



# Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Pennsylvania State | Alpha Beta Chapter

## Alpha Beta Bits

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

November 1, 2022

Email: Amy Snyder

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### President's Message

My parents grew up during the Great Depression and as a result saved lots of items that could one day be reused. My favorite items were the buttons in my mom's button box, a repurposed tin that was filled with buttons of all sizes and colors that came from old clothing. When I was elementary-school age, on a rainy day if I wasn't reading, I could be found playing with those buttons – sorting them by color or size or the number of holes in their centers or making necklaces with my friends.

There was always something special about the uniqueness of all those buttons same as there is something special about the uniqueness of us in the chapter. Our chapter is just like a button box. It houses a diverse group of women. Just as the buttons did, we have a purpose. Just as the buttons did, we each approach that purpose with a perspective that comes from our experiences. Just as the buttons all had different backgrounds and stories, so do we and it is those differences that, when shared, seem to energize, inspire, and propel us to new heights.

I love the diversity we have in the chapter. Just as the buttons in my mom's box spanned decades, so do we. This diversity is certainly a strength and a hallmark of ours. All the various "buttons" in our chapter box keep us relevant, vital, and vibrant. Each of us brings something unique to Alpha Beta and when we get together in our "button box," exciting and



*President's Message continued—*

magical things happen. I am delighted by what each of you brings and adds to the chapter. It is going to be an AMAZING year because our “button box” is overflowing with beauty, style, passion, and personality that creates a synergistic, unstoppable power.

It is going to be an AMAZING year with our many community-focused projects and the launching of our Talk About Teaching sessions for early career educators and our Beyond the Classroom presentation for soon-to-be-retired educators. It is going to be an AMAZING year because your thoughts and ideas on areas of focus for the coming year and items in our “possibles bag” will form the basis of our strategic action plan which will guide the work of the chapter and keep us moving forward. It is going to be an AMAZING year as we reflect on our 75 years and plan for the next 75!

As Sheila Cruse, a member of the Gamma Mu Chapter in the Tennessee State Organization said, “We are a group of women who have embraced our mission of educating to ensure a brighter future, a future with knowledgeable and contributing citizens in a rapidly shrinking world. May we cherish each member’s uniqueness, may we see potential and worth in each other, and, as we carefully consider each individual’s special beauty, may we create a necklace of good works and fond memories.”

Our “button box” is truly on an incredible journey fueled by the uniqueness of each of us. Together we are definitely making magic happen through our membership, wonderful connections, and possibilities.

Appreciating the beauty of our “buttons” and feeling the magic you are creating,

—Becky

## STATE COMMITTEE OPENINGS

For those of you looking to do work beyond the chapter, there are two state committees that need new members. The State Finance Committee is looking for two (2) new members and the State Nominations Committee is looking for three (3) new members.

If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please fill out an application on the State website.

On the site’s homepage, click on the <home> button (upper left corner). Scroll down to <Nomination for State Office/Committee> and click on that. Near the bottom of that page is a fillable PDF <nomination form>.

**Complete that form and email it to Barbara Gasperini by October 10, 2022.** Contact Becky for Barbara’s email address.



## Some Dreams Do Come True

Pat Brenner

Once upon a time in the small town of Bedford, PA a young mother rocked her babies to sleep while singing Irish songs. It was her dream to be able to go to Ireland with her daughters some day to visit the land of their ancestors. Years passed and the children grew into accomplished women. The once young mother who was now a wee bit older, still held onto her dream. Finally in 2019, the long awaited trip to Ireland was booked for June 2020. Excitement abounded as the women anticipated their journey to the Emerald Isle. But alas, COVID happened and their trip was postponed not once but twice. Could the wee leprechauns work their magic so the mother and daughters could actually travel together and explore their Irish roots?

Some dreams may take a little extra time, but with some good fortune they can come true. In June 2022, Amy, Erica, and I boarded an Aer Lingus flight to Dublin, Ireland. I could not believe it. As we stood on the same ground as our ancestors, I looked at my daughters and cried. We made it!

Of course some plans changed over the three year period. Unfortunately my youngest, Wendy, could no longer come due to her work schedule. However, we stayed connected by Wi-Fi. Several friends joined us as well as my son-in-law Tim. He was a brave soul traveling with six women, but he loved every minute as did the rest of us.

We visited many places in southern and western Ireland. The beauty is indescribable. I will go into detail and bring pictures at a later time although I will share several highlights. My



niece and her family met us several times so we could have a family reunion in Ireland--AMAZING. I kissed the Blarney stone for the third time! My poor husband has to endure a wife who now has the gift of eloquence (or should I say gab?) three times over! No silence in our house. We also got to visit the McAulliffe Cultural Center which was newly built and honors our ancestors. My son-in-law took a picture of my two daughters and me at the Center. What an incredible moment! I could feel the spirits of my Mom, sister, and ancestors from long ago. It was a very emotional time

One final highlight was the support and encouragement provided by my DKG sisters. Having been fortunate enough to be awarded an Enrichment Grant at the State Convention, I was then able to experience falconry and many other fun activities.

Dreams can come true even if it takes a little time. I found my pot of gold which includes family, friends, and the Emerald Isle. Life can be an incredible magical journey which I wish all my Alpha Beta sisters have the opportunity to experience whether it is sooner or later.

I will be sharing more about my travels to Ireland and my falconry experience at the June 2023 Alpha Beta meeting.

# PROUD OF OUR



**EYE CATCHING:** **Patty Valentine** and **Arlene Fuller** had quilts on display at the Bedford County Library.

**OUTGOING:** **Susan Trimeloni** reads to children at the Everett Free Library.

**STELLAR:** **Carol Deremer**, webmaster extraordinaire, garnered us another certification from International for all the updates she added to our website. (*Check out the certificate on our website's home page.*)

**2022 Bedford County Floral Winners:** **Susan Trimeloni** (pansies, dahlias, roses, artistic arrangements antique container, fresh arrangements, attraction at Bedford Fair), **Linda Clapper** (pansies, gladiolus, marigolds, zinnias), **Angie Gates** (sunflowers), **Melissa McDonald** (best of show artistic flower arrangement, artistic arrangement antique container, white wildflowers, fresh arrangements).

**2022 Bedford County Home Products Winners:** **Yvonne Bowser** (raisin bread, blueberry pie, bar cookies, filled cookies), **Linda Clapper** (jellies)

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

**DEVOTED:** **Sandi Hoenstine** and the Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Committee for doing double duty with the collegiate GIA and our Teacher Enrichment Grants.

## WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

-Jennifer Harclerode

At the October meeting, we will be collecting food items for our districts' Weekend Backpack Programs. If you need a list, contact Becky Johnen or me.



This project helps those children who are in food-insecure environments. The Cambria County program is most in need of **single serve, individually wrapped Slim Jims/ meat sticks.**

How wonderful it will be to have the collection boxes overflowing!

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

-Jennifer Harclerode

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 (see our directory for my email) and she will contact her about becoming a member!

## Educational Excellence

Dear Alpha Beta Sisters,

I am sitting here typing this and I can't believe how fast the last three weeks of school have gone by. I am hoping that everyone who is still actively working in the field has had a good start to the school year. I have come to realize that the older I get that time passes by so quickly in the grand scheme of things and sometimes time can get away from us. So I am sharing an early reminder of some of the benefits that you can apply for as a member of DKG and Pennsylvania State. Just a reminder that these opportunities and deadlines are listed on the back of the schedule you were given for meetings in August and are posted on the website. Each award, grant, scholarship or honor is described in great detail on the [dkgpa.weebly.com](http://dkgpa.weebly.com) website. All applications are now in word format. Each application has a rubric and guidelines for what they are looking for in your application and I highly suggest that you use that rubric and set of guidelines to write your proposal. If you need any help or assistance with writing your proposal or help submitting your proposal please don't hesitate to contact Becky or me.

The Nancy Grove Visionary Fund awards a grant to an in-service, active teacher member to fund innovative ideas and activities related to Excellence in Education within the

educational community. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2023.

Enrichment Grants will be awarded to active members for three years in good standing who wish to enroll in an Elder hostel Program, continuing education for personal and professional growth, a travel/study tour, or to develop an approved independent study project, or to present a paper to a professional organization. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2023.

Scholarships will be offered to active members in good standing for three years who are taking graduate study for credit leading to an advanced degree, certification or toward job/self-improvement. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2023.

The Album of Distinction (AOD) award is given to recognize a member who has already received an honor or distinction beyond DKG between January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022. The deadline for this application is March 1, 2023. Applications can be sent to me – See email address in our chapter directory.

The Achievement Award is to honor a member's Delta Kappa Gamma leadership. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2023.

Tina Smith- Gilbert,  
Professional Affairs Chair, PA  
State and First Vice President Alpha Beta

## From the Visual & Performing Arts Committee

—Patty Valentine

We don't have to tell you that Alpha Beta is a very recognized chapter and has been for many years past. (Have you read the Summer Edition of the *Keystonian*? Congratulations to many Alpha Beta sisters!)

We have been and many still are busy educators on various levels. But-----we know that's not all we do. Busy people do not have idle hands. That being said, the Visual and Performing Arts Committee would like to find out what our Alpha Beta Sisters do with those never idle hands!

The program for our October 13 meeting will showcase the "visual", and we hope you remember the "performing" at Christmas Teas past!

To borrow a phrase coined by President Becky in our last newsletter, we are going to feature "possibles bags" to showcase what wonderful things we do outside of education, the many other talents we have.

"Getting to Know You" (great song from *The Kind and I*, sung by a teacher no less), is something 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Program director Tina hopes we can do this biennium to learn more about each other's personalities, unknown abilities, likes and skills.

Each member was given a black garbage bag, "possibles bag", at the October meeting. If you didn't get one, please bring your item(s) in you own black garbage bag if you wish to participate in

the activity. The idea is to keep it a secret and concealed until the program. It could be something large or small, a single object or a collection of items you have created. It could be a painting, photography, cross stitch, poetry, prose, craft, ornaments, greeting cards, quilted items, handmade clothing, knitted items, canned food, baked goods, plants grown, or anything your non-idle hands have done.

**Someone from our committee will collect the bags when you arrive at the dining room door.**

When your bag is opened at program time, we will give the sisters a chance to guess who brought the item(s). Then you will be given an opportunity to tell us briefly about what you made and when you made it. It doesn't have to be something new!

We hope this "getting to know you" program will bring comments like "Oh!" "Wow!" "I didn't know you did that!" etc.

So come to the October 13 meeting at the Hoss's Restaurant, bring your "possibles bags" and learn more about our DKG sisters. Won't it be fun!



### **Jingle Bells!**

It is not too early to be thinking about future fundraisers. At the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Ways and Means Committee will conduct the chapter's annual Basket Raffle with the money raised going to the Conference Fund.

Plan on bringing a donation of an item worth at least \$5 and "cold" cash to purchase tickets.

## Rainy Day Bags

Linda Clapper and Linda McElroy

Our Rainy Day Bag contributions go to support the Jabulani School in Zimbabwe, Africa. Last year we raised around \$2,148 for the school. Can we meet or exceed that this year? Please continue to add coins to your Rainy Day Bags so we can continue to bring happiness and joy to the students and staff at the school.

At the October meeting, please return your Rainy Day Bag or bring a donation. (If possible, please wrap coins to make it easier for those who count our donations.) Everyone at the Jabulani school is so grateful for our help.

## The Alpha Beta Website

Carol Deremer

Have you checked out the new area under the Recognition section of our website? If you click on the Recognition tab, the first item up is our member accomplishments! This section currently contains information on our members who received recognition at the 2022 state convention. If you hold the cursor over the tab, a drop-down menu appears with information on our Key Women Educators and our Teacher Education Grant recipients.



## OCTOBER

Linda Croyle, October 21

Linda McElroy, October 25

## US Forum

Pat Brenner

The 2022-2024 US Forum Steering Committee was selected at the Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention held in New Orleans during July, 2022. The Northeast Representative is Beverly Johns from Illinois.

The Mental Health Resolution passed at the US Forum meeting on 7-16-22. It recognizes mental health issues for educational staff and promotes support services. This resolution recognizes that the current state of mental health among children, youth, and educators in this nation imperils goals for educational excellence.

Pandemic related demands have placed tremendous stress on educators.

***Data indicated 37% of educators have generalized anxiety disorder symptoms as compared to pre-pandemic levels of 12.6% and 57% of educators are seriously worried about burnout.***

Legislation has been introduced in both houses of Congress to increase mental health supports for students but none has addressed support for educators. The Delta Kappa Gamma International US Forum members resolve to educate themselves on the issues and needs related to mental health for educational staff. They resolve to inform members of current legislation related to mental health services for educators.

The US Forum Steering Committee will monitor the implementation of mental health activities and issue a report summarizing activities at the 2024 US Forum meeting.

### Project Committee News

Linda Clapper

At the August meeting, forty-five book bags were provided by the Bedford County Children & Youth Services. We had a great variety of school supplies to fill the bags for the elementary, middle school, and high school students! Also, there were enough materials to give a bag of school supplies to the Bedford, Chestnut Ridge, Claysburg-Kimmel, Everett, Northern Bedford, and Tussey Mountain Districts. They were distributed to students who could use them.



Linda Clapper, Melissa Moorhead, Maria Scott-Bollman, Stan Howes, Kris Walters, and Lois Stoner pack supplies in backpacks.

While shopping this fall, please consider helping our Chapter with our December Project. There is a need for Gloves and Socks for elementary to high school age students. We will have a collection container for these at the December Meeting.

Your generosity is very appreciated!

  
**April**  
**NO FOOLING!**

Save the date of Saturday, April 1, 2023 for our chapter’s first used book/trash to treasures sale. This fundraiser will be held at the East St. Clair Township building with proceeds going to help finance enrichment grants given to local teachers.

Start saving those paperback or hard back books for this sale. Other items for the “treasures” part of the event will be discussed later, but **no** clothes, shoes or boots will be accepted.

Mark your calendars now because the whole chapter will be able to assist the Ways and Means Committee.



### CONVENTION BASKET

Our convention basket for next year is going to be a “Beach Basket”. If you have taken advantage of end of season sales, you can bring these items to the October meeting.

### STAY CONNECTED

On our chapter website ([alphabetadkg.weebly.com](http://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](http://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).

