

# The Alpha Xi Messenger

February 2020



## You Have a Voice and a Choice: The 2019-2020 Alpha Xi Remaining Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	VENUE
Thursday, March 12, 2020	Easy Arts and Crafts (Darlene Farrell)	Shaler North Hills Library Mt. Royal Blvd. in Shaler
Sunday, April 26, 2020	Induction and Installation Ceremonies	Diamond Run Golf Club Ohio Township

## The President's Message



Greetings!

Winter has finally found us and brought us our first snow day! Hoping you all stayed safe and warm!

Our January meeting was full of camaraderie, enlightenment, and joy. Melissa Costantino led us in a hands-on lesson problem solving for the environmental issue of water pollution. The Avonworth contingency provided fund raisers of a silent auction, bake and book sales. We met Allison (Ali) Burns, another Teacher Enrichment Grant recipient.

Congratulations to our new officers for the 2020-2022 biennium: President Paulette Hemmings, Co 1st VPs Melissa Costantino and Phyllis Jenny, 2nd Vice President Jeanne Vendeland, Recording Secretary Melody Hannegan, and Corresponding Secretary Darlene Farrell. Thank you for stepping up to these leadership roles. Paulette will be reaching out to others for service as committee chairs. Please consider serving the chapter in some capacity.

We have received two invitations from neighboring chapters. First, Theta has their scholarship fundraiser on Saturday, April 4 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Greentree. Shopping begins at 10 a.m. and the program/luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$35. Second, Alpha Phi is hosting a multi-chapter meeting with State President Eileen Little on March 14 at the South Hills Country Club beginning at 11:00 a.m. Cost: \$35. **RSVP by February 22.** If you are interested in either of these events, please text me (412-303-5443), and I will get the RSVP information to you.

State Convention is June 12-14 at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College; please consider attending to support Paulette as she is installed as Alpha Xi President. Also, remember that the International Convention is in Philadelphia July 7-11.

March's meeting will allow us to express our creative side with Darlene Farrell at Shaler North Hills Library. This is a mini example of what the Creative Arts Retreat is like, so be sure to RSVP and attend.

See you soon!

Faith Jack  
President, Alpha Xi



## PROGRAM COMMITTEE - TERRY KLEIN

Thank you to everyone who came out on a cold night for our January meeting at DiPietro's. Lots of fellowship, good food, and a mega-fundraiser made for a great evening. Special thanks to Melissa Costantino for her program on sustainability. It was a thought-provoking presentation, which exposed many of us to the exciting ways math is being taught today.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at Shaler North Hills Library. Darlene Farrell will lead us through easy steps to create our own felt roses, greeting cards and notes. It will be a time to socialize while we work on "make it and take it" crafts.

**We will be bringing our own brownbag dinners, so there will be no need for an RSVP form for this meeting. However, Darlene would appreciate knowing how many members to prepare for. Please do her the courtesy of replying directly to her by March 5<sup>th</sup> if you are planning to come. No need for regrets. Here is a quick link to her email [sewncookie@aol.com](mailto:sewncookie@aol.com)**

We should begin arriving at 4:45 as usual. Come earlier if you can to help set up the tables!

Looking ahead to our final meeting of the year, we will be having an Installation and Induction brunch meeting at the Diamond Run Golf Club. There will be one **change** from past years. Our meeting will be held on **SUNDAY**, April 30<sup>th</sup> because all Saturdays in the spring had been booked over a year in advance for weddings! More details will follow in a later newsletter.

### Dress for Success – Shari McGill

As spring cleaning season approaches, keep Dress for Success in mind. Bring gently worn clothes to the next DKG meeting as a donation. Please keep them in your car for transfer after the meeting.

Thanks



### Busy Box Project – Peg Maser

Six boxes remain to be filled and will be available at the March meeting. Please do not bring filled boxes to the library as I will not be present. We will collect all boxes in April.

Here are the *donation guidelines*:

- All items must be NEW ( store bought items and in original packaging )
- Do not include any homemade items like hats, blankets or cards
- Do not wrap any items in tissue or wrapping paper
- Do not put labels or tags on anything
- **NO FOOD ITEMS OR PERFUMED LOTIONS**
- Do not decorate the lid of the box as the patients like to do that
- Do not include any item that does not fit in the box

**DKG International News:** Members are now able to print their own cards from their MyDKG Account on the international website.



Alpha Xi Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
General Meeting Minutes  
DiPietro's Ristorante  
January 16, 2020

Greetings and the raffle were provided by Avonworth sisters with an array of items for auction.

We collectively enjoyed an Inspiration by Jeanne Vendeland, from Chicken Soup for the Teachers' Soul. Then we proceeded to the event room of DiPietro's and had a delicious dinner.

Phyllis Jenny introduced our guest Allison Burns, a Teacher Enrichment Grant recipient and North Hills 4<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher. She used the grant money to incorporate flexible seating in the classroom.

Jeanne Keys of North Hills also attended.

**7:05 Faith Jack President called the meeting to order.**

**Following our meeting our wonderful sister Melissa Costantino-Prouben had a very interesting, hands-on program on Sustainable Engineering.**

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** The minutes of November 6, 2019, were approved.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT:** Darlene Farrell reported that she sent out get well cards to Faith for her surgery and Shari who was hospitalized. Terry Klein also said she received a thank you note from Amy Rak.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Marg Foster also reported our balance on hand as of January 15, is \$5,754.67.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Sandy Werderitch reported we are looking for new members, so consider reaching out to prospective members.

**\*\*COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** Terry Klein reported that on March 12, 2020 we will be creating "Easy Arts and Crafts" at the Shaler North Hills Library on Mt. Royal Boulevard. The very talented Darlene Farrell will be gracing us with creative ideas for easy art projects. (DON'T FORGET YOUR BROWN BAG DINNER ANAD DRINK!)

**FINANCE REPORT:** Marg also encouraged everyone to submit the coin wrappers.

**SOCIAL REPORT:** Phyllis stated that Secret Sisters is going well!

**PROJECTS REPORT:** Peg Maser sent a message on the "Busy Boxes" project since she could not be at this meeting, but Karen Ulrich will take what boxes remain and return them into Peg. Be sure that everything fits inside the boxes when filled. The labels are at the end of the boxes; be sure the age and gender are in clear view. A few other reminders: do not gift wrap, no toys that promote violence, no handmade items, no food, no personal shampoo or personal care products. **DO NOT DECORATE THE BOX!**

(General Meeting Minutes continued)

Shari McGill reported we will be collecting gently used clothes for Dress or Success again this month. DFS really looks forward to our donations and appreciates our work. Bring items to the parking lot before or after the meeting. **\*\*I am hoping to be at the April meeting, so I will accept a little help from our sisters transporting the donations.**

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:** Faith presented the slate of elected officers in Melody Hannegan's absence: Paulette Hemmings, President; Melissa Costantino and Phyllis Jenny, Co-Vice Presidents; Jeanne Vendeland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Darlene Farrell, Corresponding Secretary; Melody Hannegan, Recording Secretary. Marg Foster motioned to accept the slate and Jade Leung seconded it. The motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Faith reported that the International Convention is in Philadelphia in July 11, 2020; volunteers are needed. She also encouraged members to take advantage of benefits offered by our state and national organizations.

The newsletter deadline is February 7, 2020

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari McGill, Recording Secretary

### Membership News

**Faith Jack** thanks everyone for the well wishes from her surgery.

**DeDe Rittman** will be at the Shaler North Hills Library in February with Grady.

**Melissa Costantino-Poruben** is running for the PSEA/NEA DIRECTOR at the state level. The VOTING is in MAY! PSEA members, BE SURE TO GIVE HER YOUR SUPPORT!

**Jade Leung** is being installed in the Executive Board of as the Chair of Professional Development for the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Award  
**Congratulations Jade!**

**Karen Klingman** is having knee surgery February 25. **We wish you well!**

The **Shaler** ladies will be hosting the March 12th meeting. Raffle tickets for the "basket" will be \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00 as all proceeds will benefit the Teacher Enrichment Grant.

Also, for the Teacher Enrichment Grant, don't forget to wrap your loose change and bring it to any of the remaining meetings! Extra wrappers are still available



Grant recipient, Ali Burns with Karen (left); Melissa with daughter, Violet, - STEM is for girls! (right)

