



Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Pennsylvania State | Alpha Beta Chapter

Alpha Beta Bits

President's Message

Because we celebrate Thanksgiving in November, probably more than other month, our thoughts focus on how thankful we are for the people and things that have graced our lives. I am so very thankful for DKG and all it does to promote the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Opportunities abound through committee work, networking and mentorship; leadership seminars and leadership positions at the chapter, state, and international levels; state organization conventions; International conventions and conferences; webinars; zoom presentations; US Forum-sponsored presentations; creative arts retreats; purposeful seminars; and, Go Ahead Tours.

My gratitude for DKG extends to the many ways it honors women from the PA State Organization's Album of Distinction, Rosebud, and State Achievement awards to the Society's Member Spotlight, Project Spotlight, International Achievement Award, and Educator's Book Award.

My thanks to DKG also includes the financial assistance opportunities, such as the Emergency Fund, the Educational Foundation Grants, and the many scholarships and grants

President's Message continued—

I am most thankful for the structure of DKG that unites women educators in a genuine spiritual fellowship. I am still in awe of the multi-talents each of you brings to the Society and especially to Alpha Beta. WOW! I love watching all of you interact at our chapter meetings, giving warm hugs, exchanging words of encouragement, and sharing your voice on what the chapter is doing. I admire of all of you and all the specialness you add to the chapter.

Because of your willingness to share your time, talents, and resources to the work our chapter is doing, we are making a difference to the women and children in the communities we serve as well as to the children in our long-distance community, Zimbabwe, Africa. For all of this, I am so grateful.

Author Matthew Kelly says,

“Gratitude changes our lives. It changes the way we feel about ourselves, the way we feel about life, and the way we feel about others.”

Indeed it does.

Choosing to approach things with an attitude of gratitude is one choice that can make a world of difference in our lives. So at this time of year when many of our thoughts turn to the people and things that have graced our life, let's extend those thoughts beyond the day or the week or the month when giving thanks is celebrated. Let's make being grateful a part of our daily lives.

—Becky

The US Forum Steering Committee wants to hear from YOU!

Please use the link below to take a brief survey to prioritize the issues that are of most concern to you at this time. Your responses will be used to inform the US Forum Steering Committee's work during this biennium on behalf of ALL DKG (US) members!

We are soliciting input from every member to ensure that we are listening to the needs of many, not just those who are able to participate in a live conference. We have learned that there are many ways we can connect with each other and be responsive to more of our members' needs. We appreciate your help to send this to as many members as possible so that we have widespread input.

The survey will remain open only until November 14th! Just click on the link below.

Your thoughts are most important, and we value your input on these critical issues! Thanks so much.

Survey Link:

[https://
www.surveymonkey.com/r/
33B6MZ](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/33B6MZ)





Dear Alpha Beta Sisters,

Once again, I am overwhelmed by your most generous donation to Jabulani School. The area outside Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, is still recovering from the effects of Covid and the area's resulting high unemployment.

Beyond the need for school supplies, the funds will also be used for meals for the students. Our former guide, Harrison, and the school's principal, Sefiwe, express their deep, deep gratitude to you all.

I am so humbled to be part of the caring community of Alpha Beta!

With love from across the miles,
Linda McElroy



Project Committee News

—Linda Clapper

As the Holiday Season approaches, please help us by purchasing socks and gloves for children and teens. These will be donated to the Bedford County Children & Youth Services. There will be a collection container at our December 3rd meeting.

Blanket Delivery



On October 20, 2022, a second donation of blankets was made to U.S. Renal Care of Bedford. We gave 5 lap and 2 small blankets at that time. The patients and staff greatly appreciated our kindness!

OCTOBER
Jabulani School
Collection

\$725



PROUD OF OUR



NIMBLE: **Arlene Fuller** for her quilt submission to the DKG Fine Arts Gallery. (Due to a technical glitch with the submission, the jury could not appropriately judge her entry. However, it will be resubmitted for the spring gallery.)

OUTGOING: **Kris Olsen** for her volunteer hours at the Cambria County Backpack Program.

HELPING HANDS: **Judy Conrad, Jenn Harclerode, Lois Stoner, Amy Snyder, and Kris Walters** delivered our weekend backpack collections to the school districts.

WINNER: **Patty Valentine** wins second place for her under 48-inch wall quilt applique at the Bedford Historical Society’s 2022 Quilt Show.

INSPIRATIONAL: **Melissa Moorhead** with the Bedford Daughters (of the American Revolution) who, read names of the Pennsylvania Vietnam POWs at the Wall That Heals, James Van Zandt VA Medical Center at the September candlelight vigil.



TROUPERS: **Jenn Harclerode** and **Kris Walters** performed in the Horseshoe Cloggers try-it-night in Newry.

DEVOTED: **Susan Trimeloni** (Miss Susie) reads to children at the Everett Free Library and in the Bloody Run Historical Society’s restored caboose.

KUDOS TO ANGIE GATES

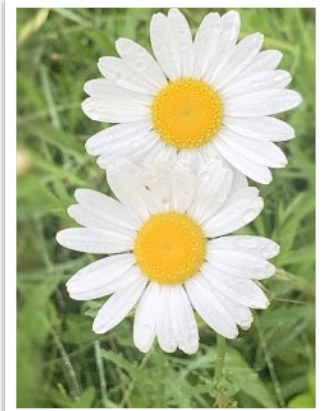
The Arts & Humanities Jury of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International announced the publication of two photographs (Charming Daisies and Sunflower) by **Angie Gates** in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts.

Angie’s photographs will appear in the *Keystonian*. In mid-November, they will appear on the DKG website gallery. Angie’s hard work will be recognized on the website for six months.

Charming Daisies

“The splendor of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not rob the little violet of its scent nor the daisy of its simple charm.”

– Therese of Lisieux



Sunflower

“And the yellow sunflower by the brook, in autumn beauty stood.”

–William Cullen Bryant

EEC Committee

—Tina Smith-Gilbert

The EEC Committee will be working on documenting our journey as a chapter in the following ways over the next few months:

1). We are hoping to do a short video of each member and how their journey with DKG and Alpha Beta began. We are asking each member to think back to how you were invited to be a member, how has your membership enriched your life/teaching career, etc. The interview questions will be distributed ahead of time and we hope everyone will consider being a part of this unique and wonderful opportunity to be part of Alpha Beta history documentation. The videos will become part of our historical archives.

2) We will be presenting several ideas for our 75th anniversary celebration at the state convention and will vote on what the membership would like to do at the convention in June at the December meeting.

3). We will be updating our archives with our chapter's history over the last 13 years and this new information will be entered into our historical book. The committee will be working on this early in 2023.

4). We are looking for photos to help us develop a slideshow of Alpha Beta's historical journey over the last 75 years. These can be submitted to me either at the December, March or May meetings. You can also scan them and send them to me via email. You can find my email in the current member directory. (If you submit a photo could you please also include the names of the members included in the picture if the photos are older).

5) If you have questions the 75th Celebration Committee would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Looking forward to celebrating such a wonderful milestone with all of you in March at our Alpha Beta monthly meeting and at the state convention in June!

The Talents of Alpha Beta

Everyone left with a smile and a happy heart after the October DKG meeting where the sisters shared their talents. Patty Valentine and Judy Conrad emceed the show of talents as the sisters tried to guess who owned each item.



INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE (dkg.org) BEING REDESIGNED

This site is being redesigned to become more user friendly and user focused and the new site is due to be rolled out at the end of 2022. It will have seven tabs for:

- About
- Publications/Documents
- Media Resources
- Events
- Leadership Lab
- DKGIEF
- MyDKG

There will also be a non-member site containing:

- About
- Membership
- Events
- Publications
- Leadership Lab
- Contact
- Donate

Until the change, the site contains:

- **Home Page** contains an information gallery, buttons that take one to information on the many opportunities within DKG, member spotlight, an online chat feature, and more. To get to specific information, one must sign in to the site (button on the top right). The sign in requires one's membership number and password; contact Pat Harrison if you need your membership number.
- **Events** has a drop-down menu for conventions, conferences, calendar, related events, Go Ahead tours, and the *centennial celebration* (in 2029, DKG will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Each year leading up to the centennial celebration

will feature a video highlighting events of each decade of DKG).

- **Publications** links one to the Journal and the Collegial Bulletin.
- **Programs/Projects** drops down to Schools for Africa, Supporting Early Career Educators, Project Spotlight, Program Ideas for Chapters.
- **About Us**, through a drop-down menu, will take one to the Society's mission, vision, and purposes; benefits; discounts; insurance benefits; history; founders; administrative board; executive board; and, others.
- **Contact Us** has inquiry buttons (general, membership, DKGIEF, finance, publications, other) that when clicked on bring up a form one completes and sends on to International.
- **DKGIEF's** drop down lists various awards, funds, scholarships, World Fellowship, and a blog.

There is a wealth of DKG-related information and opportunities at your fingertips. Take advantage of all that DKG has to offer by exploring the resources listed on this website.



Scholarships, Grants and Recognition Opportunities

—Tina Smith-Gilbert

The Pennsylvania State Organization Nancy Grove Visionary Fund awards a grant to in-service active teacher members to fund innovative ideas and activities related to Excellence in Education within the educational community. This annual award is administered by the Past State Presidents of the Pennsylvania State Organization and will be awarded at the annual state convention. The grant is to be used during the school year immediately following the state convention. The application and rubric are on the state website. I can help you with the process if you need some support on the application process. Deadline is February 1, 2023.

The Album of Distinction (AOD) award represents a members' life 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. The honor must have been earned during the 2022 year. Nomination forms and rubric are on the state website and are to be submitted by March 1, 2023.

Scholarships to further your education can be applied for if you are an active member who is in good standing for a minimum of three years with Delta Kappa Gamma International Society and the Pennsylvania State Organization and meet the selection criteria requirements. The member must be enrolled in graduate study leading to an advanced degree, certification, endorsement, or job advancement. Credit may be earned during a regular and/or summer session at an accredited college or university. Deadline to apply is February 1, 2023. Applications are to be forwarded to Susan Martin; Scholarship Chair. Rubric and application can be found on the state website.

Enrichment Grant: If you would like to apply for an enrichment grant to help fund a project that would help with a project in your classroom, community, further your personal/professional growth this would be a great opportunity to look into. Enrichment grant

applications are due by February 1, 2023 to Susan Martin; Scholarship Chair. Rubric and application can be found on the state website.

The State Achievement Award is to recognize and honor a member who has given distinguished and outstanding service to the Pennsylvania State Organization (PA State Org.) and has promoted the purposes and the policies of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. If you have a member of Alpha Beta in mind who meets the requirements listed on the state website please see a member of the executive board to nominate this person. The nomination process for the member is to be kept a secret. If the member is selected they are named at the state convention in June. This award is awarded every other year and Alpha Beta is only allowed to nominate one member each of the award years. See me if you have questions. Rubric and application are on the state website. Applications are due by February 1, 2023.

If you apply for any of these opportunities our best advice is to follow the rubric specifics and complete the applications as requested. Your dedication to detail will help your application get reviewed and considered. If you have any questions about the grants, scholarships and/or awards please see Becky or me and we would be happy to help you in any way. Fingers crossed Alpha Beta will have applications and successful applicants at state convention.

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).

Christmas Tea Basket Raffle

—Lois Stoner

It is that time of year again! Christmas! What could be better than sharing this season with your DKG sisters?

Our traditional basket raffle will be held during the Christmas Tea to raise funds for the Conference Fund. To assist the Ways and Means Committee, please bring an item worth at least \$5 to be included in the raffle.

Chances will be sold at \$1 for one ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. Remember those address labels to affix to the back of purchased tickets.

Don't forget your "cold" cash!



NOVEMBER

- Angela Gates, 9
- Arlene Fuller, 13
- Jenn Harclerode, 17
- Ellen Diehl, 22
- Trudy Snyder, 28

DECEMBER

- Judy Conrad, 1
- Kristen Hall, 24
- Lois Stoner, 25
- Amy Snyder, 28

JANUARY

- Linda McCahan, 9
- Yvonne Bowser, 26
- Royce Boyd, 29
- Linda Clapper, 30

April 1st Used Book/ Yard Sale

The Ways and Means Committee has started making plans for our chapter to hold a spring sale of gently used or new items as a fundraiser to assist with teacher enrichment grants.

Start saving gently used books...paperbacks, hardbacks, fiction, non-fiction, craft books, cookbooks and children's books.

Other items that members may donate include: puzzles, craft supplies, holiday items (even Christmas), afghans and throws, household items, costume jewelry, board games, sports gear and toys. Also, please save shopping bags with handles and small boxes (pop flats) in which to display paperback books. **No shoes, boots or clothing will be accepted.**

The W and M Committee will need help from all members. Becky will need volunteers for the kitchen and other members will be able to assist with the set up, actual sale and clean up.

Does anyone know of a youth group needing service hours? Friday evening set up, aiding during the sale Saturday and clean up would go much easier with more physical help and the chapter would be interacting with another demographic group in our community.

If you have been involved with community yard sales, please let the Committee know of any hints to make it run more smoothly.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday evening, March 31, 2023 and Saturday, April 1 for our chapter's yard sale at the East St. Clair Township Building on Route 56 near Fishertown.