

# The Alpha Xi Messenger

April 2021



## The President's Message

Hi DKG Ladies,



It was wonderful to see so many of you at our March Zoom meeting and to be able to spend some time together again! In addition, thanks to our presenter, Bonnie Nichols, for her inspiring story about the work that *Living in Liberty* does in our area to help victims of trafficking.

At the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting we'll have the opportunity to meet in person! We'll also be able to bring in all of the items that we've been collecting at home for the past few months:

- \*Items for *Living in Liberty* (in purses, if you have some to donate)
- \*Clothing for *Dress for Success*
- \* Any wrapped coins that you have
- \* In addition, Peg will have our Busy Boxes for us to pick up

If the weather permits, before our meeting we'll have a "tail gate" collection in the parking lot where everyone can transfer or pick up items. So, come early! **The one exception is your donation of books; please bring those inside for our book sale. The profits will help fund our teacher enrichment grant for next year.**

We'll enjoy a delicious luncheon at Diamond Run, officially greet our new member with a "Welcome Ceremony," and hear from Dede, who will share her experience of "Being an Author and/or an Entrepreneur."

It'll be a busy meeting with lots to take care of as we conclude this very unusual year! I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Paulette

## Program: A Welcoming End of the Year

Phyllis

Our last meeting during this "pandemic" year is May 1 at Diamond Run and the club has incorporated many changes to make our dining experience safe.

The lunch buffet is served by the staff. There is plexiglass between the server and the food and between the server and the guest. The staff will wear masks and gloves and serve everything from the buffet. The guests will not receive the plate until they've gone completely through the serving line. The same method applies to the serving of the dessert and salad. Fixings for the salad and the baked potato will be on each table. The tables will be set for 4 people. Masks are required for all guests and workers. Sanitizing stations are set up throughout the facility and social distancing is encouraged.

With all these changes, our members should feel comfortable and safe. Hopefully most, if not all, our members will have already received the vaccine.

Dede will educate us on how to be an author and an entrepreneur. We will formally welcome our new member in a newly revised ceremony. And for those who participated in our secret sister activity, this will be the time of the big reveal.

After a year of 2 boxed lunch meetings in wide open spaces and meetings via ZOOM, we are ending our quarantined year with a return to a slightly new "normal". Hopefully more members will feel comfortable enough to attend this meeting and enjoy a delightful afternoon with their DKG sisters. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone.

## Ways and Means: The Teacher Enrichment Grant

Jeanne V.

Each year, the sisters of Alpha Xi offer a grant of up to \$250 to women educators in the school districts of our members. The purpose of the grant is to support outstanding educational projects.

This year's recipient is Nicole McDonald, a kindergarten teacher at Scott Primary School in the Shaler Area School District. She is using the grant money to provide at least five books for each of her students to add to their home libraries. Because of the pandemic, many of the children do not have access to a public or even school library, and many families cannot afford to buy books.

In the fall, Alpha Xi will again offer to any woman educator in the northern Allegheny County schools an opportunity to apply for an enrichment grant. Look for information in our upcoming meetings and newsletters and spread the word to any possible applicants.



Members from North Allegheny will sponsor the May meeting.

## Mother Theresa of Pittsburgh

By Karen Beemiller

At the March meeting, our inspirational speaker was Bonnie Nichols who educated us on her volunteer work for *Living in Liberty*. This organization works to combat human trafficking in Southwestern, PA. Bonnie has worked 8 years meeting and supporting the women who are homeless and on the streets in Butler, Northside, Homewood, New Kensington, and the Strip District. She has offered prayers, counseling, and help in finding shelter and essential services for the women. Gaining their trust is one of the most important aspects of her involvement with them. Her loving and caring ways has earned her the nickname "Mother Theresa of Pittsburgh" and the Jeffersonian service award.

Bonnie explained other functions of the organization. It has care centers offering the girls hot meals, clothes, laundry services, and showers. Repurposed, their shop on McKnight Road, is their main financial support to carry out their work. The store provides clothing and housewares for the women and teaches them invaluable job skills.

Finally, the safe home provides a loving environment for those who were sex trafficked and a 5-step recovery program.

One of DKG's projects was created from Bonnie's suggestions. The women all need a purse and what Bonne calls a care bag. In the care bag can be found such items as soap, wash cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, travel-size shampoo, conditioner, and lotion.

At the May meeting, Karen Beemiller will collect any of the care bag items that you have and any purses and/or tote bags you are contributing.

Bonnie thanks all of you for your donations.

## Treasury: Dues Notification

Marg

Just a reminder that the dues collecting process that went into effect for the past two years will continue this year. Dues are no longer paid in the fall. Please see the timeline below that I received from our state treasurer. Dues will remain \$85 for active members and \$35 for reserve members. They are due to me by **June 1st** at the latest. Checks should be made out to Delta Kappa Gamma. Please either bring your check to the May meeting or mail your check to me at:  
Marg Foster 200 Goldsmith Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237.  
If you have any questions, please email me at: [margfoster4@gmail.com](mailto:margfoster4@gmail.com) or call 412-486-7672.

- **April 1** – Dues Collection opens for 2021-2022 collection process for the state and international. Alpha Xi Chapter will begin to collect dues checks on this date.
- **June 1** – All dues are due to the Alpha Xi Chapter.
- **June 30** – Member dues collection due in to the state and international.
- **August 1** – Automated notices are emailed from international to members whose dues have not been paid.
- **September 1** – Second automated notices are emailed to members from international whose dues have not been paid.
- **October 1** – Members who have not paid dues will be dropped from the membership rolls.



## National History Day Competition

Terry Klein

Thanks to Paulette's long association with the Heinz History Center and to our support and many visits there as DKG, we became an official affiliate of the History Center last year.

This year the History Center put out a call for judges for the annual National History Day Competition, and Paulette, Melody and Terry answered the call. Although Paulette had been judging in the past, Melody and Terry were first-time judges. Making matters more interesting, the competition was VIRTUAL this year. All projects were submitted on line and were judged there as well.

Some categories lent themselves more readily to viewing on a computer. Paulette judged Documentaries. Melody did Websites. Terry was asked to judge Performances, which were usually judged live with all the excitement and energy one would expect to find in the room. (cont. p. 4)



## Member News

Marg and Herm have a new great-granddaughter, Emma Nicole, born on February 18<sup>th</sup> in Clarksburg, WV. Pictured below are the proud father, Evan, with Emma. Marg and Herm now have 3 great grandchildren and feel so blessed!

It looks like many of our members have been reunited with their families and have also done some traveling again with Florida as the primary destination!



### (cont.) National History Day Competition

This year's Performances were taped and submitted. Both Individual and Group performances on the Junior and Senior level were entered. Amazingly, this format had more pros than cons. Students had to tape in one session, no cutting and pasting, but they could do as many retakes as they wanted before submitting. This assured that they could submit their best work. Judges could watch the Performances more than once and had much more time to fashion constructive feedback.

All in all, the virtual contest seemed to work well, thanks to the impressive organization by the History Center staff, who were always there to clarify rules or answer questions. Next year, things should be back to in-person competitions with students filling the building with buzz and excitement.

Our local winners move on to States and from there to Nationals. These students work so hard to create wonderful displays, projects, films, papers, and more. Perhaps you will be willing to give a bit of time next Spring to join us in judging our local National History Day competitors? Being teachers and former teachers, our members are perfect for the job!



Dress for  
Success  
Store

### Projects: DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Shari

I am very happy to announce that we are continuing our donations to *Dress For Success*. I witnessed how hard DFS works to open their doors to many patrons who cannot afford to purchase new clothes and other wearable items for everyday working and living. These women were lining up to make their purchases for DFS' gently used clothing, shoes and accessories in a special sale one Friday in March. It really did my heart good to see that we have been a continuing part of this donation process to this amazing organization.

So ladies, bring your donations to our May 1st meeting, and I will be waiting to load up my car. I will be taking the donations the following Monday out to the store.



## **Projects: Busy Boxes**

Peg

I can't wait for our IN PERSON meeting at Diamond Run on May 1st! It sounds like we have a busy day planned completing all our projects. Fingers crossed for a sunny, dry day! Here's my plan: I will provide the boxes for the Busy Box Project. When it is time for you to take your box/ boxes, PLEASE CHECK OFF YOUR NAME ON MY CLIPBOARD. You will take this project home to fill with items you have chosen.

Before returning your project, PLEASE, FILL OUT THE LABEL ON THE END OF EACH BOX: Circle : BOY or GIRL and place a checkmark by the appropriate age. The boxes are to be returned at the first meeting of the 2021-22 season. However, if you would like, you may contact me and make arrangements to bring yours to my house.

Once again, I thank you for your continued enthusiasm for this project. The children who receive your Busy Box will be entertained and intrigued by your chosen gifts to them.

PS: I just wanted to tell you how sorry I was to miss Bonnie's presentation. I was unable to get online due to wi-fi issues at the hotel we were in. My husband and I were in FL at the time.

### **Congratulations to Jade**

Eileen Little asked me to be part of the DKG State Administrative Board. After a zoom call, I recently accepted the position as the Projects Chair for the 2021-2023 biennium as part of the Educational Excellence Committee. As Projects chair I will build on Eileen's focus for STEM within chapters. I will be writing articles for the DKG quarterly magazine publication and will be providing resources and ideas about STEM for chapters to pursue.

Editor's Note: We are so proud of Jade and know she will represent Alpha Xi so well on the state level!

### **2021 PA STATE CONVENTION**

Reminder: June 11-13, 2021, The PA State Convention will be held in Scranton, PA.

We will be celebrating Alpha Xi's **65<sup>th</sup> birthday** this year!

Registration Deadline: May 13, 2021! (late registrations with higher costs: May 14-30