



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**

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President's Message

DKG is about to embark on an exciting journey, one that will have us traveling along Avenue M. (Avenue M was the consulting group that recently conducted research on DKG and provided recommendations on ways DKG can move forward in its efforts to be vital, relevant, and sustainable.)

I can't help but parallel our upcoming journey to the one that Dorothy and her friends took as they traveled the yellow brick road. When Dorothy lands in the Land of Oz, it is the yellow brick road that she must follow to get to the Emerald City and the Wizard (whom she hopes will help her get back home to Kansas). And it is on her trek to the Emerald City along the yellow brick road that Dorothy encounters many characters and adventures that are much like the ones we will encounter as we travel Avenue M. The 'cyclones' that may sweep us away from our comfort zones are the CHANGES that DKG will need to undergo in its efforts to be vital, relevant, and sustainable. The 'wicked witches' we face in this journey will come in the form of OBSTACLES and ROADBLOCKS (i.e., resistance to change, fear of the unknown). And, just as Dorothy met several characters along the way (such as Glinda the Good Witch of the North, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, and the Cowardly Lion) that HELPED her, so will we meet a host of characters along Avenue M that will help us in our quest of vitality, relevance, and sustainability.

The lessons that Dorothy and her friends learned along the yellow brick road have relevance for our Avenue M journey. They learned to:

- Ride out the change to see where they landed.
- Survey their new surroundings to get a feel for the "lay of the land."



President's Message continued—

- Ask questions.
- Determine a course of action to keep moving forward.
- Make the best of all situations.
- Seek ways to make the changed environment work in their favor.
- Analyze situations and find new approaches when dealing with challenges.
- Look for opportunities to work around challenges, opportunities that further developed their skills, experiences, knowledge, networks, relationships, and themselves.
- Have heart so they could smile, laugh, and experience joy no matter what they faced.
- Overcome fears.
- Stand up for what they thought was right.
- Take reasonable risks in overcoming challenges.
- Rely on friends to help along the journey.
- Listen to the advice of mentors, those who provided encouragement, support, and assistance.
- Understand and recognize their authentic abilities and talents; recognize that they had the brains, heart, and courage to make choices and decisions that helped them reach their goals.

The journey in the Land of Oz gave everyone an appreciation and a greater understanding of themselves. As someone once said, “The journey of our lives is not just about the destinations we have reached. Our wisdom, education and personal growth will come from the people we meet, the paths we choose to follow and the lessons we have learned along the way.” And so it will be with us as we journey along Avenue M. We will all need our ruby red slippers for our Avenue M journey, our slippers that are in the form of the power of belief; the power of mind over matter. We can and will make our journey along Avenue M one that will keep DKG and Alpha Beta vital, relevant, and sustainable. I look forward to traveling Avenue M with you and to making our own magic along the way.

~Becky

VITAL • RELEVANT • SUSTAINABLE



The Implementation of Avenue M Familiarizing Ourselves with DKG Opportunities



From a DKG Blog posted February 1, 2024

What does this bubble graphic represent?

Why should DKG members have a thorough knowledge of this graphic?

How can this knowledge impact the future of DKG?

The ‘Bursting the Bubble’ campaign is a multi-month marketing campaign designed to showcase opportunities through DKG. Each circle (bubble) in the graphic represents an opportunity or benefit of membership in the Society. The campaign will take a deep dive into each bubble and will include multimedia resources for marketing DKG within and beyond the Society.

Watch for the first “bursting the bubble” feature on or about March 1 and then twice a month to follow as the campaign intentionally bursts the bubbles of opportunities through DKG.

Educational Excellence

*Tina Gilbert
Education Excellence Chair*

Just a reminder that applications for the Album of Distinction can still be submitted until March 1st. If you have earned an award or honor that honor's your life's work outside of DKG in the year 2023 you should apply or have Becky apply on your behalf. Applications are sent to me and need to either be postmarked by March 1st or sent via email to me by midnight on the 1st of March. Honoree's will be celebrated at state convention in June.

Second, at our March meeting I am honored to introduce our chapter to a young man named Tuuka. Tie Dye by Tuukka is an independently owned company led by eight-year-old entrepreneur setting out to help those in need and, of course, save up for a hot new set of wheels. I encourage you to come and find out how Tuuka and his mother make tie dyed shirts and use some of their profits to help local charities and give back to their community.

NEWS FROM THE STATE

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2024 convention being held June 19-21 (with the leadership seminar beginning the evening of the 18th and continuing through 3 PM on the 19th) at the Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry. Watch for details in the upcoming edition of the *Keystonian* as well as on the state website.





*Pat Harrison
Historical Records Chair*

As the first year of Alpha Beta's existence continued, our Founders entered 1949 with hope and enthusiasm. Between February and June, they had 6 regular meetings and 2 special meetings! They were a very busy group of ladies – and all while they continued with their teaching jobs, maintained their homes, and took care of their families. Sound familiar?

In February 1949 the founders had their third regular meeting at the home of Stella Ritchey in Saxton. They welcomed Winona Garbrick of Bedford as a transfer member from Iota Chapter. They also voted to accept Mrs. Lizzie Bain Lysinger as the first honorary member of Alpha Beta. Her many years of service in the Bedford Schools and her participation in many civic activities proved her to be worthy of this distinction.

Along with the regular business, the sisters accepted an invitation to meet with Alpha Delta and Iota Chapters for a joint meeting at Ebensburg on April 23, 1949. They also set the next meeting for March 19 at the Hoffman Hotel. It was announced that State Convention would be on April 30 and initiation in May.

On March 19 the fourth regular meeting was held at the New Hoffman Hotel. The treasury had a balance of \$55.07. A note of acceptance from Lizzie Bain Lysinger was read to the group. The Nomination Chairman presented the slate of

officers for the 1949-1951 biennium. The secretary was directed to cast a unanimous ballot and the officers were declared to be elected.

Mrs. Edna Ross Simon, Saxton, was proposed and elected as the first Associate Member. Three active members were also proposed and elected to membership. They were Thelma Morse, Everett High School; Kathleen Parks, Broad Top School; and Mary Morse, Bedford.

Initiation was set for April 7 at the Fort Bedford Inn and Installation of Officers was set for May 21 at the Fort Bedford Inn. They also announced that Annual Convention would be held April 30 at Reading.

The fifth regular meeting was held on April 3 at the Fort Bedford Inn at 3 PM. The focus of the meeting was preparation for initiation. They rehearsed the ceremony and discussed the table decorations. It was also decided that members were to wear white dinner dresses for initiation and installation. Initiates were to wear dinner dresses of any desired color.

As you can see, some things were the same and some were different. Starting the chapter required the founders to learn much and be creative. Their legacy remains as a basis of our chapter and its activities 75 years later.



Here Comes Peter Cottontail

*Lois Stoner and Kris Walters,
co-chairs of Ways and Means Committee*

Hopefully, everyone has survived the roller coaster winter that we have been having. Cross your fingers that Punxsutawney Phil is correct and spring will be here soon! Speaking of soon, the Alpha Beta Craft/Bake Sale scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd at the East St. Clair Township Building is fast approaching.

All available tables designated for crafters or vendors have been reserved and the chapter has set aside 3 tables for our quilt raffle and other fundraisers such as grab bags and a Bunny Patch. Melissa Moorhead has donated the beautiful quilt pictured in this newsletter. Bev Brumbaugh has also donated a lap robe and some of the vendors have committed to donations for the raffle. Chances on the quilt and other items will be sold at \$1 a piece or 6 for \$5.

Becky has the “kitchen crew” ready to serve lunch and sell baked goods. A schedule of times for volunteers will be emailed to everyone that signed up at the Christmas tea. If you did not have an opportunity to sign up or have realized that you are now able to help on the 23rd, let Becky or Lois know.

Thanks to all chapter members who distributed flyers advertising our fundraiser or posted items on social media. The *Bedford Gazette* has been running information in the Club News and an article will appear soon.

So cross your fingers (and bunny ears) that winter storms will be over and we will have a hopping good time as well as a financially successful event.



The above quilt was generously donated by Melissa Moorhead to be raffled off at the Alpha Beta Craft/Bake Sale on March 23, 2024 at the East St. Clair Township Building

World Fellowship Report

Lois Stoner

If you have chosen a name for a World Fellowship recipient to whom you have been corresponding, spring might be a great time to reconnect. Cards, gift cards or emails would be a way to encourage these women as they approach midterms of the spring semester.

CALL FOR BUDGET REQUESTS

March usually means “in like a lion and out like a lamb.” In DKG, it also means budget thoughts. Committee Chairs it is time to give your budget requests to either Pat Harrison or Royce Boyd for 24-25 by March 16th. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you are comfortable with the current amount. Thanks in advance for your help in building the Alpha Beta Budget.

WE CARE BAGS



Four more We Care Bags were delivered to Johnstown Elementary on January 26, 2024 bringing the total number of bags given to school districts to 46! The impact of these backpacks filled with personal care items is making a huge difference

to children and families. Their contact person had sent the message that these additional bags would be appreciated to help out families who deal with devastating situations.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make this such a successful project.

CORNETET APPLICATIONS

Active educators - remember if you want to participate in a professional development opportunity and need financial support, consider applying for a Lucile Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award. The award funds participation in professional development activities sponsored by organizations or institutions other than DKG. This includes presentations/attendance at conferences that will contribute significantly to your current educational position and/or professional development for your stated aspirations.

The award may pay for registration fees and conference-related materials, travel, lodging, food, substitute teacher, if not provided by your employer, and other expenses necessary for participation in the professional development activities. (This award may not be used for college or university courses leading to the completion of a degree program.)

Applications are available on the DKG Website, DKGIEF>Funds>Cornetet Award and are due by May 1. Becky is available to assist anyone working on the application.

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL

Registration is open for the 2024 International Convention in National Harbor, MD, July 9-13. Both the hotel and the convention registration links are open on dkg.org. This year, the registration fee covers everything including meals, events with speakers (one of whom is the author of *Hidden Figures*), sessions and breakouts. The DKGIEF fundraising event for the Foundation, an evening at Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar, is an extra cost. Voting on proposed amendments will take place at this convention. Royce is once again the events coordinator and Becky will be coordinating the registration area. They are both looking for volunteers so if going, sign up on Sign Up Genius (the link will be on dkg.org) to help them out.

If you are interested in serving on an International Committee, Juries, or the Editorial Board for the 2024-2026 biennium, applications are posted at dkg.org and are due by March 1, 2024.

The National Legislative Forum is taking place March 10-13 in Washington, D.C. Additional information can be found under Related Events at dkg.org.

The Administrative Board hopes to have the new Membership Director on board sometime in March.

Executive Director (ED) Nita Scott is retiring in August. Applications to fill her position will open this month and close in March. The target employment date for the new ED is May 2024.

Town Hall series will begin again in March with a focus on the proposed amendments to the *Constitution and Standing Rules*. Each proposed amendment and its impact on the Society will be described with questions and comments about each one being addressed. The March *DKG News* will include all the proposed amendments.



Members of Live Well Chiropractic are ready to support our Back Pack Program

REMINDER: Weekend Backpack Program

Recently, information was sent out about bringing food items to the March meeting for the Weekend Backpack Program. Please take note that some schools have some specific items they are most in need of. Again, we are blessed to have Live Well Chiropractic partnering with us as a collection site for the Program!

HEARTFELT *Thanks* TO THE “CARING ALPHA BETA SISTER”

For the gorgeous Christmas poinsettia, Becky sends her thanks for such a thoughtful gift. The poinsettia added much to the holiday spirit.

US Forum Where Are All the Kids?

Pat Brenner

At the 2023 December meeting of the US Forum Legislative Subcommittee, the topics of the rising rates of chronic student absenteeism as well as the number of students who never returned to school following the pandemic were discussed. An analysis by the Associated Press and Stanford University Education professor, Thomas Dee, estimates 240,000 students' absences in 21 states have not been accounted for. Proposed federal legislation such as HR 744, (Mental Health of Educators and Staff Act), addresses this crisis with funds for sensitivity training, on campus family resource centers, and additional resource officers, and attendance officers.

THANK YOU for the support you gave for the “Easter for Eli” Program! By partnering with our Sisters in the neighboring Chapter Beta Epsilon, 18 baskets built will help the “Easter for Eli Foundation” which distributes Easter baskets to Children in hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses.





HUMANITARIANS: Kudos to **Angie Gates** and **Maria Scott Bollman** for their community work with the Animal Shelter in walking dogs that were rescued from challenging living conditions.

FACILITATORS: Congratulations to **Yvonne Bowser** and **Amy Snyder** who will both facilitate a Nibble and Network Table at the 2024 PA State Convention. Amy will also be doing a workshop at Convention.

TALENTED: We wish the best of luck to **Nancy Hershberger** and **Melissa Moorhead** on their submissions for the Spring DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

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

WORLD RENOWNED: Congratulations to **Nancy Hershberger** on a few of her art quilts being selected for an exhibition at the Port Moresby residence of the American Ambassador to Papua, New Guinea. The exhibition will run from 2024 through 2027.

STARLET: Good luck **Sonya Browell** in Saxton's upcoming dinner theater March 16 and 17. Sonya has the role of Sarah in the play *Murder at the Power Plant*.



Belated congratulations to **Melissa Moorhead** whose quilt entry was accepted into the Fall DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

2023 CHAPTER CHRISTMAS GIFT A HIT

Heartfelt thanks goes out to Hospitality Committee members Pat Brenner, Candace Claar, Susan Clark, Wanda Clark, Carol Fritz, Jenn Harclerode, Sandi Hoenstine, Becky Johnen, Kris Olsen, Tina Smith-Gilbert, Trudy Snyder, and Laura Vent whose snowmen popcorn chapter Christmas gifts were a big hit with members.



Standing: Laura Vent, Trudy Snyder, and Susan Clark. Seated: Tina Smith-Gilbet, Pat Brenner, Wanda Clark and Kris Olsen.

STAY CONNECTED

On our chapter website (alphabetadkg.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).

Look for the latest posting of Alpha Beta pictures in the Chapters section/Chapter news.

On our Facebook page (DKG Alpha Beta Chapter of PA).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We give a warm Alpha Beta welcome to our two newest members, **Malynda Maurer** and **Kaitlyn Allison**. Malynda is the CEO of the Central PA Digital Learning Foundation (CPDLF) which is an online K-12 school approved by the PA Department of Education. CPDLF served the entire state and offers customized and flexible cyber education. She is most at peace at the beach or in the woods with running water nearby.

Kaitlyn Allison is a 7th grade learning support teacher for the Chestnut Ridge School District. She enjoys scrapbooking, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

We are always looking for wonderful educators like Malynda and Kaitlyn to join our chapter. Continue to send Jenn Harclerode names of prospective members.



Nancy Hersbberger

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Art quilter, Nancy Hersbberger, had quite a successful 2023. She was juried in to the Studio Art Quilters Association's (SAQA) Juried Artist Members. (She became a JAM which is a big deal in this group.) She was selected for the interdisciplinary artist residency program at Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville. This was an international call for artists and she was one of six selected! She was also selected for an Artist in Residence program at Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona.

Several of her quilts received recognition: "Dark Hollow Falls" was selected for the "Women of Appalachia Project" exhibition at the Dairy Barn Arts Center, Athens, Ohio. This art quilt won Juror's choice as well as Viewers' choice award in this show. "Yosemite" was selected for the Biennial exhibition at Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Loretto, PA. It won Best of Show. "Fort Union Native Americans" took Best Sewing Machine Workmanship award at Pennsylvania National Quilt Extravaganza, Oaks, PA.

Her work was selected to be featured in Art Quilting Studio magazine's "Artist Portfolio" article, a 12-page spread, featured in the winter 2024 issue which hit the shelves on December 1.

Nancy, we are so very proud of you and all of your accomplishments. May you have continued success in 2024!

Projects Committee News

Linda Clapper

Thanks to everyone who brought slippers to the December meeting. When Santa arrived to take our donations, he was thrilled that the Bedford County Children & Youth children and teens would benefit from the 68 pairs of slippers!



Candace Clear, Jenn Harclerode and Melissa Moorhead sort slippers and socks.

THANK YOU:

A special thanks goes to Jenn Harclerode and her mother who donated some finished fleece blankets in December.

Royce Boyd thanks Santa for delivering socks and slippers to Bedford County Children & Youth this holiday season.



Jabulani School Update

Harrison recently sent a message to me explaining that the people living in rural areas of Zimbabwe had been concerned that the government would withdraw funding from private local schools like Jabulani. There was an outcry as to how this would affect students who were unable to safely attend government schools that were often far away. Teachers would have lost their jobs or would have been moved. The teachers and parents were certainly concerned about the ramifications to the education of their children and the quality of their lives.

The government leaders finally agreed to continue supporting the schools with funding for teacher salaries. Needless to say, this was a huge relief to many communities across Zimbabwe, especially those like the impoverished areas that Jabulani serves. So, Jabulani continues doing all it can to educate and nurture the children in the homestead area outside Victoria Falls. They are still greatly appreciative of funding that will help them with supplies, and they continue to serve hot lunches to the students. Harrison sent pictures of a group of primary students so that you would see who benefits from your generosity.

REMINDER RAINY DAY BAGS

At the March meeting, we will collect the rainy day bags, coin wrappers, and donations for the Jabulani School in Zimbabwe, Africa.

