



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

PENNSYLVANIA STATE

ALPHA BETA CHAPTER

Alpha Beta Bits

Volume XXXII, NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since January 2021, I have been following (thanks to DKG) the Action for Happiness group. Action for Happiness is "...a movement of people committed to building a happier and more caring society. We want to see a fundamentally different way of life - where people care less about what they can get just for themselves and more about the happiness of others." The goal of this group reminds me a lot of what we try to do in DKG – make things for those around us better which in turn may lead to more happiness.

Each month, the Action for Happiness group puts out a themed calendar. Last month's was "Altruistic August." The calendar was sent with the following message, "**Altruism is vital for the human race to survive and thrive; and each of our lives is supported by countless kind acts from other people.**" Yet in our world today, so much is directing us to think only about ourselves; and we often forget the happiness that comes from caring for others. We want to change that. This August, Action for Happiness is asking everyone to do one kind act per day. Let's create a wave of kindness to spread around the world.

Many kind acts listed on the calendar related to our community outreach efforts: do something kind to help in your local neighborhood; give time to help a project or cause you care about; give your time, energy, attention to someone in need; donate clothes or food to help a local charity; do something to make life easier for someone else; support a good cause. Well, my dear sisters, we as a chapter are doing all of these and more! To date, through our fleece blanket project, we have given 60 blankets to four agencies: Arbutus Park Manor

(2), Bedford County Children and Youth (33), Rebecca's Personal Care Home (9), and Your Safe Haven (16). Your response to "Fill the Bus" with school supplies was overwhelming. Not only were we able to fill 37 backpacks (22 for elementary students, 12 for middle and high school students, three extra for older students), we also had enough supplies to prepare two oversized baggies for each of our representative school districts! And, speaking of school districts, our collection for the Jabulani School, our long-distance school in Zimbabwe, Africa, raised another \$471.03 bringing the total raised over the years just by chapter members to over \$6,000!



Joan McGreevy, Patricia Harrison, Wanda Clark and Sonya Browell at the August meeting.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED ...



Between last year's "Toastie Tootsie" sock drive, the collection of personal care items, and with our Weekend Backpack food drive coming up in October (and a second one in the spring), and continued work with the fleece blankets, we are doing our share of kind things to help our communities. We are hoping that the maiden year of the Teacher Enrichment Grant program turns out to be a very kind venture for the teachers in our local schools, providing them with some extra funds to carry out a project for their students.

I applaud each of you for the kindness you help bring through these community outreach efforts. These efforts not only help those in need, but also create visibility about who we are and what we are doing. In doing so, we are creating magical connections which are opening up endless new possibilities. I can't wait to see where all of our "kind ventures" take us this year! Fueled by your many kind ventures and the magical moments you create. **-Becky**



**Front Row: Connie McClain, Pat Marshall, and
Kris Olsen**
Back Row: Wanda Keller and Becky Johnen.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ALPHA BETA SISTERS

At our August Alpha Beta meeting we got to meet and welcome three of our four newest sisters who transferred to us from the former Iota chapter which was dissolved at state convention in June. We had a delightful time getting to know Kris, Connie and Wanda. The ladies were delighted to help with tying blankets and helping with packing backpacks for our local school districts. Due to a prior engagement Pat Marshall could not be with us, but we are delighted we will hopefully get to meet her at the October meeting.

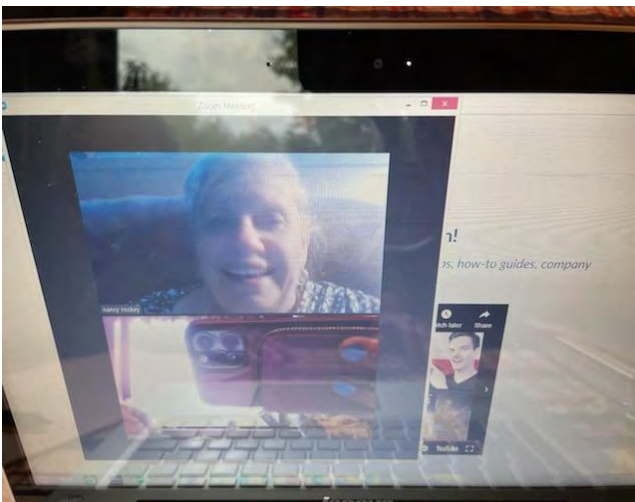
Becky Johnen and Judy Conrad got to meet with Kris, Connie, Wanda and Pat in July to have a time to welcome them to our group. The ladies were introduced to Alpha Beta with fellowship and good food – Staples of Alpha Beta hospitality. Welcome ladies! We are so happy you have joined us and look forward to engaging and sharing with us in our mission to help support the seven purposes of DKG!

NEW BETA SISTERS CONTINUED

On July 12th a new member orientation was held for our newest Alpha Beta Sisters Amy Snyder and Nancy Rockey. Alpha Beta got to meet Amy Snyder and get to know her better at the August meeting. Amy helped with organizing and packing the backpacks for the local schools. Welcome Amy and Nancy to Alpha Beta!



Amy Snyder and Sonya Browell at the July 12th new member orientation.



Nancy Rockey participated in the July 12th new member orientation via Zoom. Nancy, hopefully we will see and meet you face to face at our October meeting.

RAYS OF SUNSHINE



To all our wonderful members who were most generous with contributions to the Jabulani School: We raised \$471.03 for the Jabulani school and donated an abundance of school supplies for the school supply drive.

Congratulations to our members who came away with many ribbons at the Bedford County Fair:

Susan Trimeloni, floral entries including best of show for her red rose.

Linda Clapper, home products (raspberry jelly) and floral entries

Yvonne Bowser, home products including best of show for pies (pies and filled cookies).

Our Form 990 N was submitted to and accepted by the IRS. Thank you to treasurer Pat Harrison for submitting it in an ultra timely manner. Kudos Pat!



Top Left: Wanda Keller, Amy Snyder and Wanda Clark help "Stuff the Bus".
Top Right: Kris Olsen, Connie McClain and Becky Johnen help knot a blanket for a local nursing home.
Middle Left: Carol Fritz, Kristen Hall and Susan Trimeloni knot a blanket at the August meeting.
Middle Right: Lois Stoner, Linda Clapper, Amy Snyder and Wanda Keller work on high school backpacks that will be donated to local high school students in need.
Bottom Photo: Trudy Snyder, Jennifer Harclerode and Patricia Brenner from hospitality committee.

STAY CONNECTED...VIRTUALLY

Have a conflict on a meeting day that prevents you from traveling to the meeting site, but you have some open time between the meeting hours? Then consider attending part of the Alpha Beta meeting via Zoom. Zoom is just the technology that allows us to connect virtually. No computer (or iPad or smart phone), no problem! The Zoom technology allows you to connect via your landline telephone.

We will have a Zoom attendance option available for all chapter meetings. Take advantage of this opportunity to stay connected with your Alpha Beta sisters and to stay on top of the chapter events and activities.

Contact Becky Johnen or Candace Claar with any questions. - **Becky**

THE NANCY GROVE VISIONARY AWARD

The 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. (February 1) The Nancy Grove Visionary Award honors a new member who has given outstanding service to her chapter and the Pennsylvania State Organization activities and has promoted the purposes and the policies of the DKG International. (March 15) - **Melissa Moorhead**

WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

At the October meeting, we will be collecting food items for our districts' Weekend Backpack Programs. Lists detailing what each school is collecting were distributed at the August meeting. If you need another list, contact Becky Johnen or me. This project helps those children who are in food-insecure environments. How wonderful it will be to have the collection boxes overflowing! -**Jennifer Harclerode**



CHANGES TO CHAPTER RULES TO BE VOTED ON AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

By September 24th you will be emailed detailed information on four proposed changes to our Chapter Rules. Those who receive things via USPS should receive their information by September 27th. Please review these changes prior to the meeting. Questions or concerns should be sent to our Parliamentarian, Melissa Moorhead or to President, Becky Johnen. - **Becky**

WEBSITE UPDATES

CHAPTER SITE (alphabeta-dkg.weebly.com)

Remember to check the **Home Page** for the weekly inspirational quote and our **Projects** section for updates and pictures on our many projects. While on our website, remember you can connect with the State's or the Society's website using the links found in **About > Documents** (State Officers item and International Information item).

STATE SITE (dkgpa.weebly.com)

Periodically check out Updates from President Eileen through a button on the **Home Page**. The **Awards and Scholarships** section has a drop-down menu linking you to information on and applications for the Album of Distinction, Nancy Grove Scholarship, Rosebud Award, and Scholarships and Grants. New to the **Chapters** section is space for **Chapter News**. Check out the items Alpha Beta already has posted there.

INTERNATIONAL SITE (dkg.org)

DKG will celebrate its centennial in 2029! New to the website is a **Centennial Celebration** area in the **Events** section. Each year leading up to the centennial celebration will feature a video that highlights events of each decade of DKG; the video for the 1930s is posted (and it is very informative). Applications for various International awards, scholarships, and submissions (all listed on our chapter website) can be found in the **DKGIEF** section (or other designated spots). Remember, to get to specific information, you must sign in to the site (button on the top right). The sign in requires one's membership number and password; contact Pat Harrison for your membership number should you need it.

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 these websites.
- **Becky**



DATES SET FOR THE 2022 STATE CONVENTION

The 2022 State Convention will be held at The Penn Stater in State College Thursday, June 9th for the Leadership Seminar with the convention activities taking place the evening of the 9th, Friday, June 10, and the morning of Saturday, June 11. The Penn Stater is a lovely hotel with the convention facilities on one level. The change to a Thursday- Saturday event was due to space availability and cost (less expensive for members and the state organization).

US FORUM

PSERS investment strategies continue to be a relevant topic of conversation. The system recently announced investment returns of more than 25% for the last fiscal year.

According to the Fall 2021 Official Publication of PSEA, "The criticisms of the private equity investments by the [Philadelphia] Inquirer are misleading."
- **Pat Brenner**



Projects Committee News

It was great to have the help of our members at the August meeting! Your generosity of the variety of school supplies definitely "Stuffed the Bus"! The Bedford Rotary Club had donated the money to the Bedford Children & Youth Services to purchase the book bags. Our members then used the donated supplies to put together materials for a total of 37 book bags:

22 for elementary students
12 for middle/high school students
3 extra book bags that could be given by Children & Youth as needed.

There were enough school supplies left over to give the 5 School Districts, in our Chapter area, a bag to distribute supplies to students in need when and where needed!

Also, some members knotted fleece blankets that had been prepared for our meeting. Seven blankets were finished. Three of our transfer members from Cambria County returned home with 2 blankets that were then donated to the Arbutus Park Retirement Community in Johnstown!

Later in August, we made a donation of 9 blankets to Rebecca's Care Home in Everett. The Home's Administrator commented how nice they were and the donation was very appreciated!

Our Committee is pleased to have distributed a total of 58 fleece blankets since the inception of this Project! Thanks to everyone who has helped to make this possible!

- Linda Clapper





PET INSURANCE: ONE MORE PERK OF DKG MEMBERSHIP

Continuing in our series of benefits of DKG membership, this month we bring you information on pet insurance. Yes, DKG members who have furry or purry family members can take advantage of a special benefit to protect their pets. As a DKG member, you can save on a pet insurance policy through the VPI Pet Insurance program. Coverage for dogs, cats, birds, and even exotic pets is offered through this nationwide company. Get a quote online or call [1-877-738-7874](tel:1-877-738-7874) and let them know you are a member of DKG. You will be able to claim a 5% discount.

A variety of plans are available with different areas of coverage, different deductible levels, and different reimbursement rates. Select coverage based on your needs. Different options include major medical with wellness, major medical, and whole pet. These policies all cover things like accidents and illnesses, cancer, and some hereditary conditions. They also provide a 24/7 vet helpline and allow you to use any vet you choose. Other services such as wellness exams, vaccinations, and labs can also be covered based on the plan you select.

Pets are members of our families, and we all want to take good care of them. If you have considered insuring your pets, check out the VPI Pet Insurance program and enjoy savings as a DKG member. Information and links are on the website at:

www.dkg.org > [About Us](#) > [How to Become a Member](#) > [Insurance Benefits listing](#)

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next newsletter submission deadline will be on **November 6, 2021**. Please send articles and photos to Tina by this date.

MEMORABLE DKG DATES

May 11, 1929
DKG is Founded

January 23, 1937
PA State Organization is Established

May 22, 1948
Alpha Beta Chapter is Chartered





UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

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

NEXT ALPHA BETA MEETING

Thursday, October 14, 2021

**Where: Spring House Estates
Everett, PA**

Agenda:

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

Induction of New Members

Alpha Beta Bits
Composed, Edited and Printed
By:

Tina Smith-Gilbert Judy Conrad Royce Boyd
Joan McGreevey Amy Snyder



October

Linda McElroy 25th

November

Angela Gates 9th

Arlene Fuller 13th

Jennifer Harclerode 17th

Ellen Diehl 22nd

Trudy Snyder 28th