macomber and Kristan Higgins fall into this category.
2. Moderate. These are PG-rated novels. These novels have plenty of heart and more touching and kissing; they are sensual. The novels of AUDREY ABBOTT, Nora Roberts and C typify this level.
3. Hot/steamy. These are PG-13 rated novels with action-packed love scenes, graphic sex (with the sex scenes furthering the story line), and strong emotions. Novels by Lisa Kleypas fall into this category.
4. Carnal. These R-rated novels are scorches with explicit sex, language, and graphic depictions. JR Ward's novels are examples in this category.
5. Erotic/nuclear. Rated NC-17, the earth moves and toes curl with these books. A "five-alarm fire" is happening. The sexual experiences in these books take readers on an emotional journey that end with a steamy happily-ever-after. E.L. James, Sylvia Day, and Maya Banks write at this level.

Audrey shared that to be a good writer, one must be well read. Her background as a librarian and a voracious reader of books prepared her for her writing career. Audrey shares, "Actually, I have an unhealthy obsession with books. When I start a good book I simply cannot put it down. The dust bunnies may be calling, but I manage to ignore them..."

2017-18 Perfect Meeting Attendance Recognized



Standing from left to right, Mary Anne Battaglia, Mary Frances Archey*, Donna Watson, Pam Klein, Lillian Lutz, Jean Gillis, Louise Biddle, Suzanne Mackulin*, and Donna Shultz* display the certificates of recognition that they received for having perfect meeting attendance in 2017-18. (* indicates members with perfect attendance the last two years!) An ongoing goal of the Chapter's strategic action plan is to "stimulate and increase chapter vitality and sustainability." One objective to achieve this goal is to have at least 50% of the membership at meetings. Since attendance at meetings is important to the Chapter, it was decided to highlight that those who had perfect attendance last year. In addition to a certificate, members each received a VISA gift card (donated by an anonymous community member

MEMBERSHIP MUSINGS

By Becky Johnen, 2nd VP

Anyone interested in serving on the review committee for this year's Grant-in Aid applications, please let Becky know (palfys@verizon.net or 304-904-3501).

The program chair for the 2019 State Convention is seeking **proposals for presentations**. Have something interesting to share? Think about submitting a proposal. They will be due by January 14, 2019 and can be found on the state website (dkg-pa.weebly.com).

If you are considering pursuing a personal or professional goal (travel, learn more about an avocation, enlighten yourself about an area of the country or the world, whatever – think outside of the box), consider applying for an **Enrichment Grant**. (These grants are one benefit of membership.) Applications can be found on the state website (dkgpa.weebly.com) or you can get a hard copy of one from Becky. Last year, applications were due February 1 so you have time to think about this. But don't wait until the last minute. The Executive Board of the Chapter has to provide a recommendation for the grant so you need to provide time for that to happen.

WEBSITE RE-CERTIFIED!

Alphaphipa.weebly.com

By Becky Johnen, Webmaster

STATUS UPDATE ON THE 2017-2019 Biennium



Every two years (in even numbered years), the Chapter must apply to have the website re-certified. Our Chapter website met all the requirements and was re-certified. The new compliance seal (seen above) is displayed on the bottom of the Home Page. Receiving re-certification allows the Chapter to continue to be linked to both the Society and the State websites.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT ON OLIVET FOOD BANK

(one of the Chapter's seven community outreach projects)

By Becky Johnen, SAP Facilitator

The Society of Delta Kappa Gamma has seven purposes. One is to “stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action.” The Alpha Phi Chapter has made this purpose a priority by including it in two areas of focus in its strategic action plan: programming and community outreach. The community outreach goal focuses on the promotion of activities and projects that develop a strong sense of social responsibility and civic awareness.

In this edition of the newsletter, we highlight our **OLIVET FOOD BANK** project (which is the charity for our December meeting). Run by the Olivet Presbyterian Church in West Elizabeth (but also supporting surrounding communities) this program is held the third Tuesday of each month and sees 50 to 60 families each month. Dedicated volunteers pack boxes of food in the morning and distribute the food in the afternoon. They also assist those who need help getting the boxes to their cars. The DKG donations along with other community support go a long way in keeping this program going. Our chapter contact is Louise Biddle.



Let's see if we can meet or exceed our contribution of \$420 from last year and bring a smile to Louise's face as bright and big as Suzanne's!

STATUS UPDATE ON THE 2017-2019 Biennium

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

By Becky Johnen, SAP Facilitator

Believe it or not, we are closing in on the two-year mark of our second strategic action plan! Work on our 2019-2021 plan will begin in January giving us time to finalize it for implementation July 2019. So, it is time to turn our attention to what we need to do and hope to accomplish in the next biennium.

In an attempt to prepare ourselves for the next two years, we need to ask:

1. Do we continue to focus on the six areas in the current plan?
 - *Membership
 - *Marketing
 - *Communication and Technology
 - *Programming
 - *Community Outreach
 - *Finance
2. What, if any, other areas need our attention?
3. What do we need to do differently?
4. What do we need to better?

Send any thoughts to Becky at palfys@verizon.net or 304-904-3501.

THE INDUCTION OF A NEW MEMBER OCTOBER 20 ,2018



From left to right, new member Mary Ann Busdosh with her nominating member, Jan Whetsel, listen intently as Immediate Past President Suzanne Mackulin and President Mary Anne Battaglia review the purposes and symbols of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

ALPHA PHI WELCOMES FOUR TRANSFER MEMBERS!

by Becky Johnen, Membership Chair

It is always a sad occasion when a DKG chapter disbands and unfortunately two in the Pittsburgh area did just that this year. However, there was a silver lining for four members from two of those chapters and for Alpha Phi. Zoe Akhtar and Mary Anne Smith of Beta Zeta have officially transferred their membership to our chapter as have LuAnn Sebastian and Beverly School of Alpha Chi! We welcome these sisters and look forward to their camaraderie and to them sharing their experiences and talents with us!