



Alpha Beta Bits

Volume XVIII, Number 4

May, 2013

President's Message

“To us pioneers have given
We return their gifts to Heaven;
Work for others is the leaven
That inspires our band.”

The Delta Kappa Gamma Song
Annie Webb Blanton

As I sat to write this message, these words kept going through my head and I kept thinking about our Charter Members. On May 22, 1948, these pioneers of Alpha Beta took a courageous leap of faith to join a very secret society and to blaze the trail upon which we still travel. These pioneers were: Ruth Brice, Irma Diehl, Dorothy Felton, Dorothy Giles, Sara Gloor, Mabel Holderbaum, Evelyn Miller, Rosalind Mowry, Belle Oberheim, Sara Palmer, Grace Rankin, Ruth Rohrer, Stella Ritchey, Martha Stailey, and Madolin Taylor.

To learn about them and our early beginnings I commend to your reading two parts of the 50-year history that was compiled in 1998. You'll want to read "How We Began", written by Dorothy Felton and Martha Stailey; and "Looking Back on Our Heritage, 1948 - 1960", compiled by Dorothy Felton, Rosalind Mowry, and Thelma Morse. Be prepared to be amazed!!

Pat



The Conference Fund Committee is still looking for those DKG items that you are not using. Our future raffles will include these items. You can bring them to the May meeting.



Happy 65th Birthday, Alpha Beta

On May 4th Alpha Beta will begin the celebration of its 65th birthday. Joining us for the celebration will be our State president, Louann Shrader, and our Alpha Beta sisters from Somerset County, who are also celebrating their 65th. We will be honoring our 50-year, 30+-year and 30-year members. Patty Valentine and the Visual and Performing Arts Committee will be providing the entertainment. Make plans to be at the Ivy Stone Restaurant to join in the festivities and to be a part of this historic occasion.



YOU DID IT!



The Projects Committee has been using the theme "Put in 2 cents. Make change" for the Schools for Africa project. Congratulations, ladies! You put in much more than "2 cents" and you will definitely "make change" in the lives of African school children. Thank you so much for your donations. We collected \$742 at the March meeting!

That \$742 will: purchase two schools-in-a-box kits which contain learning materials for 160 school children in Burkina Faso and also includes transportation costs; purchase learning materials for 20 children in Zimbabwe and Malawi and 2 learner kits children in Mozambique and Mali; and

enable one teacher in Rwanda to attend a 3 day training workshop benefiting about 1200 children;

Ladies, you proved once again that you are key women educators making a positive change in young lives.

Thank you for your generosity. Thanks also to the committee members who worked tirelessly to wrap the coins after our meeting and to the volunteers who helped us.

Congratulations to Cathy Wakefield who won the free luncheon for our May meeting.



Alpha Beta Through the Years - 1980-1990

During the 1980s Alpha Beta members were very active at the State level. They assisted at registration tables, exhibited art, escorted State presidents, and led discussions at workshops during State conventions. Joan McGreevey served as the Treasurer of State Convention during this time period and Thelma Morse was selected to be the editor of the *Keystonian* in 1987. In 1989 Alpha Beta also hosted the Fall Area Conference at Bedford High School.

Alpha Beta sisters were also honored by the State organization during this time period. In 1989 Thelma Morse became the first Alpha Beta sister to receive the Alpha Alpha State Achievement Award. Then in 1990 Linda McElroy received a State scholarship.

During the 1980s, recruitment grants were awarded to eleven women, including one to Melissa (Moorhead) Flynn in 1981. Twenty-one women were initiated into the Society. Alpha Beta continued to be a very active chapter in State events.



(THROUGH THE YEARS ~
will be continued in the next newsletter)

Dates to Remember 2012-2013 Meetings



May 4, 2013

June 18, 2013

August 1, 2013

Baskets of Plenty

"Come Garden with Me" is the theme of the basket for State Convention. Believe it or not, this is our last meeting before State Convention in June, so make sure that you bring the "gardening goodies" that you've collected for the basket to our May 4th meeting.

Also, we will be collecting school supplies to take to State Convention for Alpha Alpha State's project to help early-career educators.

Convention Registration and Carpooling

Reminder: Registration for State Convention is due May 14. This includes those members who are only attending the Birthday Luncheon on June 15th.



We began our carpooling list at the March meeting. If you weren't able to attend that meeting, you can still sign up as a driver or rider at the May meeting.



Birthday Bargain



Did you know that Alpha Beta gives a stipend of \$25 to **each** sister who attends State Convention? That makes attending the Birthday Luncheon on June 15th an extra-special treat! Register for the day, sign-up for the Luncheon, have a wonderful time celebrating our 65th, and get \$25 from the chapter! What a deal!

MS WALK

Don't forget the MS Walk on April 21st at Shawnee State Park. It's not too late to make a donation. Checks should be made out to the National MS Society and sent to me. You can also donate on line, but it takes a little navigation. Just make sure you find the Delta Kappa Gamma Team under the Western PA MS Chapter. Thanks for your support--better yet come join us. *Arlene Fuller*

Alpha Beta Bits

Composed, edited, and printed

By

Candace Claar, Pat Harrison, Joan McGreevey
candace.claar@embarqmail.com