

The Alpha Xi Messenger

February 2015



The President's Message

What is it about a pot luck dinner in a church hall on a cold February evening that makes us feel so comfortable? A wide variety of delicious homemade foods? An opportunity to socialize in a setting all to ourselves? Engaging speakers who offer valuable information and help us to be thankful for the times in which we live? A chance to vie for top bid on new-found treasures while clearing our homes of some no longer wanted clutter? A unanimous vote to invite new members into our fold? A moment to reflect together on the loss of a beloved member? Opportunities to serve the local and world community through projects? A gathering of really special women? I think all of the above contribute !

Many thanks to **Lisa Upsher** from CORE and **Janey Walsh**, a pancreas and kidney transplant recipient, our speakers! Lisa outlined how CORE assists in the organ donation process and dispelled common myths about organ donation. Now healthy, Janey told her story of a long but ultimately successful journey through organ transplantation.



Center for Organ Recovery & Education www.core.org

I am so pleased to announce that we voted to invite five women educators to join DKG in May. They are Shaler teachers, **Shari McGill** and **Jill Millard**, and North Allegheny retirees **Fran Bogos**, **Pam Ross**, and **Nancy Weixel**.

Thanks to the organizational skills of **Peg Maser** and **Karen Ulrich** in preparing the boxes with labels and directions and the generosity of **Dede Rittman**, **Karen Klingman**, **Karen's daughter**, and **Jessie Friedrich** in supplying boxes and items for children at Children's Hospital, the Jared Box Project is off to a great start. If you did not have a chance to take one, please call Peg or Karen or plan to pick one up at the next meeting. Completed boxes can be taken to either of the next two meetings and will be distributed at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital in June.



<http://www.thejaredbox.com/>

(continued on the next page)

THE 2014-2015 CALENDAR

ENGAGE

in the community of Alpha Xi!

Explore Local History

Wednesday, September 17th
The Heinz History Center
Steamboat Arabia

Nurture Your Creativity

Tuesday, October 28th
The Pittsburgh Glass Center
Working with Glass

Gather Consumer Advice

Thursday, December 4th
Luciano's Restaurant in Mars
ID Theft & Security

Affirm life: Organ Donation

Wednesday, February 4th
Trinity Lutheran Church
What is CORE?

Grow DKG Sisterhood

Saturday, March 7th
McCormick & Schmick's,
South Side Works
with Theta Chapter
State President, Kay Stuart

Educate: Past, Present, & Future

Thursday, May 7th
Sample Schoolhouse /
Cranberry Library
Tour & Initiation of New
Members

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

(President's Message – cont.)

We have a wonderful start toward filling our handywoman raffle toolbox for the state convention. You will find a wish list for additional items in an email.

Also, we have begun our chair raffle to benefit the PA Head Start Association by asking all members to sell at least \$30.00 worth of tickets. **Karen Klingman** now has custody of the chair while it visits faculty rooms at Avonworth and North Hills. If you would like to display the chair, please let me know. You will receive the tickets and an informational sheet by email. The drawing will be held at our May 7th meeting. Thank you in advance for your participation in this worthy project.

Finally, I hope to see you at the March 7th Bi-chapter Meeting, hosted by Theta. It will be a fabulous occasion where we can reunite with our Theta sisters and meet our State President, Kay Stuart. Kay is so enthusiastic and positive – an inspiring leader in DKG.

The reservation form is at the end of this newsletter and can also be found on our website. Please note the deadline for mailing in the reservation and promptly send it to **Dr. Norma Ratti** of Theta, not Paulette. Carpooling options are available to the McCormick and Schmick's Restaurant at the South Side Works.

Thank you for your dedication, generosity and fellowship! May you all stay warm and healthy!

Melody

viatoretis@comcast.net

JOYS and CONCERNS:

At least two members, **Ellen Rodwick** and **Marg Foster**, are wintering in sunny Florida.

Melissa Costantino-Poruben was seen in the audience of The Ellen Degeneres Show in January.

Paulette Hemmings had surgery for a torn meniscus in her knee.

Phyllis Jenny is having her second knee replacement surgery on February 13th.

In Memoriam

Areta (Rita, Miss K) Kalogeras

Areta has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 1987. She served as Music Co-chairman with Sue McKinney and then as Chairman for twelve years. Through that job, she contributed to the program committee and arranged for many of our musical performances at our May Teas as well as a memorable visit to the Pittsburgh Opera Company. We will miss her hardy laughter and endless dedication.



The 2015 Alpha Alpha State Creative Arts Retreat: March 27-29, Olmsted Manor, Ludlow, PA
The registration form is in the Winter Keystonean or can be found through this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DC76UGmSowJj7kJYCDIPKM5ZsXS936ReDLbZZBFHsBE/viewform>

Registration deadline: March 6, 2015

Minutes-Executive Board Meeting

January 12, 2015

Panera-McCandless Crossing

Present: Melody Hannegan, Paulette Hemmings, Marg Foster, Faith Jack, Peg Maser, Barb MacDonald, Terry Klein.

Peg Maser was asked to take minutes of the meeting. Melody had an agenda set up.

President's Report: The good news is that we have had consistent attendance. The Bad news is that we are still losing members. (51 currently). It was pointed out that we are still one of the largest chapters. We need to develop an action plan to be included with state-required reports.

Membership: We got one former member to return with our effort to re-invite past members (50 letters sent) to join again. We have lost members from Pine-Richland, Seneca Valley, and Hampton. New member orientation will be in April. We should continue to think about recruiting members into the coming years. There was a discussion concerning finding in-the-classroom teachers—perhaps looking at LaRoche College or CCAC.

Program: Melody has not received more information from Theta Chapter yet on the bi-chapter meeting on March 7 at McCormick and Schmick's on the South Side. Melody will do an abridged newsletter for February, with Feb. 7 and 11th deadlines so we can register for the Bi-Chapter meeting. For the Feb. 4 meeting, we will make a donation to CORE. There will be a meeting in May to plan for the 2015-2016 year. We have been proactive about carpooling for the Sept., October, and March meetings. We have had great feedback on the programs we have had.

Finances: We are holding the line. Local dues increase was a discussion topic, but it was not a favorable response from those present. We have a CD to cash before we raise dues. We lost 11 members and added 1 reserve.

Fundraising/Projects: Jared Boxes—Make 30 that are better quality. Melody has some (donated by Dede Rittman) and Peg will buy the rest. Tags will be made for the different categories, and members will pick them up at the Feb. meeting and can return them by the May meeting. For the Chair Project, it was decided to ask members to buy or sell \$30.00 worth of raffle tickets. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The PA Head Start program is the recipient of the funds.

Album of Distinction: Darlene Farrell and Dede Rittman will be nominated by the chapter.

Discussion of going digital was tabled for later.

New Business: For the May meeting, we will be at the School House in Cranberry from 6-7 and have dessert at the library from 7-8—need to bring coffee pots and paper products and set up the room. Members will be asked to bring dessert and utensils to serve it. We will check out the fee to use these facilities.

Respectfully submitted using Peg's notes,
Karen Ulrich

Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2015

Trinity Lutheran Church, Wexford, PA

5:00 P.M., 22 present

Potluck Dinner, CORE Presentation, Silent Auction

Schools for Africa Project:
Thank you for a fun and
successful silent auction.
We raised \$169.



The business meeting began at 6:55 p.m. President Melody Hannegan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Terry Klein noted that our speakers had been a great source of inspiration, so not much more needed to be said. Melody then spoke about our loss of Areta Kalogeras. Darlene Farrell and Diane Goff also spoke of their personal memories of Areta. We had a moment of silence in her memory.

The minutes from the December meeting were approved as printed in the January newsletter, with no additions or corrections. The Executive Board met in January, and the minutes from that meeting will be printed in a future newsletter. Barb Schmid read the Treasurer's Report in Marg Foster's absence. The balance on hand is \$2546.20. Peg Maser reported that she had sent a thank you note to Caitlin Driscoll, our December speaker, and a sympathy card to Areta's family.

Melody led the discussion of the candidates for membership. Five names were submitted for consideration: Shari McGill and Jill Millard of Shaler Area School District and Fran Bogos, Pam Ross, and Nancy Weixel of North Allegheny School District. Terry Klein moved that we accept all five candidates, and Karen Klingman seconded the motion. In a voice vote, we agreed to ask the five women to join our chapter in May.

Paulette Hemmings read information about the Bi-Chapter Meeting on March 7 at McCormick and Schmick's on the South Side. The invitation/response form will be included in this newsletter. Ride-sharing will be offered.

Under Projects, Phyllis Jenny handled the Silent Auction throughout the evening. After some lively bidding, many lovely items now have new homes, and \$169.00 was raised for Schools for Africa. Peg Maser then discussed the Jared Boxes which were available in the back of the room. She read a letter from the State Jared Box organization thanking us for last year's donation to Children's Hospital. It was noted that the hardest categories to fill are 11 and above and 2 and under. Karen Klingman and Jessie Friedrich had purchased several bags of items already, and that was distributed among the boxes to start. Labels and suggestions for items were included. And members were asked to sign a list indicating which box/boxes they had taken. They need to be returned by the May meeting, or call Peg Maser or Karen Ulrich for pick-up. For the Pete the Cat Chair Project, the Executive Board decided to make it a raffle since logistics and responsibilities for taking it to various libraries were complex. Tickets for members to print out will be included in this newsletter. Each member's goal is \$30 worth (Tickets are 1 for \$2 and 3 for \$5.) Money/tickets are due at the May meeting, when the raffle will be held.

Items for the tool box for the Handywoman basket for the State convention in June were listed and members were to sign up for items to contribute. These, too, are due at the May meeting.

Karen Klingman won the raffle basket. We sang the Delta Kappa Song to end the meeting at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ulrich



Join Us!

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA - THETA AND ALPHA XI "BI MEET"

Saturday, March 7, 2015

McCormick and Schmick Restaurant

2667 Sidney Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203 (South Side)



Inspiration: Melody Hannegan

Hostess: Judy Karavlan

Raffle and 50/50: Liz Kelly, Nina Esposito- Visgitis, Hanna McCarthy

Reception: 10:30 A.M.

Lunch: 11:00 A.M.

President's Address : 12:00 P.M.

Kay Stuart Alpha Alpha State President

Chapter Business Meetings to follow President's Address.

Cost: \$27.00

Menu:

Mixed Field Greens with bleu cheese crumbles and candied walnuts and
(white Balsamic Vinaigrette)

Boston Baked Cod (English Style)

Chicken Piccata with Lemon Butter Caper Sauce

Cedar Roasted Salmon with a Northwest Berry Reduction

Vegetarian option: (Vegetable Stir-fry or pasta)

All entrees served with mashed potatoes and green beans

Dessert: Crème Brûlée

Coffee. Ice Tea. Soda

Please send your reservation to:

Dr. Norma Ratti -265 Trotwood West Drive Upper St. Clair, PA 15241

Please make checks payable to Delta Kappa Gamma.

Reservations cannot be accepted by phone or email.

Please send your reservations no later than **Thursday, February 26, 2015.**

Name _____

Meal Choice:

_____ Cod _____ Chicken _____ Stir-fry _____ Salmon _____ pasta

Please enclose \$27.00 for each meal. I have enclosed a total of \$_____

Please list special dietary needs _____

If you would like to bring a guest, please list name, food selection, and include the additional money.