



*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*

PENNSYLVANIA STATE

ALPHA BETA CHAPTER

## Alpha Beta Bits

Volume XXXII NUMBER 4

March 2022



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anatole France (who won the 1921 Nobel Prize in Literature) said, "Nine-tenths of education is encouragement." As educators, day in and day out, we encourage our students – we support them, we give them confidence, we give them hope. Our encouraging nature doesn't end in the classroom. We carry that trait with us in all we do, and I certainly see that in what we say and do in DKG.

We support each other through our kind words and actions and this is exemplified in the work of our Fellowship Connection committee. Our notes of cheer, acknowledgment of accomplishments, phone calls, hugs, smiles, wellness checks, and the countless other things we do are all ways we encourage each other.

We support our local schools with our outreach projects. Our food collections for districts' Weekend Backpack Programs make a difference with the food insufficiency issue in the counties we serve. Our Teacher Enrichment Grants provide extra support for classroom projects. And, we support our long-distance district, the Jabulani School, with our personal cash donations.

We support future teachers through our Grant-in-Aid program. We support early career educators with our new Talk About Teaching series, and we support those teachers contemplating changes with our new Beyond the Classroom initiative.

We support several agencies in our communities with our fleece blankets and our collections of personal care items, school supplies, and clothing items.

We support DKG through our involvement in chapter activities and by lending our leadership voices as officers or committee members/chairs, through our participation in state and international events, and by sharing our time and talents on state and international committees.

By encouraging others, we are investing in them. This investment helps make our chapter, the Society, our districts, and the communities we serve better and stronger. This investment makes a huge difference.

I encourage you to continue your great works for the chapter and for our communities, and I encourage you to keep making those magical connections as they are certainly leading to endless new possibilities.

Excited by the magic I feel flowing by all you do,  
**Becky**

VOLUME XXXII NUMBER 4

March 2022

# IN MEMORIAM...

Irving Berlin said, "The song is ended but the melody lingers on." And so it is with our dearly departed sister, Wanda Keller. Her melody of warm smiles, dedication to DKG through service at the state level and in her chapters of Iota and Alpha Beta, and care and compassion for others, will remain with us forever. Wanda gave us so much to remember and memories of her will forever "light the corners of our minds."



*Wanda is in the first row far left. This picture was taken in the summer of 2021. Wanda was our current Treasurer for Pennsylvania State. (Photo taken from DKG PA Weebly website)*



## RAY'S OF SUNSHINE



We wish Carol Deremer good luck on her mission trip to Costa Rica. She will be there March 12-19 with a Beauty for Ashes team; a branch of Adventures with Missions.



We also congratulate Carol on her role in the Grier School's receipt of the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award (fourth year in a row) for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles.

Kris Walters and Jenn Harclerode perform with the Horseshoe Cloggers and that group, on January 6, was featured in an episode of Around the Alleghenies! Way to go Kris and Jenn!



**VOLUME XXXII NUMBER 4**

We applaud Pat Brenner for her perseverance in working with the National Women's History Museum on getting Dr. Annie Webb Blanton included in the Museum's "collection."



Kudos to Melissa Moorhead who will be presenting a workshop on Mind Your Body and to Tina Smith-Gilbert who will be doing an In A Flash session on EEC/Early Career Educators at State Convention.

Alpha Beta extends its congratulations to State Webmaster, Sue Allen for her being named Teacher of the Year by PAECT and for being appointed the South Central Regional Director for that same organization.

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to all committee chairs and members for keeping the chapter running smoothly through their hard work and dedication.

## REMEMBER TO CHECK US OUT.

On our chapter website: [alphabetadkg.weebly.com](http://alphabetadkg.weebly.com). Watch for new pictures and updated project information.

On the state website: [dkgpa.weebly.com](http://dkgpa.weebly.com). Look for the latest posting of Alpha Beta pictures in the Chapters section/Chapter news.

**March 2022**

# ALPHA BETA CHRISTMAS TEA PICTURES DECEMBER 4, 2021



*Samantha Fickes and Becky Johnen – This was Samantha's first official meeting with Alpha Beta.*



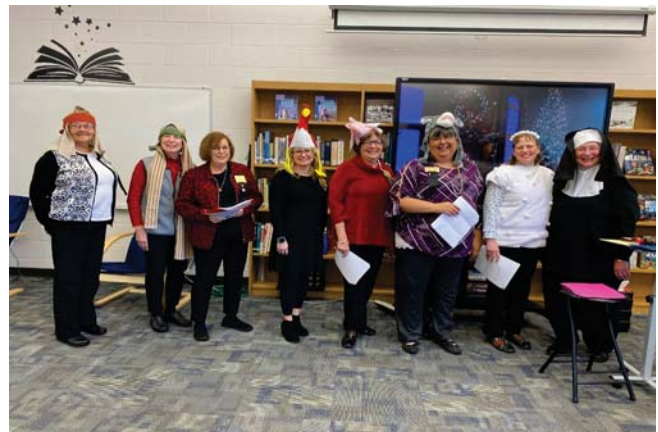
*Certificates of commemorative years were given to Wanda Clark (50), Patty Valentine (40), Sandy Hoenstine (40) and Denelle Diehl (5) years. Laurie Criswell presented the certificates.*



*Trudy Larson, Jen Harclerode, Sandy Hoenstine and Tina Smith-Gilbert served as lunch servers.*



*The Visual/Performing Arts Committee entertained us with the retelling of the Christmas Story from the animals in the manager's point of view! (L to R: Sandy Hoenstine, Linda Clapper, Judy Conrad, Jen Hoenstine, Patty Valentine, Amy Snyder, Sonya Browell and Becky Johnen)*



## STATE CONVENTION

Details on the State Convention, June 9-11, at the Penn Stater will be in the Spring edition of the Keystoneian. In the meantime, you can check out details on the exciting leadership seminars taking place on Thursday, June 9 (theme being ... Reframing DKG). The society and general workshops will be on Friday, June 10. You will also find all the special events and keynote speaker Laura Overdeck on the state's website under the 2022 State Convention tab.

## FINAL STEM WORK SESSION WITH THE GIRL SCOUTS

The final STEM work session with the Girl Scouts will take place on Sunday, March 20. If you are able to help out, mark your calendars now. Specific details on time and location will be shared closer to the event.

## PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Thanks again to everyone who contributed hoodies at our December meeting! We were pleased to deliver 38 to the Bedford County Children & Youth Services for the children and teens they give assistance to.

We appreciate the help of several members who are cutting and knotting fleece blankets! In January, we delivered 9 blankets to the U.S. Renal Care, Everett. They will help to give comfort to patients during their kidney dialysis.

Our Chapter received a prompt Thank You note that stated, "It means a lot to our patients and very much appreciated. We are thankful for such a caring group thinking of us". - **Linda Clapper**



*Linda Clapper with donated blankets for U.S. Renal Care Center in Everett, PA*



*Beverly Brumbaugh with a sample of a lap blanket at the Christmas Tea.*



*Sandy Hoenstine and Trudy Larson helped count sweatshirt donations at the December meeting.*

## Rainy Day Bags

Please continue to add coins to your Rainy Day Bags to continue the support to the Jabulani School in Africa. Linda McElroy will continue to wire our donations to Harrison, the contact person, for the school. From her most recent conversation, He said, "The poverty situation seems to be very bad. This is due to the ongoing climate problems that are affecting their harvests and the lack of tourism—which is the basic form of income for the area. Feeding the Children is what is needed most! They are concerned about the nutrition of the students, so that they are healthy and can learn".

At the March meeting, please return your Rainy Day Bag or bring a donation. They are so grateful for our help!

- **Linda Clapper and Linda McElroy**

## US. FORUM

Mary Moran, President PSEA-Retired, reports that in May of 2021 the PSEA House of Delegates passed two new business items about COLAs and increasing the monthly \$100 offset for medical insurance from PSERS. Currently no change has resulted. Mary encourages members to write, call, visit, or vote for someone who supports COLAs.

On another topic, DID YOU KNOW? PSEA has a Free College Benefit for members and their families including in-laws, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. An associate degree on-line can be earned at Eastern Gateway Community College. For more information, visit [freecollege.psea.org](http://freecollege.psea.org).

Finally, there is information on the current federal legislation H.R. 721 Mental Health

Services for Students Act of 2021. It supports school-based mental health services, including screening, treatment, and outreach programs. This bill passed the House on 5/12/21. The bill was received in the Senate on 5/13/21 and was read twice. The Senate then referred the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. There are no further updates.

- **Pat Brenner**

## WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM COLLECTION MARCH MEETING



At the March meeting, we will be collecting food items for our districts' Weekend Backpack Programs. If you need a list detailing what each school is collecting contact Becky Johnen or myself. This project helps those children who are in food-insecure environments.

How wonderful it will be to have the collection boxes overflowing! -**Jennifer Harclerode**

## **EASTER FOR ELI COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY WITH MARCH 13, 2022**

Elias: "Eli" was a loving 3 year old boy who lost his courageous battle with Non-Hodgkin T-Cell Lymphoma on May 7, 2009. Eli's parents and friends started "Easter for Eli" which delivers Easter baskets and gift cards yearly to families and children in need who are receiving treatment in children hospitals or in Ronald McDonald Houses in various states.

This year "Easter for Eli" is holding what is hoping to be the biggest Easter basket build and is hoping to build 8,000 to 10,000 baskets. Alpha Beta is looking forward to collaborating with the Beta Epsilon Chapter which we have invited to join us on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 to help build baskets. Build will be on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to ? Build will take place at the National Guard Armory in Duncansville, PA.

If you would like to participate with donations for the baskets, gift cards or help build the baskets there will be a flier coming via email with information on how to sign up. Please contact Tina if you have any questions. Be on the lookout for the flier that will be coming out via email in the next few days. - **Tina Smith Gilbert**

## **WOMEN OF STEM**

On February 27, nine scouts from the Roaring Spring Girl Scout Troop 43009 participated in a presentation on the *Women of STEM*. The presentation, done by Becky Johnen, reviewed why STEM is important for women, looked at the qualities of STEM pioneers (like bravery, visionaries, wouldn't take "no" or "girls don't do that" for answers), met the trailblazer for science, the medical field, technology, engineering, mathematics, and discussed the accomplishments of 17 women of science, two women in the medical fields, seven women of technology, four women of engineering, and three women of mathematics. The presentation ended with the girls discussing which courses to take in school if interested in pursuing a STEM field and picturing themselves as digital imaging specialists, digital artists, EMTs, vet techs, computer scientists, engineers, medical doctors, mathematicians, and forensic scientists. The session is part of the work being done to help the girls earn their STEM badges. - **Becky Johnen**



## MEMORABLE DKG DATES

**May 11, 1929**  
*DKG is Founded*

**January 23, 1937**  
PA State Organization is Established

**May 22, 1948**  
*Alpha Beta Chapter is Chartered*

We would like to wish the following Alpha Beta Sisters a very "Happy Birthday". We hope you have a wonderful birthday and a wonderful year ahead that is full of good health, good fortune and many blessings.



### March

**Carol Fritz 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Denelle Diehl 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tricia Beidle 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Connie McClain 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**JoAnn Leighty 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Patty Valentine 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Kris Walters 28<sup>th</sup>**



### NEXT ALPHA BETA MEETING

**Saturday, March 26, 2022**

**Where: Live Well Chiropractic  
Fishertown, PA**

#### Agenda:

**11:15 Business Meeting**  
**12:00 Luncheon**  
**12:45 Program: Building Alpha  
Beta's Convention Raffle Basket**

### April

**Karen Musselman 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Pat Brenner 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ann Snyder 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Bev Brumbaugh 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Pat Harrison 18<sup>th</sup>**



## **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The next newsletter submission deadline will be on **April 14, 2022**. Please send articles and photos to Tina by this date.  
- **Tina Smith-Gilbert**

**Alpha Beta Bits**  
*Composed, Edited and Printed*  
**By:**

Tina Smith-Gilbert  
Royce Boyd      Judy Conrad  
Joan McGreevey      Amy Snyder