



# Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

## Pennsylvania State | Alpha Beta Chapter

# Alpha Beta Bits

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

### Memorable DKG Dates

**May 11, 1929**

DKG Founded

**January 23, 1937**

PA State Organization Established

**May 22, 1948**

Alpha Beta Chapter Chartered



### NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

February 16, 2024

Email: Amy Snyder

### Newsletter Staff:

Amy Snyder, Editor

Royce Boyd

Judy Conrad

Joan McGreevey

Tina Smith-Gilbert

## President's Message

Earlier in the fall, we were all treated to the explosion of color in our surrounding hills as the leaves changed from green to hues of orange, red, and yellow. Such is the transition of our summer to fall season, a transition that brings its own measure of beauty. Our chapter is getting ready for its own season of transition – the transition of leadership. At our December meeting, we will elect our officers for the 2024-2026 biennium. Just as we do things to prepare ourselves for the seasonal transition from summer to fall, we must also do some things to prepare ourselves for our leadership transition.

At our December meeting, we will take part in an activity to help with the direction and planning for the 2024-2026 biennium. Information from this activity will help our new chapter leaders in their transition process. The activity involves us responding to five questions:

1. What are we doing well? (What do you like about what we are doing in the chapter?)
2. What was your favorite meeting? (What made you feel energized after leaving the meeting?)
3. What is keeping us from moving forward?
4. What do we need to do to move forward?
5. What will you do or what can you offer to help us move forward?

Between now and the meeting, give these questions some thought. Doing so will prepare you for the activity at the meeting. Remember, we are a strong chapter because you have always been forthcoming about what you like and don't like, new things we should be doing, and areas on which we should focus. I am eternally grateful that you are so forthcoming with your thoughts and ideas.

*President's Message continued—*

I am also eternally grateful for how you are willing to share your time, talents, and energy with DKG, Alpha Beta, and the communities we serve. Your willingness to give of yourselves is helping:

- Make a difference in the lives of local teachers and children.
- Many in our communities live happier lives.
- Us fulfill the purposes and values of DKG.
- Make those magical connections.
- Bring about endless new possibilities.

Thank you all so much just for being you. As we enter into a time of year where traditional events, activities, gatherings, food, and song surround us, may you be touched with warm and happy memories, connected with dear family and friends, and expanded by the messages, lessons, and thoughts that arise from the participation in or reflection of the tradition of the season. May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Forever grateful for you and your ability to make the magic of DKG come alive,

—Becky

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Remember to keep on the look out for an educator who is making a difference in the field. Did you read about her in the paper, see something great on the news, or is it someone a child in your life can't stop talking about? Get her name and district to me Jenifer Harclerode and she will contact her about becoming a member!

## US FORUM

*Pat Brenner*

House of Representatives Bill 4259 is another Legislation to watch. This bill was approved 31-0 by the House Committee on Education and Workforce. It is going to the floor of the US House for consideration. If the bill passes, schools would be required to notify parents of students with disabilities that they can invite people with additional knowledge or expertise to participate in individualized education program meetings. These individuals can be people who know the student personally, or who have expertise regarding the special education services that would be appropriate for this student.

**ON OUR WEBSITE  
HAVE YOU SEEN?**

...the About>Activities section

If so, what is your favorite  
picture there?

...the Recognition>Chapter

Member Recognition section





*Patricia Harrison*  
*Historical Records Committee Chairperson*

As we continue with our 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, we are looking back at the founding of the chapter and following our Alpha Beta pioneers through their first year. In 1948 there was no December meeting. Following the October meeting, the chapter did not meet again until February 1949. More about that later....

The first December chapter meeting was held on December 18, 1952 at the Fort Bedford Inn. President Thelma Morse presided at the meeting. Twenty sisters were in attendance. According to the minutes, “The highlight of the evening was the initiation of Miss Margaret H. Lessig.” Also, the members exchanged gifts for which each member paid \$1.00.

It is interesting to note the similarities and differences between then and now. Some things remain the same and others change, but we remain committed to one another in “genuine spiritual fellowship.”

## Did You Know?

From the DKG Website  
**Resource Spotlight – DKG Communities**  
*by DKG Blogger Oct 30, 2023*

Do you know that there are at least 25 different interest communities that members can join in My DKG.

Log in to DKG.org then click on MYDKG. From this page you can click on My Communities. “Click here to join a community” will take you to a list of communities.

If you are interested in best practices using social media, there is a group for that.

If you are interested in leading effective meetings, there is a group for that also.

You might want to be part of increasing knowledge and awareness of global issues, join DKG Global Awareness. If you would like to create a new community, contact Trish Woodley at trishw@dkg.org.

Whatever your passion, a world of possibilities, opportunities, and resources exist within The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Communities are one of the resources members can utilize as an opportunity to let your voice be heard and pursue passions.

### DECEMBER MEETING

- Where:** Bedford Middle School
- When:** December 2, 2023
- Time:**
- 10:15 AM:** Executive Board
- 11:15 AM:** Business Meeting
- 12:00 PM:** Christmas Tea
- 12:45 PM:** Program: Music Bingo







**DEVOTED:** **Susan Trimeloni** (aka Miss Susie) continues to read to children at the Everett Library.

**MODEL:** **Kris Olsen** worked onsite at the Cambria County Backpack Program to fill the food bags.

**ARTISTIC:** **Arlene Fuller's** "In Memory Quilt" was accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

**SHUTTERBUG:** **Angie Gates'** photographs "Kaleidoscope of Flowers" and "A Quiet Field" were accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

**THOUGHTFUL:** **Pat Brenner** gave a "surprise" submission of Arlene's "In Memory Quilt" to the DKG Fine Arts Gallery

**PRESENTER:** **Candace Claar** served as a conference panelist for a session on safety in career and technical education .

**COMMUNICATOR:** **Carol Deremer**, our webmaster, keeps our website up-to-date and in tip-top shape.

**GIVING:** **Everyone** who donated to the Weekend Backpack Program and/or the Jabulani School.

## World Fellowship

*Lois Stoner*

International has released information on this year's World Fellowship recipients. There are 23 recipients studying at universities in the United States or Canada. None of them are currently at any Pennsylvania universities.

Thirteen women are studying in the U.S. Their contact information was provided at the October chapter meeting and will also be available at the December meeting. Members are encouraged to send cards, letters, emails or small gifts, especially during the holidays.



**HOSPITABLE:** Hospitality Committee members **Pat Brenner, Candace Claar, Susan Clark, Wanda Clark, Carol Fritz, Jenn Harclerode, Sandi Hoenstine, Kris Olsen, Tina Smith-Gilbert, Trudy Snyder, and Laura Vent** who have been hard at work on creating another outstanding chapter ornament/gift for our December Christmas Tea.

**MENTORS:** **Sandi Hoenstine and the Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Committee (Linda Croyle, Linda Fisher, JoAnn Leighty, Connie McClain, Linda McElroy, and Nancy Rockey)** for their work on our Teacher Enrichment Grants.

**DEDICATED:** All committee chairs and members for keeping the chapter running smoothly through their hard work and dedication.



## Jingle All The Way

*Lois Stoner*

The annual basket raffle to benefit the Conference Fund will be held at the Christmas tea. Please bring an item worth at least \$5 to be included in this fundraiser.

Tickets will be for sale at \$1 each or 6 for \$5, so remember to bring some of that cold cash!! Also, address labels are the quickest way for everyone to fill in the back of the tickets.

The Conference Fund allows members attending State and International event to receive a stipend to help with expenses.

## Educational Excellence Committee

*Tina Smith-Gilbert*

Alpha Beta was very blessed to have Lisa Donatelli as our guest speaker at our October meeting. Lisa shared a little about her 31 years of experience teaching. She shared how she got her innovative idea for “Stories and Styles.” She was at a hair salon getting her hair done when she came up with the idea. Hair salons are a great place to get pampered and to be able to share stories. She thought kids would probably really like someone to do their hair and they could read to an adult while they do their hair.

The kids benefit from getting to practice their oral reading skills and then they get to keep the book. They get to pick a hairstyle which is beautifully done and photographed for Lisa’s scrapbook. Then they are sent off to start their day with a spritz of perfume for the girls or body spray for the boys. Lisa has noticed that the program has really helped her connect with the preschoolers to second grade children in her building and Lisa has many students who return multiple times to take part in the program.



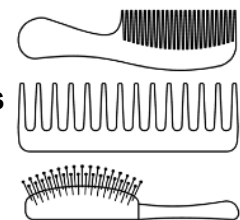
*Becky Johnen and Kris Olsen assemble the weekend backpacks at the Cambria County Backpack Program.*



*Tina Smith-Gilbert introduces Lisa Donatelli at the October DKG meeting at The Bistro in Martinsburg, PA*

The program compliments the social-emotional curriculum in the Central Elementary building and helps build self-esteem. Lisa has primarily funded the program for the last eight years from her own funds. At the October program it was brought up by the membership and a proposal was made to see if we could help Lisa with supplies or donations at our December meeting. Lisa sent us a list of supplies she currently uses in her program and often has to replace. Here is a list of what she needs:

- 1) Hairbrushes
- 2) Combs
- 3) Small and medium bows
- 4) Plastic hair clips
- 5) Colored hair extensions
- 6) Monetary donations



A basket will be provided at the December meeting for donations.

## FALL 2023 WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD DRIVE



*Pat Brenner and Susan Clark  
add their donations for the  
Weekend Backpack Program.*

Kudos everyone (and special kudos to Dr. Kris Arnold and his staff at Live Well Chiropractic)! As best we can determine, we gathered 1,836 items for the Weekend Backpack Program, 25% of which came from the donations at Live Well Chiropractic. (Live Well is already on board for the March collection.) Adding a community partner was a huge success and helped create a record breaking amount of food collected.

### Album of Distinction

*Tina Smith-Gibert*

Do you know an Alpha Beta member who has received an award or honor for their life's work outside DKG and represents our Purpose #6...To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members, and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action. This accolade should represent a member's passion to work for and improve the lives of others on a global, community, or personal level.

The honor or award for individuals needs to have been bestowed between January 1 to December 31, 2023. Applications and guidelines for the Album of Distinction can be found on the Pennsylvania State website: [dkgpa.weebly.com](http://dkgpa.weebly.com). Applications can be found under the Awards/Scholarships tab.

Please follow the application process outlined on the website. All applications will need a clear JPEG photo. **Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2024.** Applications are to be submitted to Tina Smith-Gilbert, Alpha Beta. If a member is accepted as an Album of Distinction award recipient she will be given her award during the Album of Distinction reception on June 19, 2024 at state convention.

## Spring/Easter Craft Sale

*Lois Stoner and Kris Walters*

Plans are being made for our Craft Sale scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the East St. Clair Township building. A few vendors have contacted the chapter already about being interested in having a "booth" either outside, inside w/o electricity, or inside w/electricity, contact Lois or Becky. During the month of November, several of us will be visiting craft fairs to try to get info. out to interested vendors.

If you have knowledge of any crafter that you think would be willing to come to this craft sale, let Lois or Becky know so we can try to get in contact with him or her.

Becky will be in charge of the kitchen area again so polish up your baking skills and/or volunteer to assist in the kitchen or to sell baked goods or Easter items.

The chapter will be selling chances on a quilt donated by Melissa Moorhead as our part of the fundraiser. If you have other items (which are relatively easy to ship), that you wish to donate for this raffle, let Lois know. Sign up sheets will be circulated at the December meeting.

### STAY CONNECTED

- On our chapter website ([alphabeta-dkg.weebly.com](http://alphabeta-dkg.weebly.com)).  
Watch for new pictures and updated project information and check out the weekly inspirational quote (usually posts on Sunday).
- On the state website ([dkgpa.weebly.com](http://dkgpa.weebly.com)). Look for the latest posting of Alpha Beta pictures in About>Activities.
- On our Facebook page (DKG Alpha Beta Chapter of PA)



### Projects Committee News

*Linda Clapper*

A few years ago, our Chapter participated in a “Toasty Toes” collection to provide much-needed socks for the children and teens for whom Bedford County Children & Youth provide services. This year, we are asking that our members bring Slippers for the elementary to high school age teens. We have been told that they can be any kind of Slippers. This will be another way to give “Toasty Toes” to those who need it.

Your help with this project is appreciated! We will have a collection box at the December meeting.



### We Care Bags

*Linda Clapper*

On September 18th, five members met to assemble the “We Care” bags. The 42 bags were then delivered by Chapter members to these School Districts: Bedford, Chestnut Ridge, Claysburg Kimmel, Everett, Greater Johnstown, Northern Bedford, and Tussey Mountain.

Our plan is to distribute more as needed.

Thanks again for your help with the fleece blankets and providing personal care items for this Project!



*Pat Brenner, Beta Epsilon President  
Veronica Sell, Dr. Allen Sell (retired Bedford Area School District Superintendent)*

### Five Chapters Gather to Celebrate the State Presidency of Royce Boyd

On September 21, members from Alpha Beta, Alpha Delta, Beta Epsilon, Chi, and Psi gathered in Bedford to celebrate Royce as the 2023-2025 PA State Organization President. The informal, open house event saw many people drop in to congratulate and visit with Royce.



*Royce, Kris Walters, Yvonne Bowser, Beverly Brumbaugh (Alpha Beta)*



*(Above) Jenn Harclerode, Royce, Rick and Tracey Dusch (Psi)*



*(Right) Darlene Beachley (Alpha Delta), Royce, Margie Zorn (Alpha Delta)*