

The Alpha Xi Messenger

August 2021



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies,

Summers always go so fast, but this one has seemed busier than usual! The DKG state convention that was held at the Scranton Hilton in June was very well done. The speakers offered creative ideas and thoughtful discussions. It was wonderful to meet many friendly, inspiring people during the weekend, and I especially enjoyed the luncheon where Alpha Xi was honored for our 65th birthday and the dinner where I was installed as chapter president. Hopefully, you noticed that our chapter's birthday was highlighted in the latest Keystonian; watch for an article about our chapter in the next issue!

I was thrilled and appreciative that our entire chapter renewed their membership for next year. I am very grateful for your support, especially during these challenging times.

We're now making plans for our new year of meetings! Things have improved from last year at this time, but we continue being mindful of everyone's health and safety while we move our chapter forward.

Our committees have been working behind the scenes to devise ideas to increase membership, organize projects that make a difference, publicize our teacher enrichment grant, and provide a variety of fascinating programs. (Be sure to mark your calendar for November 15th when we'll celebrate our 65th birthday and reminisce about our chapter's history with some special treasures that we found in our historical records!) Look for ways that you can get involved to support and promote Alpha Xi!

One thing you can do this year is "make a personal connection." Reach out to a female teacher in northern Allegheny County or southern Butler County who exemplifies "excellence," and tell her that she's noticed and appreciated. Tell her about all that we do, and about our extraordinary and accomplished members. Give her a copy of our program schedule and invite her to join us at a meeting. Or connect with a former DKG member, let her know what exciting things we've been doing, and that she's missed! Share our grant information with a worthy candidate and encourage her to apply.



I can't wait to see you in September, as we begin a busy year ahead!

Paulette

Website Links:

DKG International: www.dkg.org – You can find and print your membership card on this site. If you haven't done so already, you will need your membership # (see your old card) and will need to create a password.

PA DKG: www.dkgpa.weebly.com – look for pictures from the state convention and news from Jade, Project Chair, about STEM initiatives.

Alpha Xi: www.alphaxipadkg.org – look for the newsletters, program calendar, and the Teacher Enrichment Grant information as well as pictures that did not make it into the newsletter.

The Program Committee

Phyllis

The program committee, consisting of Barb, Sallie, Paulette, Melissa and I, met at Eat ‘n Park on June 23rd. We discussed many different ideas for venues and programs and decided that we would return to having six meetings this year since the pandemic seemed to be under control.

At the conclusion of our meeting, we tentatively decided on dates, venues , and programs. Following many phone calls, emails, and changes, the schedule for 2021- 2022 programs was finalized.

The topics for this year include something for everyone - “a hands on” candle making craft, learning about sharing our environment with interesting animals, a lesson on self-defense, a bit of naval history, and focusing on the life of one reservation of native Americans in South Dakota. We will also be celebrating our chapter’s 65th birthday with cake and a “meet and greet” game including prizes.

I hope you will all be able to attend these meetings and enjoy the food, fellowship, and programs with us.

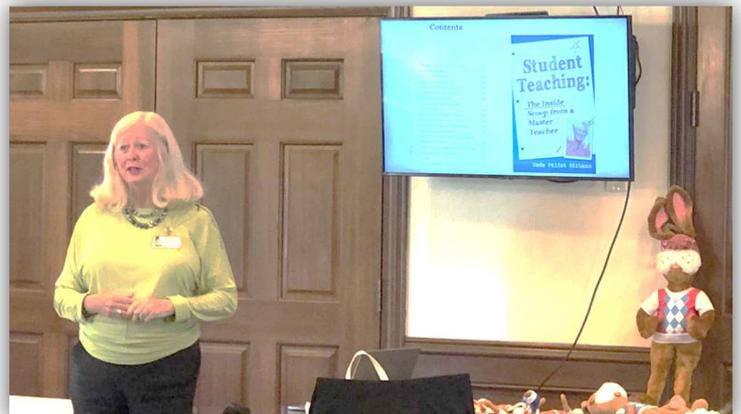
The 2021-2022 Program Calendar

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Monday, September 13 2021	Trinity Lutheran Church, Brandt School Rd., Wexford	Martial Arts & Self Defense - Jade	Boxed dinner
Thursday, October 14, 2021	Café Des Amis – Sewickley	Fern Hollow – Unusual Animals in our Area	French Cuisine
Monday, November 15, 2021	PSquare in Bellevue	Make a natural, fragrance- free candle	Alpha Xi 65 th birthday party with desserts
Wednesday, January 26, 2022	Luciano’s in Seven Fields	Sailing the Great Lakes on a Floating Museum – Ed Hale & the US Brig Niagara	Italian dinner
Tuesday, March 22, 2022	The Heinz History Center, the Strip District	Tour of Visible Storage – behind the scene artifacts – Bob Stakely	Catered dinner
Saturday, April 30, 2022	Diamond Run Golf Club – Ohio Township	Welcome Ceremony & Installation of Officers Lakota Friends Circle which supports the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota – Tracy Ferguson	Buffet luncheon



May 2021

Left: Nicole McDonald shares her students’ thank you card for their books
Right: Dede and Brady explained the process of publishing her books.



Projects

Project Period: Our New Service Project Terry

Project Period is an ongoing drive at the Butler area YWCA to collect and distribute tampons, sanitary pads and reusable menstrual cups to women and girls in need. It is also an advocacy effort to end the stigma and mystery surrounding menstruation and women's bodies with the ultimate goal of changing policies in order to make these products more affordable and accessible to all who need them.

Why is this so important?

- *Menstrual products are costly.
- *Menstrual products cannot be purchased with SNAP or WIC benefits.
- *Menstrual products typically aren't donated to shelters and food banks, even though they are an essential need.
- *Without access to menstrual products, women and girls may turn to make-shift alternatives like cloth, rags, diapers, or paper as a substitute.

A recent study found that 64 percent of the women surveyed had been unable to afford period products during the previous year and 21 percent experienced this problem on a monthly basis.

Almost half had times during the past year when they had to choose between food and period products.

Project Period makes monthly kits available at food banks, shelters, and other community locations. It supplies counselor-identified high school students with monthly kits and sends home multiple kits for use over the summer.

Alpha Xi can assist this important cause by donating supplies and assembling kits.

Busy Boxes Peg

Does it seem like your summer is flying by? How quickly it is disappearing! In a few short weeks we will be gathering together, so I am reminding all members who have made a commitment to create a Busy Box for the children served by Children, Youth and Family Services that completed boxes should be brought to our first in-person meeting.

Please, be sure to fill out the label on the end of the box that indicates the gender and age of the child it is designed to entertain. If you cannot attend, please contact me and make arrangements to get your box (es) to me prior to September 13th.

Thank you so very much for your continued zeal for this project ! What we do is greatly appreciated by the recipients!

By the way, there is still time to make a box. If you need one, just give me a call!



Projects

Dress for Success

Shari

We will continue our DFS project for the 2021-22 year. So ladies, gather up your gently used clothing and bring those bags to our first in-person meeting. Show your generosity, and fill my car with your donations. We will be collecting each meeting this year. DFS is very grateful for all of the DKG donations.



Busy Box – a Note of Gratitude

Hi Peg,

So nice to hear from you! Yes, what a year it's been indeed!!

We would love to be the recipient of those 20 boxes. My casework staff was so excited to receive the ones you gave to us previously. They were placed in vehicles to entertain children being transported to appointments. They also provided opportunities for parents to interact with their children during supervised visitations.

You just keep me posted when they're ready and we'll figure out a way to connect.

I so appreciate you thinking of us again. Thank you!!

Kind regards,
Shelli

Membership

Jeanne V.

I am pleased to announce that 100% of you renewed your DKG membership this year. Because of you, we will be able to continue our worthwhile projects and share our professional expertise. But in order to grow and thrive, we need to attract new members. This is up to all of us because DKG membership is offered only by invitation by a local chapter through its members.

Please try to think of any potential candidates you can invite to a meeting. Maybe you know a teacher in your children or grandchildren's school. Perhaps you have a former or current colleague who would be interested in our organization. Do you have a neighbor who is a current or former teacher whom you could bring to a meeting? If we all do our part, we can keep our chapter strong.

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Faith leads the chapter in welcoming Jeanne Keys at the end of her newly remodeled Welcoming Ceremony.

Ways and Means

Jeanne V.

Shortly after school starts, we will begin advertising the Teacher Enrichment Grant.

Applications will be due by October 10 so that we can evaluate the entries before the November meeting when we will vote on the recipients. In addition to posting on social media, we will be distributing an informational flyer at our September meeting so that each of us has the necessary facts to give to potential candidates. It can be difficult to get the word out to teachers who might be interested in applying for the grant, so we're asking our members to spread the word to anyone they can. If you have any other ideas of how to get the information out there, let me know.

At our May meeting, we had a sale of books donated by our members. On that day, we raised \$128. Later, Half Price Books gave us \$60 for the books not sold for a total of \$188 for the Teacher Enrichment Grant. Thanks to all who donated or bought books. Since this was such a success, we want to do it again at our last meeting of the year on April 30, 2022. Please save any books you can donate and bring them to that meeting.

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Editorial Note: I took 13 books to my father from the sale – most of which he has already consumed. He turns 98 years old on August 30th.

Yearbook Reminder

If you haven't done so already, please check your yearbook entry and let Barb know if it is current or needs to be updated. The deadline to respond to her is August 15th.



Note the slide behind Paulette!

Public Relations

Karen U.

In an effort to promote interest in our Teacher Enrichment Grant, Jade and I created a "news release" to be sent to local publications.

We sent it to *triblive* with the hopes that it could be published in some of their editions. They have stopped printing weekly editions in some areas, so if you see it in an online issue, please let Melody, Jeanne, Paulette, or me know.

In addition, we submitted a summary of our past year's activities in an article that should appear in the next (fall) issue of *The Keystonian*. It's about time that we let the rest of the state's chapters know the great programs we have and many projects we support.

Finally, if you have new ideas of how we can get more coverage in the northern suburbs, please pass that information on to us.