

President's Message

**Please remember to complete your survey and RSVP for April 25th by the 14th.
Project Information inside.**

Can you give a hand for the convention?

The Alpha Alpha State Convention is held on June 14-16, 2013 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College- Complete information and registration is found in your latest issue of the Keystoneian.

Barb MacDonald is currently in need of a roommate? Interested let me know?

Also needed for convention- please bring to our April meeting or let Barb know.

Items for SEE (Support Early career Educators) this could include: professional supplies, bulletin board items, stickers, books, materials for a classroom, etc.

Items for the auction basket that each chapter contributes to the convention. This includes items for relaxation, notecards, wine, Pittsburgh items or anything new that you might want to regift.

Hello Ladies,

The newsmen are saying it is the first day of spring, but we are all still waiting for the weather to catch up. Hopefully as you receive this letter, spring will be in the air.

Our March 9th meeting with the State President, Louann Schrader and Theta chapter was a success. Thank you to those who attended and help to make this great. I want to thank Pauline Hemmings for her coordination with Echo to make this truly a wonderful experience. Louann Schrader and Theta chapter members were very pleased. If I remember correctly Faith Jack originally encouraged us to try out this location. Melody Hannegan made us great bookmarks. You will find thank you notes as well as interested facts about our state president within the newsletter.

We are looking forward to Thursday April 25th at the Sewickley Speakeasy for our next event. We have 6 new members to initiate that include 4 from North Hills, 1 from Shaler and 1 from Avonworth. After induction we will have our business meeting followed by dinner. Then we will be entertained by West Winds Quintet and then share our desert time with them.

As we move closer to the end of this school year, we begin planning for next. If you have moved, changed your email or phone contact information, please let Barb know so that corrections can be made in the yearbook.

Also since we have experienced many changes throughout the year with membership, attendance and costs of meeting, Paulette is asking for your input prior to planning our meeting and programs for next year. You will find a survey attached, please complete this and return with your RSVP, bring to the next meeting, send it with a friend or even mail it to Barb by May 1. We do appreciate your input as we make plans for the next year.

Also as always, we are looking for people stepping forward and be nominating for offices since our next elections will be held in February 2014.

Finally, Faith is still on break from this newsletter, so it will have a different appearance.

Barbara MacDonald bmacd@zoominternet.net

For our April 25th meeting-
Greeters: Karen Ulrich
Inspiration: Ellen Rodwick
Raffle: Phyllis Jenny and Paulette Hemmings

Next Meeting: April 25, 2013
Sewickley Speakeasy
17 Ohio River Blvd.
Sewickley, PA 15143
4:45

The April meeting will focus on Alpha Xi, with Y=Your chapter initiation.
SCHEDULE:
Social Time: 4:45-5:00
Induction 5:00-5:30
Business Meeting 5:30-6:00
Meal 6:00-6:45
West Winds Quintet and Dessert 6:45-7:30

Did you know? About our Alpha Alpha State President- Louann Schrader-

I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, North Hills area, close to the old West View Park. I was the oldest of 5 kids and my maiden name was Herb. My brother Jim practices law in West View and John Herb Field is named after my late brother John who was a Ross Township Policeman and died from cancer. Until I was 5 we lived on Georgetown Avenue which is perpendicular to the old Highland Country Club.

When I was 5 my parents built a home on Hinkel Road, (where the florists are) and I spent my life there until I graduated from Edinboro and got a job in Littlestown which is 10 miles south of Gettysburg. I went to Highland school Kindergarten (it's no longer there) and went to St Athanasius grade school and graduated from St Benedict's Academy (both are no longer there)----(If I were still at home I would be a member of Alpha Xi if you would have me). And if you remember the old North Hills dairy on McKnight Road (where the post office is now) that was my first job.

I have dual certification in Elementary Ed and teaching of the Speech and Hearing Handicapped from Edinboro University. I chose to go into Elem. Ed. I taught most all grades but most of the time in Kindergarten (about 15 years) and 6th grade (again about 15 years). I taught in the same district until I retired about 6 or 7 years ago after 35 years (Littlestown Area School District). My chapter is Omega Chapter which is located in southcentral Pennsylvania in Adams County---we extend now from Gettysburg area in Adams County and into some York county schools.

My goals---I firmly believe that open communication has the ability to solve many issues before they become problems so one of my major goals has been to "beef up" communications and I think we've done that. I have tried to communicate monthly with chapter presidents and let them know that if they need anything to email or call. In other words I hope I've been very visible and approachable as state president, 24/7. Other goals have been to increase membership--we have been seeing an increase in new initiates particularly in bringing in our younger members but we have a way to go yet. Despite the fact that our new initiates have increase we are still seeing problems with retaining members. Another goal-- increase attendance at state convention....last year we broke the record with almost 350 attendees and I'm hoping that this year will be the same. Like every state president I chose a state project to focus on and for me it was the International's support for Schools for Africa and for this year both support for Schools for Africa and support for Early Career Educators, again, going along with International.

As far as my legacy---I hope that my biennium is

remembered as one that hit the communication target, bullseye. I am extremely proud of our new and very professional looking brochure; our website is extraordinary and our webmaster the best (I usually say if it isn't on our website it hasn't happened yet).

Our Keystone continues to rank up there among the best of the publications coming out of states and I get them all so I can clearly see the difference that I believe puts ours on top. My hope for our facebook page is that it will be used more to communicate between chapters, chapters can let others know of good programs they have had or problems they have encountered and elicit suggestions from other chapters. This networking and sharing among chapter presidents was brought up in presidents' reports as one of the values of the leadership training. Through my monthly communication with chapter presidents my hope was to keep them in the loop as to what is happening at the state level, 24/7. We have much to explore in technology as more and more innovation becomes available; some members are into twitter and blogging and there's so much more out there that I need to know about and explore myself.

*Dear Barb and members of
Alpha Xi,
Thank you for giving
me the opportunity to attend
your meeting. I enjoyed the
fellowship and the chance
to talk to many of you
again. Thank you too, for the
generous gift, the outstanding
meal and the wonderful
facilities. ^{we} appreciate the
wonderful treatment!!! I look
forward to seeing many of you at*

*Convention. Continued success
as you grow your chapter.
Sincerely,
Louann*

As our thank you, we provided Louann a check to help her add a charm to her Pandora bracelet.

Alpha Xi Projects

Our used book sale at the February 5th meeting netted a profit of \$113. Our wonderful speaker, Mr. Butch Santicola, asked that his honorarium be donated to the "Ethiopia Reads" Project as well! So we will be playing a part in putting books in the hands of children who have never used or owned one! **Our grand total - \$163. As the program states - "Those who read----bloom!"** When you see those spring flowers in your garden begin to poke their heads above ground, you can be reminded of how you are helping children on the other side of the world!

Millvale Library is our next project, so we are asking you to bring a new book to our April meeting. And if you are not attending, but would still like to make a contribution, you can send a check or a book my way. Or, if you know someone who is attending, please ask them to deliver your book as well.

Specifically, the folks at the library are looking for fiction or non-fiction for the middle school to high school age group. (They already have many books from the Harry Potter and Twilight series, as well as graphic novels. I had to ask about that last one myself! They are books in which the story is told mainly through cartoons.) Non-fiction for the kindergarten through fifth grade crowd is also needed. Thanks , in advance , for your contribution!!!!

Ellen Rodwick
Project Chairperson
412-897-1028

Hello Barbara,
Thank you again for organizing and taking care of everything for the meeting on Saturday. It was truly lovely in every way. It was great for us all to be together in welcoming LouAnn. Your ladies were welcoming and kind.
Sincerely,



Meeting Minutes,

Meeting Minutes February 5, 2013
Trinity Lutheran Church 4:45 p.m.
Meet and Greet 28 members and guests present.

President Barbara MacDonald opened the meeting and introduced and welcomed 6 guests, who had been asked to attend as prospective members. Deb Stackrow read the inspiration, which was a variety of inspirational quotes.

Barb MacDonald narrated a PowerPoint presentation about Delta Kappa Gamma and encouraged chapter members to add their personal comments.

Ellen Rodwick then discussed the current project of Ethiopia Reads and some past projects to show guests what we have supported. She also read a thank you from Pierre Ferrari, head of Heifer International, for our donation to his organization.

After a “pot luck” (and boy, were we lucky!!) dinner, our speaker was Butch Santicola, longtime advocate from the Pennsylvania State Education Association. Butch discussed the current state of education politically and legally from the state aspect and beyond, discussing teacher issues and retirement issues that have been in the news with the latest budget discussions. He told us to contact our state representatives to state our concerns about any changes that are being proposed. He also mentioned the sites yinzernation and othervoices. Also, partnersinpubliceducation, which costs \$1 for 5 years.

We had a used book sale and a basket raffle won by Barbara MacDonald.

March 9, 2013 Restaurant Echo Bi-Chapter Meeting 10:30 a.m.
39 present; 19 from Alpha Xi and 19 from Theta; no one from Zeta came.

Mark Your Calendar

Important Dates from Alpha Alpha State

April 26-28, 2013

Purposeful Seminar, Best Western Country Cupboard Inn Lewisburg, PA

Alpha Xi president Barbara MacDonald opened the meeting at 11 a.m. Alpha Xi and Theta chapter presidents introduced their officers. Alpha Alpha State President Louann Schrader introduced herself. She is from the North Hills/West View area and attended St. Benedict’s High School. She had many good family and area memories to share with us.

Louann’s talk was on “Digni ‘t’y: Technology, Team Building, and Strengthening Tactics”. Her PowerPoint discussed state costs for printing the Keystoneian—so if more got it online, it would save us money. She showed us the state website, the state Facebook page (for networking possibilities), and the revised State Brochure. She spoke of possibilities to come as we continue to use more technology. For Team Building and Strengthening, she discussed Membership Demographics (Are you a Traditional/Veteran, a Baby Boomer, a Generation X, or Millennial?), Programs of Interest (and sharing program ideas with other chapters), and Getting Members Involved. She also hurried to discuss 5 Steps to Retaining Members, using the acronym GRAPES: Growth, Recognition, Achievement, Participation, Enjoyment, and Support. And TNT: Teach, Nurture, Touch the hearts of each other.

Those present received a printed copy of the presentation if anyone wants to see one.

We also presented Louanne with a check to buy a charm or two for her Pandora bracelet. MANY gift baskets were raffled, donated by both chapters. (and for once, Phyllis Jenny won TWO!!)

After lunch, members of Alpha Xi gathered to have a brief meeting. Barbara MacDonald read the bios of 6 prospective candidates. Terry Klein moved and Marg Foster seconded that we offer membership to all six. Motion carried.

Marg Foster read the Treasurer’s reports for February(\$3,070.08 on hand) and March (\$3050.80 on hand).

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ulrich, Recording Secretary



June 14-16, 2013

Alpha Alpha State Convention, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA

July 24-27, 2013

North East Regional, Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine

March 2013

Have You Heard?

News from Alpha Xi Sisters

• In case you missed this

Lois Crummie lost her battle with cancer in November 2012

Carol Pettitt (former member) also lost her battle with cancer in February

Faith Jack's dad passed away.

Faith would like to thank everyone for their support during her father's illness and for your kind expressions of sympathy at his passing.

Sue Phillips had an emergency appendectomy on Valentine's Day and is having a slow recovery.

Barb Rankin has moved. Her new address is: 123 Norman Drive, Cranberry Township PA 16066 with a phone of 724-776-8123.

Marg Foster represented the Pennsylvania School Librarians' Association at the American Library Association Mid-Winter Conference in Seattle, WA, Jan.23-29, 2013. Marg and her husband Herm traveled to Venice, FL to spend the month of February.

Member, JoHannah Brawdy welcomed a baby boy on March 13th, James Carol Brawdy III.

Barbara MacDonald attended a Callerlab Convention (Square dance calling) in Raleigh NC March 24-27.

Phyllis Jenny, Paulette Hemmings and Barb MacDonald will visit Theta's chapter on Saturday April 6th at the Neville Country Club for their annual luncheon and fundraiser.

Phyllis Jenny, Terry Klein and Barb MacDonald have applied to the state for Enrichment Grants to fund trips during the next school year.

Also: *Album of Distinction* applications are due April 1, 2013 for folks receiving awards outside of Delta Kappa Gamma since April 2012. Applications are found at www.alphaalphapa.com/awards

Of Special Note: PA state or Alpha Alpha State DKG has a new website of alphaalphapa.com which is now linked to the International site (dkg.com). We will be able to link our website to the state's.

Delta Kappa Gamma

Alpha Xi Chapter

Peg Maser

109 Carriage Hill Rd

Glenshaw, PA 15116-1015



New Alpha Xi website:

• <http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>