

**Meeting Minutes: Alpha Xi Chapter
September 12, 2013
Walnut Grill, Wexford, PA**

20 Members Present

First Vice President Paulette Hemmings opened the meeting at 5:00 and welcomed everyone in President Barbara MacDonald's absence. We started with the initiation ceremony for three new members: Kathy Fitzgerald, Liz Rava, and Jane Sestric. After the ceremony, Terry Klein read the inspiration, which focused on Demands on Ourselves: Learning to Create Boundaries for Ourselves, especially in the whirlwind lives many of us tend to lead, whether working or retired. The theme of the programs for the year is ENRICH.

The minutes for the April meeting as appeared in the newsletter were approved as printed. Peg Maser, who was lounging on a beach in Rehoboth Beach, had informed Paulette that there was no correspondence to read. Barb Schmid read the Treasurer's report in Marg Foster's absence (Stone Harbor, NJ). The balance on hand as of Sept. 4, 2013 was \$2,290.15. Barb also presented the 2013-2014 budget. Since there were no questions, Melody Hannegan moved to accept the budget; Karen Klingman seconded. Motion passed. Remember that dues of \$82.00 are due to Marg Foster by the end of October.

Membership chair Karen Klingman encouraged everyone to consider new members. She also has tri-folds we can give to perspective members. She encouraged people to invite prospective members to meetings, with the February meeting being designated as the particular meeting since one of our members (Susan Franz) will be presenting the program.

Faith Jack gave newsletter information and said she will be taking over the job again. She wants to be sure everyone is getting the e-mail version. If you know of anyone who is having a problem receiving it, her e-mail address is faithj40@gmail.com. Also, be sure her posts to you are not going to your spam. Add her to your contacts.

Phyllis Jenny, Nominations, asked everyone to consider taking a position for the next biennium (2014-2016).

Gretchen MacKay will be a substitute speaker for her husband, Peter MacKay, at the October meeting. Gretchen does Food and Travel articles for the *Post-Gazette*.

Ellen Rodwick thanked everyone who brought food for the West View Elementary backpack program and gave us some insight into future projects her committee has planned.

Melody Hannegan gave a report on the US Forum: Regina Campbell is the new state coordinator for US Forum and is on the same committee as Melody in Alpha Alpha state. (See page 3 of your latest *Keystonian*.) On Facebook, like the page entitled "Pennsylvania teachers". The American Federation of Teachers has a flyer in the mail from the Committee to Support Public Education. Go to the website Education Votes in Pennsylvania to sign a petition to state legislators: <http://wiredforchange.com/o/6041/p/dia/action3/common/public/?actionKEY=8533>. The next annual meeting of CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) is Jan. 31, 2014, in NYC. Topic is "Advancing Social Justice: The Role of Educators." Like to the website on our website—go to US Forum pulldown on the far right. Our website is <http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>

Faith Jack also gave a report on the end of the Shaler Area teachers' strike and reported support from other teachers' groups and the Shaler Area community.

Phyllis Jenny asked that anyone take a yearbook for someone they know so we don't have to mail them.

Those present got a copy of new chapter Bylaws to study. The committee was Phyllis Jenny, Melody Hannegan, and Paulette Hemmings.

Paulette sent around a list asking for volunteers to be greeters, inspiration readers, and raffle providers.

Dinner was served, and afterward the program was a Volunteer Showcase. Members Melody Hannegan (ushering at Pittsburgh Public Theatre), Ellen Rodwick (clowning), Linda Peffer (Project Linus), Karen Klingman (Gilda's Club), and Karen Ulrich (Family House and Meals on Wheels) spoke of their volunteer experiences and encourage others to get involved if possible.

The raffle bag was won by Darlene Farrell.

A Ceremony of Life was held to remember Carolyn Pettit, Lois Crummie, Marion Plank, and Betty Jane Robertson, chapter members who have passed away in the last year.

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ulrich, Recording Secretary