



Alphie-Gram Newsletter

Greetings from Suzanne



Hello dear DKG Sisters!

Where has the time gone? We will soon be starting our 2017-2018 DKG year and I am so excited by what we have planned for the coming year. This DKG year follows a very successful 2016-2017 year for us. Some highlights of the past year are:

In September 2016, **DKG State President, Tracey Dusch**, visited our Chapter. In October **Stephanie and Roseanne Fulena** returned by popular demand and with their *Olea Habana* program we toured Cuba. *Etiquette: The Old and The New*, our November program by **Michelle Goodwin**, was delightful and we learned how the word etiquette came to be, why we clink our glasses together when we make a toast, and how the phrase 'living high on the hog' came about (just to name a few). Michelle will be back with us this year!

Our very own sister, **Elaine Harmon**, was the talent behind a social event that was held near the Christmas holiday. Elaine led a stamping event and the participating sisters created Christmas cards and gift tags.

Our 2017 program year began in March with a presentation by our own **Becky Johnen** and she inspired us with her discussion on *How To Focus Your Mind*. Becky will also present for us again in our 2017-2018 year! **David Mantok** brought beautiful works of art that he has made to the April meeting and his program on *Architecture of the Imagination – Szopka Art Form* mesmerized the membership. Our meeting year was concluded in May with a presentation by **Donalyn Spisak** on *Essential Oils of the Bible*.

Our chapter was well represented at the State Convention in June and our own **Becky Johnen** had 90+ sisters at her presentation on *What's Your Feel Age?*. The NE Regional Convention was held in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and intrepid sisters **Haddie Weber, Donna Watson, and Liz Oskin** represented us well at that event.

Our current year is off to a great start. We already have accomplished several of the objectives in the strategic plan! On Saturday, July 29th, prospective members attended a tea at the Serendipity Tea Room in Speers (near the Back Porch restaurant). Fourteen sisters and four prospective members were in attendance. A handout which provides information on all of our community outreach projects (Bentworth Blessings in a Backpack, Bright Beginnings Early Learning Program, Baby Love Layettes, Little Libraries, Olivet Presbyterian Church Food Bank, and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Homestead Food Bank) was developed. And, an insert for the state brochure that contains Chapter-specific information and benefits has been developed.

The Bylaws Committee continues to meet to work on updating the Chapter bylaws so that they are current with International and Alpha Alpha Pennsylvania. Our Chapter website (alphaphichapter.weebly.com) is in the process of being updated. The Alpha Phi Chapter Post-It Notes done by **Mary Ann Battaglia** has been a great way to share information during non-meeting months.

The Girls Night Out at the Trunk Show Boutique was held on Thursday, August 17th with 12 members and three guests in attendance. Along with shopping Teres Lucot, the owner of the Trunk Show Boutique provided wonderful refreshments.

Our newest community outreach project – **Little Libraries** – is nearing completion. (Little Libraries was the state project during President Tracey’s tenure). The little libraries are being designed and created by sixth grade students at the Pleasant Hills Middle School under the direction of teacher Melissa Reeb. Our chapter donated \$200 for the cost of libraries’ construction materials. Please save those gently used hardback children’s books to stock our libraries (one will be placed in Elizabeth near the Bethesda United Presbyterian Church – location of the Bright Beginnings Early Learning Program – and one at the Olivet Presbyterian Church in West Elizabeth – location of the Olivet Food Bank). A big thank you to our own **Donna Watson** for working with Melissa on this project.

Things to look forward to in our coming year include: return visits by **Michelle Goodwin-Jones** and **Becky Johnen** for presentations on *Always Looking our Best* and *Our Yellow Brick Road Journey* respectively and other programs by: someone very involved with little libraries, a retired state award-winning middle school teacher (turned author in retirement), our own **Mary Ann Battaglia** leading us in a very special November program, and a visit by current state president, **Barbara Gasperini**! (President Gasperini’s state project is *DKG GIRL SCOUT PATCH* and watch for exciting developments with this.)

As we disembark from Past State President Tracey’s train and get ready to leave the dock and board our “DKG cruise ship” with State President Barb, let’s all broaden our DKG Circle of Membersship. In what ship will that you get involved in this year: friendship, fellowship, mentorship, leadership or scholarship? As President Barb says on the state website, “There are many ships that you could sail and many voyages you could explore. Challenge yourselves to try something new or increase your involvement in areas you have already tried.” I see smooth sailing for us and for DKG in the coming year!

PROGRAMS FOR ALPHA PHI CHAPTER

The new year of Alpha Phi Chapter programming will begin at the September meeting. During the 2017-2018 year, there will be a little bit of history, art, literature, taking care of ourselves and of course, a visit from our State President, Barbara Gasperini in May. Michelle Goodwin-Jones will kick off the year with a presentation on

“Always Looking Our Best”

See you on September 9th.
Mary Anne Battaglia
First Vice President

ALPHA PHI MEMBERS HAVE BIG HEARTS!

By Donna Shultz, Treasurer and Becky Johnen,
SAP Facilitator

In 2016-17, our Chapter supported seven community outreach projects raising \$1465 for the projects (that is in addition to the items that were collected for each)!

Bentworth Blessings in a Backpack, \$370

Bright Beginnings Early Learning Program, \$360 (amount does not include the funds raised by selling notecards at the State Convention)

Layettes of Love, \$210

Little Libraries, children's books

Olivet Presbyterian Church Food Bank, \$215

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Homestead Food Bank, \$310

Center for Victims of Violent Crimes, winter hats, gloves, socks, school supplies and toiletries were collected

In addition, four non-dues revenue activities were coordinated by Projects Chair, Haddie Weber. Last year, these successful ventures raised a total of \$1134.43! (An additional \$130 was raised in donations.)

Enjoy Book, \$460

Yankee Candle, \$151.43

Esther's Candy, \$408

Macy's Shop for a Cause, \$115

Sisters, you should be very proud of these efforts!!!

SPOTLIGHT ON BENTWORTH BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK (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 newsletter, we highlight our **BENTWORTH BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK** project (which is the charity for our September meeting). Hunger isn't just a third world problem. Sixty-two percent of children in the United States go hungry on a daily basis. That number hits home for the children in the Bentworth School District which serves an identified poverty area of our state. Feeding over 200 children each weekend through providing portable foods in a bag is only one aspect of the project. They also: provide school supplies for children in need, put together baskets of food and distribute on a regular basis to families in need, provide some families with complete Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, and collect used prom gowns to provide for young ladies unable to buy a dress so they can attend the senior prom. We collect funds to donate to this worthwhile cause. *Mary Ann Battaglia is our chapter contact for this project.*

**PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
for the ALPHA PHI CHAPTER
of The DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
2015-2017 Biennium**

By Becky Johnen, SAP facilitator

MEMBERSHIP: there was a focus on the retention of members with special activities at meetings; membership in 2015-16 began with 42 active and 2 reserve; 5 active members and 1 reserve member resigned; 3 new members were inducted, ending the year with 40 active and 1 reserve; **2016-17 began with 41 members; no members resigned, one active member moved to reserve, and the Chapter gained 2 new members ending the year with 43 members, 41 active and 2 reserve; at least 50% of the active membership attended meetings with the average for the year at 61%;** ways to attract and recruit new members was a constant focus.

PROGRAMMING: member input was solicited for types of programs and the programs in both years of this plan were varied and well received; social/recreational activities were held outside of meetings with at least 25% of the active membership participating; for the 2016 presidential election, the U.S. Forum Committee Chair provided information on the two major candidates' stands on health and education.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: during the biennium, **the Chapter supported seven community projects**, three of which were new during the years of this plan (Bentworth Blessings in a Backpack, Bright Beginnings Early Learning Program at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, and Little Libraries); in addition to items collected for these projects, **\$1130.25 was raised in 2015-2016 and in 2016-17, \$1465 was raised; total funds raised in the biennium of the plan were \$2595.25; the grant-in-aid award was increased from \$500 to \$750.**

FINANCES: with member dues only covering about 27% of the budget, the Chapter did have several non-dues revenue activities and events to augment the dues-based revenue (**in 2015-16, a total of \$1114.13 was raised; in 2016-17, a total of \$1264.43 was raised - \$1134.43 through activities and \$130 through donations; total for the biennium was \$2378.56**); ways to reduce costs were continually explored; the membership voted to change the size of the red book (to an 8 ½ x 11" binder) which will save up to \$180 annually.

MARKETING: ways to increase the visibility of the chapter were continually explored.

COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: a Chapter website was started (<http://alphaphichapter.weebly.com/contact-us.html> or www.alphaphichapter.weebly.com); at least two newsletters a year were published; the exploration of ways social networking platforms may be of use to us remains ongoing.

TELEPHONE TREE

A new method for the phone tree is being implemented. When a message needs to be sent to all of the Alpha Phi Chapter members, please send an email, text, or call President Sue Mackulin. Donna Watson, who is in charge of the email, will notify those who have email. Louise Biddle, who is in charge of the phone tree, will notify those without email. The red book will contain the phone tree list. Hopefully, all will be reached and notified in a timely fashion.

SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE

The Sunshine Committee sends get well cards, sympathy cards, and birthday cards to our chapter members. This past year, we had a few people who had extensive illnesses or surgeries. Please inform the committee of any illnesses, surgeries or when a special congratulatory note needs to be sent. Birthday cards will be sent each month. Hopefully, the coming year will be a great one for all of our sisters.

Thanks,
Simone

ALPHA PHI CHAPTER

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Pennsylvania State
August, 2017

Dear Member,

August is now here and that reminds us that the new school year will soon start. It is also the time to renew your membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for the 2017-2018 year. The dues amount has not changed: Active - \$85.00 and Reserve - \$40.00.

Please send your check made payable to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society or Alpha Phi Chapter to me:

Donna Shultz
994 Weigles Hill Road
Elizabeth, PA 15037

If you prefer, you could give me the check at the September 9 or October 14 meeting.

It is very important that I receive your check by Monday, October 23 as I am obligated to send our dues to the state treasurer by October 31. Your cooperation in this manner will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address, at my email address of dlsbosslady@aol.com or by phone at 412-384-7894.

Sincerely,

Donna Shultz

NorthEast Regional Conference

by Liz Oskin

The NorthEast Regional Conference was held July 12-14th, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Haddie Weber, Donna Watson and I drove up to attend the event. It was the first Regional Conference that both Donna and I have attended. I truly enjoyed stepping out of our Chapter boundaries, having the opportunity to see the bigger picture of what Delta Kappa Gamma is all about. As the hosting state, Ontario did an outstanding job of organizing the conference.

The opening ceremony included an impressive and moving presentation of flags accompanied by two uniformed Royal Canadian Mounties. Ontario Night entertainment included a wonderful performance by the Karen Schuessler Singers. There were many thought provoking breakout sessions with a wide range of topics. For me, the highlight of the conference was the Impacting the World with Music Banquet held on the last night of the conference. The speaker/performer was Mike Stevens, professional harmonica player. His work as a musician has taken him to the most remote, isolated, fly-in only part of northern Canada. While visiting the area, he was exposed to the serious issue of poverty among the Indigenous community of the region. The community experiences the worst levels of teen suicide in the world. He brought to light the dangerous and often fatal practice of “gas sniffing” among the youth. He has established a charity titled Artscan, which brings instruments to the children of this area with the hopes of instilling a sense of self-expression and promise for the future. Artscan’s website address is: www.artscancircle.ca

Overall, the experience of attending my first regional conference is one that I will always treasure. I am certainly looking forward to future conferences and hope that all of our chapter members will consider attending one in the future!

