

PSIGN OF THE TIMES



July 2013 Psi Chapter Alpha Alpha State



Celebrating Change

A Letter from our President

The 2013 state convention was amazing! The theme was *Discovering Pathways to Change...Strengthening Our Society*. How appropriate this idea is for our own chapter and for many others. In speaking with other chapter presidents, I have discovered that many of us are challenged with the task of how to make our chapters stronger and move forward into the future without losing the foundation our society was built upon.

The weekend highlighted many amazing speakers. President Shrader introduced them as “examples of change agents; individuals who see the need for restructuring the way things are done and strive to work to strengthen the future.”

At our April meeting, we discussed many ideas for strengthening our own chapter. The most important factor for our future success must start with improving our attendance at meetings and activities. Every one of us, no matter where we are in our career or stage of life, are very busy with many commitments - that’s why we are DKG women! We volunteer, we mentor, we participate in our family and community life. How can we make meetings more timely and meaningful so that we are using that valuable time in the best manner we can?

In addition to discussing many options for improving meetings, those in attendance completed a survey of their personal thoughts. I plan to give out that same survey again in September. The majority of the responses were the same: Saturdays are not always the best day as sometimes that is the only time outside of school to complete other personal activities, make meetings shorter, and have less formal meals (less expensive).

Coincidentally, these were the same concerns I heard from other chapter presidents. Many of these other chapters are finding success by having weeknight meetings (not really an option for us), sharing light snacks or desserts rather than a whole meal, and having activities that people participate in at each meeting.

We hope to implement many of these changes in the upcoming year in hopes of increasing attendance. If that can happen, I am sure we will grow stronger in many areas. Toward that end, we did vote to move our September meeting to Friday. I know that we had a schedule and changing it may cause conflict for some, but we are hoping to bring back some of our members who felt that they could not give up a Saturday. We are also going to experiment with a different meal format; perhaps light snacks and dessert shared during the meeting can make our time more productive. Our informal breakfast was warmly received in April. Thank you mother of necessity...we didn’t get our bus trip, but we had a great speaker and productive meeting.

I also have some ideas for a project I would like us to undertake. We need to find more purpose for meeting than just going through the motions of our agenda. My favorite speaker from convention was Monica Ochoa, the Latin America representative to the International Administrative Board. She encouraged us to not just be a member of DKG, but to *Be* DKG. Be active in your chapter and you can do amazing things.

I hope to see you all this summer at our picnic. It is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 13th at Becky Raybuck’s home in Treasure Lake. More details will be sent to you soon. We will invite our potential members that day for an orientation as well as collect new teacher items. Barb and I each won a bag full of great supplies at convention to help start off our collection.

What changes do you see for our society and our chapter? Change can be positive especially when it provides strength and a renewed commitment to our future. Celebrate change and the positive results that can be achieved as we are "forward moving ever" together.

Happy Summer!

PSI ACTIVE AT 2013 STATE CONVENTION



Barb Emmer started off the Convention with "Opening the Treasures of Alpha Alpha State" with Char Stoughton Alpha Epsilon. They unlocked our Treasure of a founder, Vesta Watson! Barb started with a quiz...ALL the answers were *WATSON*! Guess why???? Those in attendance will never forget Vesta!!! Char, then played a tape (converted to disc) made in 1983, where Vesta talked about her time in Pennsylvania! How wonderful to hear one of our founders speaking!!! Great job Barb!!!



Alpha Alpha State 2nd VP- Tracey Dusch, 1st VP- Kay Stuart, and President Louann Shrader installing Honorary Member, Susan Scanlon, before the presentation of the "Album of Distinction" Ceremony. Susan gave the Keynote Address at the First General Session. At the Friday night Fling, Karen Ball helped organized the various "acts" and Psi Chapter received a stand ovation for their Birthday Performance. If you can imagine...not one word was spoken by Psi in the presentation!!!

Alpha Alpha State 2nd VP- Tracey Dusch, presiding over the Saturday night Banquet

Barb Emmer escorting Susan Scanlon at the Banquet



Psi President, Allison Sayers being presented at the Banquet

Karen Ball singing with the chorus



Tracey being installed as 1st Vice President of Alpha Alpha State



Barb Clark speaking at the Unity Service



Barb Emmer receiving an enrichment grant at the Second General Session

MEMBER NEWS

A NOTE FROM Donna Anderson (sent June 10th):

Hi girls,

I wanted to let you know that I have an email address change. It is joeldonna2@gmail.com Also, my mother, Annie Laurie Williams, will be moving in with Joel and me in a couple of weeks once she is discharged from Mulberry Square, a skilled nursing rehab facility. We have canceled her internet service so therefore, she no longer has an email address. Any communication via email can be done using my address.

My mom has had a difficult few months and will become a permanent resident with us. Due to a staph infection in her left knee prosthetic, a new knee had to be put in. Then, last month a piece of infection broke off the mitral valve in her heart, causing a stroke when it traveled to the brain. She has recovered pretty well from that but remains very fragile and is unable to be on her own now.

Little side note.....when my mom was flown by helicopter to Pittsburgh, I rode along and when I went to jump out at the hospital, I broke my ankle! How's that for "stupid is as stupid does"?!? I'll be out of my boot-cast in another 10 days. Hooray!

Hope your summer is going well. See you this fall,

Donna Anderson

A NOTE FROM Ann Hagan (sent June 14th)

Greetings, all,

Hope your summer is going well. At least it hasn't been way too hot yet. Give it time.

Chemo #7 has been and gone. The blood work beforehand was really good: my white count and platelet count are well within normal limits, which is amazing, because they're usually quite low. So that's a plus. The down side is that the side effects have come and NOT gone. Since the last cycle, I've been dealing with nausea and vomiting on a 3 or 4 day rotation, and that has not improved at all. I feel pretty washed out because I've hardly eaten anything, so of course have lost weight. I do not wish to return to the anorexic look, so I keep trying to eat. (I believe I mentioned before that toast is losing its charm). The anti-nausea meds have not been up to the job: the other day I took one, and then barfed an hour later. Discouraging. Yesterday was the first day since I have been doing chemo, and that's 2 1/2 years, that I didn't manage to drink the whole gallon of liquid when I was supposed to. I did manage about 3 quarts, and at midnight I said to heck with this and went to bed.

So, I guess this'll be the norm for a while, until it gets too bad for me to stand, or the tumor gets bigger, or maybe we'll figure out how to deal with it. THAT I would love to see!

To end on a more optimistic note, our various lady cats have produced 8 kittens plus an undiscovered litter in the past week. I'm looking forward to playing with KITTEHS!

As always, I thank you for your prayers and good thoughts. You are a bulwark against despair.

Ann

Tracey Dusch's surgery was a success

Karen Ball's Father-in-law passed away

Barb Emmer's Mother passed away

Margaret Ponchel's Father was in the hospital

Kris Swope was pictured in the DuBois Courier-Express in the article "DRMC among Top 100 organizations in Central Pa."

Debbie Fye's daughter's engagement picture was in the paper

Linda London's parents celebrated their 60th Anniversary

Barb Clarks' grandson received his service dog & training at 4 Paws for Ability for his autism

Kathy Snyder had surgery on her finger due to an infection

APRIL MEETING



Our guest speaker, Christal Hayward from Cen-Clear Child Services presented the members with an overview of the geographical areas they cover and the many services they offer. It was extremely enlightening and many questions were asked and answered.



We then toured the rooms at Wasson where they hold the Pre-K Counts and Headstart classes with teacher, Lori Baronak.



Our HAPPY BIRTHDAY cake in a jar, made by President Allison!!!

TREASURER NEEDED

Psi Chapter would like to thank Margaret Ponchel for her service as treasurer. However, Margaret has decided to step aside at this time. Therefore we are in need of a treasurer! Can you be a treasure to Psi and volunteer to take over the position? Margaret will help get you started...call Allison NOW!!! Thanks!!!!

MEETING CHANGE

The September meeting of the Psi Chapter has been changed to **FRIDAY September 20.**

Minutes of the Psi Chapter meeting of Delta Kappa Gamma

April 20, 2013

President Allison Sayers called the meeting to order at 9:08 am at Wasson Avenue Elementary School in DuBois PA. A quorum was present.

The meeting began with a presentation on various pre-school programs under Cen-Clear, including Headstart, Pre-K Counts, and School Collaboration program.

After a short breakfast break, we moved on to Chapter Achievements. Three members, Debbie Britton, Linda Stahlman, and Karen Young announced their retirement at the end of this school year.

Chapter support was requested for the following members who are experiencing personal/family health issues and bereavement: Karen Ball, Kim Bell, Ann Hagan, Wendy McKinley, Kris Swope, and Annie Laurie Williams. Please remember Tracey Dusch in your thoughts and prayers as she faces surgery on May 1st.

The minutes for the March meeting were approved as submitted. Special thanks to Kim Bell for acting as recording secretary in my absence.

The treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$9,350.37 and a total balance, including assets of \$14,901.68. The report was accepted.

Correspondence – A letter of resignation was received from Margaret Ponchel, who is resigning as treasurer of DKG, Psi Chapter effective 7/1/2013. It was voted on and accepted with regrets.

Membership – The five new candidates were voted on and unanimously accepted for membership. They are Julie Baun, Susan Olsakovsky, Judith Ann Britten, Jennifer Keith, and Barbara Pisarchick.

Commnications/Newsletter – There will be a session at State Conference concerning setting up a Chapter website. It is hoped that Nichole Werwie will spearhead this project.

SEE – a nice collection of supplies for SEE (Support of Early Career Educators) was donated by those members in attendance.

World Fellowship Basket – was passed for collection.

Ways and Means – Becky Raybuck will be the hostess for the Ways and Means Meeting October 19, 2013 in DuBois. Location will be announced at a later date. Since many venues now require insurance before allowing our chapter to use their space, it was discussed that our chapter obtain such insurance. A motion was made by Molly DeSantis (seconded by Debbie Fye) to explore purchasing insurance at the best possible price. This purchase will be made after July 1st.

Unfinished Business –

Unpaid dues follow up – Any member whose dues are not paid by the October deadline will be dropped from membership.

Member directory – we are still looking for affordable software to create a new directory.

Go-To Guides for chapter members are available at a cost of \$2.00. Allison has some on hand for purchase.

Summer Picnic – we are still searching for a venue for our picnic this summer.

State Convention / Birthday Celebration – to be held June 14, 15, 16. Karen Ball has donated her time and talent to create a Psi Chapter Basket.

NERC – will be held in Portland Maine July 24 – 27th. See Allison or your Keystonian for information on attending.

DKG Badges – Karen Ball will be placing an order for magnetic name badges. If interested please contact Karen. The cost is \$17.00.

New Business

Information from State President Shrader – International is considering an electronic voting process. There will be a survey on the website for you to express your views. During a short discussion about this at Psi meeting, several drawbacks were mentioned. Some international chapters may not be able to participate electronically, bigger states will have an advantage, and the program will be very expensive.

By-laws and proposed changes are available on the State website.

Survey – Allison passed out a survey on what can we do to increase attendance. Attendance has been poor, sometimes barely reaching a quorum in order to conduct business. It was suggested that we try an evening meeting in both the Spring and the Fall. **Important notice – The date for September meeting previously scheduled for Sept. 21st, 2013 has been changed to Friday September 20th at 6:30 PM.**

Personal Growth – Linda Stahlman will take over the personal growth presentations. It was shared that the Book Talks have really been enjoyed in the past.

Birthday Reflections – Allison shared an interesting history on “The Birth of Psi Chapter” written by Florence McGinty in 1984. It recaps events beginning in 1947 that eventually led to her starting Psi Chapter.

Tracey Dusch presented Debbie Britton with a scrapbook of her biennium as Psi Chapter President. It was suggested that we invite past presidents to display their scrapbooks at both the Summer picnic and September meeting.

We concluded with the singing of the DKG Song and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin B. Swope

