

Welcome to a New Year

President's Message



Bring in the New! Catherine Jones and President Barb MacDonald share a moment after Catherine's induction in April at the Chadwick.

Hello Ladies of Alpha Xi,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and rested after the summer season. I know for many of you it is back to school with new faces and new names and perhaps a new curriculum.

Well, we are also returning for another year of programs and wonderful venues to host our Delta Kappa Gamma meetings. Paulette Hemmings and her committee came up with wonderful ideas and locations while trying to keep prices reasonable. Many facilities we have previously used now want to charge room rent in addition to the meal prices. We did find other locations. To help keep costs low this year, members will present a few of our programs. We were over budget slightly last year, but we have decided not to raise the dues, but rather to use some money from our CD if necessary (since interest rates are so low).

I know all of us are trying to be financially prudent; however, even the cost of a catered meal can be more than we would like. When we asked in the past, you did not want to have members cook and bring food to share; however, that might be something we do consider for 2013-14 if conditions continue.

We are working under a theme of Dignity for this year as suggested by Areta Kalogeras with each letter representing a workshop. It is interesting that the 2012 Educators Awards from Delta Kappa Gamma was given to Dr. Donna Hicks who wrote a book called *Dignity: The Essential Role It Plays in Resolving Conflict*, which stresses the importance of treating others as they are worthy of care and attention.

D is for Discovery. Our September 19th program, will have us going to the Heinz History Center to find out more about the "History of the Strip District". We have a free self-guided tour available from 3:45 to 4:30 with our meeting and meal followed by a power point presentation by Bob Stakeley. Details are provided within this newsletter.

You have some new officers and committee chairs and several who are continuing in their roles. I'd like to give a big thank you to those of you who said yes. We still have a few positions open. Please consider becoming more involved in Delta Kappa Gamma, even if it is just attending a few more meetings than in the past. We need you. I am only a phone call or email away if you would like to offer suggestions or volunteer to help in some way.

Looking forward to moving Alpha Xi forward,

Barbara MacDonald
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New Alpha Xi website:

<http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>

Program Schedule 2012-13

Theme: DIGNITY

Wed, Sept 19

D=Discovery Heinz History Center "The History of the Strip District" by Bob Stakeley

Time 3:30- 4:45 for free tour with meeting at 4:45 followed by dinner at 5:45 and a 45-minute program at 6:30.

Mon, Oct 22

I=Investing in Our Future - Domenico's Cranberry at 4:45

Invite early career teachers or future members

"Toys and Leadership" by Barb MacDonald

Wed, Nov 28

G=Growth - Monte Cello's, Route 8 at 4:45

"Travels: France, Greece & Turkey" by Phyllis Jenny, Melody Hannegan and Terri Klein

Tues, Feb 5

N=NEW + I =INITIATIVES - Trinity Lutheran Church (Brandt School Rd.) catered by Park Café at 4:45

"Fashion Show" with Christopher & Banks of Cranberry

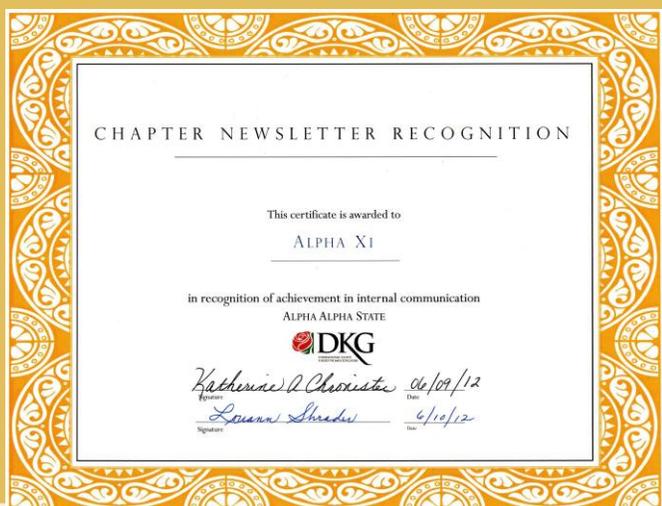
Sat, Mar 9

T=Technology - Echo Route 228 Cranberry at 10:45 a.m.

"Bi-chapter Meeting with Alpha Alpha State President"

Mon, Apr 29

Y=Your Chapter Initiation -Sewickley Speak Easy at 4:45 with music by the West Winds Quintet



Thank you to the members of the Program Committee for all their hard work to provide enjoyable programs at affordable prices; we offer a variety of speakers and venues, some more inexpensive and casual, with a few that are more expensive. We also tried to select various days of the week and locations for our meetings to accommodate our members. We hope that you will join us for this year's meetings, which we hope you will find enlightening, entertaining and memorable!

Projects a Plenty Did You Know?

Did you know that about 62% of U.S. schoolchildren qualify for free or reduced price school lunches? Our chapter can help to feed these children on weekends, when they often would have little or no food until their return to school. In the North Hills School District, West View Elementary sends these children home with backpacks on Friday. They are filled with non-perishable food items, and the empty backpacks are returned on Monday.

We know that children learn best when their needs are met. Many wonderful outcomes have been attributed to similar programs across the country. Better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, improved health and increased attendance have all been proven outcomes from such a program.

At our first meeting, we will be collecting the items below, for delivery to West View Elementary. Please be generous and help ensure that the children have ample nutrition over the weekends. You CAN make a difference in their lives!

List of Food Drive Donation Suggestions

- | | |
|--|--|
| Canned fruit and fruit cups | Fruit juice |
| Dried fruit | Low sodium soups |
| Oatmeal | Whole grain crackers |
| Trail mix | Jelly |
| Snack-sized foods | Peanut butter |
| Baked beans & Bean soups | Almonds |
| Canned meats | Microwave popcorn |
| Pudding packs | Apple sauce packs |
| Canned ravioli | Spaghettios |
| Easy-Mac | Canned vegetables |
| Vegetable juice | Non-perishable milk products (i.e. Ensure) |
| Low sugar/high fiber cereal (single serving) | |
| Food bars such as granola bars | Dried or canned beans and peas |
| Canned tuna, salmon, chicken | |

Other nonperishable food items will be accepted as well

MEETING MINUTES

Hostesses: Diane Goff and Carol Schuler
Raffle Basket: Phyllis Jenny, Paulette Hemmings, Melody Hannegan and Carol Pastor

First, Barb MacDonald introduced our special guest, grant-in-aid winner, Kelly Fitzpatrick, who is from Shaler, and her father. Our second grant-in-aid winner was Sarah F. Delserone from North Allegheny who attends Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, but she was unable to attend the meeting.

Then, Cathy Jones, a math teacher at North Allegheny Intermediate High School, was inducted. She was sponsored by Barb MacDonald, Barbara Schmid, Janet Serdy and Deborah Stackrow.

New officers were installed. (See photo caption.)

President, Barb MacDonald, called the meeting to order at 11:00.

Peg Vandermer, on behalf of Barb Rankin, read the inspiration. It was entitled, "Emulating Butterflies" and explained that butterflies symbolize growth, beauty, hope and transformation. Peg also gave each member a bookmark that Barb had made to remind us of our inner self.

Officer Reports:

The minutes were reviewed by Paulette Hemmings, which had been taken by Melody Hannegan at the last meeting; they were approved.

Faith Jack was not present, and there was no Correspondence Report.

Margaret Foster presented the Treasurer's Report, which was filed for review.

Committee Chair Reports:

Projects-Chairperson, Ellen Rodwick announced that Bed, Bath and Beyond donated 50 boxes to be used for Jared Boxes, so she asked members to sign up to come to her house on May 2 to prepare the boxes. Ellen will provide the snacks, and if needed, May 10th will be the follow-up meeting to complete the boxes.

US Forum-Melody Hannegan reminded members to stay abreast of educational issues.

Yearbook-Barb announced that she will take over the production of the yearbook; updates for the yearbook are due by August 1st, and Barb passed around a yearbook for us to update our information.



Installation of Officers 2013-2014. President, Barbara MacDonald; First Vice-President, Paulette Hemmings; Second Vice-President, Karen Klingman; Corresponding Secretary, Peg Maser; and Recording Secretary, Karen Ulrich.

Unfinished Business: The attendance award was won by JoHanna Brawdy, and the committee award was won by Jan Milarski. Barb also gave her officers thank-you gifts.

Barb announced that committee chairs are still needed for World Fellowship, Social, Projects for 2013-2014 and Webmaster. A raffle basket will be made for the State Convention, and Barb will take care of it.

New Business: anyone who has suggestions for programs, speakers or venues should contact Paulette Hemmings.

The PA State Convention will be held June 8-10, 2012. At the convention, Marg Foster will be given a lifetime achievement award as an Album of Distinction Winner.

The Program Committee has begun planning for the 2013-2014 year.

Barb asked if any members plan to go to the International DKG Convention in New York City, but no one plans to attend.

We sang the Delta Kappa Gamma song, and Barb MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 11:25. Afterwards, we enjoyed music from harpist, Sandy Smailer, with our lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Paulette Hemmings, Recording Secretary

Have You Heard? News from Alpha Xi Sisters

Concerns: Carolyn Pettit has been undergoing medical treatments this year, and she hopes to join us for meetings next year.

Joys: Marion Plank moved to Virginia; Terry Klein announced that in September she will have her first grandchild, a boy; and

Jenny Mitnick reported that she has been granted a two-year unpaid leave of absence from Seneca Valley in order to attend Columbia Teachers' College to work on her PhD.; she will then rejoin the staff at Seneca Valley.

September 2012

State Goal: Designing the Future

Mark Your Calendar

Important Dates from Alpha Alpha State

Sept 22, 2012

Eastern State Fall Area Conference, Pottsville

Sept 29, 2012

Western State Fall Area Conference,
Cambridge Springs

Details will be in the *Keystoneian* for these conferences.

They are open to all members of Delta Kappa Gamma and not just officers.

April 26-28, 2013

Purposeful Seminar, Best Western Country Cupboard
Inn Lewisburg, PA

June 14-16, 2012

Alpha Alpha State Convention, Nittany Lion
Inn, State College, PA

July 24-27, 2013

North East Regional, Holiday Inn by the Bay
in Portland, Maine

Some examples include:

- Singing the DKG song more often
- Encourage new membership and growth
- GRAPES-Growth, recognition, achievement, participation, enjoyment and support- What can we do to encourage and maintain membership? Start thinking about inviting a potential member to a meeting. Share the purposes of DKG and not just the social aspects.
- Support for Early Career Educators- invite someone to our October meeting and find out how toys and leadership are connected
- Work on developing a chapter web site. Melody has begun to explore this possibility
- Adopt a legislator. We need to advocate for education.
- Set your constitution and by-laws. Yes we need to do this. Melody, Phyllis and Terri are developing a plan
- Step beyond the chapter level and become more involved in the state. A good place to start is with attending a fall area conference or state convention, or even a northeast regional.
- There is also a continuing interest in projects for Africa. They did collect over 6,000 pairs of panties (underwear) for girls for Ghana to enable them to attend school while having their periods.

Of Special Note: PA state or Alpha Alpha State DKG has a new website of alphaalphapa.com which is now linked to the International site (dkg.com). We will be able to link our website to the state's.

**Delta Kappa Gamma
Alpha Xi Chapter**

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<http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>