



Alpha Beta Bits

Volume XXXI, Number 7

July 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DKG Founder, Dr. Annie Webb Blanton tells us to, "Be progressive. Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. But, don't cling to the old when its worth has passed. Don't be a person so set in your views that nothing can change you." Her words remind me of the following story about letting go.



Dr. Annie Webb Blanton – DKG Founder

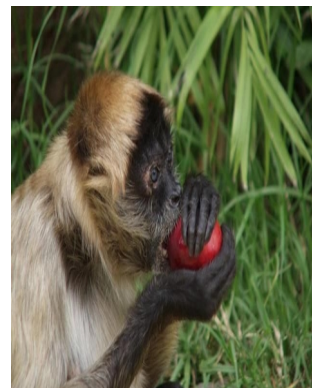
"There once was a happy monkey. He wandered through the jungle, happy to be alive. He stopped to eat delicious fruit when he was hungry, and resting when he was tired. One day he came upon a house, where he saw a bowl of the most beautiful apples. He took one in each hand and ran back into the forest. He sniffed the apples and smelled nothing. He tried to eat them, but hurt his teeth. They were made of wood. They appeared beautiful, however, and when the other monkeys saw them, he held onto them even tighter.

He held his new wooden apples proudly as he wandered the jungle. They glistened red in the sun, and seemed perfect to him. He paid so much attention to them, that he didn't even notice his growing hunger. A fruit tree reminded him. He squeezed the apples in his hands, and couldn't bear to let go of

them in order to reach for the real fruit. In fact, he couldn't relax, either, if he was to defend his apples. A proud, but hungry and less happy monkey continued to walk along the forest trails.

The wooden apples became heavier, and the poor little monkey began to think about leaving them behind. He was tired, hungry, and he couldn't climb trees or collect fruit with his hands full. What if he just let go? Letting go seemed crazy, but what else could he do? He was so tired. Seeing the next fruit tree, and smelling its fruit was enough. He dropped the wooden apples, reached up for his meal, and was happy again."

Like that little monkey, we sometimes carry things that seem too valuable to let go. But, we must remember that to get what we want, we must sometimes give up what is. It is only with open hands that we can receive. No matter how hard or difficult, we sometimes have to let go of something we feel is important or worthwhile if we are to move on.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED ...

And so it is with DKG. As Dr. Blanton says, "Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. But, don't cling to the old when its worth has passed."



As we began our 2021-2022 DKG year, let's continue to work hard on moving forward keeping in mind that sometimes to be "forward moving ever" there may be things that we have to let go. Before our minds shift to been there, done that, won't work, we need to step back, turn our kaleidoscopes (my symbol for the biennium) to get a new pattern which may mean letting go of something for that new pattern to emerge. By letting go, only then will our ideas and vision and faith and work equal magic, the magic that creates connections and brings about endless new possibilities for Alpha Beta.

Here's to another magical year for us!

- **Becky Johnen**

RAY'S OF SUNSHINE



Photo L to R: Carol Deremer and Eileen Little; Alpha State DKG President at the Album of Distinction Award Reception.

CONGRATULATIONS to Carol Deremer on her Album of Distinction recognition at the 2021 State Convention.

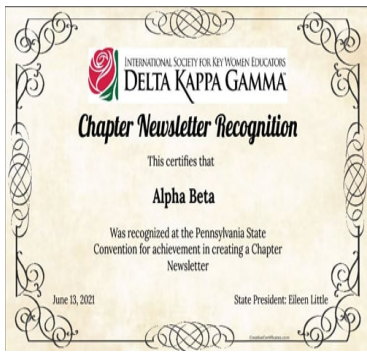
Congratulations are also in order for Carol's role as our webmaster and earning a certificate of recognition at convention for maintaining a certified website!



CONGRATULATIONS to Tina Smith-Gilbert



who has been named Chair of the state's Professional Affairs Committee.



Congratulations are also in order for Tina's role as our newsletter editor and earning a certificate of recognition at convention for

creating a chapter newsletter!



HEARTFELT APPRECIATION to our convention team – Royce Boyd, Candace Claar, Laurie Criswell, Carol Deremer, Emily Deremer, Becky Johnen, Joan McCreevey, Melissa Moorhead, Tina Smith-Gilbert, Trudy Snyder, Lois Stoner, and Kris Walters who represented the chapter exceptionally well and worked tirelessly at the event.

KUDOS to those with special roles at convention:

Royce Boyd, State First Vice-President who facilitated the Album of Distinction Ceremony and the Celebration Luncheon. Royce was a workshop presenter for "Juggling Elephants".



Candace Claar, Convention Treasurer and Basket Raffle Coordinator.



Lois Stoner who served as minute reader and a raffle ticket seller.



Melissa Moorhead, In A Flash presenter on yoga, Celebration of Life committee member, registration desk helper and as a session facilitator.



Joan McGreevy who served as a raffle ticket seller and registration desk helper.

Kris Walters who served as a registration helper and raffle ticket seller.



Laurie Criswell and Trudy Snyder who served as officer and guest escorts, flag bearers and ticket sellers at State Convention.



Tina Smith-Gilbert for serving as a session facilitator, raffle ticket seller, and registration helper at State Convention. Tina also served as a first session minute reader.



PA STATE CONVENTION JUNE 2021

This years State Convention was held in Scranton, PA at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center on June 11-13, 2021. The Convention was attended by 33 of the 51 Chapters in Pennsylvania State. A total of 133 Chapter members from the entire state were registered. Twelve members of Alpha Beta attended the conference.

As you read in the previous article, Rays of Sunshine Alpha Beta was an active Chapter at the State Convention. It was often quoted that our Chapter is a very active, outgoing and dedicated Chapter to each other and to our community. People were impressed with our ability to connect as a Chapter during the Pandemic. Other Chapters had a hard time meeting and connecting during the Pandemic. Several members of other Chapters quoted "I wish I could be part of your Chapter! It sounds like your Chapter would be so much fun to be a member of." Alpha Beta was recognized during the first session as the only Chapter in Pennsylvania who met the challenge to have all members update their MYDKG Profile and get a Zoom meeting with DKG President, Becky Sadowski and an executive board member at the time of convention.

Our Sisters helped man the basket raffle table for most of the conference and managed to help raise a total of \$2,358 to help defer some of the costs of State Convention. Great job Alpha Beta Sisters!

KUDOS AND HEARTFELT

APPRECIATION to Becky Johnen for serving as the 2021 Pennsylvania State Convention Coordinator. State Convention was beautiful, well organized and ran smoothly thanks to Becky's efforts to plan such a great convention! It was evident that a lot of hours of planning and preparation went into planning such an elegant event that honored all DKG Sisters from Pennsylvania State. Becky also presented at State Convention when she spoke about her journey to becoming a DKG member. Becky's presentation is included in a latter part of the newsletter. Thank you Becky!



Carol Deremer was one of nine DKG Sisters who was nominated and received an Album of Distinction Award at the Album of Distinction Ceremony that was held on Friday evening.

Becky finally got to receive her red rose from Kris Walters for being Chapter President for the 2020-2022 Biennium. (A year late due to COVID 19).



Royce got installed as First Vice President of Pennsylvania State and received her red rose at Saturday night banquet and officer installation ceremony.





Alpha Beta Sisters who attended Sunday's Second Session got to hear a video clip from Zhanar Tostubeava; World Fellowship Recipient. Zhanar thanked everyone for their cards, letters and gifts she has received during her time as a

World Fellowship Student. She will be serving at a special needs camp this summer. In the fall Zhanar will be returning to her home. Tina took a video of Zhanar's presentation and will be sharing it with members at the August meeting.

2022 State Convention will not be the same without you – So please consider joining us for the next convention!

-Tina Smith-Gilbert



The Membership Committee did an amazing remembrance ceremony to honor those who were Chapter Sisters and who had passed away

over the last two years. Barbara Allison and Nancy Fowler from our Chapter were fondly remembered at the ceremony.



Our Snow Day themed basket for the basket raffle ended up becoming two baskets thanks to all the abundance of donations from our caring Chapter. The donations were separated into an adult basket and a child's basket.





Becky Sadowski



Candi Martin

ZOOMING WITH SOCIETY LEADERS

Meeting President Becky Sadowski's challenge of, "Any chapter that is successful in updating all of their member profiles in MyDKG on the international website..." provided an opportunity for members of our chapter to spend some quality time with the top leadership of the Society in a relaxed, informal setting. On June 14, five members (Royce Boyd, Sonya Browell, Pat Harrison, Becky Johnen, Linda McElroy, and Tina Smith-Gilbert) got to spend an hour, via Zoom, with President Becky and Board Member, Candi Martin (Southeast Regional Director). Our members found the Zoom meeting enlightening, informative, and interesting. Both President Becky and Candi were warm and engaging, full of enthusiasm, and genuinely interested in hearing members share information on the chapter's many projects. (We got to highlight Each One, Reach One, the Weekend Backpack Program, and the Jabulani School.) In turn, Becky and Candi were direct, honest, and transparent in their sharing information on how the Administrative Board operates (and it was most refreshing to hear that even when differences of opinion are expressed, discussions are done with dignity, diplomacy, and respect), the sale of the headquarters building, member-initiated Constitutional amendments, and collegiate members. The sixty minutes with these amazing women flew by way too quickly but the experience, especially the wisdom and warmth of their words, their passion for Delta Kappa Gamma, and their desire to continue to move the legacy of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton forward, will remain with the members of Alpha Beta forever.

- Becky Johnen



MY DKG JOURNEY: WHY DID BECKY JOHNEN JOIN DKG?



After hearing Becky's speech at State Convention we thought you might want to hear how Becky became a DKG member and what membership means to her.

Here's her story:

The start of my DKG journey was an unusual one. It actually all began on a Friday in mid-July 14 years ago. I arrived at my office early ready for a routine day, but it turned out to be anything but routine. Around 9 AM, my sister-in-law called to tell me that the chemo treatments for her breast cancer had given her leukemia, that she was going into the hospital the next day for treatment, and that she needed me to come take care of her son John Mike who was 10 at the time.

I called my Board chair and the Mother Superior (I was six months into my role as president of a private Catholic girls school), shared the news, and asked for an indefinite leave of absence which I was granted. I hastily

met with my leadership team, divided the urgent duties among them, dashed home, grabbed my suitcase that had already been packed for a school-related trip on which I was to leave the next day, and was at my sister-in-law's by noon.

Over the next five months, my sister-in-law fought courageously but lost her battle. My leave of absence turned into a resignation and I suddenly went from a full-time educator whose days were filled with working with faculty, students, and the community into a full time aunt slash mom whose days were now filled with helping John Mike deal with his new loss (he had lost his dad at the age of 6), getting him off to school, becoming active in the PTA, shuttling him to sporting events... well, you know the daily routine.

While I loved every minute of raising John Mike I did miss my interaction with my colleagues in the educational world. One day, a friend that I got to know through my sister-in-law, told me about "her ladies group" and how I would like them because they were all teachers. Well, her ladies group turned out to be the Alpha Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. The DKG mission, vision, and purposes spoke to my heart, especially the purpose about uniting women educators in genuine spiritual fellowship (I really needed that connection).

DKG was a godsend for me. I became immersed with a group of dynamic women and enjoyed sharing stories of our days in the classroom. I also enjoyed sharing my time, talents, and energy with an organization whose mission and values were closely aligned with mine.

DKG brought me the blessing of collegial connections when I most needed it and provided me a strong support system. Our individual reasons for joining DKG may differ, but the bonds we develop and the benefits we reap, well those are priceless to us all. Thank you!

KEY WOMEN EDUCATOR HONORED AT JUNE MEETING

AMANDA ADAMS

Amanda Adams is the French teacher at Tussey Mountain High School. During her 17 years in the district, she has held many roles. She is the French Club advisor, taking her students on riverboat cruises in Pittsburgh and on trips to local eateries. Every year during French week, she takes her club members to the elementary school for them to teach mini-French lessons to the younger students.

Over the years, she has been a drama club advisor- teaching choreography to the students involved in the musicals. She has also worked with the band as the Color Guard advisor.

Most recently, she was tasked with leading the school-wide incentive team. The team consists of teachers and students who plan and implement positive behavior incentives throughout the school year. During her three years of leadership, she helped steer the school through a pandemic and found creative ways to boost the morale of both the students and teachers whether in person or virtual.



KEY WOMAN EDUCATOR CELEBRATES 25 YEARS NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL TRUDY SNYDER



Noah's Ark started in 1996 in the basement of St. John's Christian Church in Cessna by Trudy Snyder and Faith Middleton. During that time it served 3-5 year old preschoolers. In 2003 the preschool moved to its current location along Route 56 and became certified by the Dept. of Education. It currently educates children from preschool age to fourth grade. Every grade level has their own room, and class sizes are from eight to 16 students. They have a total of 60-70 students from all grade levels. The preschool hopes to add two more classrooms in the future. The preschool will be turning 25 years old early this fall. Congratulations Noah's Ark and Trudy Snyder for bringing a quality education to Bedford County.

THANK YOU LETTER FROM PRESIDENT EILEEN LITTLE

Dear Alpha Beta Chapter Members,

I can't say thank you enough for all the work you did at our State Convention. Everywhere I looked there was an Alpha Beta sister helping and smiling. Thanks for making it an amazing convention for everyone!

Fondly,
Eileen Little
DKG PA State
President



THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM – EDUCATOR'S INSTITUTE

The National Women's History Museum is offering a 2021 NWHM Summer Educators' Institute Program. Due to a generous grant, the Institute is offered at NO COST to K-12 public school educators. The virtual workshop will be held Saturday July 24 and Sunday July 25, 2021 from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM both days. Recorded sessions will be available to participants for up to 90 days after the conference. A Certificate of Attendance will be issued following the conclusion of the workshop.

For registration, go to www.womenshistory.org. Scroll under the heading "Students and Educators". Click under Summer Educators' Institute.
- Pat Brenner

US FORUM

Deb Seng is the chair of PA State Organization US Forum starting with President Eileen Little's 2021-2023 biennium. She replaces Susan Fritz who did an admirable job.

The National Women's History Museum is in the final negotiations for an actual building location in Washington D.C. Currently educational programs are conducted through virtual programs, exhibitions, and website. The website is www.womenshistory.org. It currently includes over 200 biographies of trailblazing women and 30 virtual exhibits.
- Pat Brenner

JABULANI SCHOOL CONTINUES TO NEED OUR HELP



Our "long distance" school in Zimbabwe, Africa is still in need of our help. Harrison (Linda McElroy's contact for the school) and Sefiwe (school principal) are both most grateful for the funds that we have been sending them. With no harvest last year the school is now providing two meals a day for the children, so more than ever, our support is needed. Remember, \$80 feeds 130 children for a month.

Rainy day bags (and loose coins and bills) will be collected at the August meeting. Any donation you would like to make will be greatly appreciated and will go a long way toward the health and well-being of the children at the Jabulani School. - **Becky Johnen**

PROJECTS COMMITTEE NEWS

Thanks to everyone who brought personal care items to our May and June chapter meetings! The items have been delivered to the Bedford County Children & Youth Services and they will be distributed soon.

At our August meeting, we hope to "Stuff The Bus" to provide needed school supplies for elementary and middle school/high school students!

The needed items are:

- No. 2 pencils
- 1 subject spiral notebooks
- Folders
- Plastic pouch pencil cases
- Mechanical pencils
- Retractable pens
- 3 subject spiral notebooks

Our Committee is looking forward to the activity of knotting fleece blankets at the August meeting. Hope to see you then! - **Linda Clapper**



NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter deadline is September 16, 2021. Please submit any photos or news articles by this deadline.



NEXT ALPHA BETA MEETING

Place: Claysburg Elementary School

Date: August 3, 2021

Times:

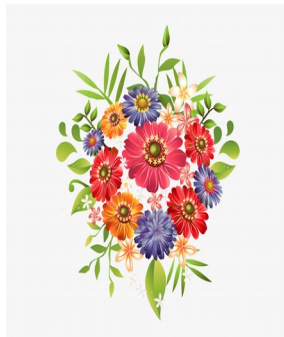
Executive Board 10:45 AM

Business Meeting: 11:15 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

Program: Knotting Blankets

***Remember to bring a beverage to drink. Pizza and salad will be provided.**



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

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

August

Sonya Browell - 3rd

Sandra Hoenstine - 3rd

Nancy Rockey - 10th

Jane Brown - 14th

Susan Clark - 16th

Melissa Moorhead - 17th

Susan Trimmeloni - 28th

September

Candace Claar - 5th

Wanda Clark - 7th

Emily Deremer - 21st

Alpha Beta Bits

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