



Alpha Beta Bits

Volume XXXI, Number 6

June 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 1983, I moved from being a classroom teacher into the realm of administration and I moved from the K-12 system into the community college system as a Director of Developmental Education. I worked at a college that invested much into the professional growth of its faculty, staff, and administrators. It was during this time that I became acquainted with many leadership experts. John Maxwell is one such person.

Even in my retirement, I follow John Maxwell. Daily, I receive a "Minute With Maxwell" leadership lesson (advice on a specific topic in 60 seconds). On May 27, his topic was "fellowship" and watching the video, I felt like he was describing Alpha Beta. He defined fellowship as relationship, coming together and community. He emphasized that we can do more and be more...together. And, we add value and are better when we complement each other. He asked, "When you look at the people who surround you, do they help motivate you to be more?"

I feel all of you in Alpha Beta help motivate me to be more and also help each other to be more. Despite pandemic restrictions, we've been able to maintain the Chapter tradition of doing great things for each other (Each One, Reach One and our regular remembrances), for our local teachers (recognizing outstanding women educators),

and for our community (fleece blankets, Weekend Backpack collections, Toastie Tootsies, personal care item collections, Grant-in-Aid, and our monetary support of the Jabulani School in Zimbabwe, Africa).

In his fellowship message, Maxwell also said, "Remember this, together we can achieve more. We were born to help one another!" Yes, indeed. At meetings in August and December 2020, you participated in two activities (words that describe you and what shape are you) the results of which I said I would share at a future meeting. At our meeting in June, I will finally share those results and link them to how we are so successful in achieving more and helping each other.

You have all helped turn into reality my biennium theme: Making new connections...endless new possibilities (and, for that, I am most grateful). Making new connections leading to endless new possibilities has only been made possible by the strong fellowship within the chapter. I am very excited about what we will do in the months to come.

Envisioning all the magic still to come, **Becky**

RAYS OF SUNSHINE

WAY TO GO to our generous members who contributed another \$299 to the Jabulani School. That's almost four months of food for the students!

CONGRATULATIONS to our members active in the field who successfully finished one of the most challenging school years of their career.

WELCOME to our newest members – Amy Snyder and Nancy Rockey.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE to all of our committee chairs for their outstanding work all year!

- * **Communications/Publicity:** Karen Musselman
- * **Directory:** Arlene Fuller
- * **Fellowship Connection:** Patty Valentine
- * **Email/Technology:** Sonya Browell
- * **Newsletter:** Tina Smith-Gilbert
- * **Remembrance:** Carol Fritz
- * **Webmaster:** Carol Deremer
- * **Finance:** Royce Boyd
- * **Ways and Means:** Lois Stoner and Kris Walters
- * **Membership:** Laurie Criswell
- * **Nominations:** Candace Claar
- * **Community Outreach/Grant-in-Aid:** Linda McElroy
- * **Projects:** Linda Clapper and Beverly Brumbaugh
- * **World Fellowship:** Lois Stoner
- * **Educational Excellence:** Candace Claar and Melissa Flynn
- * **Hospitality:** Jennifer Harclerode and Becky Johnen
- * **US Forum:** Pat Brenner
- * **Visual/Performing Arts:** Judy Conrad and Patty Valentine
- * **Ceremonies:** Kristen Hall and Susan Clark
- * **Historical Records:** Emily Deremer

APPRECIATION to Lois Stoner for coordinating our State Convention Snow Day basket collection and to Tina Smith-Gilbert for preparing the basket for convention. Tina will be delivering the basket to the state convention for our chapter.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALPHA BETA AND ALPHA DELTA

At the May 22nd meeting a joint meeting was held with the Alpha Delta Chapter from Somerset. Each chapter held their individual business meetings then reconvened for a joint luncheon, time of fellowship and a program about Meteorology presented by Christy Shields from WTAJ News. Alpha Beta is thankful for Christy Shields for joining our meeting via Zoom and talking about her educational background and her role at WTAJ serving as one of their Meteorologists. Christy also shared the educational opportunities that are available for educators and their students. Christy loves being able to go on classroom visits to promote STEM and help kids understand science and weather. Christy's email and contact information can be found on the WTAJ website if you would like to contact her about scheduling educational opportunities for your classroom or organization.

Alpha Delta and Alpha Beta celebrated their 73rd birthdays. The members of each group who were in attendance took time to have their pictures taken to commemorate their birthdays.



KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS HONORED AT MAY MEETING



Laurie Criswell and Nikki Gephart

Nikki Gephart started her teaching career in 2011 at Chestnut Ridge. She was the alternative education teacher, cheer advisor and their after school coordinator.

In 2014, she was hired by Tussey Mountain mainly as a Math 8 teacher/grade 8 STEM teacher and she has also taught Algebra 1. She was part of the school's Data Analysis team for a few years. In this position she dug into data and showed fellow teachers how to use that data to inform their instruction. She continues to track 8th grade math data.

Nikki was a mentor teacher for a new math colleague last year. This past year she had a pre-student teacher from UPJ who did zoom lessons with the students in Nikki's classes.

After a full day of teaching, Nikki is not done! She stays most nights until 6 pm where she continues in her role as grade 6-12 After School Coordinator at Tussey. She leads her staff and students in tutoring sessions and many fun activities.

Kathy Miller is a retired elementary art educator from the Northern Bedford Area School District who had a knack for making her students feel special and for touching the lives of her students in small yet truly meaningful ways. Her passion for art excited her students about art. Yvonne Bowser can testify that Kathy is a great teacher and person because she is one of Kathy's former students.

Kathy also inspired and motivated her colleagues with her work on Visiting Author Projects, the annual elementary art show, making and screen printing sweatshirts for a sixth grade field trip to Baltimore to meet the Captain of the Mimi (which was an educational TV show), and through coordinating props for the second



Yvonne Bowser and Kathy Miller

grade musicals. The work of her students was visible whether in showcases in the school lobby or at Morrison's Cove Park for the fall farm shows.

She is as active outside the school as she is inside. Her in-school hats and gloves project evolved into her helping set up the clothing bank (Angels Among Us) at the old Woodbury School.



Laurie Criswell and Maria Mannion

Maria Mannion is one of the lead educators for the third grade team at the Chestnut Ridge School District and she is described as a "bundle of energy." Maria is able to bring out the best in her peers and students. She differentiates her lessons to meet her students' individual learning styles and her lessons often appeal to the interests of her students. She has a passion for making learning new concepts fun.

She spends hours developing lessons and an environment where children are excited to learn and be a part of her classroom. When walking into Maria's classroom you feel like you are walking into a warm and homey environment and not a "typical" classroom setting. Maria also helps with Lego League Adventures and Heather's Cup events.

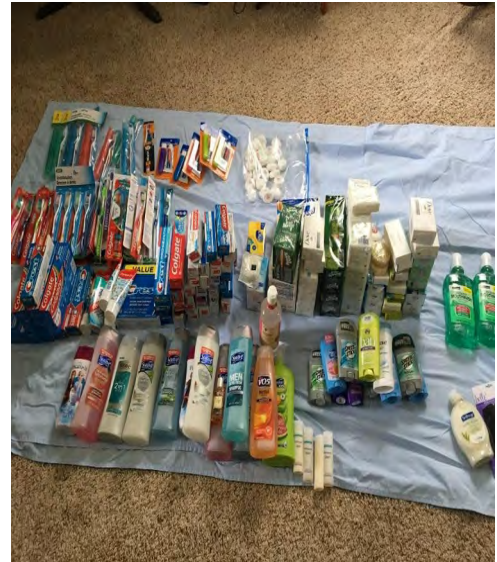
Former students describe Maria as being one of their favorite educators because she built them up personally, treated them as individuals and treated them as if each one of them was special to her. - **Tina Smith and Becky Johnen**

PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Thanks to the members who donated personal care items at our May meeting! Wow! It was a great response for the needed items! You have been so generous in helping those in need in our area.

At the June meeting there will be a basket for the collection of more personal care items. The following is a list of the "most" needed items:

- **Shampoo**
- **Conditioner**
- **Deodorant**
- **Mouthwash**
- **Dental Floss**



Recently, the Roaring Spring Girl Scouts finished knotting 4 more fleece blankets. We appreciate their help with this activity! We are in the process of preparing fleece lap blankets for residents at Homewood in Martinsburg. - **Linda Clapper**



Photo (L to R) Jane Brown and Linda Clapper



Photo (L to R) Linda Clapper and Susan Trimeloni

SNOW DAY STATE CONVENTION BASKET

Thank you everyone for donating over 75 items for our "Snow Day" themed basket for State Convention. Even though the chapter gathered items for 2 years, the enthusiasm was still evident with the gems brought to the May meeting. - **Lois Stoner**

BUDGET REVIEW – JUNE MEETING

At the June meeting the 2021-22 budget will be presented. You will receive a copy prior to the meeting.

Please review the budget and bring it with you to the June meeting. There are a few minor changes from previous budgets that will be explained at the meeting. - **Royce Boyd**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .

Please think about serving on the financial review ad hoc committee. If interested please contact Pat Harrison.

- **Becky Johnen**

CHECK OUT THE CHAPTER WEBSITE

Check out all the new items on the Chapter website. Especially check out the Projects section. - **Becky Johnen**

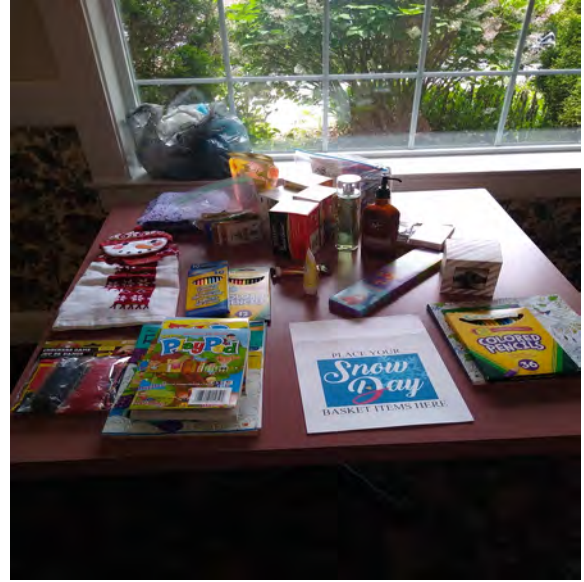


Photo of items donated at May Chapter meeting. Photo of completed basket will be featured in July newsletter.

U.S. FORUM

The Hechinger Report is a national nonprofit newsroom organization that reports on one topic---EDUCATION. It is based at Teachers College Columbia University. The Report is composed of a solution oriented group of journalists whose mission is not only to expose problems but to also find out what is being done to fix them. It is editorially independent and does not necessarily reflect the views of Teachers College. The March 29, 2021 report stated that "Women are beginning to hold key education policy maker jobs.." The Hechinger Report is only one of the groups cited by the US Forum Connection in its Spring 2021 report.

- **Pat Brenner**

RAINY DAY FUND – JABULANI SCHOOL

After our May meeting, I wired \$300 collected from our chapter to Harrison for the Jabulani School. I had asked how the situation was doing for the school. He explained that there was no harvest last year - on top of the Covid problems - so the Zimbabwe government had asked schools to help provide 2 meals every day for children. By the way, they are entering their winter season. Harrison included two pictures taken at the school. He also included the following letter to Jim and me. - **Linda McElroy**

Hi Jim & Linda,

I have just collected and handed over the money for Jabulani. Sefiwe said please keep up your good gesture to them and be blessed ! 🙏🙏.

Sefiwe said that there is hunger in the village because there was not any harvests the last season and so the government has asked schools to provide the school children two meals a day. The government provides part of the meals then the school provides the rest. The school must look for food needed to make a full meal for the kids and so the donations will go towards feeding these kids! Parents in the village take turns to cook at the school or sometimes they can request from the Magistrates Courts for the inmates that would have been charged to do community services to come and



do the cooking because the school can not afford to hire someone to do the job. They provide porridge in the morning at around 9am then at around 1pm they provide lunch (Sadza and beans) Sadza is an African staple diet food, which is like a thick porridge made from maize meal or parienta. The teachers and all the kids eat together. Please feel free to ask anything should you not understand.

God Bless you!!!
Harrison

**ALPHA PHI CHAPTER HELPS
DONATE MONEY TO JABULANI
SCHOOL THANKS TO LINDA
MCELROY'S EFFORTS**

In October of 2019, Linda made a presentation on the Jabulani School to the Alpha Phi Chapter located in Allegheny County (near Pittsburgh). They had planned to conduct a raffle in the spring of 2020 to raise funds for the Jabulani School and help provide meals for the Jabulani students but due to the pandemic that raffle was put on hold. At their March 2021 meeting, the raffle was held and it

and raised \$143.00 for the Jabulani School. The basket created by Zoe Akhtar, Florence Whetsel, and Elaine Harmon featured items for Easter.

The Alpha Beta Chapter would like to thank the Alpha Phi Chapter for helping raise money for our friends at the Jabulani School in Africa!



-Becky Johnen

ZOOM COFFEE WITH THE SOCIETY'S PRESIDENT BECKY SADOWSKI

As a result of our Chapter reaching 100% accuracy in our contact information in the Society's database, we have been invited to have a Zoom Coffee meeting with DKG President Becky and with Southeast Regional Director, Candi Martin.

This event will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 PM on MONDAY, JUNE 14. During her time with us, President Becky really wants to hear from you: what's on your mind related to DKG; what are you concerned about related to the Society; what are you thinking about; what questions do you have about the Society; what ideas or suggestions do you have that might help make DKG better and stronger.

If you are able to participate in this event, please let Becky know by JUNE 9.

- Becky Johnen

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

International Conferences will be held July 7-10 in Portland, Oregon and July 22-24 in San Antonio, Texas. Conferences will be hybrid - in person with appropriate safety protocols along with virtual attendance options. Details are on the International website. **-Becky Johnen**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next newsletter article submission deadline will be **July 6th**. Please submit any articles or photos to Tina Smith-Gilbert by this time.

- Tina Smith-Gilbert

DIGITIZING CHAPTER RECORDS

Thanks to the efforts of Carol Deremer, we have most of chapter records in a digital format and saved "to the cloud." The following represents what was scanned this spring:

Minutes (August 1984 through June 2018)*
Attendance (1984-85 through 2016-17 but not totally inclusive)*
Exec Board Minutes (1984-2017 but not totally inclusive)
President Biennium Reports

- 2006-2008
- 2004-2006
- 2000-2002
- 1990-1992
- 1986-1988
- 1984-1986
- Founder's Day report 1986

Newsletters (October 1996 through June 2016 but not totally inclusive)

*Minutes and attendance from May 1948 – May 1966 and from August 1966 – August 1974 have not been scanned and are in their original small black binders and will be housed with Historical Records.

I will be establishing an ad hoc committee to develop a records management procedure. This is a task-specific committee that will meet and finish its work this summer. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Becky.

- Becky Johnen



Next Meeting

Date: June 22, 2021

Where: Denny's Bedford, PA

Time: 9:15 AM Meeting Opening
9:30 AM Breakfast
10:15 AM Program: Bedford Chamber of
Commerce Updates by Sarah
Ferrari; Program & Events Coordinator
11:00 AM Business Meeting

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Planning Meeting for 2021-2022

Date: June 22, 2021

Where: Denny's

Time: Immediately Following Chapter Meeting
12:00 PM -2:00 PM



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!

June Birthdays

Laurie Criswell – June 3rd
Joan McGreevey – June 3rd
Linda Fisher – June 20th

July Birthdays

Tina Smith-Gilbert – July 7th
Maria Scott-Bollman – July 11th
Becky Johnen – July 20th



Alpha Beta Bits

Composed, Edited and Printed By:

Tina Smith-Gilbert

Judy Conrad

Royce Boyd

Joan McGreevey