

BETA THETA CHATTA AND NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of Beta Theta for electing me to serve as the President for the 2020-2022 Biennium. Although this will be a challenging time due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I'm sure our chapter will "Move Forward" due to the dedication, creativity and hard-work of our members. We have encountered

obstacles in our careers and managed to survive and thrive. This is just one more challenge!

By now you should have received the post cards from Linda Geeseman listing the dates and times for our business, cottage, and book club meetings. We are planning to use virtual technology for meetings when we are unable to gather outside. Please mark the dates on your calendars and plan to attend. As our state president, Eileen Little, says, "You Have A Voice" and every member has important contributions to share. We welcome them all!

During our first meeting, on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 9:30 AM, we will be installing our new officers, inducting three new members and conducting our business meeting. This will be a very informal meeting held outside in my yard. While we are unable to share food, we can share conversation while practicing social distancing and wearing a mask. It will be good to see everyone again. Please plan to attend.

A new initiative will be the emailing of our 2020-2022 yearbook. You should be receiving the yearbook a few days before our September meeting. Members who do not have an email address may pick up their yearbook at the meeting. Reserve members will receive their yearbooks through the mail. This new delivery system will save money on paper and move our chapter into the 21st century.

I look forward to this biennium and many new endeavors. STEM education, especially for women, is gaining momentum and expanding in the schools. I am hoping our chapter can develop some lessons or programs to share with current educators. I would like to see our membership increase, especially among those currently in the workplace. There are so many DKG scholarships available to educators as they pursue advanced degrees. It would be a shame for them to

be wasted. And lastly, I am hoping to help everyone stay connected and conduct business through Zoom or Google Meet. Hope you join me to meet these challenges by sharing your ideas and solutions!

Stephany

Welcome Back Meeting

Saturday, September 19, 2020

9:30 AM at the home of Stephany Davidson

Address can be found in the yearbook

Plan to join us as we install our new officers and induct several new members.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a beverage and wear a mask.

We want to keep everyone safe during this Covid-19 epidemic, so we will be following the current safety guidelines.

Reminder: Please bring your donations of school supplies and "Books for Kids".

Rain Date: Saturday, September 26 at 9:30 AM





Increasing Your Awareness Voicing Your Concerns

Three Sisters statue in Seneca Falls, NY (Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Amelia Bloomer)

Women hit hard by COVID-19

We are on the front lines of the fight against the virus.

We are 78% of all healthcare & social assistance workers.

We are 77% of all hospital employees.

Primary responsibility for at-home work and children needing educational support is generally placed on women.

Women are most likely to be laid off or given shorter hours due to the Coronavirus crisis.

We educators know that public schools, serving 50 million students, also provide meals, health, and social support. The nation saw these services, in addition to instruction, as necessary when states began closing public school systems last spring.

In April, the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act was signed into law.

The \$13.5 billion in emergency funding for K-12 schools will initially go to states, but at least 90% must be passed along to school districts via Title 1 programs.

This federal funding will not be enough to spare school districts painful budget cuts. America's public schools will need \$70 billion for three consecutive years to avoid cuts such as teacher layoffs.

Betsy DeVos has set aside \$300 million of the billions in coronavirus aid to promote voucher programs and advance privatization of schools. Representative Rosa DeLauro, chair of the HR subcommittee overseeing education appropriations, has written in opposition.

Matt Barnum. "DeVos to states: For extra relief money, create a virtual school or voucher-like program." *Chalkbeat*. April 27, 2020
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/2020/4/27/21239017/betsy-devos-coronavirus-states-grants-vouchers-virtual-schools>

"Rep. DeLauro Criticizes Betsy DeVos for Using Coronavirus Relief Funds to Promote Vouchers." *Diane Ravitch's blog*. April 27, 2020
<https://dianeravitch.net/2020/04/27/rep-delauro-criticizes-betsy-devos-for-using-coronavirus-relief-funds-to-promote-ouches/>

DKG sisters are being encouraged to **move beyond the what was** and **focus on the what will be**. Now is the time to have legislature return to issues that affect the everyday American. We as educators need to use a creative approach to instruction and assistance for the children of America. We are on the precipice of changing the future. Our future is exciting, as creativity and thinking outside the box will assist all in shaping not only legislation but our future.

You may use the information here to assist you in navigating not only your future but the future of all of us.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertglazer/2020/04/01/covid-19-will-permanently-change-the-way-every-generation-lives-heres-how/#1db9106d493b>

"Step out of the history that is holding you back. Step into the new story you are willing to create." - Oprah Winfrey



Opinion:

Postcards that matter

Write your senators regarding promoting any of the bills listed. For every 5 constituents they hear from action is taken.



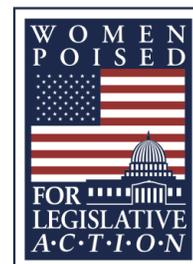
Now that most of us are sequestered it might be that opportunity for you to pursue a legislative issue that you are concerned about. Connecting with your legislators during Covid-19 has generated new challenges. Email messages and connecting to the

legislator's website messages have now taken priority. Contact to local offices and District offices for Congress often generates quicker responses. More than ever, your physical address and area code are factors in receiving responses from these offices. These offices will respond to phone calls and emails. Mailing postcards is still a way to address concerns but be aware that many are working remotely. Information regarding your legislators can be found at congress.gov and local county, city and town websites.

To learn more about your legislators, what committees they serve on, floor proceedings and what issues they are supporting, use these links: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives and <http://www.senate.gov/> members of the U.S. Senate. White House 1-202-456-1111.

VOICE YOUR OPINION

Information supplied here is intended to inform you of pending legislation and issues related to women, children, and education. Our intent is to provide you with information to assist you in making an independent decision on the issues and having the option to contact your Legislator regarding your stance.



Message from Our State President

Eileen Little has asked all chapters to refrain from using any form of contact information in their newsletters. This includes email addresses, phone numbers and home addresses. By omitting the contact information, we protect the privacy of all members of DKG. Should you need to contact Beta Theta members their information is available in the yearbook. Contact information for all state and international members is available on their respective websites and is protected. I will be sharing the website addresses at our September business meeting



Just a reminder to bring gently used books to each of our meetings!

TREASURER UPDATE

A big thanks to all of you for paying your dues. I received many notes that I will share with you at our September meeting. We have 36 active and 2 reserve members. Our bank account as of July 31 is \$6,223.06. Suzanne Long and President Stephany reviewed our treasurer's records.



What's Happening With Ways and Means?

We are not happy to report that because of this virus, all of our efforts to fund raise are on hold. At the summer board meeting we discussed making face masks for children, but then discovered that the market in this area has been rather sated. We remain ON HOLD, like the rest of the country. Hopefully, the next time we report, we will have something more tangible in place.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS FOR KIDS

During our Executive Board Meeting in July, we decided to continue this worthwhile project to support educators who are new to a local district. Susan Davis agreed to contact the Lower Dauphin School District to obtain the names and subject and/or grade level responsibilities of newly hired employees. These teachers are entering new positions under extremely challenging circumstances. Please help us show our support by purchasing some of the following supplies for our teacher gift bags: hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, Kleenex, post-it notes, markers, pens, reward certificates, reward stickers etc.

Bring these supplies to our September meeting. We are planning to pack and deliver the gift bags during the month of October. Volunteer to assist if you are able. Additional information will be provided at our September meeting.



Collegiate Member

We are so pleased to welcome our first collegiate member to the Beta Theta chapter. Lauren Miller has been our Grant-In-Aid since September of 2019. Many of you met her at the November 2019 meeting. Her list of accomplishments from high school is quite extensive, (see the Chatta and News article from 3/8/19) and she has continued to add to the list at Kutztown University. She will be graduating a semester early in December of 2020 with a dual Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education PreK-8/Elementary Education PreK-4 Major. Her Community Service includes National Residence Hall Honorary, Cougars Den, "Ready, Set, Read," and work with Theatre Harrisburg. Honors include Dean's List for Fall 2017-Spring 2020, Golden Bear Leadership Award, Professional Semester Special Education Excellence Award, and Harlo Core Value Pin. We look forward her contributions to our group!



Book Club

Book club will resume beginning in September. This delightful social event is open to anyone that enjoys reading. Since we have not met since February, the following titles were selected based on recommendations received from several of our members. We look forward to gathering again for a time of fellowship and lively conversation!

September 23, 2020

2:00 PM at the home of Stephany Davidson (backyard)
The Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly
Bring a lawn chair, a mask and beverage

October 21, 2020

2:00 PM at the home of Stephany Davidson (backyard)
The Orphan Collector by Maria Wiseman
Bring a lawn chair, a mask and beverage

November 18, 2020

2:00 PM via virtual reality
Clementine, The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill by Sonia Purnell

December 16, 2020

2:00 PM via virtual reality
The Little Bookshop on the Seine by Rebecca Raisin
Be prepared to share a favorite book that you have read.

Calling All Hostesses

Bon Appetit!

Beta Theta sisters enjoy social time! However, due to coronavirus concerns we will not be socializing through the spring. The Hostess Committee (Pat Ethridge, Connie Stackhouse, Sherry Welty and Laurie Williamson) appreciates all of the hostesses who have helped in the past and who will be helping in the not-too-distant future.



Even though we are not able to socialize in person, we hope you will enjoy making recipes that we include in [Beta Theta Chatta and News](#). It is fun to share recipes to make with...or for...family and friends during this time of social distancing.

If you have a dish that you have shared at a previous meeting...or is a favorite...please email or text (a photo is fine) the recipe, including your name, to Sherry Welty. Her contact information may be found in our Beta Theta yearbook.

Please continue to stay safe. We look forward to socializing with one another when it is safe to do so!

[Cranberry Apple Casserole](#) ...from the kitchen of Pat Ethridge

3 c. apples, peeled & chopped
2 c. fresh cranberries, rinsed
2 tbsp flour
3/4 or 1 c. sugar

3 packets Instant Cinnamon Spice Oatmeal
3/4 c pecans, chopped
1/2 c. flour
1/2 c. brown sugar
1/2 c. butter, melted

Combine apples, cranberries, 2 tbsp flour and sugar. Place in 3-qt casserole dish (does **not** need to be greased or floured).

Mix oatmeal, pecans, 1/2 c flour, brown sugar and melted butter. Put this mixture on top of the apple/cranberry mixture.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.



Officers for 2019-2020

Stephany Davidson- President

Jeannette Thomas - Past President

Suzanne Long – First Vice President

Susan Davis/ Norma Mateer – Co-Second Vice Presidents

Linda Geesaman- Secretary

Suzanne Long- Parliamentarian

Nancy Thompson- Treasurer

Kathy Woodbridge- Newsletter Editor

Heather Lister-Webmaster

International and State Convention News

While our state convention was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our state officials continued the convention business using Zoom technology. They completed the budget and organized the leadership training sessions for incoming Presidents via Zoom. The eight sessions provided valuable information and resources for the future presidents to use during their 2020-2022 bienniums. Information regarding annual awards and scholarship and enrichment grants can be found by going to the DKG State Website, locating the 2020 Convention Tab at the top and dragging down to each category. Award winners will be recognized at the 2021 state convention.

The State Convention for 2021 is pending. Our officers are searching for a new venue, since the Nittany Lion Inn is being used as a dormitory during the pandemic. The June dates and location of the Convention will be announced in the future.

International Convention

Despite the pandemic and the cancellation of a live convention, portions of the International Convention were held in a virtual format during their previously scheduled times. Some events were livestreamed while others were pre-recorded. All presentations are currently available, for one year, to view on the DKG website. Some of these include the two Keynote speaker presentations, the International Achievement Award Recipient and the International President Acceptance Speech. I encourage our Beta Theta sisters to go to the DKG website, click on the Event tab at the top and drag down to the 2020 Convention tab to listen to these inspiring presentations.



New Members

We look forward to inducting the following new members into the Beta Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International at our September 19th meeting:

Lauren Miller has been our Grant-In-Aid recipient for the past two years and will be our first Collegiate member.... A new milestone for our chapter. She is currently completing her student teacher assignment and will graduate in December from Kutztown University. She will be certified to teach Elementary Education K-4 as well as Special Education Pre-K – 8.

Allison Mackley is currently serving as the K-12 Library Department Coordinator for the Derry Township School District. She received her BS in Secondary Education as an English Major from Penn State University, her Masters of Library and Information Science Degree from the University of Pittsburgh and her Master of Education in Administration from the University of Scranton.

Geneva Miller is a retired middle school librarian from the Lower Dauphin School District, where she served for over 34 years. She has served as President of Pennsylvania's School Librarians Association and was named the Outstanding Contributor in 2010. She currently serves as the librarian for the Hummelstown Area Historical Society. She loves to travel and is an avid biker.

Please make every effort to attend our September meeting and join me in welcoming our three new sisters.

Calendar of Events

Business Meetings

September 19, 2020 9:30 AM at the home of Stephany Davidson

November 14, 2020 9:30 AM Parish House, Hummelstown, or via virtual technology

March 13, 2021 9:30 AM Parish House, Hummelstown, or via virtual technology

May 15, 2021 9:30 AM Parish House, Hummelstown, or via virtual technology

Christmas Dinner

Due to Covid-19 and restaurant capacity regulations, we have decided to forgo our annual Christmas Dinner.

Cottage Meetings and Social Events

October 20 and February 2020 Date and time TBA. Possible fundraising craft ideas are being created and may be completed in individual homes.

April 20, 2021 2PM Craft with Luc Crum at Zion Lutheran Church, Dauphin, PA hosted by Cindy Kerstetter

Four Chapter Meeting

April 10, 2021- Location and Time TBA

State and International Dates

April 23-25, 2021 State Creative Arts Retreat, Olmstead Manor, Ludlow PA

June 2021 State Convention Dates and location TBA

July 7-10, 2021 International Convention at Portland, Oregon

July 14-17, 2021 International Conference, Tampere, Finland

July 21-24, 2021 International Conference, San Antonio, Texas

July 2022 International Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana

In lieu of minutes, please read Jeanette's message from our May newsletter which addresses items of importance at that time.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Hi everyone,

I'm sorry that our biennium has to end with our world under the thumb of this pandemic. I'm hopeful we can all move forward and that our world will be as normal as possible in the near future.

I'm sure you have all received the email from me that our Saturday May 16, 2020, meeting has been canceled due to this pandemic. As it was in March, the decision to cancel was a very difficult but necessary one. I had good discussions with our state president, Eileen Little, as well as with several Beta Theta past presidents. I want to thank them all for their input and support of my decision. We know how much we miss being together but the health and safety of everyone is of the utmost importance.

Because we had our craft with Luc Crum on May 19, 2020, scheduled, I'm sorry to have to cancel that, too. Kathy Dunn worked hard to schedule and cancel the April date, reschedule to a May date, only to have it canceled totally. Cindy Kerstetter stepped in to help Kathy and will talk with Luc, cancel and, hopefully schedule again next spring. I know those who participated in this craft made beautiful things and really enjoyed the afternoon.

Book Club has been canceled until at least the Fall. Notification will be sent to everyone when we will start up again. Keep reading and find some good books to suggest when we start again!!

I have one final job to do and that is to appoint a committee to review the treasurer's books. This job must be completed by the end of June and how that is completed I'll leave up to the committee as we continue to function during this time. The committee will be Suzanne Long and Nancy Thompson. The report of this committee will be given at the September 19, 2020, meeting.

Speaking of our treasurer's books, PLEASE send Nancy your check for dues (remember that changed last year from October to June!!). The dues are still \$80.00. Nancy needs to send them to International and State by June 30, 2020, and members will be dropped for nonpayment on August 1, 2020. Please pay them as soon as you can to make her job go well. We want to remain Beta Theta strong! Also a big thank you to Nancy for a job well done!

Finally, the State Convention at the Nittany Lion Inn on June 12 – 14, 2020, has been canceled. The State Officers are working on what to do next. Stay Tuned! Attached to the Newsletter is the letter I received from the state president, Eileen, as she asked that the members get a copy.

Please contact me with any thoughts or questions you may have for me concerning this past biennium. Please read carefully Stephany's article in this Newsletter as she has planned well for the upcoming biennium. Our job now is to look forward to 2020-2022. As we've sung so many times over the years:

FORWARD, MOVING EVER!!

We indeed are strong women. God Bless you all.

Lovingly

☺ Jeannette