



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, 2023

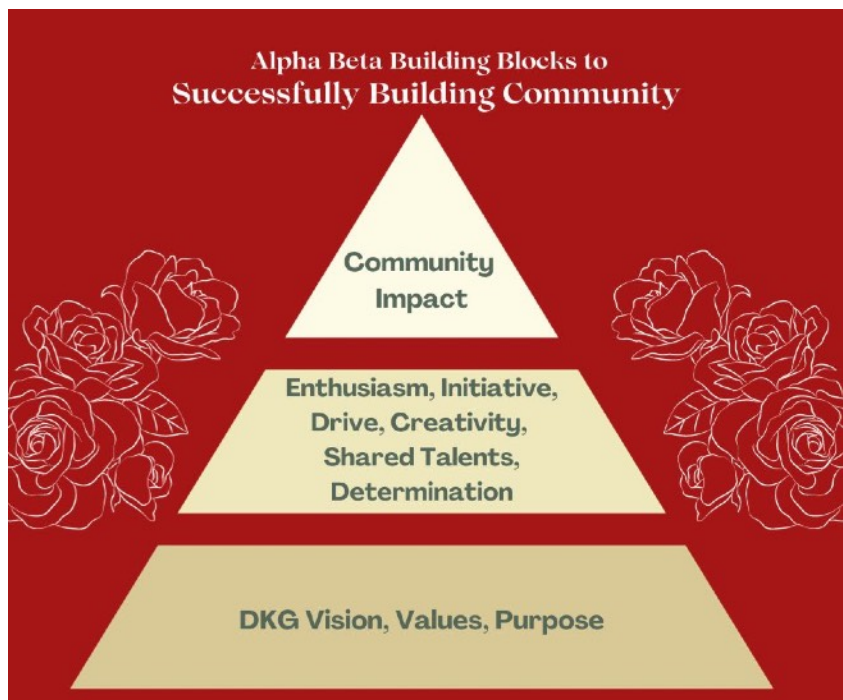
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Amy Snyder, Editor
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Joan McGreevey
Tina Smith-Gilbert

President’s Message

The concepts of relevance, vitality, and sustainability have been driving DKG for several years. Our strategic plan reinforces the importance of vitality and sustainability especially as they relate to our chapter and its membership. Our strategic plan also emphasizes chapter visibility in the communities we represent, a visibility which will help with our sustainability. When I read State President Royce’s article in the fall *Keystonian* I couldn’t help but think how all we’ve been doing in recent years has led us to being in a good position to really move her focus of building community forward.

The diagram below illustrates why we are in a good position. When we add the enthusiasm, initiative, drive, creativity, shared talents, and determination of our members to our foundation built on DKG vision, values, and purposes, we are set to have a huge impact on the communities we serve.



President's Message continued—

We currently have three projects happening in our communities which involve our local school districts (Bedford Area, Chestnut Ridge, Claysburg Kimmel, Everett Area, Greater Johnstown, Northern Bedford, and Tussey Mountain), a local business (Live Well Chiropractic), and a local agency (Cambria County Backpack Project): the accepting of applications for Teacher Enrichment Grants, the collection of food items for local Weekend Backpack Programs, and the preparation of We Care Bags for families dealing with a devastating personal situation (loss of possessions due to any unfortunate event, sudden change in living conditions, etc.). All of these projects offer us the opportunity to strengthen our bonds in the community while increasing our visibility.

“Chapters who become embedded in their communities through service will not only enhance the community but also attract members who want to be a part of this community building.”

While we need to feel good about all that we are doing, we also need to continually ask ourselves if there are things we need to tweak or do differently to enhance or strengthen our community efforts. Who do we need to partner with in our communities to enhance or strengthen our community efforts? How else can we increase our visibility and name recognition throughout the counties we are assigned to serve? President Royce says, “Chapters who become embedded in their communities through service will not only enhance the community but also attract members who want to be a part of this community building.” What more do we need to do to become embedded in our communities? Ponder these questions and come with your ideas to the October 26 meeting.

Invigorated by all the magic to come,

-Becky

October Program

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023 at The Bistro in Martinsburg, PA.

Our program speaker is an active teacher and comes to us from the Chestnut Ridge School District.

Lisa Donatelli will be sharing with us her innovative classroom activity that she calls “Styles and Stories.”

I hope you can come to the meeting and hear her story of how she encourages oral reading practice and the love of reading within her classroom.



MEETING SCHEDULE

- 5:45pm Meeting Opening
- 6:00pm Dinner
- 6:45 pm Business Meeting
- 7:30pm Program



Pat Harrison, Historical Records

October 1948

October 1948 was a busy month for the members of Alpha Beta. President Rosalind Mowry and Corresponding Secretary Irma Diehl attended a regional meeting at Wellsboro. In their report at the October 20 Chapter Meeting, they stated that they found the meeting to be “educational and enjoyable”.

The second regular meeting of the chapter was held on October 20 at the New Hoffman Hotel in Bedford. The members of Alpha Delta, the Somerset chapter, were their guests at this dinner meeting. Two members of Iota Chapter were also in attendance.

Ethel McCormack, Iota Chapter, was the guest speaker. She spoke concerning various aspects of Delta Kappa Gamma, including the seven purposes of the society and procedures for balloting and for dropping members. She also spoke concerning the teacher’s place in the social and political life of the community.

Clara Cockerille, Iota Chapter, was the Director of Altoona Public Schools. She also spoke to the chapter concerning new legislation concerning the present retirement system.

The minutes of the meeting ended with this sentiment: “A delicious turkey dinner was enjoyed by all.”

SAVE THE DATE

Kris Walters and Lois Stoner

The Ways and Means Committee has scheduled a Crafts/Food/ Easter items sale at the East St. Clair Building for Saturday, March 23, 2024. Just like this past spring, this will be held the weekend before Easter. Hopefully, that will give the chapter an advantage for craft and food items based on an Easter or spring theme.

If any member would like a display area or knows of anyone with craft items that might be interested in participating, please let Kris Walters or Lois know. The Ways and Means Committee would like to extend invitations or get publicity out to a variety of crafters so there are not booths with duplication of similar items.

Chapter members will again be able to volunteer for setup, food preparation, kitchen help, cashiers, and clean up. Our fundraising plans include either a basket raffle with donated items from members and vendors or a smaller version of a used book sale.

Any suggestions for crafters or vendors will be greatly appreciated. If anyone in the chapter has participated in or organized a craft fair, please contact Lois Stoner.

Thank you chapter members for your continued support. Also, the chapter will have the annual Basket Raffle at the Christmas tea to support our Conference Fund which enables members to be reimbursed a stipend to attend State and International gatherings.

Opportunities Abound

Tina Smith-Gilbert, Education Excellence Chair

Ladies it is with great pleasure I share some opportunities with you that could enhance your life, teaching career and your classroom. Not many organizations have funds set aside to help you learn and develop new skills, get credits towards furthering your degree or help with buying supplies to develop and introduce a new and innovative concept in your classroom. Well, Pennsylvania State Organization and Delta Kappa Gamma do have such scholarship and grant opportunities and the first step begins with you! I am going to briefly tell you about these opportunities and then you can go onto <https://dkgpa.weebly.com> and find the applications to apply. In most cases you will need reference letters or signatures from Becky to finish your applications so don't wait until the last minute to apply. Becky and I are available if you need any help filling out the applications or have questions about the scholarships, Nancy Grove Grant and enrichment grant opportunities. The second step is to follow each and every detail on the application in order to be considered for these opportunities. Third, be mindful of the application deadlines and get your application in on a timely manner.

The first opportunity that I would like to share is that there are scholarship grants available for our sisters that are pursuing continuing education credits. \$15,000 is set aside each year for scholarships and the committee distributes the funds based on the needs and qualifications of the applicants. The scholarship recipients if they receive a scholarship must use the award in the fiscal year following the state convention in which it was received. Scholarship applications are due by: February 1, 2024.

The second opportunity is the Marian Spitzer Robling Scholarship. This scholarship is specifically for members who are in their first three years of DKG membership. The scholarship helps fund

continuing education credits that you are working on towards a degree. The application deadline is: February 1, 2024.

The third opportunity is an enrichment grant. An enrichment grant is an opportunity to apply for a grant to use for a personal development activity, experience or learning opportunity that addresses one of the seven purposes of DKG. The funds must be used in the fiscal year following state convention. The recipient also is required to write an article for the state newsletter following completion of their experience. Deadline to apply for an enrichment grant is: February 1, 2024.

The fourth opportunity is near and dear to my heart because I have had the pleasure of receiving this award. The award is called the Nancy Grove Visionary Award. It is an award funded by the past presidents of Pennsylvania State. It is an award of \$500.00 for an in-service active teacher to use to fund an innovative ideas and activities related to Excellence in Education within the educational community. It is imperative that the person who receives this award attends state convention to receive their award. The award must be used within the fiscal year following state convention. The deadline to apply is: February 1, 2024

CORNETET APPLICATIONS FOR ACTIVE TEACHERS DUE NOVEMBER 1

The Lucile Cornetet Award for Professional Development is an award granted to educators to participate in professional seminars, workshops, lecture series, on-line courses, and other non-degree program opportunities that relate specifically to an applicant's professional aspirations and/or current educational assignment. Information, application, and the scoring rubric are available at [DKGIEF>Funds >Cornetet](#) on the DKG website.

PROUD OF OUR



ASTOUNDING: Yvonne Bowser, Linda Clapper Melissa McDonald and Susan Trimeloni who between them garnered 52 awards at the 2023 Bedford County Fair.

2023 Bedford County Fair Floral Winners: Susan Trimeloni, Linda Clapper Melissa McDonald

2023 Bedford County Fair Home Products Winners: Yvonne Bowser, Melissa McDonald, Linda Clapper

2023 Bedford County Fair Arts and Craft Winner: Melissa McDonald

GIVING: 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.

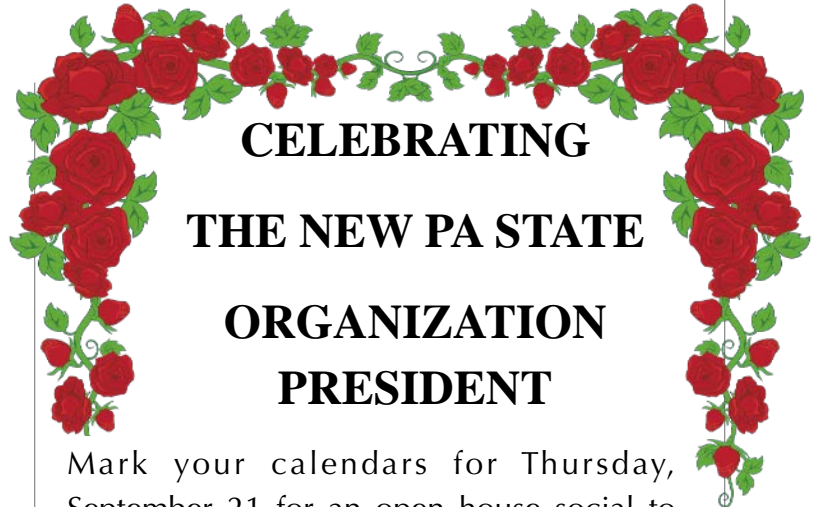
THOUGHTFUL: Our members retired from the field who provided the delicious meal at the August meeting.



TEAM PLAYERS: Sandi Hoenstine and the Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Committee for their work on our Teacher Enrichment Grants.

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

Everyone who donated to the school supply drive.



CELEBRATING THE NEW PA STATE ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 21 for an open house social to celebrate our own Royce Boyd, the 2023-2025 Pennsylvania State Organization president.

The event will be held at the Bedford American Legion, 3721 US Rt 220, Bedford from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

This is an informal, drop by as your schedule permits event. Friends, family members, and prospective DKG members are also welcome to attend. Sisters from Beta Epsilon and Alpha Delta will also be dropping by.

Appetizer-type foods and beverages as well as a cash bar will be available.



CHANGES TO UNICEF’S SCHOOL FOR AFRICA’S PROGRAM

Beginning in January 2023, UNICEF shifted its focus on advancing education in Sub-Saharan Africa by creating systematic, sustainable change in the education pathway for children from early learning to primary and onwards to secondary education and by targeting vulnerable groups including adolescent girls and children with disabilities so that no child is left behind. This focus shift saw UNICEF “sunset” the Schools for Africa program at the end of December 2022.

New programs include:

- A Global Education Fund (may include pilot projects for new innovations, system strengthening activities, or proven tactics such as teacher training, curriculum reform, etc. around the world and not specific only to Africa).
- Education in Africa (continue to build on the success of Schools for Africa; ensure that all children, including the most remote and marginalized, are learning and gaining skills for succeeding in life and work; most equivalent to Schools for Africa).
- Girls – Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success - Fund (direct funds to African countries where girls’ education is a challenge; prioritize efforts to enable all girls to complete secondary education and develop knowledge and skills for life and work).

The International EEC Committee will review this new programming and make a recommendation on DKG’s focus. (As of this time, since we send our funds directly to the Jabulani School, we are not affected by UNICEF’s changes.)

PROJECTS NEWS

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies at the August meeting! We filled 31 book bags with a variety of supplies. They were given to the students who benefit from the assistance of the Bedford County Children & Youth Services. Because of our members generosity, we were able to give each school district some school supplies. They were distributed to students who could benefit from them.

At the August meeting, the rainy day bags and coin wrappers were made available to take home. At the October meeting, please return them or bring your donation to continue our assistance to the Jabulani School in Zimbabwe, Africa. Our contact person, Harrison shared with Linda McElroy that the recent presidential

election kept in power a man who is not a supporter of education. So, our support from Alpha Beta will be greatly appreciated to provide assistance with school supplies and meals!

For the past few meetings, members have been donating personal care items and more fleece blankets have been completed. A work session to “assemble” the book bags and bag the fleece blankets is scheduled for Monday, September 18th for our “busy” retired members. It has been our goal to deliver the “We Care” Project items early in the 2023-2024 school year. This work session will help us to reach that goal!

US FORUM

House of Representatives (H.R.) 5 also known as the Parents' Bill of Rights Act is legislation to watch. It was passed in the House on March 23, 2023 and was sent to the Senate, where it has been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. This bill establishes various rights of parents and guardians regarding the public elementary or secondary school education of their children.

These rights include the right to:

- review (and make copies of at no cost) the curriculum of their child's school
- know if the state alters its challenging academic standards
- meet with each teacher of their child at least twice each school year
- review the budget, including all revenues and expenditures, of their child's school
- receive information about violent activity in their child's school
- know if their child is not grade-level proficient in reading or language arts at the end of third grade

Bedford Children and Youth

Are Ready for School

At the August 2023 meeting, members sorted school supplies and filled backpacks for Bedford County Children and Youth



Jenn Harclerode, Laura Vent and Sony Browell



2024 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2024 DKG International Convention comes to National Harbor, Maryland, from July 9-13, 2024 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center. Like those before it, the 2024 International Convention promises to deliver enlightening breakout sessions, the chance to network with fellow members from around the world, and the opportunity to shape the future of DKG as members gather to vote on proposed amendments to the Society's governing documents.

Two incredible keynote speakers are already lined up, Margot Lee Shetterly and Andre Bradford. Margot is the author of *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*, which was a top book of 2016 for both *TIME* and *Publisher's Weekly*, a *USA Today* bestseller, and a #1 (instant) *New York Times* bestseller. The film adaptation of Shetterly's book became the number one movie in America upon its release in 2016. It was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay, and star Octavia Spencer was nominated for Best Supporting Actress.

Andre Bradford, a.k.a. S.C. Says, is an Austin based slam poet who has been performing slam poetry since 2013. He has toured and been featured at venues and universities across the country, and his work has been featured in the *Huffington Post*, *Write About Now*, *The Edge* radio, *The Culture Trip*, and *Blavity*. He is a two-time Austin Poetry Slam Champion, the 2022 Texas Grand Slam Champion, and author of the poetry collection *Golden Brown Skin*. Bradford's poetry covers a gamut of topics ranging from being mixed race, to social justice, to mental health awareness, to never settling in relationships.

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).

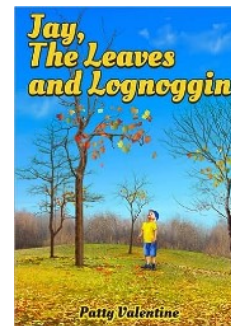
On the state website (dkgpa.weebly.com). Look for the latest posting of

Alpha Beta pictures in the Chapters section/Chapter news.

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

PSI CHAPTER'S WAYS AND MEANS FUNDRAISER SET FOR OCTOBER 21

Most of you know past state president, Tracey Dusch. She is in the Psi Chapter and their October 21 meeting is a most special one. Hosted by their Ways and Means Committee, fun fundraiser activities (raffle baskets, duck pond prizes, bingo, and a member craft sale) dominate the morning. The event will be held in Dubois. Becky and Kris Olsen are attending. Anyone interested in joining them, let Becky know.



An Author Among Us

We congratulate Patty Valentine on the publication of her children's book, *Jay, The Leaves and Lognoggin!* The book, available on Amazon, is about Jay, a curious 5-year-old boy with a studious older sister who does not appreciate all her little brother's "why" questions. Jay stumbles over the very friendly and informative Lognoggin, who is glad to have a friend to talk with, and who is not annoyed to answer any of his questions! Lognoggin finds a friend, and Jay can ask him all the questions he wants!