



DKG International

ALPHA PHI CHAPTER – ALPHA ALPHA STATE PA– Spring Issue Number Three

Alphie-Gram Newsletter

“Sharing some tweets with you”

Good Day Sisters of Alpha Phi,

Several weeks ago, I was filled with hope that spring would be arriving soon when I spotted a mother robin building a new nest in a tall shrub right outside my bedroom window. This is the third year in a row that a robin has built a nest outside that window.

A couple weeks later, I began to be awakened by the sound of little chirps emanating from that nest **AT 5:30AM**. Those weak sounds have grown into loud and deep chirps, I assume, demanding food at that early hour. However, now the chirping has stopped so I figured the little birds have flown the coup and the nest sits empty. I have seen young robins now walking around in my front yard whom I assume are the little alarm clocks I heard earlier in the month of March. So, another harbinger of spring has come and moved on and the official arrival of spring has prevailed.

Sometimes changes occur around us of which we may not be aware. With the tough days of winter we have had this year, I was looking forward to the changes of which I would be aware in the climate and weather to motivate me to get out of those winter doldrums. Sunny warm days are inspiring to me to the point I have been spring cleaning my home. Now there's something you don't see every day!!!

There are a few changes that are occurring that we must make note for Alpha Phi sisters. In preparation for next year's Nominations Committee's work, I have added an additional person to the committee. Our current members are Louise Biddle, Suzanne Mackulin, Simone Miller, and Jan Kusserow. I have asked Dr. Mary Frances Archey to join the Nominations Committee since she is now retired and will have time to work with the

committee. I thought she might need something to keep her busy. Now all of us who are retired know that she will be busier than ever and wonder how she ever had time to go to work as so many of us feel. Mary Frances has agreed to joining the committee and I thank her for honoring my request.

This past year we have had meetings on different Saturdays of the months in which we gather. Following approval of dates at the Executive Board planning meeting, Donna Shultz has made the arrangements with the Youghiogheny Country Club for our meetings to be on the first Saturdays of each of the months we meet. Therefore, our meetings for the 2019-2020 year of Alpha Phi will be:

- **SEPTEMBER 7, 2019**
- **OCTOBER 5, 2019**
- **NOVEMBER 2, 2019**
- **MARCH 7, 2020**
- **APRIL 4, 2020**
- **MAY 2, 2020**

Thank you, Donna, for taking care of this matter for us.

The Delta Kappa Gamma PA State convention is being held at Penn State University on June 14-16. There are nine sisters who will be attending this year. If you wish to go, please send in your reservation and inform Haddie or me. Alpha Phi has arranged for four rooms to be reserved for our members.

One more item that I wish to share with you. I had not chosen a mission for my presidency this past year. Although I am very serious about supporting our local charities to assist the families and children in our region, I recently began exploring some options where we might address a more international focus on assisting children on a more global stage as a mission for my biennium. To affirm that I was on the right track to pursue such a venture, I coincidentally received a message from Barbara Gasperini to review a request from the Alpha Beta chapter to provide support and resources for their Schools for Africa project in which they have been heavily engaged for several years. After reviewing the advanced reading materials explaining the project, I have decided to bring the idea forward to you. You will receive materials shortly for your review and I would like to take a vote on this initiative at the May meeting. We need to brainstorm ideas on how to raise

some funds for this project. I have reviewed this with the Executive Board, and they would like this project to be presented to the membership. Thank you in advance for giving thought to this idea.

I am wishing you all warm spring days with increasing daylight hours as you witness the awakening of the earth's treasures around us. Live in and enjoy the daily moments. Happy Spring to all!

BENTWORTH BLESSINGS

By Mary Anne Battaglia



Mary Anne Battaglia presenting the check to Suzanne Macik, principal of Bentworth Elementary School

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It was with great pride that I was able to return to Bentworth Elementary School to present our Alpha Phi check to Ms. Suzanne Macik, principal. Our donation this fall was the most we have ever given to this project. Ms. Macik was astonished at the generosity of our Society and expressed her utmost thanks for the gift. She then sent the check on to the parent volunteer who is the leader of the project whom I was able to meet.

In addition, while working on another project at the Bentworth Middle School under the leadership of David Schreiber, I was taken into the private room by the president of the teacher's union, with whom I had worked when I was serving the

district as Acting Assistant Superintendent. In the room are shelving units filled with food and other household supplies which the middle school students can access at any time when in need. There are two doors at opposite ends of the room through which the students can enter without people really noticing them. They are permitted to gather supplies if they are hungry during the day and they also may take home hygiene or cleaning supplies to wash clothes. There is a wide variety of goods.

The Bentworth Blessings project is connected to the national initiative and continues to receive donations from corporations, foundations, fundraisers and individuals. The very active food bank is providing needy families on a monthly basis with food and supplies as well.

I want to thank my Sisters of Alpha Phi for your generous support of such a local worthy cause.



ON MY HONOR

By Mary Anne Battaglia Ed.D



From the moment I met the Girl Scouts from Troop 56148 with their leader, Mrs. Laura Teufel, I knew we had a group of middle school young ladies who were up for the challenge. That challenge was given to all the DKG chapters in Pennsylvania by our state president, Barbara Gasperini. As part of her office, she had initiated a project which joined DKG PA State with the Girl Scouts organization in Pennsylvania. The project connected educators (both retired and in service) with members of our communities.

We asked a Girl Scout troop to join us in the project which entailed them completing nine various short assignments and then receiving a badge from us thus linking Alpha Phi Chapter and the young girls in a troop in a community. Troop 56148 was selected because my granddaughter, Penelope was in the troop. It was the right choice. The Girl Scouts were eager to participate in the project to earn a different type of badge. The girls who participated were Julia T., Molly, Penelope, Elsa, Lizzie, Julia C., and Alexa.

A written curriculum was distributed to the troop which outlined the different levels of Girls Scouts troops and the number of items on which they had to work to complete their badge requirements. I met with the Girl Scouts to describe our International Society and our local chapter in the fall. Troop 56148 members com-

pleted the activities which included learning the DKG song, learning the history of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, DKG Founder, and interviewing a professional teacher. They chose the mother of the Girl Scout leader. Alpha Phi Sister Becky Johnen prepared certificates with the badges and presented them to two of the scouts who were able to attend, Molly and Julia T. The Girl Scouts were introduced to our two oldest members, Lillian Lutz and Louise Biddle who continue to be active educators in our chapter. Mrs. Teufel and the Girl Scouts joined us at lunch. At the close of the meeting, the Girl Scouts sang the DKG song with us.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Judy Bookhammer
1st Vice President

PROGRAM: REVIEW AND PREVIEWS



Eleanor Roosevelt, a portrayal, was the focus of the March DKG Program. Janet Robb, retired McKeesport Area High School Speech and Forensics teacher, recounted, from Eleanor's perspective, the challenges and accomplishments of one of the most prominent First Ladies. Eleanor's early years were marked by the death of both parents when she was very young. Her reticent personality was changed when she was enrolled at age 15 at the Allenwood Academy in London and was taken under the wing of headmistress Marie Souvestre. How she managed the trauma of learning of her husband's affair with the lovely Lucy Mercer was a poignant part of the presentation. Her entry into public life was the beginning of a new role for First Ladies and while her tenacious efforts to serve others often placed her in controversial situations, she held firm to her beliefs. As the first appointed delegate to the United Nations she did not dispute when given, by her male counterparts, what they felt was a minor assignment that turned out to be an assignment as the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights. Through Janet's presentation we were able to feel the sadness that appeared in various ways throughout Eleanor's life while at the same time experiencing admiration for her tenacity and commitment to service.



Mary Anne Battaglia and
Janet Robb

APRIL REVIEW

Jim Uhrig, a double lung transplant, shared his journey through the transplant process at our April meeting. In addition to sharing his personal journey he describe how he wrote *Partners4Life*, a book that honors his donor and the connection he feels to her and her family. He also shared a connection to P. Buckley Moss, the artist about whom we learned at our first meeting this year. Note that April is Organ Donor Month.

MAY PREVIEW

In May we will “take a journey” to Normandy to gain personal insights into the heroism and sacrifices of the Normandy invasion...on the “eve” of its 75th Anniversary.

MEMBERSHIP MUSINGS

By Becky Johnen, 2nd VP

GRANT-IN-AID: This year’s grant-in-aid recipient will come from the West Mifflin Area High School. Reviewing applications from this year’s applicants will be Zoe Ahktar, Mary Frances Archey, Pam Klein, Simone Miller, LuAnn Sebastian, and Mary Anne Smith.

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to the membership for approving the motion to offer two \$750 grant-in-aid awards (as long as there are sufficient funds), beginning in 2019-2020, to one student in two different districts from our Chapter’s rotational schedule: Avonworth, Bentworth (our 2019-2020 target districts), Canon-Macmillan, Clairton, E. Allegheny, Elizabeth Forward, McKeesport, Montour, Norwin, W. Jefferson Hills, and West Mifflin.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

By Becky Johnen, SAP Facilitator

Work has begun on our plan for 2019-2021. At the March 2 meeting, sisters responding to the question about the biggest challenge facing our chapter unanimously indicated membership. From recruiting (especially younger teachers), retaining, and engaging our current members more in chapter projects and committees, it appears as if objectives and activities related to membership will be the priority in the plan.

Members' visions for the chapter include:

- Growing and trying to get younger members to join
- Doubling the membership
- Continuing to grow in membership and attendance
- Having members more involved
- Gathering input from younger people
- Increasing our exposure
- Mentoring new teachers; supporting future teachers
- Offering timely program topics
- Interesting meetings with excellent speakers
- Continuing to fund our current charities and grant-in-aid award
- Expanding out of regular meeting activities
- Supporting organizations concerning education
- Supporting children at an early age as well as high school to keep interest in education
- Continuing to improve in all areas
- Participating more in community educational projects
- Having more diverse/various activities that provide something for everyone
- Expanding our impact beyond the membership

A draft of the plan's goals and objectives will be shared at the May meeting.

COLLECTION OF DUES IS CHANGING FOR THE 2019-2020 YEAR

Donna Shultz
Treasurer

The time frame for paying dues will change to align with the fiscal year. The membership year is July 1 to June 30. Commencing in June, 2019, a chapter member shall pay annual dues and fees and given to the chapter treasurer, Donna Shultz, on Saturday, May 18, 2019 — the last chapter meeting of the year.

The dues amount has not changed: Active - \$85.00 and Reserve - \$40.00. Your support enables international, state and local projects to move forward and our Purposes to be fulfilled. We value you and appreciate having you in our chapter of key women educators.

If you cannot attend at the meeting in May, then please send your check payable to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society or Alpha Phi Chapter to:

Donna Shultz
994 Weigles Hill Road
Elizabeth, PA 15037

The new change in collecting dues is necessary in order that dues for the 2019-2020 year are sent to the state treasurer **before June 30, 2019**. Your cooperation in this manner will be greatly appreciated.

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

Celebrate Spring -Spring Fling

Twenty members and friends of Alpha Phi put a spring back into their step by attending the annual Garden Club of Munhall's Spring Fling. It was a beautiful spring day and all had a delightful time enjoying the food and the fellowship at the South Hills Country Club on Saturday, April 6th. Thank you, Haddie Weber, for planning such a great event which lifted our spirits

Mary Anne

