

President's Message



Officers 2013-14

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Hello ladies,

Since our president, Barb MacDonald, is busy exploring the U.S. in her motorhome, she asked me to send her greetings in this newsletter. This is an exciting time of year as some of our members are traveling, some have begun a new school year, and we all anticipate the colorful foliage of autumn.

Thanks to everyone who attended our September meeting! We enjoyed a wonderful meal at Walnut Grill, initiated three new members, shared information about volunteer opportunities, and remembered four of our former members in a Ceremony of Life.

Our next meeting will be on October 23, at the Sesame Inn near Northway Mall, where we will enjoy a family-style banquet. Originally, we were going to hear from local writer and humorist, Peter McKay; however, due to a scheduling conflict, he can't make it. Instead, we'll have the opportunity to hear from his wife, Gretchen McKay, who is a food and travel writer for the Post-Gazette. She will discuss how food and travel are interrelated, creating a new industry, "culinary tourism." It'll be a meeting that you won't want to miss!

Please remember to send your annual DKG dues which are \$82 to Margaret Foster by October 15.

You have also been emailed a copy of our new chapter's by-laws, which Melody Hannegan, Phyllis Jenny and I completed over the summer. Please take a few minutes to read them, as we will discuss them at upcoming meetings with final adoption in the spring.

It's not too early to begin thinking about serving our chapter in a leadership role since we will be holding the election in the spring. We need your involvement to keep our chapter running and strong, and we can't do it without you!

Hope to see you at future meetings!

Paulette Hemmings, First Vice-President paulette.hemmings@comcast.net



The joy of volunteering. Members listen as fellow Alpha Xi sisters share their experiences volunteering. Members have logged hours at various organizations: Meals on Wheels, Family House, Heinz History Center, Project Linus and Gilda's Club.

Membership Dues Deadline – Oct. 15

Please send your check for \$82 payable to Delta Kappa Gamma to: Margaret Foster
200 Goldsmith Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Thank you for your prompt attention to dues.
If you have any questions either call Marg at 412-486-7672 or email her at: margfoster4@gmail.com.

Next Meeting: Wed, October 23 = Narrate Sesame Inn, 711 Browns Lane, Pittsburgh at 4:45 p.m.
(Northway Mall area behind Toyota dealership)
Gretchen McKay, Post-Gazette columnist – "Culinary Tourism"

Projects

Read any good books lately?

Have you ever happened upon a recipe in a book you were reading for entertainment or information? Sometimes those recipes turn out to be just as great as those tried and true dishes that your grandma, neighbor or friend passes along. Since "Room to Read" is the recipient of our next DKG project, find that hidden treasure or check out a book that promises to be delightful and delectable!

Here's your task – copy that recipe so everyone at the February 6th meeting can receive a copy. Total the amount that you would spend if you purchased all of the ingredients (a lot easier than cooking!) and write a check for the total to Delta Kappa Gamma. Put "Room to Read Project" on the notation line and send the check to Marg Foster, or bring it to the February meeting. Let's see if we can get at least 50% participation from those folks who cannot attend the meeting and everyone at the meeting!

Where will your funds be allocated? "Room to Read" is a program that builds libraries in Asia and Africa's most war torn destitute spots. The communities must pitch in too! They must provide teachers, materials or labor. Our funds will either go toward building a library or to purchase native language books. How often do we take our wonderful library system for granted? Think about that as you help with this worthwhile project.

We will be filling and decorating Jared Boxes in April, at my house, on a date to be decided. If this project is new to you, let me tell you how special you'll feel helping to create these magical boxes. Filled with gifts, toys, cards, games and art materials, these decorated boxes will be distributed to critically ill children at Children's Hospital. Even folks who can't be there for the fun, hands-on afternoon can contribute materials. So be on the lookout for sales of the items in the box at right.

If you are purchasing for older children, get age appropriate items. You can purchase items for a boy or a girl, or items that would be



Giving back. Alpha Xi members promote their organizations asking for additional volunteers. Karen Ulrich logs hours at Meals on Wheels and Family House; Ellen Rodwick clowns for a cause; Karen Klingman does various activities at Gilda's Club and Linda Peffer makes blankets for Project Linus. For more information, contact these giving ladies.

Items for Jared Boxes

Crayons
 markers
 coloring books
 writing journals
 word searches
 Matchbox cars
 card games
 puzzles
 Silly-Putty
 Play-Doh
 bubbles
 stickers
 fun costume jewelry
 small toys

gratefully received by either. You select an age range for each box. The ages run from under 2, 2-4, 4-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14 and up. Materials must be able to fit in a shoebox and must be new. Stickers, decals and other decorative materials are also needed to decorate the outside of the box.

Don't forget to save your pop-tabs for Karen Klingman's nephew. As a patient at Shriners Hospital, he collects the tabs, and we can help him as he continues this community service project. Please bring them to meetings. Perhaps you can enlist the folks in your school by placing an envelope or bag by your pop machine for the tabs. Let's do it for Jake!

Thanks for your overwhelming response to the food drive for West View's backpack project. We appreciate your continued support!
 Ellen Rodwick and Deb McMullen
 Project Co-chairpersons

Upcoming Meetings

Sat, Dec 7—"Receive" Speaker: Darlene Farrell on Cookie Cutters and Holiday Grab bag (\$10 limit) at Willow, 634 Camp Horne Rd. at 11:30 a.m.

Thurs, Feb 6—"Involve" Speaker: Susan Frantz at Trinity Lutheran Church (Brandt School Rd.) at 4:45 p.m.

Tues, Mar 18—"Create" Presenter: Paint Monkey at Paint Monkey Freedom Rd., Cranberry at 5:00 p.m.

Sat, May—"Honor" New Member Initiation at Treesdale Country Club, One Arnold Palmer Dr., Gibsonia at 10:45 a.m.

Lobstah, Laughtah, and Lotsah Charactah!

Very early on a July Wednesday morning, Phyllis and I embarked on our fifth journey to a Northeast Regional Conference (NERC). With West Virginia, Ohio, Vermont, and Pennsylvania (and a SWRC in Oklahoma) under our belts, we set our sights on Portland, Maine. A friendly DKG Mainer (pronounced Mainah or better yet, Mainiac) greeted us at the Portland airport and pointed us in the direction of the shuttle. When we arrived at the Holiday Inn, we enjoyed our first of many lobster meals.

That evening during Maine Night, we were entertained by humorist Gary Crocker who could give the Pittsburgh Dad a run for his money. Truly, it would be great to see them together, a real battle of the accents and tales. Also, we heard great music by Dave Mallet and his band. This composer of "The Garden Song" (Inch by Inch, Row by Row) is still writing and performing great folk music.

At the Second General Assembly on Thursday morning, we were treated to another taste of Maine's keen sense of humor in the form of Ida LeClair of Mahoosuc Mills. Ida is the alter-ego of Susan Poulin, who regaled us with downhome stories encouraging us to find our "inner moose". By the end of her performance, our sides ached from laughter and we yearned to meet that Maine moose with the positive attitude. Check out <http://islandportpress.typepad.com/justaskida/> for some of her pearls of wisdom.

Later that morning, Susan Scanlon, who spoke at the PA state convention in June, again inspired us with stories of strong women who have fought and continue to fight for our rights. Susan is also an advocate of building The National Women's History Museum on the mall in DC. Read all about it at <http://nwhm.org/>.

Katie Snapp of Kessinger Consulting LLC prompted us to shout out "Oh Yeah!" as she listed multiple leadership strategies at the Celebration Luncheon. Throughout the course of the conference, delegates enthusiastically raised their voices in that cheer.

Thursday, evening 55 Pennsylvanians enjoyed dinner in a popular Portland restaurant and entertainment created by our state officers.



Nominations

The nominating committee is looking for members to assume leadership roles in the Alpha Xi Chapter of DKG. A slate of officers is needed to continue the tradition of excellent leadership which our chapter has experienced in the past. Carefully consider your role in moving our chapter forward in the 2014-2016 biennium. Remember, our past officers and current members are always available to help incoming officers as they assume their new positions. If you are interested in becoming an officer or in learning more about the duties of an elected position, contact Phyllis Jenny at 412/366-0443 or pljenny@comcast.net. Please help Alpha Xi continue to be a strong, vital chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and say "yes" when asked to be an officer.

Friday and Saturday brought more general assemblies with additional good speakers and a chance to amble through the info fair and exhibits. We also took advantage of some openings in the schedule to tour Portland and visit its beautiful Museum of Art, which conveniently stood across the street from our hotel. We chose a lobster bake for our Friday night outing. After a boat ride to House Island, we toured an old military fort and enjoyed a succulent soft-shelled lobster dinner under a tent. The icing on the cake was a gorgeous red sunset over the harbor of Portland – sailors' and our delight!

The conference ended with the Presidents' Banquet where I had the opportunity to sing some challenging, but moving music in the chorus and Dr. Beverly Helms, our International President, shared her thoughts with the crowd. All in all, we were among 630 DKG members who laughed, learned, caught up with old friends and made new – all due to the hard work of our sisters in Maine.

Before returning home, Phyllis and I spent three days exploring the coastline of Maine from Camden and Mt. Battie to the north to Ogunquit and Kennebunkport in the south. We consumed a lottah lobstah and spectacular views and again created some lasting memories. Where next? The 2014 International Convention will be in Indianapolis and Baltimore's Harbor will be the setting of the 2015 NERC. Won't you join us?

MEETING MINUTES

4:45 P.M., 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

Initiates.

Jane Sestric, Liz Rava and Kathy Fitzgerald were initiated at the September meeting.



Pin problems.
Carol Pastor tries to pin Kathy Fitzgerald.

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/?action_KEY=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



Celebration of Life.
Members honor those who passed away in the last year. Alpha Xi lost Lois Crummie, Carolyn Pettit, Marion Plank, and Betty Jane Robertson.

Mark Your Calendar
Important Dates from Alpha Alpha State

July 28, 2014 - August 1, 2014

International Conference
Indianapolis IN

TBA

North East Regional, Baltimore Harbor

October 2013

Have You Heard?

News from Alpha Xi Sisters

Paulette welcomed Areta Kalogeras, Barb Rankin and Alice Smolkovich back.

Janet Serdy had foot surgery.

Liz Rava, Karen Klingman, and Deb McMullen are all new grandmas.

Melissa Costantino (Avonworth Middle School) is one of five state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching. Good luck, Melissa!!

Marg Foster and her husband took several mini-vacations this summer: June - The Greenbrier Resort in WV; August - Niagara-On-The-Lake, Canada; Sept. Stone Harbor, NJ.

Paulette Hemmings and her husband will be traveling through the Paris area and northern France in September.

Darlene Farrell had a square on the bridge for the Knit the Bridge project; it was on the Andy Warhol Bridge.

Ellen Rodwick is part of a Readers' Theatre group in Mt. Lebanon and performs at assisted living and various other residences in the South Hills. She is thinking of starting a similar group in the North Hills, so if you are interested, contact Ellen.

West Winds Quintet

Several members had inquired about contact information for the West Winds Quintet, the group that provided the musical entertainment at the April meeting at the Sewickley Speakeasy. The person in charge of the group is Deb Evans. She may be contacted at 724/742-1369 or silvite@zoominternet.net

Yearbook Corrections

Please correct the following email address: Shirley Stevens – poetcat@verizon.net

***Please add Faith Jack to your email contacts list—faithj40@gmail.com
so mass emails don't go to spam.***

Delta Kappa Gamma

Alpha Xi Chapter

Peg Maser

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Glenshaw, PA 15116-1015

Alpha Xi website:

<http://alphaxipadkg.weebly.com/>