



# DKG International

ALPHA PHI CHAPTER – ALPHA ALPHA STATE – WINTER-2017 Vol. 1 Issue 2

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## Alphie-Gram Newsletter

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Greetings from

Hi sisters! Another year has begun and is moving right along!

Let's take a few moments to review what Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Phi Chapter has been doing.

On July 29, 2017, members met at the Serendipity Tea Room in Speers, PA as an opportunity to encourage new members to join. The food was absolutely yummy!! The company was terrific and the setting was lovely. Not to mention that our chapter also gained a new member, **Mary Havel**, a guest of **Donna Shultz**.

Thanks to **Haddie Weber** for organizing a trip to the Trunk Show Boutique on Thursday, August 17, 2017. Shopping is on of my favorite pastimes and the outing always provides an opportunity to find unique treasures and one-of-a-kind apparel or accessories. Afterwards, many of the sisters met for dinner. Although the wait as long. our food was excellent. Reservations next time!

Post-It Notes made a debut over the summer months. **Mary Anne Battaglia** writes these to keep us all informed and connected to each other when there is no formal meeting planned. Thanks, **Mary Anne**, for keeping the members up-to-date with Delta Kappa Gamma.

The finance committee completed an audit of the treasurer's records with everything balancing to the penny. Thank you, **Donna Shultz**. The budget was also planned for the 2017-2018 year. Thank you to members who serve on those committees.

A review of the by-laws, chapter rules, is underway. The goal is to make it parallel to the International's rules and provide consistency as well as guidance to those taking on new roles of leadership within the organization.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> our first meeting of the year was held. **Mary Anne Battaglia** gave the inspirational thought and shared her experience at the Outer Banks this summer relating it to a starfish. She challenged everyone to pass on the gift of the starfish to someone and "reach out to one person." **Becky Johnen** gave an update on the strategic plan and some of the goals were already met with many well on the way. Each of the sisters at the meeting was introduced to "Big Red," our new planning book for the chapter. So far, the new format saves money on printing, is easily updated, is much easier to read, and easier to find (even though my purse is too small for "Big Red"). Not everything can be perfect LOL!! Perfect attendance certificates as well as a surprise were given to members who had perfect attendance in the 2016-2017 calendar year. Who will it be this year? The scholarship, grant

in-aid, will be awarded to a young lady entering the field of education from West Jefferson Hills School District this year. Our charity was Bentworth Blessings in a Backpack which provides food for children over the weekend. The telephone tree has been greatly reduced because information will now be sent via email. If you have no email account, **Louise Biddle** will be calling you. The featured speaker was the returning **Michelle Goodman-Jones** who travels to us from downtown New Castle, PA. Her topic was, "Always Looking our Best." The presentation included a brief history of fashion, the fashion trends for fall/winter of 2017 (suede shoes, bell sleeves, the color, brown, etc.), what not to wear, how not to look old (who us???), and make-up magic. Michelle reminded members to, "stay in your lane." In other words, wear the fashions you like best and feel most comfortable wearing. She also demonstrated creative ways to expand your existing wardrobe and to have an accent item, maybe it's your shoes!

On September 27, 2017, at the Youghiogheny Country Club, a dinner was sponsored for the "**Meeting of the Masters.**" The purpose was to have members who have belonged to Delta Kappa Gamma for many years to tell their story as to how the organization has changed over the years, how they became involved, and where they see the Alpha Phi Chapter moving in the future. How delightful those stories were! Our guests who were able to attend were **Donna Shultz, Kay Kameshka, Lillian Lutz, Louise Biddle, and Simone Miller.** Other members were invited but were unable to attend. The guests were able to share their personal stories that made it possible for them to join Alpha Phi and by whom they were sponsored.

On October 14, 2017 our second meeting was convened. Discussion was held to about continuing to support Victims of Violent Crimes, aka Womansplace, as one of the chapter charities. **Becky Johnen** researched information and found, that although it is certainly a worthy cause, the organization receives over two million dollars per year for its operations mostly from government grants. Therefore, the members decided to adopt the Bright Beginnings Early Learning Program in Elizabeth as its new charity in place of Victims of Violent Crimes. Contributions for this organization will be collected at the May meeting.

An elevator speech has been drafted by a committee about Delta Kappa Gamma and will be presented to the general membership after board approval. Everyone at the meeting is trying to learn the Delta Kappa Gamma Song which is sung at the end of each meeting under the direction of **Flo Whetsel.** Our speaker was our own, **Dr. Becky Johnen.** The topic of our program was entitled, "Our Yellow Brick Road Journey." Becky, complete with yellow bricks and ruby red slippers, took all of us on our own journey down the yellow brick road. Read on to discover the ten ideas learned from Becky's program.

**Becky,** you are truly amazing! Thank you for a wonderful presentation. Remember everyone, follow your yellow brick road!

On November 18, our very own **Mary Anne Battaglia** presented the history of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International entitled, ***Do You Know Our Story?*** The program was interactive in which every member present participated. **Mary Anne** wrote and researched the story borrowing here and there to find the facts. Then, each member present read the story in numerical order with some stories accompanied by enlarged pictures of our founders. **Dr. Anna Webb Blanton,** our founder, and her mom came dressed in period costumes. After listening to the story, our members were impressed with the abilities and visionary ideas of the founders. Thank you, **Mary Anne,** and all the members for providing a better understanding of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and such a fun and informative program! Also, under the direction of our Second Vice-President, **Judy Bookhamer,** an

initiation ceremony was held to induct, **Mary Havel**, as a member of Alpha Phi Chapter. Welcome, **Mary!**

Thank you to everyone who works hard to keep our organization strong and wonderfully active! There are pictures at the close of this newsletter that illustrate several of the events that were held these last few months.

## **A Message from our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**By Mary Anne Battaglia**

The theme of the November 18<sup>th</sup> Program for Alpha Phi was “**Do You Know Our Story?**”. After perusing many resources from the DKG International website about the history of Delta Kappa Gamma, an inspiration came to me while on vacation at Outer Banks (having time to relax and think). I really wondered how many of our members had truly heard the story of how DKG came to be organized and by whom. Rather than just showing a PowerPoint presentation or giving a lecture about our history, I decided to try to engage our membership in telling the story. After all, one of our chapter goals is to increase participation of the members of Alpha Phi in the operations and projects of our group. Thus, the idea was born to share the pictures of the early founders as well as their personal stories with the group. Every member of Alpha Phi who was present at the meeting played a role in telling the story. We installed a new member at the meeting and a potential member was also a guest at the meeting which was an excellent forum to introduce our story.

Through the presentation of the DKG story, members learned about the personal and professional lives of our founders, the positions that they held in the early Society organization and their accomplishments in promoting Delta Kappa Gamma. They laid the foundation and had the vision of the potential of an organization of women educators that is evident even to this day. Their legacies became the cornerstone of this International Society. Throughout the presentation, members were asked to stop and reflect on what they had heard and to share their thoughts with others at their tables. There were many “aha” moments as we conversed about the levels of education achieved by the founders especially in those times in American history. These founders demonstrated vision, leadership, perseverance, positive attitude, intellectual fortitude, social adeptness, great organization skills, and a drive to succeed in establishing our formidable Society. These skills are still required of our members to sustain and grow each and every chapter of DKG across the world. I would personally like to thank each member of Alpha Phi who participated in telling the story so enthusiastically. We all concluded that we can effectively say, “We know the story of Delta Kappa Gamma.” Pictures are at the end of this newsletter.

## PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION

An ongoing goal of the Alpha Phi Chapter's strategic plan is to "stimulate and increase chapter vitality and sustainability". One objective to achieve that goal is to have at least 50 % of our membership at each meeting. Because we have several members who attended all the meetings during the 2015-16 year, we decided to recognize the efforts of those members who had perfect attendance last year at the September Chapter meeting. Those who were recognized included **Charlotte Steimer, Mary Frances Archey, Judy Bookhamer, Barb Gregory, Carol Ann Nejman, Donna Shultz Suzanne Mackulin.** (A picture at the close of the newsletter shows the group.) In addition, **Elizabeth Denny** was a recipient also but was not at the meeting. A certificate was given to these members and they also received a \$10 Giant Eagle gift card (donated by an anonymous community member). **Becky Johnen** was the member who organized the project. Congratulations to these members for being so earnest about attending our Chapter meetings.

## WEARING MANY HATS - SHARING MORE GOOD NEWS

**By Mary Anne Battaglia**

Alpha Phi member, **Haddie Weber** is one very busy woman within our local chapter and more importantly, in the state chapter as well. She is one individual who is always willing to volunteer for any work that needs to be done. She currently serves in our local chapter as the Newsletter Editor, Projects Chairperson such as the Trunk Show Boutique event inviting potential members, and our Parliamentarian. She is also a member of the By-laws Committee and the Strategic Plan Committee. She is instrumental in conducting fundraising activities for our chapter which bring in funds supporting our Grant-in-Aid project and members to participate in the state convention. But her involvement with DKG does not stop there. She is also the Chair of the Alpha Alpha State Professional Affairs Committee. **Haddie** serves on the state's Nominations Committee as well. At this year's state convention, one of her responsibilities is to organize and conduct the Album of Distinction Ceremony. The state organization has recognized **Haddie** in the past by giving her the highest award, **The Alpha Alpha State Achievement Award.**

She has served as president of Alpha Phi for two terms and has been a member since 1984. She has provided dedicated service to Delta Kappa Gamma and can be found attending state and regional conferences on a regular basis. Even though she is a retired music educator, she continues to provide private piano and organ lessons to students and is a very active member of the local and state Garden Club Association. We wish to thank you, **Haddie**, for your dedicated service and continued support to all things Alpha Phi and Alpha Alpha Stat

## **ELEVATOR SPEECH**

An elevator speech is a short explanation of a topic that can be provided in the time it takes to ride an elevator from one floor to another (usually around 15-30 seconds). The Elevator Speech Ad Hoc Committee (**Mary Anne Battaglia, Becky Johnen, Pam Birdy Klein, Ann Lyle, Suzanne Mackulin**) developed two versions of the speech, the shorter of which is for “express rides.” Both were approved by the Executive Board on October 14, 2017. The speech is to be used when recruiting potential members or when some asks, “What is DKG?”

## **FULLER VERSION**

Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) is an international honor and service society that recognizes and supports the diverse background and talents of outstanding women in education. As educators, education is very important to all of us. DKG and our Chapter assist in extending our service to children and education beyond our time in the classroom and into retirement. Services is a priority to our Chapter and through the many charities we currently support, we provide financial assistance for groups, many of whom do not have a regular sources of income to support their efforts. Joining DKG and our Chapter gives you an opportunity to connect with other women educators in true fellowship. We only meet six times a year, at the Youghioghenny Country Club in Elizabeth Township, from 11 AM until about 1 PM on Saturdays. We do have social gatherings outside the meetings and DKG sponsors conferences and conventions any of which you can choose to attend.

There are annual dues, but there are opportunities to apply for organizational scholarships and grants to enrich your life or assist with graduate studies. The Society also has an emergency fund to help members after a natural disaster.

DKG is a gift you give to yourself. Take those few hours and energize yourself with other educators and no something wonderful for others.

## **EXPRESS VERSION**

Delta Kappa Gamma (or DKG) is an international honor and service society that recognizes and supports the diverse backgrounds and talents of outstanding women in education. As educators, education is very important to all of us. DKG and our Chapter assist in extending our service to children and education beyond our time in the classroom and into retirement. Joining DKG and our Chapter is a gift you give to yourself, one which gives you an opportunity to connect with other women educators in true fellowship.

## Initiation News

We are pleased to report that a new member has joined Alpha Phi chapter. **Mary Havel** was invited to join by our treasurer, **Donna Shultz**, who was at one time, **Mary's** teacher and later her principal. Those connections continue to make our chapter strong. She is retired elementary teacher, who taught kindergarten, in the Elizabeth Forward School District in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania. **Mary** was able to participate in a few of our chapter's social events where she was introduced to many of our members and we got to know her as well.

Her initiation ceremony took place on Saturday, November 18, 2017, at Youghiogheny Country Club. **Mary** is helping us reach one of our Strategic Plan goals to increase membership in Alpha Phi by two members each year. We encourage our members to invite other educators to come and get to know our members with an opportunity to join.





## **OUR YELLOW BRICK ROAD JOURNEY**

At the October 14, 2017 meeting, speaker Becky Johnen, had us take an introspective look at our personal journeys along our own ‘yellow brick roads.’ The presentation was inspired by Dorothy’s journey along the yellow brick road (as depicted in the 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz* which is based on L. Frank Baum’s 1900 book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*).

The journey in the Land of Oz gave everyone an appreciation and a greater understanding of themselves. Our personal journey does the same. Through small and large group discussion, Becky had members examining their own yellow brick road journeys and what ‘characters’ and ‘adventures’ made a lasting difference in their lives. Members reflected on the cyclones that swept them away from their comfort zones; the wicked witches that presented them with challenges or barriers; the characters that helped them gain wisdom, heart/compassion, courage; and, those who served as cheerleaders providing encouragement, support, and assistance along the way.

The presentation closed with 10 transformative lessons learned from the yellow brick road journey:

1. Follow your own yellow brick road.
2. Look within for your power.
3. Believe in good and good things will happen.
4. Don’t give up your principles (or your ruby slippers).
5. Allow yourself to dream.
6. The solution might be right under your nose.
7. Accept your friends for who they are.
8. Don’t hide your true self behind a screen.
9. There’s no place like home (wherever home is).
10. Running away is never the answer.

**Pictures from this fall's Alpha Phi meetings at the Youghioghny Country Club.**



**Ann Lyle – Inspirational Thought**





**“Do You Know Our Story” participants**



**Initiation Ceremony**



**Perfect Attendance Recipients**



**Michelle Goodman-Jones- Stay in Your Lane**

**Alpha Phi Newsletter Editor – Haddie Weber**