

The Alpha Xi Messenger

September, 2021



The President's Message

Hi DKG Ladies!

It was great to get together again at our first DKG meeting of the year! Our primary goal for the past year and a half has been to keep everyone safe and healthy, so we continued to wear masks and social distance, but we also managed to chat with our friends!

In the latest Keystonian did you notice Jade's article as the state projects chair? And thanks to Karen for the informative article about Alpha Xi's activities last year!

We have another busy year ahead! Remember to make a personal connection with a fellow female teacher. Invite her to attend one of our meetings and to apply for our teacher enrichment grant by the deadline, October 10th.

The Shaler teachers will host our October 14th meeting. Because of continued problems in our county with covid, you'll see Phyllis's article explaining the changes that we had to make to the meeting. Our program will feature an educational presentation from Fern Hollow Nature Center. At this meeting we will continue to collect items for two of our ongoing projects: Project Period and the Lakota Friends Circle. If you weren't able to attend the last meeting, be sure to read about these projects and how they help people in need.

We can also look ahead to our November 15th meeting, hosted by the North Hills teachers, when we will celebrate our chapter's 65th birthday! Be sure to mark your calendars for these next two meetings.

It's never too early to plan ahead for next summer's state convention to be held at the Penn Stater in State College, PA from June 9-11, 2022. Proposals for workshops for the convention are due by December 20, 2021.

Some other important dates include:

Scholarship forms and Enrichment Grant forms are due by February 1, 2022. The Album of Distinction applications are due by March 1, 2022. See me for more details for both.

Stay safe, and I hope to see you at the next meeting!

Paulette



A note from your newsletter editor:

Thank you for completing the photo permission forms. If you didn't have a chance to give yours to me, I will still be collecting them during the year.

Because the newsletter goes on the state website as well as our own, I have not included contact information here. Please refer to your yearbook directory for that information or contact me at info.alphaxi.dkgpa@gmail.com and I will share the information with you.



We all enjoyed Jade's presentation on Martial Arts and we even practiced some basic self-defense!



The Program Committee
Phyllis

A CHANGE in VENUE for the October 14 meeting has occurred due to the increase in COVID cases in our area. Because the Cafe des Amis is a small restaurant, the meeting will now be held in the parish hall at Trinity Lutheran Church. The large room allows for social distancing, and masks are required except when eating. This change was made and voted on following a discussion of various options at the September meeting. The food will be provided by Soergels and will closely follow the original French cuisine menu. Our presenter from Fern Hollow will be there to talk about unusual animals in our area. Please wear your beret and join us for good food and fellowship. In addition, we'll gain some knowledge about the creatures who share our environment.

The 2021-2022 Program Calendar – Remaining Dates

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Thursday, October 14, 2021	Trinity Lutheran Church, Brandt School Rd., Wexford	Fern Hollow – Unusual Animals in our Area	Catered dinner from Soergel's
Monday, November 15, 2021	PSquare in Bellevue	Make a natural, fragrance-free candle	Alpha Xi 65 th birthday party with desserts
Wednesday, January 26, 2022	Luciano's in Seven Fields	Sailing the Great Lakes on a Floating Museum – Ed Hale & the US Brig Niagara	Italian dinner
Tuesday, March 22, 2022	The Heinz History Center, the Strip District	Tour of Visible Storage – behind the scene artifacts – Bob Stakely	Catered dinner
Saturday, April 30, 2022	Diamond Run Golf Club – Ohio Township	Welcome Ceremony & Installation of Officers Lakota Friends Circle which supports the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota – Tracy Ferguson	Buffet luncheon

Projects

Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota

Phyllis

Our speaker for the April 30th meeting, Tracy Ferguson, will present slides and information on the Lakota Friends Circle.

Living conditions

- 2 of the poorest counties in the United States are on this reservation
- 45% of the homes have no heat or electricity
- many lack running water
- average of 17 people live in one house
- few jobs on the reservation
- most cannot afford cars and there is only 1 bus daily
- many experience poor health, hunger, bigotry and isolation
- high rates of diabetes, infant mortality, tuberculosis, and teen suicide

Jerome and Theresa High Horse

- established the Lakota Friends Circle, a non-profit organization
- purchased a used U-Haul truck to drive to Rapid City or Denver to obtain supplies
- bring food, household supplies, firewood, and clothing to the residents of Wanblee

How can we help?

Donate the following:

- ✓ -Gift cards to Target, Loews, Walmart
- ✓ -new blankets or sheet set (twin or full)
- ✓ -new pillows
- ✓ -new socks or underwear for children or adults (all sizes)

I would like to collect these items throughout this year and present them to Tracy when she gives her presentation on April 30, 2022.

You can bring your items to any of the meetings or contact me to pick them up if you prefer.

Thank you in advance for any help you could provide to this worthy cause.

PROJECT PERIOD

Terry

I am so proud of our membership and their enthusiastic support for this new charitable project.

As outlined in the previous newsletter, we are collecting donations for the Butler YWCA of menstrual products for women and girls in need. Project Period makes monthly kits available at food banks, shelters, and other community locations. It supplies counselor-identified high school students with monthly kits, sending home multiple kits for use over the summer.

The YWCA advocates for changing policy to allow SNAP or WIC benefits to be used to purchase feminine hygiene products. Until then, the organization depends on donations to finance this program. That is where we come in. We plan to purchase tampons and pads with your donations. Then a group of us will prepare the monthly kits, following the YWCA guidelines, and deliver them to the YWCA.

I will collect your donations at the October, November, and January meetings. At that point, we will assemble and deliver the kits.

Thus far, through the generosity of our members, we have collected nearly \$150.00 for this project. This was collected at ONE meeting. I was blown away by this response. If you didn't have the chance to donate then, please consider donating at one of our future meetings. Or, if you'd like, you can send a donation to me. Thank you so much!



Ongoing Projects
Dress for Success – Shari / Busy Boxes – Peg

Please hold on to your DFS donations until the November meeting when collection will resume.
Empty busy boxes will be available at the April meeting;

Thank you all for donations!



Membership

Jeanne V.

It's good news that everyone renewed their membership this year. But 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.

alphaxi.membership2021@gmail.com

Teacher Enrichment Grant

Jeanne V.

Please get the word out about applying for the Teacher Enrichment Grant. Applications are due by October 10, so it's important to let prospective candidates know about it as soon as possible.

We're off to a good start with fundraising. At our September 13th meeting, sponsored by the executive board, Darlene initiated a Share the Wealth raffle which raised \$75 to add to the grant funding. I'm sure that the money to award recipients will grow as we continue our fundraising efforts. As a reminder, meetings will be hosted by the following:

- October 14 – Shaler
- November 15 – North Hills
- January 26 – North Allegheny
- March 22 – Avonworth
- April 30 – Executive Board
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At the April meeting at Diamond Run, we'll be having a book sale again. So save all those books you've been reading and bring them along. Last year we were able to raise \$188. Let's see if we can beat that this year! alphaxi.membership2021@gmail.com

SECRET SISTERS

Phyllis

Secret sisters' names were selected at the September meeting. If you were not in attendance at that time, you can still participate. The forms will be available on October 14, or you can contact me.

Membership News

Darlene is a member of the Wedding Cookie Table Group which sponsored baked good items for the families of Flight 93 and first responders on Saturday, September 11th at the memorial. Only licensed bakeries could provide the baked goods, but her group helped by organizing.

Paulette and her husband, Wes, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August.

Shari shared that her son Paul is an associate choreographer for *Annie Live* on December 2nd and was offered a job for the Tony Awards ceremony, but had to decline due to a conflict.

Faith thanked members who sent her sympathy cards on the loss of her brother.