

The Alpha Xi Messenger

August 2022



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies!

I hope that everyone is doing well and enjoying the summer! Mine mostly consisted of hip replacement surgery and recuperation, but now I'm looking forward to beginning my second biennium with you! Thirty-seven members renewed this year, and I appreciate your support and involvement!

In June some members from our chapter enjoyed the DKG convention at State College, where we gathered lots of great ideas! It was announced that our chapter received a 2021-2022 Chapter Newsletter and Website Award (great job, Melody!), and we learned that there will be a Creative Arts Retreat at Camp Ladore in Waymart, PA from April 21-23 next year. It was an informative, inspiring, and fun weekend together!

Your Executive Board met twice over the summer to make plans for a busy year ahead, and the Program Committee has six fascinating programs planned for us. We'll also get involved in one of our primary goals: projects to help others.

Being a teacher in 2022 can be very stressful and challenging. This year invite some of your colleagues to join us at a DKG meeting where they will feel welcomed, valued, proud, and motivated. It's an opportunity to become energized and see what we have to offer!

I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting in September!

Paulette



HONORING OUR FOUNDER

In May, 2022, Delta Kappa Gamma's founder, Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, was accepted into the National Women's History Museum (NWHM), which is an innovative online museum dedicated to discovering, interpreting and celebrating women's diverse contributions to society. She is included in the "Chronicles of American Women" segment, as she was the first woman president of the Texas State Teachers' Association and the first woman in Texas to hold a statewide elected office. The museum reaches more than four million visitors each year, ensuring that she will be recognized among the many women who have had a significant impact in the U.S. Congratulations, Dr. Blanton, for being an inspiring role model and trailblazer in the fields of education and politics.



The Program Committee

Phyllis Jenny

The program committee met in early summer to discuss the programs for the 2022-23 year. Thanks to the committee members, Sallie Fisher, Jeanne Keys, Barbara MacDonald, and Paulette Hemmings for all their work in contacting speakers and venues. The dates, venues, and speakers are in the chart below.

Come join us for the first meeting on September 14 at Trinity. We will enjoy a delicious dinner of quiche Lorraine, ham & cheese croissants, seasoned potatoes, harvest salad, brownies, and beverages. Vivian Sylvester, outreach mission coordinator for the Olive Branch, will discuss the work of this organization and ways that we can help their mission to aid girls and women.

The 2022-2023 Program Calendar

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Wednesday, September 14, 2022	Trinity Lutheran Church, Brandt School Rd., Wexford	The Olive Branch and the Sew Perfect Project – Vivian Sylvester	Boxed dinner
Monday, October 24, 2022	The Heinz History Center, the Strip District	Special Exhibit – John Kane: The Life of an American Workman – Bob Stakeley	Catered dinner
Thursday, December 1, 2022	Luciano’s Restaurant in Seven Fields	Acadia National Park – Jade Leung, recipient of a state enrichment grant	Italian dinner
Wednesday, January 25, 2023	Shaler North Hills Library, Mt. Royal Boulevard	Relaxation and Chair Yoga – Maggie Aebi	Boxed dinner
Tuesday, March 14, 2023	North Park Clubhouse, Rt. 8 in Gibsonia	“Voices From the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War” – Carleton Young	Buffet dinner
Saturday, April 29, 2023	Diamond Run Golf Club – Ohio Township	Travel on a Mediterranean Cruise – Melissa Costantino, recipient of a state enrichment grant	Buffet luncheon

The September Program

Jeanne Keys

The speaker at our September 14th meeting will be Vivian Sylvester. Through her work with the Olive Branch Store in Wexford, she became involved with Sew Perfect, an organization that sews purses (as well as other projects) for girls in Zambia to carry their feminine products. Without these purses, they would have to miss several days of school each month.

Vivian has visited Zambia twice, and as a former teacher, also became interested in an affiliated school. We look forward to hearing how she has helped young women in Zambia become educated while maintaining their dignity.

Projects

Ways and Means

Jeanne Vendeland

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 December 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.

Membership

Thanks to all who renewed their memberships this year. However, in order to thrive, we need new members. Do you know someone you think would be interested in joining DKG: maybe a former or present colleague, a neighbor, a relative? Invite them to a meeting so they can meet us and see what we're all about. We have several interesting and informative programs and worthwhile projects lined up this year.



Busy Boxes

Peg Maser

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 the September 14th 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 the meeting.

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!

Dress for Success

Shari McGill

We will continue our DFS project for the 2022-23 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.

NOTE: New Email Address

We have a new email address for chapter communications! Melody and Jeanne will both be using it for newsletters, the website, and grant applications! Please add the address to your address book to prevent emails from going into spam folders! alphaxipadkg@yahoo.com



Introducing your executive board for the 2022-2024 biennium: Barbara MacDonald, Treasurer; Sallie Fisher, Corresponding Secretary; Terry Klein, Parliamentarian; Jeanne Vendeland, 2nd Vice President; Paulette Hemmings, President; Melody Hannegan, Recording Secretary; Phyllis Jenny, 1st Vice President; Faith Jack, Past President

Social Committee

Phyllis

It has been decided that our group will NOT be doing the “Secret Sisters” activity this year. We are planning a new activity that will also involve mailing cards to some members of our organization. Everything will be explained at the first meeting, and members will have the opportunity to participate. Hopefully more people will take part in this new undertaking.

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.

Member News

Paulette had hip replacement surgery on June 16th and is progressing in her rehabilitation. Former member, **Shirley Stevens** (Quaker Valley School District) passed away in April. **Dede** is writing another book, this time in collaboration with two other authors. Her focus will be on new teachers. **Melody** celebrated her 40th anniversary with DKG in May. **Jade** and **Melissa** both received state enrichment grants for travel this summer. On July 24th, **Jade** placed 3rd in a fishing tournament for Ross resident adults that was held at Evergreen Community Park. Each fish was measured and total inches of all the fish a contestant caught was added up. She had 81 inches during the 3.5 hours of the tournament. **Peg** welcomed a 3rd great-grandchild – Carter Richard, born in June.



Many thanks to all who donated and purchased books in the book sale!