

## 2004-2006 Biennium

The Alpha Theta chapter picnic was held in June 2004 at the home of Connie Powers. Recruitment grants of \$500 each were awarded to two junior education majors: Amanda Van Sicklin and Kerrie Walters. President Valerie Ripple reported that the chapter had sent 21 quilts to the state convention for the Babies-at-Risk Project. Quilts were made by Zoe Ritchie's Leo Club, her sewing club and Barb Carnahan. Alpha Theta members also sent enough funds to supply four teachers in Afghanistan.

The annual auction to raise money for the recruitment grants was held during the September meeting at Carlesi's Inn in McGrann. Once again, Mary Jo Lipski served as auctioneer, and members were generous in their bidding, knowing that all funds raised go for a worthy cause. As a result of the auction, the chapter will be able to award recruitment grants to two junior education majors this year. Barb Carnahan accepted the chairwoman position for the HAVIN project of packing boxes for clients of the agency. President Ripple thanked Phyllis Lampo, Kay Weibel, and Carolyn Gallaher for their work with the project over the past five years. Altogether the chapter has packed 307 boxes, and Carolyn has wrapped over 250 of those!!

The Buffalo Valley Country Club was the setting for the October 2004 meeting at which Connie Marr, librarian at Elderton Elementary School, was initiated into the chapter. It was reported that Mary Jo Lipski, member, corresponding secretary and auctioneer extraordinaire, was injured in an automobile accident and spent several weeks in the hospital. She was at home recovering at the time of the meeting. President Ripple reminded members that the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be celebrated in March of 2005 at the Rural Valley Recreation Lodge. Members were asked to dress formally in hats and gloves as members 50 years ago would have dressed. She also reminded members that the chapter would be honored for its 50th year anniversary at the state convention's Celebration Luncheon in Penn State on June 11, and she encouraged as many members as possible to attend to participate in the chapter's presentation to the audience.

On March 14, 2005, Alpha Theta members met at the Rural Valley Recreation Lodge to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of their chapter. Before the ceremony a memorial service was held for Martha Mitchell, retired librarian at Kittanning Senior High School who had been initiated into DKG in September 1958. After the business meeting, members wearing hats and gloves (and a lot of red!) as members in the past would have been, recalled the careers of the 15 charter members and the inception of the chapter. Charter member Madge Weber was the honored guest for the evening. Ms. Weber and longtime members Glenna Wood, Dorothy Holt, and Jean McCleary described their feelings at having been asked to join DKG so many years ago. Listening to these ladies reminded present-day members of what an honor it is to be a member of DKG.

Alpha Theta hosted the Tri-Chapter meeting with Epsilon (Indiana area) and Upsilon (Greensburg area) at the Allegheny Mariner in Kittanning on April 23, 2005. President Ripple introduced Dr. Lyn Schmid, Alpha Alpha state first vice-president. Schmid's presentation, "Roots and Wings," explained the seven goals of the state president for her biennium. The Homer City group "Sign Language with Attitude," danced and signed a lively arrangement of tunes for the entertainment of those present.

Seven Alpha Theta members attended the Alpha Alpha State Convention held at the Nittany Lion Inn in Penn State in May. Kathy Valasek, named one of Alpha Alpha State's Women of Distinction for 2005, was recognized for having been inducted into the Ford City Hall of Fame in acknowledgment of her service through music to the local schools and community. As part of the chapter's recognition for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, chapter members presented a routine written by Debbie Ceraso entitled *YDKG?*, based on the familiar *YMCA* song, which was warmly received by the audience. Alpha Theta chapter sent 12 quilts and numerous books for the Babies-at-Risk Project; Zoe Ritchie had provided 10 of the quilts. Dr. Lyn Schmid was installed as president of Alpha Alpha state for the next biennium.

The June 2005 chapter picnic was held at the home of Connie Powers. On behalf of the chapter, Professional Affairs Chairwoman Vicki Coven presented two recruitment grants of \$500 each to Allison Magill and Natalie Green. Allison, a rising senior at Clarion University, majored in communication science disorders and planned to continue her education and acquire a degree in speech pathology. Natalie, also a rising senior at Clarion University, majored in elementary education with a concentration in library science.

Members held their September 2005 meeting on the patio at Laube Hall in Freeport. Eleanor Walter and Jean McCleary reported on the Northwest Regional Conference in Cleveland which they had attended in the summer. A memorial service was held for Eleanor Stull, music teacher in the Armstrong district. She was remembered as devoted to education and DKG and being active in her community. After the memorial service and business meeting, Mary Jo Lipski served as auctioneer for the chapter's annual auction to raise money for the recruitment grants. The auction, along with donations, raised \$647.

At the October 2005 meeting held at Pitzers' Crooked Creek Inn, four new members were initiated into the society: Barb Keller, English teacher at Ford City High School; Paula Kijowski, Elderton Elementary School principal; Michelle Rothwell, Elderton High School learning support teacher; and Jill Tedesco, Elderton Elementary teacher. Barb Carnahan asked members to continue brining in boxes and/or items for the boxes for the children at HAVIN. Treasurer Virginia Pisolish reported that the auction in September had raised enough funds to give one qualifying junior education major a recruitment grant for next year.

The Central West Chapters meeting was held in November at Tara, a Bed and Breakfast Restaurant in Sharon, PA. Nine members of Alpha Theta attended and presented their *YDKG?* song to the enthusiastic enjoyment of the other attendees. Dr. Lyn Schmid, Alpha Alpha state president, spoke about Servant Leadership which focuses on our interdependence upon one another to grow and succeed.

Hostesses for our March 2006 meeting transformed DeMaio's Restaurant in Rural Valley into a bit of Ireland with shamrocks, Irish blessings and an abundance o' the green. Marcia Orton, owner of Marcia's Garden, a flower shop in Ford City, helped members make teacup flower arrangements, most of which were donated to shut-in members. Deborah Ceraso led a memorial service for Kathryn Lukehart, retired special education supervisor for the Armstrong School District, who had passed away recently. Dee Craig read a letter from the directors at HAVIN thanking the chapter for their many donations of boxes for clients at their safe house.

The Amish House in Dayton was the location for the chapter's April 2006 meeting. Members experienced dining as if they were guests at an Amish wedding feast, with a narrator explaining the history, traditions, and customs of the Old Amish. After the meal new officers for the biennium were inducted. Installed by past president Mary Jo Valasek were Kathy Walters, president; Deborah Ceraso, vice president; Rosemary Valasek, corresponding secretary; Mary Jo Lipski, recording secretary; Linda Van Sicklin, treasurer; and Lynn Sibley, parliamentarian. Newly elected president Walters announced that the picnic meeting would be held at her home on June 16, 2006.