

2010-2012 Biennium

New President Mary Jo Lipski called the June 24, 2010, picnic meeting to order at her home. Sandy Deforno held a memorial celebration for Pauline Smith. Mary Jo shared her experiences at convention through a picture collage of the event. Our chapter was recognized there for having been chartered for 55 years. All members were encouraged to take advantage of Alpha Alpha Enrichment Grant money for education or travel. This money is from the Besse Ekis Barr fund and the Education Committee has the stipulations and applications for its use. Four Constitutional changes were proposed at convention and it will be up to individual chapters to make the change or not: 1) the 3 year rule of active teaching before membership be revoked. Women can join right out of college; 2) Members can join even if retired up to 5 years; 3) Several committees will be joined together into one committee called Educational Excellence and 4) there will be a new committee called the Non-Revenue Committee, which was the Insurance Committee. There was discussion but the chapter took no action at this time. Alpha Theta also has met state goals for acquiring new members. Two Recruitment Grant recipients, Kristen Huth and Cassie McAfee, were awarded \$500 scholarships. Another year end box packing was done for HAVIN and the project was discussed as to whether or not to continue it. DKG has provided the shoeboxes of supplies for clients for 11 years. Communication with HAVIN staff was very neutral as to whether or not it was beneficial for them so it was decided the packing would be ended. We would continue to support HAVIN through collecting of supplies and taking them to the shelter in bulk for them to use as they needed. A new literacy project was put forth by President Lipski that involved donating books to doctors' offices or places of business where people had to sit in waiting rooms. Books would be replenished if the chapter was notified of the need. It was moved and passed to pursue this project to see how it would work. Four new member applications were read—Christine Chimka, Christie Orlosky, Denise Gamble and Valerie Jack. All were voted in and will be initiated in the fall.

On October 7, 2010, President Mary Jo Lipski called the meeting to order and made the announcement that the state magazine, The Keystonian, will be available online to anyone who supplies an email address. Members were reminded to pay dues by November 1st. It was noted that Alpha Alpha chapter dues are among the lowest in the state. Thank you notes were read from Jean Quinn, Sharon Walsh and Kristen Huth, scholarship winner. President Lipski said it is a goal for her biennium that members keep in mind what DKG is about. She reviewed the vision statement and mission statement and reminded us that we are to promote professional and person growth and enjoy each others' company! The Constitutional changes proposed at state convention were mentioned again and the chapter is not anticipating making any of those changes. The Northeast Regional Convention will be held in Hershey this year from July 18-23. Lynn Sibley was asked by State President Lyn Schmid to be in charge of the Presentation of the Flags. Lynn said a script for this needs to be written and read as flags are presented and asked for anyone who would be willing to help with this. Michelle Rothwell, US Forum Representative, talked about the upcoming election in November and pointed out changes in pensions for teachers and state employees are being proposed. She recommended contacting our senators about the issue. The Book Basket project introduced at the last meeting is proceeding. Book plates and notices about use of the books provided by DKG are being prepared and then baskets will be placed. The next meeting will be held at Lingrove Farm near Leechburg.

The November 4, 2010, meeting of Alpha Theta at Lingrove Farm was called to order by President Mary Jo Lipski. Sandy Deforno read a note from Kassie McAfee, thanking the chapter for her scholarship. Alpha Alpha state has advertised that there are scholarships and enrichment grants available for members. Book labels are still being prepared to go into books for the book baskets. Professional Affairs Committee is looking for Recruitment Grant applicants for the awards in the spring. Rose Valasek reminded everyone that March's meeting will be at the Belmont Complex and there will be a scrapbooking program. A motion was made and passed to adopt a family for Christmas gift giving.

President Mary Jo Lipski called the March 3, 2011, meeting to order. A heartfelt note from Vickie Wain was read by Barb Carnahan, thanking DKG sisters for flowers, cards, calls, food and support during her surgery and treatments for breast cancer. Mary Jo gave a brief report about the 2 families adopted by DKG at Christmas. Members generously donated \$450 for the cause. Also, members donated food items for the Passion Food Drive. It was hoped 56 pounds worth would be donated as that is how long Alpha Theta has been in existence. Lynn Sibley applied for an Enrichment Grant to travel to the Holy Land. The Tri-Chapter meeting will be held on April 9, 2011, at the Country Junction in Smicksburg. Indiana's chapter is responsible for entertainment and Greensburg's chapter will present the state president with a gift. The Alpha Alpha Convention was held on June 10-12. The Northeast Regional Convention was held July 19-23 and Lynn Sibley organized the flag ceremonies. Sandy Deforno read applications for membership for Kerienne Walters and Angela Shupe.

On April 9, 2011, the Tri-Chapter meeting of DKG was held at the Country Junction in Smicksburg. Mary Jo Lipski called the meeting to order. Barb Carnahan read a note from Mills Chiropractic thanking DKG for the book basket placed in his office. Also a note of thanks was received from Armstrong County Action Committee thanking DKG for the donations at Christmas for two local families. The Measure Your Passion food drive brought in 132 lbs. of food, doubling the goal of 56 lbs. Lynn Sibley was nominated for Album of Distinction since she was inducted into the Ford City Hall of Fame. Rose mentioned the auction will be held again in October. Ten book baskets were placed in offices around the area. A basket was needed for the raffle at state convention. A motion was accepted to spend \$75 on this and Deb Ceraso volunteered to make it.

The June 23, 2011, picnic was held at President Mary Jo Lipski's home. The Alpha Alpha State Convention was held June 10-12. Mary Jo, Lynn Sibley, and Rose Valasek attended. Lynn was honored as a Woman of Distinction for her work with the Ford City Garden Club. Barb Szymanski introduced the recruitment grant recipients and presented them with their \$500 scholarships. Danielle Egley and Allison Kidder thanked the chapter and described their activities and future plans. Sandy Deforno reviewed the three candidates for membership—Kerienne Walters, Angela Shupe and Barb Meleason. All were accepted. It was decided that the book baskets distributed in local offices should be checked periodically and books rotated. Denise Gamble, Lynn Sibley, Harriet Skiedel, Kathy Valasek and Deb Zellefrow volunteered to help. A suggestion was made to put one in Dr. Nemeč's office on Route 85. President Lipski outlined the expenses incurred for attending the Northeast Regional Conference. A motion was made to give \$1000 to those going. Discussion was held on raising money for Schools for Africa and it was voted that hostesses for each meeting provide a mystery gift that could be raffled off at the meetings.

The October 6, 2011, annual auction meeting was called to order by President Mary Jo Lipski. Dave Gallaher, the husband of our sister, Carolyn, recently passed away. A short memorial

was held in his honor. Barb Carnahan read a thank you note from the scholarship recipient, Danielle Egly. President Lipski reported that the Northeast Regional Convention was a wonderful experience. The flag ceremony, spearheaded by our own Lynn Sibley, was well organized and moving. The workshops, food and entertainment were all excellent. Our new state project will be POW or Promote Schools for Africa. This is connected with UNICEF. It was decided that the chapter once again support a family for Christmas through Community Action.

The November 3, 2011 meeting was called to order by President Mary Jo Lipski. The 75th anniversary of Delta Kappa Gamma International will be in 2012. Mozambique and Mali were the African countries highlighted. A total of \$71 was collected for the African schools. Our president asked Community Action to give us at least four names of children to sponsor for Christmas. Janine Lazor reported on legislative action.

The Alpha Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma met on March 8, 2012 at Dizzie Lizzie's in Kittanning. Vice President Rose Valasek conducted the meeting in the absence of President Lipski. Barb Carnahan read a note of thanks from the Community Action Agency for our support of a family at Christmas. The family themselves also sent a heartfelt note of thanks to the chapter. A full slate of officers for the next biennium was presented:

President - Rose Valasek	First Vice President - Sandy Deforno
Second Vice President - Connie Marr	Recording Secretary - Dee Craig
Corresponding Secretary - Barb Carnahan	Treasurer - Linda VanSicklin

The slate was unanimously elected as presented. At state convention in June, DKG will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. Extra books for our book baskets were collected from members. Niger in Africa was highlighted for Schools for Africa project. Michelle Rothwell read an article in the PSEA VOICE about our sister Janine Lazor's leadership in making legislative contacts. Julie Arbaugh, World Fellowship chairman, reported that there are two international students in Pennsylvania supported by DKG. One is from Chile and attending the University of PA and the other is from Argentina and attending Penn State University. After the meeting and dinner, Connie Marr's husband, Walt, entertained and enlightened us with his first-person portrayal of Abraham Lincoln. He related tales of how his strong beliefs enabled him to succeed.

Alpha Theta Chapter met on April 12, 2012, at the Free Methodist Church of Kittanning. President Mary Jo Lipski opened the meeting with thanks to the hostesses. Barb Carnahan read a card from Sharon Walsh stating that she had fallen and broken her leg. Sisters were urged to send cards to her. Four members are planning to attend the State convention in State College this June. President Lipski highlighted an article from the Keystoneian that described "elevator speeches" as a way to spread information about DKG in a concise and interesting way. The book baskets have all been visited and refreshed. Rose Valasek attended the President's Training at Penn State and announced that it was very beneficial. We have collected \$187 for World Fellowship/Schools for Africa. We voted to send a check for \$200 to the project. Cards were signed for the two international students in Pennsylvania supported by DKG. We voted to once again provide a \$75 basket for the raffle at state convention. Phyllis Lampo will put the basket together. Committee sign-up sheets were available for the next biennium. Marcia's Garden shop in Ford City donated the flower basket for tonight's meeting. President Lipski thanked all for supporting her in her two years as president. The new officers were installed after the business meeting.