

The Alpha Xi Messenger

January 2021



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies,

Last year was certainly challenging, but as we concluded 2020, I hope that you were able to find ways to bring joy to your holiday season. Now, as we begin a new year, I'm sure that you join me in wishing everyone a healthy and much improved new year!

During the past few months, our Standing Rules Committee worked on revising our chapter's rules, especially regarding membership. We took the International guidelines and merged them with our members' suggestions, as well as our current practice. You will see our updated standing rules as an attachment to this newsletter.

One of our members, Jade, will be giving a Zoom presentation on January 20th about the effects of the pandemic on education. Since she is currently working in the classroom, she'll be able to give us a firsthand perspective. Be sure to mark your calendars and sign up to participate!

We have several chapter projects that we can continue to work on while we're staying safe at home. The Teacher Enrichment Grant applications are due to Jeanne or Melissa by January 31, so be sure to spread the word! In addition, have you found some items for these spring projects?

- *Books and wrapped coins to support our teacher grant
- *Small toys, books, puzzles, etc. for a Busy Box
- *Clothing for Dress for Success
- *Sample or travel size toiletries and small items for victims of human trafficking

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Teaching in a Pandemic!

It's a jungle out there! In a world turned upside down join Jade as she shares experience from teaching in a Covid-19 classroom. Learn about how education has been going over the past year. Jade has taught multiple levels of students in grades 9 & 10 (honors, regular and special ed.) through all 3 methods of pandemic education- fully virtual for all students, and mixtures of the hybrid model which includes multiple methods of educating students.

Jade will share what it is like to teach a hands-on science class in our new world. The interactive zoom will be about 1 hour long with time for a question and answer session.

**When: Thursday, January 20, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Where: From the comfort of your own Home – Zoom

Sign up:
info.alphaxi.dkgpa@gmail.com
by Tuesday, January 12th to let Jade know how many to expect! A link will be sent out to the entire chapter prior to the meeting.



ZOOMIN' INTO 2021: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT JEANNE KEYS



We are very excited to welcome our new member, Jeanne Keys! After graduation from Cal U. and Penn State, she taught English at North Hills High School for eight years, followed by one year at CCAC. In 1977 she began a twenty-two-year career at North Allegheny High School.

Jeanne has volunteered on the Pine Township Community Day Committee, she was treasurer of Friends of Pine Community Parks, and for many years she was the editor of her neighborhood newsletter.

Jeanne's interests include theater, reading, and travel. She and her late husband traveled extensively in the U.S. and many other countries. She's hoping that she can continue traveling sometime soon!

Welcome to Alpha Xi, Jeanne!

The President's Message (continued)

Remember to also send greeting cards and encouragement to your Secret Sister; since we haven't been able to meet as regularly as we usually do, it's important to stay in touch with each other. Through all of these efforts, you can use this time at home to brighten someone's day, support fellow teachers, and make a difference in our community!

I also wanted to remind you of some important DKG dates:

*Enrichment Grant applications are due by February 1, 2021

*Album of Distinction applications are due by March 1, 2021

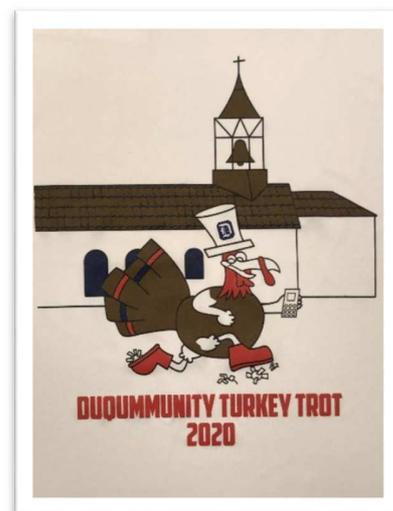
*The PA State Convention will be held in Scranton from June 11-13, 2021

Looking forward to seeing everyone again! In the meantime, stay safe and healthy,
Paulette

Member News

Sandy has a new granddaughter born on Nov.2. Her name is Matilda and the family is calling her Tilley. She and her husband went to Davis, CA to help for two weeks.

Jade just learned that her T-shirt design for Duquesne University's Turkey trot 5K won. It's a Turkey running over Covid-19 particles in front of the chapel and carrying a cell phone. All students and alumni participants received a shirt.



Update: The international conference scheduled for July in Finland has been canceled. The Portland, OR, and San Antonio, TX conferences remain on the calendar.

Greetings from one sister to another!



Let's hope we don't have too many more of these picturesque snowfalls this winter! Since my doctors advised me not to go to Florida as usual, I look forward to Zooming with all of you for the January meeting!
Ellen

"Just meditating....and feeling grateful to be well and comfortable." Keeping a gratitude journal (meditating/deep breathing/exercise) has been helpful at keeping anxiety/insomnia at bay. Deb



I missed spending Christmas with my sweet grandsons in Minneapolis. Here are Peter (8) Henry (3) and Luke (almost 6) wearing the holiday sweaters Grandma sent! They are my Christmas joys!
Terry



Teacher Enrichment Grants

The application for the \$250 grants to women educators in our area are available through the end of this month. Melissa has shared the information through social media. Please pass along the word to teachers you know.

[The letter and application in Google Docs:](#)

We will vote on the grants in the March meeting and in May will award them.



My husband Bob and I went hiking in Shenandoah National Park the week before Christmas. One of the actives that we have been able to do during COVID is watch a movie outside with a couple of friends - a projector, a white tarp, a laptop and as the weather got colder heaters and electric throws even into December!
Sandy



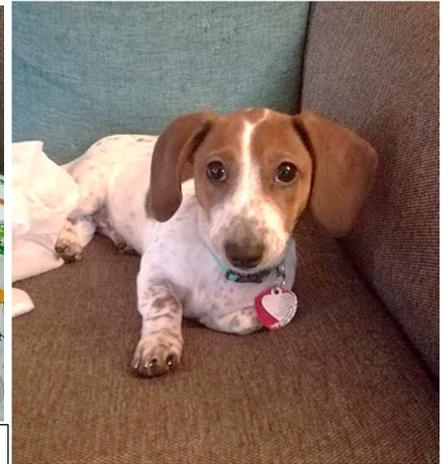
Finnegan

Fiona

In October, I officially became a cat lady with the adoption of these two goofballs. We're all settling in nicely. Jeanne V



Melissa's pup turned 4 on January 4th - right in time for school to start again! NEA election ballots will be counted publicly on January 9. Cross your fingers!



Also in October, I adopted my 1st puppy since childhood. Meet Tilly, who keeps me company and keeps me hopping! Melody

Marg's little security bubble through this year of the pandemic celebrating the New Year 2021



When everything's closed, have fun in the snow. Jade

Our great grandchildren (Ivy and Maverick) brought us a lot of joy in 2020! Peg



I am missing being in the college classroom and in elementary classrooms with my two books. I still love teaching, and this pandemic has caused such difficulty in making book sales. I miss the connections with the little kids and the student teachers! Hoping for a better 2021 for everyone. Dede





One of my favorite pictures featuring the cheese of the day from my advent cheese calendar. I enjoyed staging a different photo every day during Advent and sharing on Facebook. My wish is for PEACE in the world in 2021. Phyllis



Dressing up for Christmas 2020! Darlene

Many of the ornaments on our Christmas tree are souvenirs from places we've visited. As we decorate for the holidays each year, it's always fun to reminisce about our travels, especially this year when we had to stay home, but we're hoping to be able to explore again in 2021! Paulette



On January 9, 2021, Claudia, with husband Bill and poodle Kelsey, will be driving to Sand Key, Florida, their new home/condo on the Gulf of Mexico.

I have enjoyed being a member of DKG and meeting such dedicated and caring ladies of education! The activities have been rewarding, and I wish you all the best of health and much happiness in 2021! I have been contacted by the Clearwater chapter of DKG and plan to join them! Thanks again for the wonderful opportunity to be a part of this chapter!



PS Sorry that Kelsey is sticking out her tongue!

Program Reminder:

Tuesday, March 9, 2021: Living in Liberty/ Combatting Human Trafficking in the Pittsburgh Area - Luciano's Brick Oven, Rt. 228 – Mars

Saturday, May 1, 2021: Presentation on Being an Author and/or an Entrepreneur – Dede and new member induction - Diamond Run Golf Club Laurel Oak Dr., Ohio Township