

# The Alpha Xi Messenger



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Pennsylvania State Organization

March, 2024

## The President's Message



### PRIDE IN OUR ALPHA XI MEMBERS

Due to my health issues over the past year, I have appreciated our chapter members taking on a more active role. Our members have:

- Sold tickets for raffle baskets
- Donated items for projects and for raffle baskets
- Written an article for the *Keystonian*
- Taken photographs and handled correspondence
- Volunteered to share a personal inspiration with our members
- Made arrangements for our members' dinners and programs
- Purchased tickets to support a raffle
- Taken meeting minutes; organized and sent out our newsletter
- Handled our chapter's finances and budget
- Organized tributes for members whom we lost last year
- Worked collaboratively with members from other chapters
- Shared chapter project and program ideas with others
- Organized enrichment grants to aid neighboring teachers and their students
- Volunteered to present a meeting program
- Supported and attended our state convention



You have volunteered your time, talents, and resources! You have shared your passions, and helped others!  
**YOU ARE APPRECIATED!!**

Thanks so much for all you do, Paulette

### The 2023-2024 Program Calendar – Remaining Meetings

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Saturday, April 27, 2024	The Springfield Grill in Seven Fields	Celebration of Life Ceremony Musical Performance – Josh Morton, Duquesne University, violin	Luncheon
Saturday, May 18, 2024	South Hills Country Club Brownsville Road	State President Royce Boyd installation of chapter elected officers Alpha Phi, Alpha Xi, and Theta	Luncheon

**Newsletter Editor and Web Manager:** *Melody Hannegan*  
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## The Program Committee

Phyllis Jenny, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Committee Chair

The 5th meeting of the year is on Saturday, April 27 at the Springfield Grille. Our presenter will be Duquesne University student and 2023 North Allegheny graduate, violin musician, Joshua Morton. Josh will entertain us with various musical selections ranging from Disney tunes to old time fiddling. We have not had a music program at one of our meetings for a long time, and I hope everyone enjoys Josh's musical presentation.

In addition to our lunch, business meeting, and program, we will have the celebration of life honoring Dottie, Dede, Aleida, and Barbara. Family members of those being honored will also be in attendance.

We have use of the private room until 3:30. Although the doors open at noon, set up of the private room may not permit us to be in there until shortly before 12:30. Try not to arrive too early. We won't have much time for socializing, but we will have an enjoyable and meaningful time together as we listen to music, enjoy a fine lunch, and remember old friends who are no longer with us.

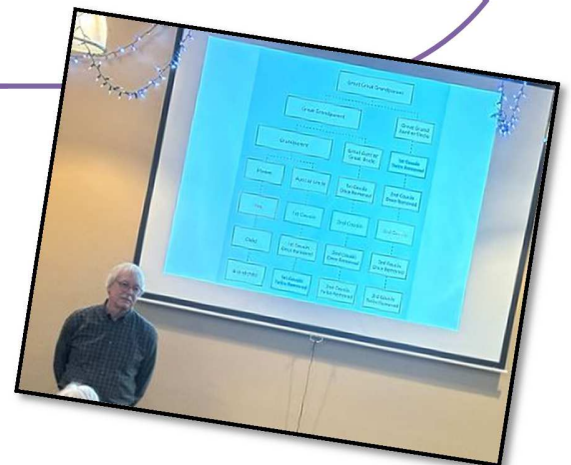
I hope you are also planning to attend the Tri-Chapter meeting on May 18 at the South Hills Country Club. This is an opportunity to meet the state President and witness the installation of our chapter's officers for the next biennium. In addition, this is a chance to meet and share with other DKG women.

Finally, please take advantage of attending some portion of the State Convention June 19-21 at the Marriott North in Cranberry. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a convention without the need to travel across the state and to have the expense of a hotel room. If you plan to attend one day, I suggest that day would be Thursday, June 20. Thursday includes a General Session, workshops, Celebration Luncheon, raffle basket ticket drawing, and the President's Banquet. Information and registration forms are in the *Keystonian*.

Our chapter has many opportunities over the next three months. I'm hoping to see many of you participating in these informative and important activities.

*The April Meeting is brought to you by the North Allegheny teachers!*

*March's presenter, Carleton Young, took us on the journey of his genealogy. We all should have a better understanding of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3-times removed cousins, etc.*



## Membership / Ways and Means Committee

Jeanne Vendeland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

At our last meeting we were honored to meet two of our recent grant recipients, Kerri Ruffennach and Kate Elder.

Kerri, from North Allegheny, will be using her grant to subscribe to two online vocabulary enrichment learning tools called Goose Chase and Gimkit for her fifth-grade ELA classroom.

Kate's project involves Shaler Area High School students mentoring her elementary students through discussions of a work of fiction, *Fish in a Tree*.

Our third recipient, Meredith France, from the North Hills School District, was not able to attend the meeting. She plans to purchase organizing materials for her fourth-grade classroom including classroom mailboxes, clipboards, and clipboard carriers. Thank you to all who contributed to the TEG fund through your donations and support.



*Kerri (above) and Kate (below) explaining how their grants assist their students.*



## TO DO LIST

- ✓ Mail RSVP and check for the April meeting 3-4 days BEFORE the due date (April 18<sup>th</sup>)
- ✓ Bring money or cleaning products to April meeting for the raffle basket
- ✓ Donate items to Dress For Success – final collection of the year in April
- ✓ Gather items illustrating your hobbies or interests for display at Tri-chapter Meeting – can be brought to the April meeting, if not able to attend in May
- ✓ Mail RSVP form and check for Tri-chapter Meeting 4-5 days BEFORE the due date (May 1<sup>st</sup>)
- ✓ Register for the State Convention before April 28
- ✓ Pay dues to Barb MacDonald before June 15

## DUES REMINDER

Barb MacDonald, Treasurer

Dues will remain the same for 2024-25; they will be \$85 for active members and \$35 for reserve members.

They are due to me by **June 15**.

Checks should be made out to Delta Kappa Gamma. If you have any questions, please email, or call me. Please mail me your checks or give them to me at the April or May meeting.

## STATE CONVENTION ALPHA XI RAFFLE BASKET

Barbara MacDonald - Organizer

Thank you to all who have already contributed to the Cleaning Supplies Basket – it's quite full and I still have a few dollars left to spend on it. I will make a list of things that I have already received and send it out late in April. I don't want anyone to feel left out. So, if you have NOT contributed, feel free to bring your favorite product or money donation to our April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Small sizes are great since this basket could be quite heavy.

### In Memoriam

We regret to inform you of the passing of Barbara Israel, reserve member and retired Shaler teacher on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to her husband and to Marg Foster, her cousin.



*Barb (with Marg and with Sandy) enjoying a couple of hands-on meetings. The picture on the right was taken at our meeting days before the pandemic shutdown!*



Many thanks for your **Dress For Success** donations. As you switch out the winter wardrobe for summer – yes, that should happen sooner than later – please consider filling Jade's trunk again at the April meeting! Pictured: Shari McGill and Jeanne Keys

What are the chances? Jeanne Keys and Jeanne Vendeland both won raffle prizes. The beautiful stained glass pieces were donated by Karen Klingman and had been created by Karen's late husband, Bob!



# Member News

Bionic DKG Women are walking on new knees: wishing **Karen Klingman** and **Paulette Hemmings** speedy recovery.



**Dede Faltot Rittman Memorial Golf Outing**  
 Proceeds to benefit the  
**NORTH ALEXANDRIA FOUNDATION**  
 Dede Rittman Classroom Grant

**Save the Date** 18 holes of golf, dinner, contests and prizes  
**September 30, 2024**

**Connoquenessing Country Club** More details this summer

**Not a golfer?** Please join us for dinner after the golf round to reminisce with Dede's family and friends. Time and details to follow.

On her trip to Morocco, **Sandy Werderitch** and her husband experienced a new (and ancient) mode of transportation!

Pat Bauer's skill at drumming is taking her to new places and introducing her to new drummers. Last year in Hawaii, she met this woman from Japan who spoke no English; it's true that music is the global language. In March, she earned her REMO Health Rhythms training in Prescott, AZ. After the DCFG (Drum Circle Facilitator's Guild) conference, Pat was appointed secretary for the Guild which is a national organization.

