

The Alpha Xi Messenger

September 2020



The President's Message



Hi DKG Ladies,

It was wonderful to see everyone at our September 14th meeting (behind your masks!) and I know that we all enjoyed catching up a bit after an unusual summer! Just as we are now transitioning to the fall season, we transitioned from one executive board to another. We socially distanced while still conducting important chapter business, but we also had fun playing a game and getting to know each other better!

Our next meeting will be held on October 20, 2020, at the Heinz History Center, one of our most popular meeting venues. There we will be treated to a "Behind-the-Scenes" tour of two popular exhibits, one on Pittsburgh's glass industry and the other one on H. J. Heinz. You will see additional information in this newsletter about the plan for the evening, and I look forward to seeing many of you there!



Every year we hold a variety of fundraisers for our teacher enrichment grant, sponsored by each school district represented in our chapter. In addition, I'd like to suggest a general book sale. Keep saving all of those books that you've been reading during our time at home for the past few months and bring them to our last meeting on May 1, 2021. You'll have an opportunity to clean out your accumulation of books, while finding some new ones, all as we're raising funds to award to fellow teachers.

Finally, in case you haven't had a chance yet to see the fall edition of the Keystonean, you'll find a great deal of information of interest. There is an article on the 2021 Creative Arts Retreat that many of you love to attend every other year. Our state president, Eileen Little, explained that the PA State Convention will have a new location next June, and our Alpha Xi member, Melissa Costantino, was featured in an article on her STEM presentation given at our January 2020 meeting. Be sure to check out other information in this issue! Hope to see you at the October 20th meeting!

Paulette

The 2020-2021 Alpha Xi Remaining Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	VENUE
Tuesday, October 20, 2020	Behind the Scenes: Pittsburgh Glass and H. J. Heinz	The Heinz History Center Smallman St., The Strip District
Tuesday, March 9, 2021	Living in Liberty/ Combatting Human Trafficking in the Pittsburgh Area	Luciano's Brick Oven Rt. 228 – Mars
Saturday, May 1, 2021	Presentation on Being an Author and/or an Entrepreneur - Dede	Diamond Run Golf Club Laurel Oak Dr., Ohio Township

Membership

Welcome to our newest member, Jeanne Keys. She is a retired teacher from North Allegheny and is sponsored by Claudia. We're looking forward to getting to know Jeanne when we meet again in October.

I encourage all members to help grow our chapter. If you have anyone in mind for membership, invite her to a meeting so she can see what we do.

Jeanne Vendeland



"The Avonworth ladies will provide greeters, the inspiration and the raffle basket for the October 20th meeting. Also, remember to bring in your wrapped coins to help raise money for our teacher enrichment grants. Darlene will have more coin wrappers at this meeting, if you're in need of more."

Programs

We were scheduled to visit the exhibit on the women's suffrage movement at the History Center for our October meeting. Unfortunately, their plan changed due to Covid-19, and that exhibit did not arrive after all. I'm very sorry that it didn't work out because I think we were all looking forward to seeing it.

However, Bob Stakeley at the History Center has offered an alternative:

First, if you're able to make it there between 3:00-5:00, you can visit the new exhibit on the first floor, the Smithsonian's "Portraits of Pittsburgh," which showcases more than 100 business leaders, innovative trailblazers, athletes, and entertainers from western PA. My husband and I visited it recently, and I highly recommend it; we learned so many interesting details about celebrities from our area. For example, do you know which of our country's most infamous villains was originally from our region?

Then, from 5:00-6:00 Bob will give us private "Behind-the-Scenes" tours of two History Center exhibits, one on Pittsburgh's glass industry and the other one on H. J. Heinz. In the past you may have stopped by these two exhibits on your own, but Bob can share little-known facts about the displays and explain the fascinating story about how these collections came to be.

This would all be at no cost for us. Afterward, we would enjoy boxed meals from Two Louie's Deli and hold our business meeting in the Great Hall area, where we could easily social distance.

Although there's a change, we have always enjoyed our programs at the History Center in the past. This one should be informative and fascinating as well. I hope that you'll make plans to attend!

Paulette



Dress For Success - Shari

Just a reminder that I will not be able to collect donations at the October meeting. Let's continue our donations for DFS at both the March and May gatherings. We have a wonderful impact because of our generosity! Don't forget to plant a seed and ask friends and family members to donate, as well! Keep up the great work!



Teacher Enrichment Grants

Covid-19 has played havoc with a lot of people's plans and our Teacher Enrichment Grant is no exception. We had anticipated that we would be awarding the grants at our September meeting, but our six-month hiatus shelved that plan. The revised timetable is as follows:

- November: start advertising via social media
- February: applications will be due
- March: vote on the applications at our meeting

If you know a teacher who would benefit from funding for a special project or program in her classroom, please encourage her to apply.
Jeanne V.

Delta Kappa Gamma U.S. Forum News - Melissa

I was excited to receive information from the DKG U.S. Forum and would like to share some of the most pertinent information from the mailing.

The U.S. Forum Steering Committee is offering a webinar on Tuesday, September 29, at 7pm EDT. This round table discussion will highlight **Advocacy That Works: Best Practices for Successful Legislative Programs**. If you are interested in attending this event, please register in advance for this webinar by 9.25.2020. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Finally, the committee is encouraging everyone to write postcards that matter. Write your senators and congress members regarding the promotion of the bills focused on education, women and children. For every 5 constituents who write, action is taken. Phone calls and emails work too. Information regarding your legislators can be found at congress.gov and local, county, and state websites. Now in a slower time, it might be that opportunity for you to pursue voicing your concerns about legislative issues.

Additionally, U.S. Forum has two facebook pages, an [Official Page](#) and [Group Page](#).
(Editorial footnote: I tried to include links to the US Forum and registration pages from the DKG website, but they are members-only protected. You'll have to go to the [DKG website](#) and log-in as a member to access them.)

Member Highlight – Sandy W.

Since I retired in June of 2019, I have been volunteering for the Red Cross in disaster services. Recently, I was deployed to San Jose CA to help in sheltering for the fires. I worked in two different shelters about 30 miles south of San Francisco. Fires were to the north, west and south of our shelters. The sky was always gray with smoke and smelled like you were sitting at a campfire. When you agree to deploy you have 24 hours to get your suitcase packed and make the travel arrangements. The time you work is a 12-hour shift for two weeks. Due to COVID we were able to put most of the clients in hotels instead of the schools or churches. While I was there 38 shelters were open, most in hotels.

During the summer I was part of the planning team for the COVID feeding project where I set up volunteers to deliver food every day for three different organizations that partnered together. Now, I have taken the lead role in planning for the Southwestern chapter for the Red Cross.



The Busy Box Project

I have received no further response from Kathi Exler, the donation coordinator at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Perhaps, she may be on leave since they are not taking in-kind donations at this time. However, several ladies in attendance at the September meeting made excellent suggestions for me to pursue: The Head Start Program, women's shelters, Hope Center, Genesis House, and the Sarah Heinz House were mentioned, so I will be looking into a new outlet willing to accept our lovingly created activity boxes for various age groups. If you have other suggestions/contacts, please let me know. Hopefully, I will have more information soon!

Peg

Member News

Haddie Weber has asked **Dede** to be the guest speaker at her chapter, Alpha Phi, at the Youghioghney Country Club on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. She will be talking about her journey to write and publish her books. She is also invited to sell her books.

Melody had a bit of a scare when her heart decided to beat very slowly. She received a pacemaker, is doing really well, and now goes by "electric mermaid" and energizer bunny! (Thanks for the many well wishes!)

Melissa's PSEA Director election is in December—spread the word to any union delegates you know.

Terry is a volunteer grief facilitator at The Caring Place. She gave information to the chapter on their new young adult (ages 18-30) services for families.

Faith had an article published in the *Kittanning Leader-Times* about genealogy and her family.

Alpha Xi thanks **Sandy** for her service as a Red Cross Volunteer! (See article, page 3)



The passing of the rose and the power! Thank you, Faith for 4 great years!
Best wishes to our new president, Paulette!

DKG International Society News

In case you've been daydreaming about getting away for a vacation next summer, you might be interested in visiting San Antonio, Texas! That will be the location for DKG's International Conference from July 21-24, 2021, and the organizers are looking for volunteers to help out! In addition, San Antonio is an exciting city to explore in your free time! Plans are in the works and volunteers are needed for committees:

- Communications - DKG News articles, social media, pictures, signage, state website news, etc.
- Marketplace - soliciting vendors and exhibits for our members to experience.
- Events -special events before/during the conference (probably TX members)
- Volunteers - HUGE piece of the conference – many opportunities are available