

The Alpha Xi Messenger

August 2017



The President's Message



Greetings, Alpha Xi sisters!

As I write this on the first day back for the students of Shaler Area, I wonder at how quickly the summer went by. Now, it's hard to believe we're starting the second year of the biennium. I hope you all had a summer filled with a

balance of fun, adventure, relaxation and reflection.

On the DKG front, summer brought Alpha Alpha State Convention, North Eastern Regional Conference, Alpha Xi Executive Board meeting and two meetings of the multi-chapter planning committee. Look for highlights of NERC and the minutes of the executive board either in the newsletter or on the website.

In June, Melody, Phyllis, Dede and I attended State Convention at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. Friday night, Dede was among the recipients of the Album of Distinction for her awards with Grady Gets Glasses.

Congratulations, Dede, and may you have continued success with Grady and his adventures. After the ceremony, Dede left and we headed to Friday Fling to try our luck. We had some success at the table games, but the auction bidding was out of control, and we left with nothing. (Much like my trips to the casino!)

On Saturday, we attended general session, workshops, the celebration lunch, and the President's banquet. If you've never been to State Conference, please consider going in 2018. It is great to see our counterparts across the state, to connect with friends, and to broaden our professional network. The chapter has some grant money for first-timers to help offset the cost.

Sunday, we saw the installation of the new officers and heard President Barbara Gasperini's state project and vision for her "Circle of DKG." She outlined the state project as a cooperative effort with the Girl Scouts of America. The girls from Daisies to Ambassadors will work to earn a DKG patch. Keeping with a travel theme, Barb has adopted the ship as a logo. She challenges us to work in our DKG Circle of Membership, Friendship, Leadership and Mentorship. How many ships will you board?

Phyllis & Melody were on the road again in July, this time armed with passports to enter Canada. See their article on NERC. I hope they had better luck at the casino than we did at the State auction!

The Program Committee, under the superb leadership of Paulette Hemmings, has been working hard to put together a wonderful year of programs.

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The Alpha Xi Cruise: Join us as we...

CONVENE in an earlier time

The Great Castle Shannon Train
Robbery – Ed Hale
Grazie at the Oxford Athletic Club
Wexford
Wednesday, September 20, 2017

REMEMBER the past

The Vanka Murals Tour – St. Nicholas
Croatian Catholic Church
Millvale / Monte Cello's on Babcock
Thursday, November 2, 2017

USE cooking tips for easy dishes

Farrel and Fisher Cooking Demo
Trinity Lutheran Church – Wexford
Wednesday, December 6, 2017

IMMERSE ourselves in South Africa & Peru

with travel guides Melody & Terry
Shaler North Hills Library - Glenshaw
February 27, 2018

SUBMERSE ourselves in music

Drum Circle with Pat Bauer
Hartwood Café - Glenshaw
Thursday, April 5, 2018

EMBARK on a new biennium

Initiation of new members and
installation of officers
Diamond Run Golf Club – Ohio
Township
Saturday, May 5, 2018

President's Message (cont.)

Following the Circle of DKG and ships, Alpha Xi will CRUISE along starting on Thursday, September 20, as we are schooled in local history by Ed Hale, a retired Keystone Oaks teacher, who will speak about the Great Castle Shannon Bank Robbery. Be sure to get your RSVP in early, and note that it is going to Marg Foster for this meeting only.

I am excited to announce two upcoming opportunities for you to jump on ship, and expand your DKG circle. In November of 2018, we will take part in a Pittsburgh area multi-chapter meeting. At present, there are six local chapters involved: Alpha Upsilon, Theta, Alpha Theta, Alpha Phi, Upsilon and Alpha Xi. Melody and I attended the first planning meeting, and I was also able to attend the second meeting. The third meeting is set for Thursday, February 15, at 6 p.m. in Monroeville at DeNunzio's which will also be the venue for the multi-chapter meeting. If anyone else would like to get involved, please let me know.

The second opportunity on the horizon is the distinct possibility that Pennsylvania will be the venue for the DKG International Convention in 2020! What an exciting time to be a PA member! Dr. Lyn Schmid has been asked to chair the convention, and her pick is Pennsylvania, so they have started the bidding process.

Speaking of bidding...see there is a reason I keep circling back to auctions and casinos....In December, we are going to try something a little different to raise funds for grant-in-aid. Instead of a silent auction, we're having a LIVE auction! Executive board decided on a theme of "Let Us Entertain You." Members are asked to donate either new items for the home kitchen, food goods, baked goods, or homemade entertainment items. So, you could bake a cake, bring your best homemade preserves, purchase a kitchen gadget, or even offer a service, like cooking lunch or an hour of cleaning. Get creative, but keep your donation in the \$10-\$15 range. Remember to bring your money or checkbook to the December 6th meeting. "What will you offer for this whimsical rubber ducky-handled spatula? I have a \$2 bid, do I hear \$4, \$8, \$12. Going once, going twice, SOLD to the lady in the front row in the rubber ducky shirt."

I can't wait to see everyone on September 20th as we embark on our next journey.

In DKG Sisterhood,

Faith Jack

412-303-5443 / faithj40@gmail.com



Please remember that your DKG dues of \$82.00 are due by October 15th. Your check, made out to "Delta Kappa Gamma", can be sent to Marg Foster at 200 Goldsmith Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or brought to the September meeting.



DKG International Emergency Fund
Solely supported by donations, the Emergency Fund helps members with a major loss due to a natural disaster. At NERC, over \$4,900 was donated during the DKG World Luncheon to this fund. Help DKG teachers who have suffered losses from Hurricane Harvey by donating on the link on the home page of the international website!
www.dkg.org

Jared Boxes

Peg Maser, Projects

On Friday, August 4th, Karen Ulrich and I had the pleasure of delivering 40 beautiful Jared Boxes to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Two lovely young volunteers at the hospital met us, transferred the boxes to a cart, and left to deliver them to the Child Life Department. (see photo below) Stephanie Colaberadino, the manager of the Child Life Department, was very pleased to receive our donation and hopes to hear from our chapter again next summer. With that in mind, boxes will be ready for distribution at the December meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church. Any unclaimed after that meeting will be available at the following meeting. We presently have \$20 seed money for the purchase of the boxes. If anyone would prefer to donate to that, instead or in addition to filling a box, please bring your donation to the September or October meeting. Karen and I thank all of you for the enthusiastic way in which you have embraced this project! There will be 40 smiling faces at CHP thanks to you.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

by Shari McGill, Projects



This project was such a winner for us that we elected to try it again. So ladies, get into your closets and start the fall clean out. We will be gathering and sharing once again with the Dress For Success organization in Shadyside. You can bring your "*gently used*" women's clothing to the September or November meeting but leave the bags in your car, until we can load them directly to Shari's car in the parking lot. That will save us a step in the process. If you know anyone who is cleaning out their closets, be sure to tell them about our project, maybe they will donate through us too! And if you miss the fall clean out, we will again do this in the spring collecting in April.

Canadian Hospitality! EH?

DKG women, donned in red sashes and white trillium flowers, welcomed 402 members to NERC (The North East Regional Conference) in Windsor, Ontario – the city which sits across the river from Detroit. Phyllis Jenny and Melody Hannegan represented Alpha Xi of PA.

The conference began with Canada night when we were entertained by a talented choir singing songs of "Love in a Canoe – Canada at 150". Then during the abbreviated schedule (our conference was a day shorter than usual), we were inspired by speakers on the lives of indigenous peoples, on strides in science and engineering education, on the small communities and scenic terrain of the Arctic Circle, and on the work of a harmonica performer who has helped through music many young people in remote, poor areas of Canada.

As well as offering a variety of full-length workshops on numerous subjects, academic and avocational, 10-minute Takeaways gave us snippets of information. One gave background on the lovely garden and sculpture garden along the river and across from our conference center (Caesar's) while another offered tips for decluttering.

At the World Luncheon, Dr. Lyn Schmid from PA was presented with the international achievement award – our organization's highest honor. And as the conference wound down, we received an invitation to attend the International Convention in our birth city of Austin, Texas next summer. Consider attending: it's a great opportunity to connect with educators from throughout the world and enjoy your membership on a new level!

(By the way Faith, Melody won \$150 Canadian in the casino one night. An unusual feat!)



2017-2018 PROGRAMS

As the summer is winding down, you may be wondering what DKG programs lie ahead for this year! As educators, we'll happily be learning a great deal-about two different kinds of local history, as well as the exotic locales of South Africa and Peru! Of course, we all love to eat and try new recipes, so we're thrilled that two of our members will share their cooking knowledge and expertise with us! We'll also get to enjoy an interactive meeting where we will immerse ourselves in music through a drum circle. To conclude our year's programs, we will welcome new members and officers as we continue to move forward on our chapter's "CRUISE!" We hope that you'll be able to join us for the fun!

The Program Committee:
Paulette Hemmings, Chair
Faith Jack
Melody Hannegan
Phyllis Jenny
Terry Klein

In Memoriam Alice Smolkovich

Alice became a member of Delta Kappa Gamma in 1965 and was a loyal and active leader in our chapter. She served as President from 1988-90. During her term, she tried to foster committee work and encourage members to get to know each other better. Alice was a recipient of a state scholarship in 1974 and served on the Alpha Alpha World Fellowship Committee from 1989-1991. Melody Hannegan remembers Alice as always offering positive feedback and support to the chapter leadership. She proudly shared her love of her heritage and its music. We'll miss her sweet smiles!

Meeting Minutes

Initiation Meeting, May 4, 2017; 5:30 P.M.

**Cranberry Sample Schoolhouse and Cranberry Library
24 present**

The Initiation Ceremony began at 5:30 P.M., led by Past President Melody Hannegan. Second Vice President Sandy Werderich introduced the three initiates: Judy Horne (Shaler Area, retired) and Norma Miller (Allegheny Valley, retired)—both sponsored by Sandy Werderich—and Jeanne Vendeland (Avonworth, retired), sponsored by Paulette Hemmings. President Faith Jack and Corresponding Secretary Peg Maser also took parts in the ceremony.

After the ceremony, President of the Cranberry Township Historical Society Roy Wagner told us the history of the building.

We then moved to a room in the library building for the rest of the evening. Faith opened the business meeting at 6:15. Sallie Fischer read the Inspiration, "The Soul of a Child". Ellen Rodwick sold raffle tickets for the summer basket donated by Nancy Penney.

Minutes from the March 4 Tri-Chapter business meeting were approved as printed in the April newsletter.

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minutes (cont. from page 5)

Peg Maser read four notes: Nu Chapter for the donation in memory of Pat Shedlock, State President Tracey Dusch's Projects Chair, Shari McGill thanking everyone for cards and get well prayers, Urban Impact Education Team for our donation of books for their reading program, and from State President Tracey Dusch thanking us for our hospitality during her visit. Peg also sent notes related to the Tri-chapter meeting, to Linda Peffer, to Shari McGill, and to Phyllis Jenny.

Treasurer Marg Foster reported a balance on hand of \$4,085.30, which includes a CD that was not renewed since interest rates are so low.

Paulette Hemmings, First Vice President and Program Chair announced members of the Program Committee and discussed an offer we got for another food tour of Brookline or the Strip District at half price. Watch for an e-mail blast in the future. Terry Klein spoke about outings that may be offered in the future.

Faith discussed revealing ourselves to our Secret Sister. She will send a survey regarding the program, which we tried this year for the first time.

The Standing Rules committee: Melody Hannegan discussed three changes that the committee recommended:

1. Voting for new members (Oral vote; paper ballot if there is not a clear distinction)
2. Sharing expenses for the State President's visits—all chapters involved should contribute equally
3. Budgeting for non-member presenters to remain at \$300 per year

Melissa Consentino-Poruben seconded the motion from the committee to accept the changes to the Standing Rules; motion carried.

Faith reviewed upcoming state and regional meetings. Ellen Rodwick invited us to hold a winter meeting at her new condo in Naples, FL. Phyllis Jenny reported that Marilyn Bushnell, a former chapter member passed away last month in Texas. Faith thanked everyone for their support this year. Karen Ulrich won the raffle basket.

Our program was presented by Penn State Master Gardener Bill Goff on "Perennials in the Garden: Three Seasons of Color." Our evening ended at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ulrich for Shari McGill

Shhhhh! I'm your Secret Sister!

This year, secret sister participation will be voluntary. If you want to have and be a secret sister please email Phyllis Jenny, Social Chair, at pljenny@comcast.net. She will compile the list for names to be drawn at the September meeting!

Have an idea for an outing? Terry will help you can plan it!



Nominations Committee, 1st Report
Melody Hannegan, Chair

At our February meeting, we will be voting on a slate of officers for the 2018-2020 biennium. We already know that after many years of service, Paulette Hemmings will be stepping down as First Vice President. We thank her for her strong leadership. She has provided the following job description:
Are you a person with ideas for meetings that are creative yet educational? Are you organized and detail-oriented? Do you have an “event planner” personality, able to work on all of the necessary details of our meetings months ahead of time? Then you’re a great candidate for First Vice President in charge of our chapter’s programs.

ALPHA XI MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 20TH
“The Great Castle Shannon Bank Robbery”

At our first meeting of the year we will learn about a significant but relatively unknown event in our local history, which has recently been featured in local publications. In 1917 the sleepy mining town of Castle Shannon erupted in violence as four desperadoes robbed the town’s only bank and found themselves caught in a shootout with the townspeople. Retired Keystone Oaks school teacher, Ed Hale, will tell us how the holdup was planned, executed and partly foiled. As Ed describes it, “It sounds like something out of *True Grit!*” Based on his extensive research of court documents, period newspapers, and even an eyewitness interview, this story rivals other well-known tales from the Wild West! This is a fascinating presentation that you won’t want to miss!

*NOTE: For this meeting, you will mail your reservation form and check to Marg Foster because I will be out of town that week. Once Marg receives everyone’s checks, she will call the restaurant on September 12 with our final total.



Dede and Grady accept the Album of Distinction Award; Melody displays our certificates for Newsletters and Website. Faith, Phyllis and Melody sit at the PA birthday luncheon.



These well-fed groups attended the food tours in Bloomfield (left) and Brookline (right). Phyllis with the Canadian Royal Mounties at NERC.



**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
GRAZIE RESTAURANT
OXFORD ATHLETIC CLUB
100 VILLAGE RUN DRIVE
WEXFORD, PA 15090**

PROGRAM:

As we begin to “**CRUISE**” through our year, the “**C**” will **CARRY** us back in time as we hear about a unique part of Pittsburgh’s history, “The Great Castle Shannon Bank Robbery!”

SCHEDULE:

Social Time 4:45-5:00
Business Meeting 5:00-6:00
Buffet 6:00-6:45
Presentation 6:45-8:00

BUFFET:

Tossed Salad and Dressings
Stuffed Chicken Breast, Salmon
Green Beans, Baby Baked Potatoes
Rolls and Butter
Beverages, Cake

COST: \$21.30 per person

Reservation and payment due by Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Payment: Check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, sent to:

Margaret Foster (*for this meeting only*)

200 Goldsmith Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Questions? Contact Marg at 412-486-7672 or margfoster4@gmail.com

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR GUEST’S NAME: _____

ANY PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL NEWS THAT YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR MEMBERS: