



BETA EPSILON – WINTER 2023



As we enter the holiday season, many of us look back at the year with fond memories, resolutions, and plans. Our chapter is the same. So much was accomplished by our group this year. We survived our first music bingo with great success! We had a wonderful craft night and a casino trip, (yes, we will go again). Scholarship updates, packing bags, bingo with a chapter sister and other residents, and generous donations to so many causes were also completed. Our chapter standing rules are being updated and recruitment events are being planned too. We continued the work of the chapter with our Pre K lesson bags and the ballot of officers for the upcoming year. We added new members and made plans for the future. Once again, we ended the year with a holiday celebration and a final secret sister exchange.

Unfortunately, we lost two sisters, Donna Depto and Evelyn Varner. We must always remember the beginnings for DKG and be thankful for the dedication of the members who paved the road for us. As we know from our history, they did not have an easy task but stayed determined and dedicated. Let us continue to do the same in memory of them and other sisters. The work we do is too important and special for all who we serve, our fellow sisters, educators and children.

With the changes in education, our participation in DKG activities is more important now than ever. We must support educators and encourage new teachers to join us. I feel comfortable and confident that together we will make a

difference while serving our communities and growing personally, locally and globally.

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's. I want you to know that I am so thankful that you are a part of Beta Epsilon and that you greatly add to my life personally and I smile when I think of all of you.

May God bless you this holiday season and always.

Until we meet again.

Veronica

Updates from President Royce:

At the International level:

- The 2022-24 Administrative Board met last week, and many society business items were discussed and recommendations made. One of the items discussed at the meeting was the review of the final report from Avenue M. The report included an executive summary and recommendations which the Board and the International Membership and Expansion Committee will provide in detail and future action. Becky Johnen, PA's own is a member of that committee. I know she will work hard to help all of us understand the 103-page document. If you are interested in reading the report it can be found on the DKG website.
- Another item resulting from this meeting was the assignment of international guests to state conventions. We requested Cyndy Moore, member-at-large from British Columbia. She will be joining us in Pittsburgh. Cyndy has a variety of experiences she will be sharing with us.
- Finally, the best news from the International Nomination Committee is Eileen Little, Immediate Past PA President, has been nominated for the position of Northeast Regional Director for the next biennium. We know she will do a fabulous job!

From PA State level:

- Please use this email for Royce: royceaboyd@outlook.com.
- At a communication meeting, it was brought to my attention that I might need to clarify the new format of the Keystoneian versus what is postable to the website. The Keystoneian is PA's newsletter. Information in each edition is news or information moving the state forward. Posted on the website will be chapter newsletters. Also posted on the website under Chapter News will be information to be shared about a Chapter event.
- Convention planning has begun. The team met on November 6th and 7th in Pittsburgh. Many decisions were made so that we can have an outstanding convention. We are looking for workshop presenters, as well as Nibbles and Network ideas. Start looking in your chapter for AOD honorees, Rose Bud candidates, and Nancy Grove Visionary Award potential recipients. Plan to attend and enjoy, learn with members from around the state.

Education Excellence Committee Update

* We completed 10 Preschool kits for distribution. Preschools include: Forest Hills, Ferndale, Penn Cambria, Portage, Greater Johnstown Elem, Washington and Jefferson, Claysburg, Bellwood, Frankstown and Hollidaysburg YMCA. We based this year's project on the books of *The Snowy Day* and *101 Dalmations*.

* We will continue our nurse's hygiene distribution in the spring. Please bring your hygiene items to the upcoming meeting and events. Much appreciated. Items needed include: shampoo/conditioner, individual toothbrushes/toothpaste, bars of soap, shower gel/scrubbies, comb/brush sets, pads/tampons, small packs of tissues, men/women's deodorant, hand sanitizer.

*We will be contributing to the Cambria County Backpack Project this year through on-site packing at the Learning Lamp, Bedford Street in Johnstown This is our chapter's focus within the community.

*This committee would like to thank the chapter members for all your donations and continued support. We could not have succeeded without you!

In Sisterhood,

Your Committee of Ann Pastovic, Melanie Dudak and Cindy McCombie

Forest Bathing



Not what you are thinking... I attended the Zoom session on Forest Bathing and it was very informative. It is something that we could consider for an activity here at our farm. Very basically, it is a mindful and relaxed walk in the outdoors, covering about a mile in two hours. Do a little research and let me know if you are interested.

New member recruitment

As you, know we are working to organize an event for member recruitment. There will be a Zoom in the future to get the details in place. I am also working on a brochure and business card that we could share with teachers who may be interested.

Book Club

Following the recruitment event, we are starting a book club. More details to come.

From DKG PA State Organization:

In case you missed it. The link may not work, but you can copy and paste.

Pennsylvania State Organization

The Winter 2023 *Keystonian* is now available online at the state website. Click on the link below to read this edition!

[Winter 2023 Keystonian](#)

Sue Allen, IT Specialist for DKG PA State Organization

[View our state website!](#)

Social Activities



Friendly Reminders:

Save your plastic bags and double them for the backpack project.

Review the list of hygiene items that we are collecting.

Watch for upcoming Zoom meetings

Next Meeting is a Tea Party at St Michael's church. More information will be coming.

Bi chapter meeting details will also be sent when available. It will be in State College this year.

Check your calendars for attending the State convention.

Stay warm and safe!