

## 2006-2008 Biennium

The June 15, 2006, picnic was held at the home of President Kathy Walters. Before the business meeting, a memorial service in honor of Dr. Margaret Shumaker was conducted by Deborah Ceraso. The state Expect-a-Miracle campaign, which is to help children of single mothers, is looking for referrals from throughout Pennsylvania. Kathy reported on the state convention, and Lynn Sibley displayed a Lucinda pin which she had purchased at the convention. Made by underserved women, the pins are made in the shapes of various houses and sold as fund raisers for homeless shelters for women.

Deborah Ceraso discussed future meeting dates and sites of future meetings. Her theme for programs for the meetings is WELLNESS. The fall area Conference will be held October 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Alpha Theta auction will be held in October as well. Discussion was held on protocol for deceased Alpha Theta members; it was decided that one red rose would be delivered to the funeral home for the deceased member.

President Walters opened the October 5, 2006, meeting. Deborah Ceraso announced a change in the location of the November meeting which will now be held at the Ford City Eagles Club. Members were reminded to bring an exercise mat and wear comfortable clothes for the meeting as Marilyn Valasek would be demonstrating yoga and stretching exercises for members to try. Sandy DeForno reported that items for the HAVIN boxes are housed at Elderton High School; toothbrushes are the items to be collected in November. Valerie Ripple discussed the origin of the Lucinda pin as well as the distribution of 1000 pins throughout Alpha Alpha state to be purchased by individual members to help fund the Women Teachers in Afghanistan project. Delores Shaeffer moved to authorize the purchase of twenty Lucinda pins for the chapter for \$150. Lynn Sibley discussed her intentions for assembling a scrapbook for DKG. Julie Arbaugh reported that the chapter is on target with the recommendation from the Armstrong County Foundation because of Deborah Ceraso's theme of health and wellness for the biennium

Update on members: Diane Troutman has finished therapy and is doing well. Madge Weber fell recently and is recovering. Glenna Wood is at St. Andrew's Village; Dorothy Holt celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday and is fine. Audrey Kaufmann decorated a box to be used to collect one dollar if a member forgets to wear her DKG pin to a meeting.

The November 2, 2006, meeting was held at the Ford City Eagles Club. Before the business meeting, Deborah Ceraso conducted a memorial service for deceased member Dora Boario. President Walters announced the Seminar of Purpose would be held in Gettysburg on April 13-15, 2007, with the program entitled "Gettysburg Experience - A Woman's Perspective." She also informed members that our chapter is responsible for the gift for the Spring Conference to be held at the Rustic Lodge, Indiana, on April 24, 2006. President Walters suggested a seventh-grade girl from Elderton in need of funds for dance lessons be helped by the Expect-a-Miracle campaign. Donations were collected and money was donated from the Serendipity raffle money to fund the dance lessons with \$200 overall being raised. Sandy DeForno reported that thirty boxes had been packed for HAVIN; Carolyn Gallaher wrapped the shoe boxes to be used.

Member update: Diane Troutman was present and reported that she is feeling great. Madge Weber will be 92. Sharon Walsh was hospitalized with a heart problem and is undergoing

tests. Glenna Wood is in St. Andrew's Village and was happy to have a visit from Maxine Bieber and Jean McCleary recently. Carol Zanetti stays in touch with Floss Elgin.

A memorial service was held for long-time member Glenna Wood at the March 13, 2007. Glenna, a retired English teacher at Ford City High School, was fondly remembered by many who had been her students. President Kathy Walters reported on the Amendment to the Constitution which states that we can now initiate a retired member within two years of their retirement. The sale of selling Lucinda pins for the Afghan teaching project is going well. Sandy DeForno reported a need for more boxes for the HAVIN project, and Barb Carnahan volunteered to take on Project Linus which collects donated blankets/afghans for seriously ill or traumatized children. After the dinner and business meeting, members participated in a card stamping activity.

The April 12, 2007, meeting was held at the Lenape Vo-Tech School in Ford City, where members of the culinary class served a delicious buffet. During the business meeting, President Walters thanked Jean McCleary for making a garden basket to the state convention auction. Alpha Alpha is in charge of the gift for State President Dr. Lyn Schmid; members voted to spend \$40, and Rose Valasek volunteered to purchase the gift. Members voted to give funds from the Besse Ekas Barr scholarship to Lynn Sibley and Valerie Ripple to attend the Gettysburg Seminar. President Walters introduced Jody Coy, the young lady whom the chapter had sponsored for dance lessons. Jody told a little about herself. Dee Craig will be a presenter at the state conference. After the business meeting, members enjoyed being pampered by the students in the cosmetology department of the school, receiving pedicures, manicures, haircuts, or facials.

The summer picnic was held on June 21, 2007, at the home of President Walters. Secret Sisters were revealed and new applications for this year's secret sisters were distributed. Jody Coyne, the young dancer we had sponsored, performed in costume during the picnic. Members discussed and approved selling "Just for You" personalized bears as a general fund raiser. President Walters reminded members of the Fall Area Conference to be held at New Castle on August 14; our chapter would be responsible for favors for the meeting. After the lunch and business meeting members made blankets for the Linus Blanket Project. President Walters thanked Jean McCleary for making the basket for the state convention and Rose Valasek for the lovely gift basket for President Dr. Lyn Schmid at the Tri-chapter meeting.

The October 2, 2007, meeting was held at the Elderton Presbyterian church in Elderton. President Walters announced that a dinner for new initiates on would be held on October 2, 2007, at her home, where they would be introduced to the goals and purposes of the society. Members were reminded that homebound members can go to *reserve* status if they are physically unable to come to the meetings. Barb Carnahan reported that the chapter had made 15-20 baby blankets for the Linus Blanket project. The auction to raise funds for the recruitment grant was held after the dinner and business meeting.

Initiation of seven new members was held at the November 1, 2007, meeting. New members are Carolyn Hancock, Jennifer Sperl, Jennifer Hrabovsky, Brandy Stover, Jaime Fry, Janine Lazor, and Tracy Zeigler. Mary Jo Lipski collected signatures for members giving permission to use photographs of themselves in any DKG publication. Jean McCleary shared a thank-you letter from Dorothy Holt in regard to the many birthday cards she had received from members. Valerie Ripple contacted Jeff McGaughey regarding the cost and design of ribbons that would hold members' DKG pins as well as presidents' pins or other DKG pins. It was

moved and seconded to get a final cost for the pins he had designed. President Walters announced that the ARTS Retreat would be held in Wilkes-Barre on April 25-27 and that funds would be available from the Besse Ekis Barr scholarship for members to attend.

At the March 13, 2008, meeting President Walters presented the slate of officers for the 2008-2010 biennium: President: Deborah Ceraso; first vice-president, Mary Jo Lipski; second vice-president, Rosemary Valasek; treasurer, Linda Van Sicklin; parliamentarian, Jean McCleary. The offices of recording secretary and corresponding secretary are still vacant and must be filled before the April meeting. Tammie Bash-Wilson, new initiate who was unable to attend the March initiation meeting, was initiated. President Walters asked for a volunteer to make a basket for the annual raffle at the state convention. In addition to the Afghan teacher project, state president Carolyn Sutton would like to promote "Ethiopian Reads," which sponsors a library in Ethiopia. Magnetic ribbons for pins will be available at the next meeting.

Members met at the Rural Valley Recreation Lodge for their April 17, 2008, meeting. Members voted to give three scholarships to junior education majors this spring. Sandy Deforno reported that 55 shoe boxes were packed at the last packing session. Installation was held for the officers who had been announced at last month's meeting, along with Delores Craig and Barbara Carnahan who agreed to accept the offices of recording secretary and corresponding secretary, respectively.