

# The Alpha Xi Messenger

August 2016



## The President's Message



WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. For 12 of our members, June saw us at the Pennsylvania State Convention at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. What a busy weekend! My packing skills were sorely tested. As a First-Timer to the convention, I have to say I was pleasantly surprised by the organization, myriad activities and workshops, and the pageantry of Delta Kappa Gamma at the state level. I found myself wondering why I'd never attended before. The biggest takeaway for me was the camaraderie. What a wonderful group of caring and supportive women. See the conference highlights in the sidebar, and catch the spirit in the photos throughout the newsletter.

Also this summer, Paulette and the program committee have been hard at work to develop a slate of programs that I believe will keep us on TRACK with our DKG journey, something those at the State Convention heard a lot about, and you will be hearing about this year as we continue to be "on board" State President Tracey Dusch's train. Look for the Programs schedule ahead and get your TICKET to RIDE.

On September 12, member Ellen Rodwick will speak about Osher (continuing education program) and readers' theater as we travel to France via Sewickley at Café des Amis. Read more about Ellen's DKG journey in a new section of the newsletter – Getting to Know Us -- where we will spotlight a member each issue.

The executive board and committee chairs have also been working on goals, projects, a tri-chapter meeting and a new joint initiative from the fine arts and program committee, mini-outings. In keeping with our goal of getting to know each other better, this initiative will be exploring small outings aside from the regular meetings. Please complete the survey by either printing the form and mailing it to Paulette with the September RSVP, or by completing it online and emailing it to [paulette.hemmings@yahoo.com](mailto:paulette.hemmings@yahoo.com).  
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## Convention Highlights

### Friday Evening Bash

We tried our luck at roulette, blackjack, 31 and pick-a-duck to earn DKG bucks for a live auction of prize bags. Much laughter and mayhem ensued, and after pooling our money, I got a candle for \$900.

### Saturday Celebration Luncheon

This was the event of the weekend, in my opinion! Alpha Xi was recognized for 60 years. What a birthday bash!

### Sunday Awards Breakfast

Melody Hannegan received an Enrichment Grant at the awards brunch for her South Africa trip next year.



Check out your website: <http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>

## President's Message (cont.)

This brings me to another question for you. We are trying to have more levels of communication, so we would like to know your preferences. We will still have the newsletter and RSVP emails, so these will be in addition to what we already have. (Those of you who prefer US Mail will still receive the newsletter that way.) Please click [here](#) for the brief communications survey. If the form doesn't open, Melody is emailing it separately as well.

I am pleased to announce that our Bi-Chapter meeting will once again be a Tri-Chapter meeting. Alpha Upsilon has asked to join Theta and us when we host Pennsylvania State President Tracey Dusch on March 4 at Diamond Run Golf Club. This will be a Saturday meeting, so please mark your calendars now. Check out the projects article for a sneak peek at what we are doing for centerpieces/project for the Tri-Chapter.

On a personal note, I want to thank Melody for her leadership during her biennium and for a smooth transition as she continues to guide me as I embark on a new TRACK along my DKG journey.

I also want to thank the executive board; program committee; Barb McDonald on yearbook; Phyllis Jenny, social chair and the finance committee for their dedication to Alpha Xi. A special thank you to Paulette Hemmings for her hours of work and superior organization skills. Getting a schedule of programs was a bit of a challenge this year. Thank you for persevering! Hopefully, we are on TRACK.

Speaking of TRACKS, start thinking about trains, engineers, railroad signs, and HOPPING ON BOARD. More on this at the September meeting.

Sincerely,  
Faith Jack

Alpha Xi President



Please remember that your DKG dues of \$82.00 are due by October 15th. Your check, made out to "Delta Kappa Gamma", can be sent to Marg Foster at 200 Goldsmith Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or brought to the September meeting.



## DKG Collaborative Communities

Peg Maser, Communications Chair

One of the many new features on the International website ([www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)) is DKG communities, the social media area formerly known as the DKG Network. At this time, the Communities will be centered on various academic areas as threads in the discussions under the overall community (i.e. DKG Home Life – Favorite Recipes from Members; DKG Travels – Italian Travels). As a thread expands, headquarters will open separate communities for that interest group. Members will benefit from sharing ideas and concerns in these online communications with those having similar interests around the world.

### *Membership News:*

**Sallie Fisher** fell this summer and broke her right arm and left leg in several places. She is still recuperating at the Vincentian Home but hopes to be going home by the end of this month.

Condolences to **Mary Preuss** whose husband passed away in June.

**Nancy Penney** and **Barbara Rankin** were both honored at the PA Convention Birthday Luncheon for their number of years (53 & 50) in DKG.

**Sue Phillips** performed the world premier of “Smoke and Steel” with the Bach Choir at the Carrie Furnace.

**Melissa Costantino** had the opportunity to hear Bill Clinton speak to PSEA.

**Barb Rankin** has become the resident storyteller at camp fires at Sherwood Oaks.

**Shari McGill’s** son Paul was the choreographer and assistant director for *School of Scandal* – off Broadway.

## GETTING TO KNOW US!

Ellen Rodwick

I was honored to join DKG in 1988 and was sponsored by Janet Thompson. My mother was also an out-of-state member, so it was a privilege to continue the tradition. I have enjoyed researching and organizing local and international projects for our chapter.

My first teaching experience was at the Illinois State University lab school, as a graduate assistant. During my fourth year as an education major and creative drama minor, I taught creative drama to K-8 students. This was my first step toward my master’s degree in creative drama.

Fate brought me to Pittsburgh, where I completed an internship in the North Hills School District. I demonstrated how to use drama as a teaching tool in many classrooms at the elementary level. After filling in the second half of the year for a first grade teacher on maternity leave, I was offered a position teaching kindergarten – my favorite!

I finished my master’s degree at the University of Pittsburgh, and also obtained my elementary counseling certification at Duquesne University. Since retiring, I have volunteered in the education department of Prime Stage Theater, begun an enjoyable hobby as a clown, and continue to teach for the Osher program at CMU. My courses have included clowning, creative drama, and reader's theater.

I have found DKG to be stimulating, an opportunity to make friends and learn from our talented members, and a way to keep current with trends in education. If anyone would like to learn more about the use of creative drama in the classroom, I would be happy to share my experiences.



## 2016-2017 PROGRAMS Paulette Hemmings

This is a big year for Alpha Xi! In addition to celebrating our chapter's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, we're celebrating our members! Our programs will help to cultivate our friendship and allow us to get better acquainted with each other. At our meetings we'll also gather information that may pique our interest and engage us. We'll enjoy hearing member presentations as well as community speakers, and we'll get to share a meeting with both the Theta and Alpha Upsilon chapters as we hear from our state president, Tracey Dusch. We hope that you'll make plans to join us for several meetings this year as we reminisce about our past and look to our future!

**Projects:** *Peg Maser, Shari McGill, and Phyllis Jenny*

Children's Hospital Child Life Staff once again expressed how much they appreciate receiving the Jared Boxes in the summer since donations of this type drop when schools are not in session. Karen Ulrich and Peg delivered 39 boxes to CHP on July 19th. We will follow the same format and schedule for Jared Boxes this year. Members might consider donating seed money to the \$10 we already have for purchasing the boxes.

RIDING THE RAILS – TAKE TO THE TRACKS		
<b>T</b> aking the 1 <sup>st</sup> Steps to Life-Long Learning – Osher Reader's Theater	Monday – September 12 <sup>th</sup> Café Des Ami Sewickley	Ellen Rodwick
<b>W</b> Reath designing for the Fall	Wednesday, October 19 <sup>th</sup> Pat Catan's at Mt. Nebo	The artistic staff at Pat Catan's
<b>A</b> ccolades to Alpha Xi: Birthday Bash & Educational Changes	Thursday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> (our birthday) Trinity Lutheran Church - Wexford	Jade Leung
<b>C</b> heck it Out	Date – TBD Fresco's - Wexford	TBD
<b>K</b> eept the train on track	Saturday, March 4 <sup>th</sup> Diamond Run Country Club – Ohio Township	Tri-chapter Meeting with PA President, Tracey Dusch
<b>S</b> avoring our Gardens and our New Members	Thursday, May 4 <sup>th</sup> , Sample School House and Cranberry Library	Master Gardener, Bill Goff (& Diane's husband)

In keeping with the state's literacy endeavor, we will collect children's books (K-8), bring them to the winter meetings, and use them as centerpieces for the Tri-chapter Meeting in March. We will invite the other chapters to donate, as well, and will donate all the books to Urban Impact, an organization whose mission is to invest in the lives of at-risk

children, youth, and their families in order to develop mature, responsible citizens through literacy and spirituality.



*Don't forget to  
complete the small  
group survey in  
your email!*

## Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2016

Wildwood Golf Club, 10:30 A.M. 29 Present

The meeting opened at 10:45 with the introduction of guests: Sandy Werderitch introduced Judy Horne (retired, Shaler Area), and Terry Klein introduced our Grant-in-aid recipient, Tori Abbondanza (Duquesne University, Latin).

Barbara MacDonald then conducted the Initiation ceremony. Sallie Fisher, Jade Leung, and Debbie Steinmetz, along with their sponsors Phyllis Jenny and Faith Jack, were invited to the front of the room. The ceremony was a blend of old and new aspects. Several members helped with reading parts to explain our purposes, pin design, and Society traditions.

Next was the Installation of officers for the next biennium: Faith Jack, President; Paulette Hemmings, First Vice President (Programs); Sandy Werderitch, Second Vice President (Membership); Shari McGill, Recording Secretary; Peg Maser, Corresponding Secretary. Also appointees Marg Foster, Treasurer, and Terry Klein, Parliamentarian, were recognized.

Terry Klein introduced Tori Abbondanza, a graduating Latin major from Duquesne University and North Allegheny, as our Grant-in-Aid recipient and presented her with a check.

Melody Hannegan gave the inspiration, a song from *Wicked* with the idea "because I know you, I have been changed for good." Melody presented gifts to her officers and a rose to our longest-belonging member, Nancy Penney.

Peg Maser reported that she had sent a thinking of you card to Sandy Werderitch (foot surgery) and a thank you to Katie of Katie's Clay Studio.

Marg Foster gave the Treasurer's Report, which shows a balance of \$1,021.84.

Paulette Hemmings reported on plans already underway for next year. The Program Committee will meet on May 12.

Faith Jack reported on the Leadership Training she attend in Altoona in April. She made contacts and networked with other incoming chapter presidents.

Peg Maser reported that all 39 Jared Boxes are accounted for. They will be delivered in June to Children's Hospital. She also took some photos with members and the boxes to send to the state Jared Box organization.

Barbara MacDonald will continue to do the yearbook. She will be working on it over the summer for digital submission.

Melody reported on convention plans. We have members going Friday and others coming up for the Saturday birthday luncheon, our 60<sup>th</sup>. 50's attire is requested. Our gift basket will have a birthday party theme.

Faith provided notecards to anyone who wanted to write a note to a serviceperson for the DAR project.  
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minutes (cont. from page 5)

Under Joys and Concerns, **Shari McGill** reported that her son Paul opened his second Off-Broadway show as choreographer and was in a choreographer showcase. Paul will leave for Germany soon to choreograph a circus. **Sue Phillips** sang with the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh at Carrie Furnace for the premier of "Smoke and Steel." **Barbara Rankin** has become the resident storyteller at Sherwood Oaks. **Dede Rittman** is partnering with another educator and going international with *Grady Gets Glasses*. Karen Klingman and Melissa Costantino heard Bill Clinton speak at the PSEA headquarters.

Faith then shared a Shutterfly scrapbook she is creating for Melody. She can add more pictures before it's printed. The meeting ended with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma Song at noon. Faith had the honor of adjourning the meeting. We had a buffet lunch. The raffle basket was won by Jade Leung.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ulrich, Recording Secretary



Our Grant-in-Aid Recipient, **Tori Abbondanza** with **Terry** and **Melody**; **President Faith** receives her rose from **Barb MacDonald**; our new members, **Sallie Fisher**, **Debbie Steinmetz**, and **Jade Leung**; our birthday raffle basket for the state convention; the birthday gals decked out in 50's attire.





**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROGRAM  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016  
CAFÉ DES AMIS  
443 DIVISION STREET  
SEWICKLEY, PA 15143**

**PROGRAM:**

We hope that you can join us at the **TRACKS** as we begin another year of "Riding the Rails!" At our first meeting, we will illustrate the "T" by **TAKING** our first step to lifelong learning as we learn about the Osher Program of courses at CMU from our member, Ellen Rodwick.

<p><b>SCHEDULE:</b> 4:45-5:00 Social Time 5:00-5:45 Business Meeting 5:45-6:45 French Buffet 6:45-7:30 Presentation</p>	<p><b>MENU:</b> Quiche Lorraine Croque Monsier Chicken Salad on Croissant Garden Salad, with dressings Macaroni Salad Three Bean Salad Dessert Tray Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, Water (If you like, you are also welcome to BYOB)</p>
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**COST: \$23.00 PER PERSON**

**Reservation and payment due by September 2, 2016**

**Payment: Check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, sent to:**

Paulette Hemmings

5052 Windriver Drive

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Questions? Contact Paulette at 412-331-7894 or [paulette.hemmings@comcast.net](mailto:paulette.hemmings@comcast.net)

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR GUEST'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARKING AT STREET METERS, NEARBY BANK/YMCA LOTS. CARPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED:**

From Target, Rt. 228, Cranberry  I can give a ride.  I would like a ride.

From Giant Eagle, Camp Horne Rd.  I can give a ride.  I would like a ride.

**ANY PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL NEWS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE MEMBERS:**