



Alpha Xi Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
General Meeting Minutes  
Senator John Heinz History Center, Strip District, Pittsburgh, PA  
October 20, 2020

16 members present

Pre-program tour of Smithsonian's Portraits of Pittsburgh exhibit on our own.

Paulette called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Claudia introduced new member, Jeanne Keys who taught English 22 years at North Allegheny and previously taught at North Hills. Jeanne Vendeland presented her with her pin.

**Inspiration:** Sallie Fisher read the poem, "The Unfolding Rose." Avonworth teachers sponsored the meeting and provided the raffle basket which contained several items from the history museum.

**Minutes:** The September minutes were distributed by email and approved as printed.

**Correspondence:** On Darlene's behalf, Karen Ulrich reported that hard copies of newsletters, minutes, etc. were sent out to 2 members. Darlene sent get well cards to Pat Bauer, Phyllis Jenny, and Shari McGill. Paulette received a letter from international which contained a copy of the Celebration of Life Ceremony bulletin from the virtual International Convention in July. Nancy Penny was remembered and Paulette will send it to her family via Ruth Wilson or Barb Rankin.

**Finance:** Marg Foster reported a balance on hand as \$6,499.26. Total income was \$5098.55 and total expenses were \$377.21. Ruth Wilson audited the financial records which were in order. The audit report was approved. Marg reminded the membership that coins can be brought in to the March and May meetings or cash or check donations are welcome since coins are scarce. More wrappers are available.

**Programs:** Melissa Costantino reported that the March meeting will be held at Luciano's in Mars, provided that holding the meeting inside a restaurant is then safe. The last meeting will be at Diamond Run in May. Jade has volunteered to present an informational Zoom meeting on the state of education during the Covid-19 era. This meeting will probably happen in January or February and will give the chapter excellent insight as well as a chance to gather remotely. We will extend an invitation to Eileen Little, Pennsylvania DKG President, to attend one of the spring meetings. Melody will send out two additional newsletters – one in November and one in January to communicate additional news to the chapter.

**Membership:** Jeanne Vendeland has new member forms for anyone who intends to recommend a teacher for membership.

**Projects:** Peg Maser thanked the members for bringing their Busy Boxes tonight and Wes Hemmings for collecting the 22 boxes and handing them over to the representative from Children, Youth, and Family Services. The boxes will be put in visitation rooms for foster children who are having supervised visits or in the child advocacy program for children's court

dates. Peg handed out sign-up sheets for this year's boxes and will provide the empty boxes at the March meeting. The filled boxes can be taken to the May meeting. Shari McGill (absent) passed on the message that Dress for Success donations will be collected at the March and May meetings. Sallie Fisher handed out a flyer on Bonnie Nichols, our March meeting speaker, and the organization, Living in Liberty. At our March meeting, members are encouraged to provide gently-used purses or backpacks containing useful items to the women in this program. Suggested items include toiletries, gloves, hats, socks, and sanitary products. This organization helps to prevent vulnerable women from trafficking and is supported by the Repurposed Store on McKnight Road.

**Ways and Means:** Melissa will be sending information and applications for the Teacher Enrichment Grants by advertising on social media. Members are encouraged to reach out to teachers we know. Melody will post the information on the website also. The deadline for application submission is February 1, 2021. There will be a book sale at both of the spring meetings to raise funds for the grants. Members are asked to set aside books with which they would be willing to part for the cause.

**Social:** North Hills members will sponsor the March meeting and North Allegheny will sponsor the May meeting. Jade, on behalf of Darlene and Phyllis, passed out the envelopes to those who wished to participate in the Secret Sister Program. Members filled in their contact information and then the envelopes were redistributed. This is the same system as we had last year. Phyllis will be the contact person for those who were not present and want to have and be a secret sister.

**Newsletter:** Melody Hannegan will be publishing a newsletter in November to communicate timely information such as the availability of the teacher enrichment grants and these minutes. She will also publish another newsletter in January prior to the Zoom meeting with Jade and then the two newsletters prior to the spring meetings.

**US Forum:** Melissa stated that she enjoyed the Zoom conference about legislative advocacy. It happened on September 29, 2020.

**Old Business:** The Standing Rules will be revised according to the changes in membership which were used in the September meeting. Phyllis, Paulette, and Melody will make those adjustments and send out the Standing Rules to the membership for a vote in March on the changes.

**Announcements:** Jade modeled her new sweatshirt bearing the Greek letters ΔΚΓ. She recommended the company where she ordered it as a way in which we can publicize DKG. A link to the company will be in the next newsletter. There is a discount for group orders. Jeanne announced that we are among the 20% of the DKG chapters, internationally, who have had in-person meetings. The membership received a flyer for Amazon Smile. Members can designate DKG as the charity for Amazon Smile and a percentage of Amazon orders will go to DKG. The Creative Arts Retreat is tentatively scheduled for April 23-25, 2021 in Ludlow. More information will be available through the PA organization. Finally, Jade and Karen U. made additional rose pins (one of the projects at the March meeting last year). They are available for a \$5 donation!

**Joys and Concerns:**

Both Phyllis (pacemaker) and Shari (back) have had successful surgeries since the past meeting. Melissa is virtually campaigning for the election for NEA Director. We'll know the results by the next newsletter. Paulette expressed wishes for Happy Holidays for the chapter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melody Hannegan, Newsletter Editor