

The Alpha Xi Messenger

August 2020



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies!

At our last meeting in March, who could have predicted what the next five months would bring! It's certainly been a challenging spring and summer, filled with worry, uncertainty, and a major change from our normal routine, but based on the stories you shared in the last two newsletters, it seems that it's also been an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and maybe take some time for yourself.

I hope that you and your family continue to stay safe and healthy. As we began planning for this year's meetings, our members' health and safety have remained our top priority. You will notice in the program committee's report that we have pared down our number of meetings this year, and the venues were chosen because they have the space for us to socially distance. In addition, for the first two meetings we will have individually boxed meals for everyone's safety. We hope that the precautions we've taken on your behalf will give you confidence that we can safely meet.

I am acquiring a better understanding and appreciation for all of the components of a successful chapter. Thanks so much to the officers and committees for their work this summer; you have all stepped up to help as we are charting unfamiliar waters this year.

Since the annual DKG state convention was cancelled this summer, all of the new chapter presidents received training via eight 90-minute Zoom sessions with the state leaders. Our state president, Eileen Little, emphasized how everyone's involvement in the chapter is vital, so if you're not actively engaged in some aspect of Alpha Xi, talk to any officer or committee chair to find out how you can help, or if you're approached to take on a responsibility, please say "yes!" During the training, I also learned of several changes that will affect our chapter, which I'm eager to discuss with you at our September meeting. The changes relate to many essential parts of our chapter: membership, budget, the teacher enrichment grant, programs, standing rules, and website security.



In addition, we'll have the installation of new officers, since we weren't able to hold our April meeting. It will be a busy meeting to start the year, so come ready to be involved (and wear your mask, of course)!

Thanks, and I hope to see you at the first meeting!

Paulette

Donate Change, Grant a Wish: Don't forget to wrap your loose change and bring it to any of the meetings. At the first meeting, we each will receive coin wrappers for donations to the Teacher Enrichment Grant. If you miss the first meeting, we will have extras at the other meetings. Any type of monetary donation is acceptable.

The 2020-202 Alpha Xi Remaining Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	VENUE
Monday, September 14, 2020	Installation of Officers, Kick-off Business Meeting , DKG Activity	Trinity Lutheran Church, Brandt School Rd., Wexford
Tuesday, October 20, 2020	“Women Forging the Way” in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement	The Heinz History Center Smallman St., The Strip District
Tuesday, March 9, 2021	Living in Liberty/ Combatting Human Trafficking in the Pittsburgh Area	Luciano’s Brick Oven Rt. 228 – Mars
Saturday, May 1, 2021	Presentation on Being an Author and/or an Entrepreneur - Dede	Diamond Run Golf Club Laurel Oak Dr., Ohio Township

The Program Committee

The program committee met via ZOOM to plan the programs for the new year. Our discussion focused on holding meetings in venues that would provide safety for the health of our members and programs that would interest all women and follow the guidelines of DKG.

Because of the uncertainty in our world, the decision was made to hold four meetings this year. The fall meetings will be in rooms large enough to allow us to social distance and will consist of boxed meals so each person has her own meal without any type of sharing of food or utensils.

We will install the new officers in September since our May meeting was canceled. The first business meeting will be rather lengthy due to several important items to be presented and discussed. Therefore, we will not have a speaker or formal program, but we will gain knowledge of our members through an activity that involves prizes. The programs planned for the remaining three meeting are on topics that are current and of interest to all of us.

This year we are trying to plan an “extra” social outing that would be similar to the food tours that we did in the past. Once again this is dependent upon the pandemic which has taken over all of our lives.

Melissa and I, along with our committee members Karen B., Sallie F, and Barb M., hope you will be able attend the meetings and enjoy the food, fellowship, and programs we have selected.

Phyllis

The Membership Committee

I’m honored to take my place as membership chair. I haven’t been a member of Alpha Xi for as long as most of you, so I look forward to getting to know each of you better.

It seems like years instead of months since we all met in person. Let’s hope our scheduled September 14th meeting can take place. While we’re waiting, let’s each of us try to think of someone who could be a prospective member: maybe a former or current fellow educator, a neighbor, a church or organization buddy, a relative. If you know of any former members, you could ask them to rejoin. I’ll have forms available at each meeting for you to nominate someone for you to sponsor as a new member. A sample is included so you can see what information to gather.

We’re hoping to be able to distribute information about the Teacher Enrichment Grant soon. The plan was to disseminate brochures and explanatory letters to teachers when school starts, but with schools’ reopening up in the air, so is our timeline. We’ll have to reassess our procedure when we know more.

If anyone is interested in helping with the membership committee or the Teacher Enrichment Grant, you can contact me at



alphaxi.membership2020@gmail.com

Jeanne

A New World Brings Changes to Newsletters and Websites

In this day and age of covid-19, there are other viruses that concern us, as well. As these internet viruses and “hacks” grow, we need to be diligent in protecting our information.

For that reason, some differences will appear in our newsletters and Keystonian issues as well as on our websites. No longer will we see contact information in print that can be seen by the public. If you check the Keystonian and chapter newsletters on the PA website, you will notice many black boxes hiding that information on all past publications.

Our executive board has approved an upgrade to our website which will allow me to protect certain pages for your view only. When that is up and running, I will let you know how it will work. Also, in newsletters, I will not print our last names. How will the public contact us? Jeanne has shared her new email address in her article. I am going to use the following address for newsletters, the website and general Alpha Xi business: info.alphaxi.dkgsa@gmail.com

I hope these new measures will keep us all ‘safe’!

Melody



Thanks to Melissa for hosting the 2020-2022 Executive Board Meeting on Zoom and for capturing it in a screenshot! Both the outgoing and incoming boards met by Zoom this summer!

The September meeting will be sponsored by the Shaler members. Tickets for the raffle basket will be priced at 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10.

Websites:
<https://www.dkg.org/>
<https://dkgsa.weebly.com/>
<https://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>

THE BUSY BOX PROJECT

Once again I'd like to express my continued hope that this newsletter finds each of you healthy and coping well with our current CoVid19 situation.

Here is a long overdue update on our Busy Box Project. I recently contacted the donations coordinator at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. I learned that the hospital shut down all individual and group "in kind" donations in mid-March. The new policy requires all donors to go to the hospital's online donations sight, choose a gift from their list, purchase and send it directly to CHP. Thus eliminating hands on contact.

In further communications with the director, she asked if our Busy Boxes were already completed. Of course, I replied that they are! Unfortunately, she had already finished her day's work and gone home. But, before she left, she did send another note to tell me that she may have some ideas of what we may be able to do with them. Keep your fingers crossed that there will be one or more that we can use. I am very sorry to say that I will not have that information in time to include it in this newsletter. So, at this point, I am requesting that you continue to store your lovingly prepared Busy Box(es), and please patiently wait until I can share some better news.

Thank you so much for your continued patience during this confusing time! I will be in touch again as soon as possible.

Peg

P.S. To be honest, I am rather glad I do NOT have all 28 boxes gathered in my living room this year.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS - Shari

We will once again be donating gently used women's clothing to this caring organization which helps those less fortunate to re-enter the workforce. This project will begin in September, so start gathering unwanted clothes. DFS is very grateful to DKG for all the bags of clothing we have donated to this great cause.

Proceeds from last year's raffle baskets, wrapped coins, and donations were \$749.86 and will fund the Teacher Enrichment Grant(s) this year. In addition to the wrapped coins drive, we will also continue to sponsor each of our meetings by school district.



Jade has had an active summer while Melody has spent much of hers on the deck!



Congratulations to Peg on the birth of great grandson, Maverick!