

The Alpha Xi Messenger

September 2022



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies!

It was wonderful to get together again at our September meeting to begin a new Alpha Xi year! As we continue to offer our Teacher Enrichment Grant to teachers in Northern Allegheny County and Southern Butler County, this year we reached out to the school librarians in our area, asking them to post the information in their building. Within a few days we already had some interest, which is exciting!

Teachers can face many challenges in 2022, so our members are encouraged to invite a guest to one of our meetings this year. We'll do our best to make sure she feels welcomed, valued, inspired, and energized!

At our September meeting, we concluded our Busy Box project, and we enjoyed a presentation from a representative of The Olive Branch in Wexford, whose project, "Sew Powerful Purses Project," supports a school and community in Zambia. Soon, we will begin assisting them in a project.

In October we'll meet at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh and enjoy a private tour of their newest exhibit, "The Life and Art of an American Workman." DKG state president, Eileen Little, will join us at Luciano's Restaurant for our December 1st meeting, to hear the presentation from our member, Jade, on how she used her state enrichment grant for her trip to Acadia National Park. We're excited to hear what Jade learned on her trip and to spend some time with Eileen! What a fascinating way to conclude our first semester of programs!



I hope to see you at our upcoming meetings!
Paulette

Meeting Sponsorships

The school districts that are currently represented in our chapter's membership consist of Shaler, North Allegheny, Avonworth, and North Hills. At different meetings during the school year, each set of teachers from the different districts is in charge of the duties for that meeting: serving as greeters, offering an inspiration, and providing the fundraiser to benefit the Teacher Enrichment Grant. The Executive Board held a 50/50 fundraiser at our first meeting of the year and it will also be in charge of the fundraiser for the last meeting on April 29th; **Avonworth offered to be in charge of the October 24th meeting**; Shaler teachers will take the December 1st meeting; North Hills will be in charge of the January 25th meeting; and the teachers of North Allegheny will take the March 14th meeting. Thanks for your help, and we look forward to your creative ideas for fundraisers!

Reminder: We have a new communications email address: alphaxipadkg@yahoo.com

The Program Committee

Phyllis Jenny

Our next meeting is on Monday, October 24th, at the Heinz History Center. Members are free to explore the museum on their own between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Our private tour led by Bob Stakley will begin at 5:00. The current exhibit is “Pittsburgh’s John Kane: The Life of an American Workman”. This is the story of an immigrant who worked as a laborer in industrial-age Pittsburgh for forty years and became a self-taught artist. I hope you will join us as we hear the fascinating story of John Kane who overcame poverty and tragedy to become famous for his art work. Following the tour we will enjoy a hearty meal catered by the Cooked Goose.

Come and enjoy a wonderful afternoon/evening of history, art, delicious food, and camaraderie with your DKG friends.

The 2022-2023 Program Calendar – Remaining Meetings

Date	Location	Program	Meal
Monday, October 24, 2022	The Heinz History Center, the Strip District	Special Exhibit – John Kane: The Life of an American Workman – Bob Stakeley	Catered dinner
Thursday, December 1, 2022	Luciano’s Restaurant in Seven Fields	Acadia National Park – Jade Leung, recipient of a state enrichment grant	Italian dinner
Wednesday, January 25, 2023	Shaler North Hills Library, Mt. Royal Boulevard	Relaxation and Chair Yoga – Maggie Aebi	Boxed dinner
Tuesday, March 14, 2023	North Park Clubhouse, Rt. 8 in Gibsonia	“Voices From the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War” – Carleton Young	Buffet dinner
Saturday, April 29, 2023	Diamond Run Golf Club – Ohio Township	Travel on a Mediterranean Cruise – Melissa Costantino, recipient of a state enrichment grant	Buffet luncheon



Sew Powerful Purses Project

Jeanne Keys and Terry Klein

Following a presentation at our September meeting by our speaker Vivian Sylvester, our DKG members adopted a new project for this year.

We will partner with the Olive Branch, a ministry of Salem Methodist Church in Wexford, to support the Sew Powerful Purses Project which provides small purses containing washable sanitary products for girls in the Needs Care School in Zambia. These items allow girls to attend school while menstruating; otherwise, they would have to stay home.

Olive Branch volunteers sew the purses from donations of fabric and money from the community. The group also funds school supplies and activities at the school through their Olive Branch Free Trade Store in Wexford.

We will be collecting donations at future meetings. There may also be opportunities to volunteer to sew or pack the purses. Stay tuned for more information.



As you switch out your summer wardrobe for the winter, remember **Dress for Success!**



Busy Boxes

Many thanks to all who delivered their filled boxes to the September meeting! Peg will connect with those who still have the few boxes left and hopes to hand them all over to CYS before the October meeting. As we wrap up this project for a while, we thank Peg Maser so much for her time and energy over the years, first with the Jared Boxes and now with CYS Busy Boxes! Under her leadership we have given a lot of pleasure to children in need.

Links to the TEG application, newly revised chapter brochure, and chapter newsletters can be found on our website: <https://www.alphaxipadkg.org> Check it out!

Ways and Means

Jeanne Vendeland

The Teacher Enrichment Grant for this year is in full swing. Recently we reached out to schools in the northern Pittsburgh area via their librarians with information on applying for the grant. I am happy to report that we have received one completed application and a number of requests for applications.

All applications are due by October 28th so that we can evaluate them and then recommend recipients to the full membership at our meeting in early December.

Please be generous in our fundraising efforts this year so that we can award grants to deserving candidates.

Social Committee

Phyllis

At our September meeting, names of our members who are not able to attend the meetings or who have not attended in a while were distributed to those who wished to participate in this card outreach.

If you were not at the meeting and would like to participate, I will have several names available at the History Center.

Also this is a reminder to those who already selected a name to send a card or a letter if you haven't already done so.

Happy Fall! Enjoy the cooler weather.

New This Year: Members' Extra Incentive

To encourage our chapter members to bring a guest to one of our meetings this year, the hosting member will get a free ticket for that meeting's fundraiser. This will apply if the member brings the same guest to more than one meeting this year. If the guest does join our chapter, the member will be entered in a drawing at the end of the year for a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant.

US Forum

Melissa Costantino

Melissa's trip to Washington, DC was an unforgettable experience. President Biden spoke at the National Education Association headquarters on Friday, September 23rd. Melissa shook President Biden's hand as he thanked her for "teaching future generations".

Afterwards, Melissa attended the "A Night of History and Rhyme" at the White House with 30 of her fellow NEA board members. There was a 2 hour reception with drinks and appetizers. Later, Sir Elton John performed 6 songs and was awarded a National Humanity Medal for his work during the HIV/AIDS Epidemic. Every part of the night was exceptional. Melissa met Billie Jean King and learned about one of the four teachers that (in her words) "changed her life".

Overall, hanging out with President Biden twice in one day is something that few people can say! Absolutely UNFORGETTABLE!

