

2008-2010 Biennium

President Deborah Ceraso hosted the summer picnic on June 18, 2008, at her home in Ford City. President Ceraso announced that future meetings will start at 5:00 P.M. rather than at 6:00 P.M. and will begin with the business meeting followed by the dinner. In lieu of the annual fall auction, the executive committee decided to try having a basket raffle at each meeting. The hostesses for each meeting will create the basket with a cap of \$35; funds from the raffle will go toward the scholarship fund.

President Ceraso reported on the state convention, announcing that our chapter qualified for the Membership Explosion with our eight new members and that our scrapbooking basket made by Barb Carnahan was a big hit with convention attendees. The Fall Area conference will be at UPJ on September 20, 2008.

Lynn Sibley reported on the Scholarship and World Fellowship Committee. There are three scholarships available: one for members with three years or more of membership for graduate studies; one for members with fewer than three years of membership; and one enrichment grant for members to use for anything that would enrich them educationally or personally. She encouraged members to apply for one of these. The World Fellowship/International fund is used to support women from out of the country who are Fulbright Scholars and are here to further their education.

Jana Armentrout, Kim Ripple and Harmony Ritchie were present to accept their recruitment grants. Each told members a little about themselves, their education and future plans and thanked the chapter for the grants.

The October 2, 2008, meeting was held at Christ Lutheran Church in Shelocta. President Debbie Ceraso reported on the Fall Conference held at the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown. She read a letter from the state president explaining why state dues had to be raised. Our local dues will now be \$61 with \$51 of that going to the state treasurer. President Ceraso told members about state president Carolyn Sutton's project for the biennium, Ethiopia Reads; Alpha Alpha state is encouraging each member to give \$2 to the project.

The decorating theme for the evening was based on teaching, with apples, building blocks and dolls arrayed about the room. MaryAnn Aikin, actual sister of our DKG sisters Dee Craig and Karen Coulter, spoke of her experiences teaching and authoring a book about her years of teaching, *They'll Teach You a Lesson*.

President Ceraso reminded members to wear comfortable clothing to the November 6, 2008, meeting as the program would be Tai Chi with Mary Ronge.

The November 2008 meeting was held at the Free Methodist Church in Kittanning. President Ceraso thanked Sandy DeForno for her ongoing work with the HAVIN project and encouraged members to continue to bring supplies for the boxes for women and children. She reminded members also of the chapter's support for the Ethiopia Reads project which required \$2 per member. Christmas shopping for a family in need would take place early in December. Members can meet at Walmart to join a shopping spree for the family. Mary Ronge presented a program on Tai Chi to members.

President Deb Ceraso called the March 5, 2009 meeting to order. Barb Carnahan, Corresponding Secretary, read two letters of thanks; one from the Community Action Agency and one from a family that was showered with gifts, purchased by DKG, at Christmas. President Ceraso reported that the Tri-Chapter meeting will be at Four-Points Sheraton in Greensburg on April 18. Building a library in Ethiopia is a goal at the national level of our society. Every member is encouraged to donate \$2 toward this goal. Deb reported that in a Keystone article a challenge was issued to increase membership or to add members from another venue. Sandy Deforno reported that 48 boxes were packed for HAVIN. Rose Valasek read four applications for membership. The prospective members are Brenda Lucas, Arlene Patcyk, Deb Delaphro and Harriet Skedel.

At the April 2, 2009 meeting, Barb Carnahan read a note from Julie Walters, thanking the membership for their support in her battle with cancer. President Ceraso reported that the State President would attend the Tri-Chapter meeting. It is customary to present her with a gift and Alpha Theta would be responsible for that. It was decided to donate \$100 to the Ethiopian Library, her passion, in her honor. The four prospective members were unanimously voted into the chapter. A motion was passed to initiate the new recruits at the picnic instead of at the fall meeting. Registration forms and workshop information were available for the June convention. It was noted that a basket was needed for the raffle at convention. A cap of \$75 was placed on the basket. Valerie Ripple suggested selling red ribbons for holding pins at convention as a fundraiser for the chapter. The price will be \$10 each.

The picnic meeting on June 25, 2009, was held at the home of President Deb Ceraso. She reported on the Tri-Chapter meeting, giving highlights of the event. Valerie Ripple sold all the ribbons quickly at convention. President Ceraso presented Kathy Valasek, an Alpha Alpha Woman of Distinction, with a pin. Connie Carley, also a Woman of Distinction and unable to be present, will also receive a pin. Rose Valasek read two additional new member applications from Jean Dawson and Carla Slanika. Deb presented Alpha Theta Recruitment Grants to Kelsey Boarts and Tess Olshansky. Each received a \$500 scholarship and told about their plans for the coming year. Sandy Deforno reported that 55 boxes were filled for HAVIN at the end of the school year. The Ethiopian Library goal for Alpha Alpha State was \$6,000; however \$12,378 was received, more than doubling the goal. Lynn Sibley, Kathy Valasek and Julie Arbaugh volunteered to audit the books. An attendance incentive for those attending at least 4 out of 5 meetings was given. There were 3 with perfect attendance and 7 members were present at 4 out of 5 meetings. The new members were initiated into Alpha Theta Chapter.

October 8, 2009, was our first meeting during the new school year. Rose Valasek read a thank you note from Kelsey Boarts for the scholarship grant. President Ceraso reported that photos are needed for the 55th birthday celebration slide show. It was reported that a retired businessman had volunteered to go to Ethiopia for six months to work on better communications between the United States and Ethiopian staffs. As a result, Girls' Clubs were formed and a second shipment of books was made. The Membership committee read applications for Laurie Lattanzio and Jeanne Dawson. They were accepted unanimously. President Ceraso applied for the Besse Ekis Barr scholarship to attend the World Language Conference in San Diego. A birthday card was signed by all and sent to Dorothy Holt for her 95th birthday.

President Ceraso called the November 4, 2009, meeting to order at Ford Memorial Methodist Church. A thank you note was read by Barb Carnahan from Tess Olshansky, a recipient of one of our recruitment grants. The society was honored to have charter member Madge Weber present to celebrate her 95th birthday. Linda Van Sicklin reported that the chapter has 43 regular members, 6 new members and 2 active reserve members. Deb Ceraso was approved to receive the Besse Ekis Barr grant. She will receive \$1000 to attend the World Language Conference in San Diego. This was the first grant given in many years.

2010

President Deb Ceraso called the March 11, 2010 meeting to order. Correspondence was read from our Christmas family, Sharon Walsh and the family of Dorothy Holt. In her president's report, Deb talked about how grateful she was for the Besse Ekis Barr award for her conference in San Diego. There is an Alpha Alpha Creative Arts Retreat on April 23-25 and the State Convention will be June 11-13 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. Three new member applications were read for Denise Gamble, Christie Orlosky, and Valerie Jack. The Project Committee reported that 88 Christmas boxes were packed for HAVIN. Election of officers for the 2010-2012 biennium was held with the following women being elected unanimously:

President - Mary Jo Lipski

First Vice President - Rosemary Valasek

Second Vice President - no one at this time

Recording Secretary - Dee Craig

Corresponding Secretary - Barb Carnahan

Treasurer - Linda Van Sicklin

After the business meeting, the group enjoyed musical entertainment by four members—Val Wilson, Zoe Ritchie, Diane Troutman, and Denise Gamble—plus Tina Wilson (Val's daughter) and Kittanning Junior High School student, Jim Barnett.

President Deb Ceraso called her last meeting as president to order on April 8, 2010. She announced that convention is June 11-13 and more pictures are needed for a slide presentation as Alpha Theta will be celebrating its 55th birthday. Valerie Ripple and Deb Ceraso will make a basket to take to convention for the fundraising raffle. Mary Jo Lipski offered committee lists for members to sign up for the committee of their choice. Otherwise, committee membership will be assigned. Sandy Deforno was nominated and elected to be the new Second Vice President for the chapter. Recruitment Grant applications are needed for college juniors in the field of education. Picnic meeting will be at Mary Jo Lipski's home. Date was changed due to school calendar changes because of snow days.