

The Alpha Xi Messenger

Summer 2018 – Extra Edition



The President's Message



Summer greetings, DKG Sisters!

I hope you have been staying cool but also taking time for sun, fun and adventure! I'm off to Virginia this week for my annual YaYa vacay with college friends. We're excited to be touring the Waltons Museum as well as Monticello! I haven't been to the latter since the summer of 1974. What I remember most was our brand new '74 Ford LTD, our first car without the side "wing" windows, and how hot it was, plus getting car sick on the continuous S-curves in the mountains. Since I'll be driving, I'm hoping to avoid the motion sickness. As for the heat--90s and humid!

Your committee chairs, members and officers have been busy getting ready for the new biennium: the executive board met, the Program Committee is well on its way to having the year's meetings set, and the Ways & Means/Scholarship & Grant Committee has been hard at work. In addition, the finance committee is working on our budget. We are excited about some ideas for a membership drive and are in need of some volunteers to serve on the committee with Sandy Werderitch, 2nd VP-Membership Chair. If you can help Sandy, please email her at werderitch721@comcast.net. It would be great to have all 4 of our districts represented on this important committee.



Since we have been discussing a number of new ideas and changes, we thought it prudent to give you a heads up. Please look over this mini-newsletter and the attached letter from the Ways and Means Committee.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me via text or phone @ 412-303-5443. My email overfloweth, but you can try faithj40@gmail.com if you're feeling lucky. ;-}

Have a wonderful rest of the summer!

Regards,

Faith Jack
President Alpha Xi

Deadline for submissions to the August newsletter is **Weds. August 15th**. The newsletter will be emailed on **August 20th**. Pictures and minutes from the May meeting will be in it.

SAVE THE DATES

- Thursday, **September 13** – at the Shaler North Hills Library – Mini Terrarium
- **October 5-7** – Purposeful Seminar in King of Prussia; registration deadline is August 17th (see registration form in the Summer Keystonian)
- Wednesday, **October 17** – the Apollo Moon Landing exhibit at the Heinz History Center
- Saturday, **November 17** – the Multi-Chapter meeting with State President Barbara Gasperini at DeNunzio's Restaurant in Monroeville.

The International Convention is this week: the 16th through the 20th in Austin

Important changes to our constitution will be discussed before voting. Keep abreast of the news on the website: www.dkg.org or on the 365DKG app (from Apple Store or Google Play Store)



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT – DKG SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018

Your Program Committee has been hard at work planning an exciting year for our chapter. All the details will be included in your DKG Yearbook. But for now, we want to give you two dates for your calendar.

On **September 13**, we will meet again at the **Shaler North Hills Library**. After our first meeting of the year and a yummy deli nosh, we will be making mini terrarium containers with **Carrie Powell, owner of One Happy Flower Shop**.

Then on **October 17**, we will return to the **Heinz History Center** for dinner and a guided tour of the **Apollo 11 Mission exhibit**. There will be an option for early arrival and self-tour of the other exhibits before the meeting. The History Center is waiving admission fees for our group. (Thanks, Paulette!)

Hope these two exciting programs have piqued your interest for what is ahead this year. Mark your calendars and plan to join your DKG sisters! Meeting info and RSVP forms will appear in your mailbox. Look for them!

Terry and Debbie

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

The Finance Committee is proposing a dues increase for 2018-2019. This increase would raise the dues \$3 for the year from \$82 to \$85.

When an active member pays dues of \$82, international gets \$40, the state gets \$17, and \$1 goes to the PA scholarship fund. Our local chapter only gets \$24. For a reserve member who pays \$35, international gets \$20, the state gets \$7, and \$1 goes to the PA scholarship, leaving the local chapter \$7.

Over the past few years, the membership has declined, so the source of revenue has also gotten smaller. It is becoming increasingly difficult to run the organization and present quality programs with such a small amount of money.

In addition, raising funds for grant-in-aid, now the Teacher Classroom Enrichment Grant, has been challenging. This year, we are offering the opportunity to add a donation to your dues payment to provide seed money for the grant. We are excited to have more members involved in supporting the teachers in the field in our four districts: Avonworth, North Allegheny, North Hills and Shaler Area. Perhaps the grant process will provide us with some new members.

Marg

Alpha Xi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Executive Board Meeting Minutes June 5, 2018, Melody's House

Present: Faith Jack, Debbie Steinmetz, Shari McGill, Melody Hannegan, Marg Foster, and Darlene Farrell
Absent: Terry Klein and Sandy Werderitch

Called to Order: 1:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
MEMBERSHIP

Faith reported for Sandy with several suggestions for increasing membership which included ideas from the survey at the April meeting and for increasing member involvement..

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New This Year:

At each meeting, an RSVP form will be available for the next meeting. We can sign up early as well as save a stamp! The forms will still be included with newsletters!

PROGRAM

The program committee met on May 23rd. Deb outlined the tentative program schedule for the coming year. Members will be given the option to RSVP for the next meeting and pay early at a current meeting. The budget for the program committee as stated in the Standing Rules is \$300 and this year's programs will be well within the budget. The program committee meets again on June 12th.

FINANCE

Marg reported there is approximately \$3,100 after the convention expenses. Our funds have been decreasing due to lower membership numbers. The Executive Board decided to recommend a dues increase of \$3.00 per year, making the total dues \$85.00. A vote will be taken at the September 13th meeting. This information will be sent out in the Summer Newsletter to give advanced notice.

AD HOC COMMITTEE: WAYS AND MEANS

Paulette and her committee will send out a letter with the summer newsletter with ideas from the committee with input from the board for fund-raising and seeking donations for the early career educators grant(s). Also, the new format for the meetings will be explained. The Board will undertake the responsibilities for the September meeting (greeters, inspiration, raffle etc.)

PROJECTS

Jared Boxes and Dressed for Success projects will continue under the leadership of Peg Maser & Shari McGill.

SOCIAL

Each school district represented in our chapter will be responsible to take on the responsibilities of one of the meetings this year (not including Sept. and Nov.)

Possible ideas for mini-outings included PNC Park, Hartwood Acres, or concerts. The board wants to continue secret sisters and establish a way to feature members at our meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

Melody will publish a schedule for newsletter deadlines and will update the website. Barb MacDonald will publish the yearbook/directory again. Changes need to be sent to her.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari McGill, Recording Secretary

Membership News:

Jade Jeung was asked to participate in Duquesne University's Graduation for the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences. She processed with the faculty and sat on the stage for the diploma ceremony.

Diane Goff is doing well after another surgery – her second knee.

Please keep **Shari McGill** in your thoughts as she will undergo cervical spine surgery soon.

Alpha Xi at the State Convention

- **Paulette Hemmings** and **Dede Rittman** were entered into the Album of Distinction.
- Alpha Xi was recognized for our newsletter and website.
- **Dede** conducted an afternoon workshop and manned a table to sell her books.
- **Faith Jack** was honored with the incoming chapter presidents at the banquet.
- **Faith** also received a state enrichment grant. Look for a picture collage on our website!