

# The Alpha Xi Messenger

February 2021



## The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies,

It was wonderful to see many of you at Jade's presentation in January! We learned of the challenges that teachers have had to face during the pandemic, but with some creativity and determination, they can still connect with their students. They're doing an amazing job!

We had hoped to meet in person for our March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting because we've been apart since October. However, our priority is everyone's health and safety, and since we're still dealing with Covid-19 uncertainty, we'll have to meet virtually in March. Our planned speaker, Bonnie Nichols from Living in Liberty, plans to join us to discuss human trafficking in our area, and afterward we'll hold our business meeting.

For the past few months our members have continued to take care of chapter business and stay active. At the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting our team of judges will present their recommendation for the winner of our teacher grant. Melody, Terry and I have received training to judge the National History Day competition to be held virtually through the Heinz History Center this spring, and Melissa has a new position as NEA Director for PA. Also, in this newsletter be sure to check out the detailed explanation about preparing for the March 9<sup>th</sup> online meeting, as well as information about the upcoming DKG PA State Convention where our chapter will be honored!

While we've been home for the past few months, we've been busy collecting items for this year's projects: personal care items for the victims of human trafficking, clothes for Dress for Success, and books and wrapped coins to fund our annual teacher grant. For now, continue to collect items to donate, and since we won't meet in person in March, we'll bring all of our items to the May meeting. In addition, we will receive empty Busy Boxes at the May meeting to take home, fill with materials, and return at the September meeting. It's been a rather confusing year, but soon we'll be able to complete our projects.

I'm looking forward to "seeing" you at the March meeting!

Take care, Paulette



### **NATIONAL HISTORY DAY, HEINZ HISTORY CENTER**

Representing our DKG chapter, Alpha Xi, Melody, Terry, and Paulette have volunteered to be judges for the annual National History Day competition, which will be held at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. It will take place during the weekend of March 6 and 7, 2021, and due to the pandemic, it will be held virtually this year. They participated in training and were assigned a category to judge, either exhibits, documentaries, performances, historical papers, or websites, based on their preference. They look forward to this wonderful opportunity to mentor students in a national competition!

## PROGRAM - A CHANGE OF PLANS

Phyllis

Due to safety concerns for our members during this pandemic, the March 9th meeting planned for Luciano's Restaurant will now be held via ZOOM. Our speaker for the evening, Bonnie Nichols from Living in Liberty, has agreed to present our program over the computer. She will be speaking about secure safe houses for victims of human trafficking and outreach with victims on the street.

Please make plans to join us at 7 PM on March 9<sup>th</sup> for this interesting program. Our business meeting will take place immediately following the speaker. Remember to continue to collect travel size personal items for this outreach. If you have a gently used purse or two that you would like to donate, you can put your items in that. All items will be collected on May 1st at Diamond Run and delivered to Bonnie by Karen Beemiller or Sallie Fisher.

**If you do not have access to a device or the internet, please ask a DKG sister if you could join her for the evening and share the program on ZOOM.** This is a wonderful opportunity for all our members to attend a meeting this year. I hope to "see" everyone on March 9 starting at 7:00 PM.



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MELISSA COSTANTINO-PORUBEN

Our Alpha Xi member, Melissa Costantino-Poruben, is in her 21<sup>st</sup> year of teaching math at Avonworth, where she is also the girls' volleyball coach. She has been a member of our DKG chapter since 2013. Melissa has always been active; she helped to build a school in Peru, and for five summers she was a People to People Ambassador leader.

Melissa has been named a 2020 PA math finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Recently, she was elected as an NEA Director of PA. She will serve on the Board of Directors for NEA and PSEA, as well as the Executive Board for our Western Region of PA. She is eager to begin lobbying with Congress on behalf of teachers and public schools. While she is working in this position, Melissa will continue to teach at Avonworth as well, at an 85% capacity.

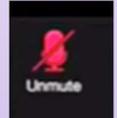
Melissa and her husband Eli have a daughter Violet, who's as active and involved as her mother! Melissa has a very adventurous spirit and has traveled the world. If she has any spare time from all of her activities, she's also a big fan of Dave Matthews and Harry Potter!

We are very proud of Melissa and all that she's accomplished, and we wish her well in every new adventure!



## ZOOM meetings: Are you a first-timer? Here are some pointers from Melissa!

Zoom has exploded in popularity since the onset of the pandemic. To access our meeting, you will first need to download the Zoom app on your phone, tablet or computer - whatever device you plan to use when you attend the meeting. If you don't have it already, you can find it in the Google Play store on your android device or the App Store on your Apple device. You want to get the one labeled "Zoom Cloud Meetings". You do not need a user account, this is strictly optional, and only really necessary for meetings where there are restricted accounts. Next, find the meeting code and the password. This will be sent to you a week before the meeting. You will either click on the link provided in the invitation or you can also enter the code and password provided in the invitation. When the meeting opens, click on the "Join with Audio". Be sure to be on MUTE - it is amazing what the speakers on your computer can pick up.



I hope to "see" you all at our meeting. For a detailed video about getting on a Zoom meeting the first time, this video may help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbbYqiurgeo> If you have problems on the day of, please call me and I will try to walk you through the process. (Melissa's phone # will be included in the email with the link to the meeting.)



### Member News

**Sandy** has said it all for a number of us: "Getting the COVID vaccine felt like winning the lottery!" Since many of us will have been fully vaccinated, the invitation to join the Zoom meeting in one of our houses is doable! (of course, still masked and six feet apart)



Dose #1 going into Phyllis

### 2021 PA STATE CONVENTION

From June 11-13, 2021 Pennsylvania's members of Delta Kappa Gamma will meet at a new location in Scranton, PA. We will attend exciting workshops and hear inspiring keynote speakers and honor the chapter presidents elected last year.

In addition, there will be awards, recognitions, and a time to celebrate because Alpha Xi's **65<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY** is this year! I hope that you'll join me at the 2021 convention for the fun and festivities!



**A trip down memory lane:** only 5 years ago, these gals from the 50's celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday at the PA State Convention!

**Fun Fact:**  
The word **vaccine** is derived from the Latin word *vacca*, meaning cow!

## Thank You Note

Hi,

Thank-you so much for inviting me to this presentation!

Jade, it really was amazing and you are AMAZING! So informative!

Hang in there and know that we are behind you and all active teachers. I retired in June 2019 but I am still in touch with lots of friends that are living your world.

Take Care,  
Eileen

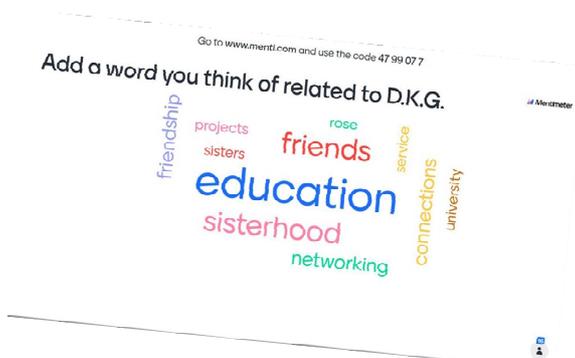
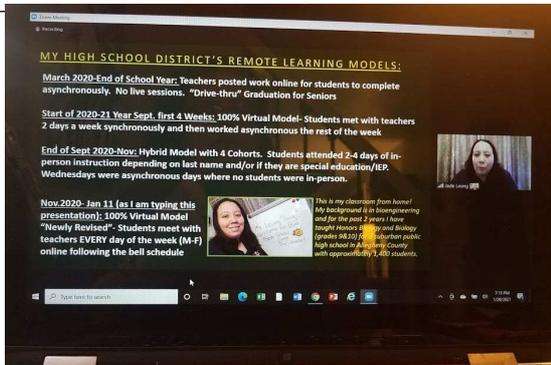
*(Eileen is our State President!)*



The view of Jade from Melody's computer (above) and Jade in her home classroom (on the left).

Jade recorded her presentation, but to date, sharing it has become an issue, perhaps since the Zoom account is within the district.

Dede wrote about Jade's presentation in her weekly blog. The article can be found here: <http://bunnyteacher.blogspot.com/2021/01/always-do-your-best-what-you-plant-now.html>



Using two devices just like Jade's students do!

