

## 2012-2014 Biennium

The June 20, 2012 picnic meeting was held at the home of President Rose Valasek. Barb Carnahan read correspondence from Pat Shevchuk and Sharon Walsh. Rose, Connie Marr, Mary Jo Lipski and Sandy Deforno attended state convention. They enjoyed it very much and came away with good information from the workshops. \$3000 was raised from the basket raffle at convention. Rose encouraged everyone to go to the web site and apply for scholarship funds for any trip they plan to take. Our two Recruitment Grant winners were Anna Steighner and Lynzee Panchik. Connie Marr gave the Membership Committee report during which she gave out forms to think about and fill out for: 1) those you would recommend for membership, 2) a membership profile, 3) a strategic action plan, 4) if you want to receive the Keystonian electronically. She has also set up a gmail account and a facebook page for the chapter and will set up a Twitter account. Sandy Deforno went to a Non-dues Revenue Workshop at convention and came back with some good ideas for raising money outside the membership. The Schools for Africa project will be continued for another year. Rose Valasek is looking into the possibility of having a brochure made about DKG. Valerie Ripple present Mary Jo Lipski with a scrapbook of her biennium as president. Sister news was shared. Our dear Sharon Walsh and Diane Troutman are both having cancer treatments and not doing well. Gift bags and cards were prepared for our shut-ins.

President Rose Valasek called the October 2, 2012, meeting of Alpha Theta to order at the Kittanning Free Methodist Church. A thank you note was read from scholarship recipient, Anna Steighner. The Fall Area Conference was attended by several chapter members and reports were given on sessions they attended. Mary Jo Lipski donated a crocheted afghan to raffle off at the meeting with proceeds going to the Breast Cancer coalition. Phyllis Lamp made a motion that we match the money taken in for the afghan and it passed. Rose Valasek that the hostesses for the evening who had decorated everything in pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Connie Marr read two applications for membership. LuAnn Shrader, State President, will be attending the November meeting at which everyone is to bring at least one canned good for a local food bank. New biennium information was passed out in a new format with a nice look and a savings for the chapter. Any member who has been published will be recognized at the state convention. A motion was made and passed to sponsor a Christmas family again this year. Madge Weber's dues were changed from Active to Reserve membership. After the meeting and dinner, a program on breast cancer was presented by the hostesses, three of whom were breast cancer survivors and spoke about their experiences—Lynn Sibley, Kay Weibel, and Vickie Wain. The membership then made pink beaded bracelets to be given to breast cancer patients at Laube Cancer Center.

Alpha Theta Chapter met on November 2, 2012, at the Kittanning Free Methodist Church. President Rose Valasek opened the meeting and introduced our guest, Alpha Alpha State President LuAnn Shrader. Barb Carnahan read a card from the PA Breast Cancer Coalition thanking us for our donation. The auditors found the treasurer's books to be in order. At this point there are 49 members with dues paid and 7 outstanding. President Valasek reminded the membership that the Schools for Africa is a state project. The book basket project is doing well but the chapter needs to be thinking of other projects we could look into for the next biennium. Sandy Deforno thanked members for the canned goods donations and said the food will be taken to one of the local food banks. We will be adopting a Christmas family through Community Action. Connie Marr read three applications for membership. DKG Bylaws state that new member applications need to be read two times before a vote can be

taken. With backing from the state, Mary Jo Lipski made a motion, seconded by Jean McCleary, that applications need only be read once before a vote can be taken. All three applicants were accepted and initiation will take place at the March 2013 meeting. Florence Crissman was moved from Active to Reserve membership. The sisters voted that in the future, the chapter will pay dues for reserve members. President Shrader is looking for sisters who are published to be recognized at state convention. Sister news was shared and the meeting adjourned.

Alpha Theta chapter met at the Kittanning Free Methodist Church on March 5, 2013. President Rose Valasek reminded members of the upcoming Purposeful Seminar in Lewisburg, PA; the Northeast Regional Convention in Portland, ME; and the Alpha Alpha State Convention in State College, PA. Applications from juniors majoring in education are being accepted for the chapter's annual scholarship given in the spring. A memorial service was held for our sister Diane Troutman, a retired music teacher in Armstrong School District who was much beloved by students and colleagues and who passed away in November. Teaching supplies were collected for teachers in their first few years of teaching. They will be made into centerpieces for the state convention, then brought back and distributed in the local schools to the early educators. Profits from the evening's raffle benefitted Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World, a project which helps students learn to resolve conflicts peacefully. This project was suggested by Connecticut's state DKG president in the wake of the Newtown tragedy. New members initiated in the Initiation Ceremony after the meeting were Trisha Dilick, Tina Lane, and Sheryl Mantini.

On April 4, 2013, President Rose Valasek encouraged members to register to attend the annual Alpha Alpha State Convention in June. A thank you letter was read from the director of Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World for the chapter's donation last month. Two local teachers, Rhonda Reed and Rebecca Frazier, were voted into membership in Alpha Theta and will be initiated at the June picnic. Past president Mary Jo Lipski served as auctioneer for the chapter's annual auction. Many interesting, lovely and fun items were auctioned off to members and proceeds from the event totaled \$935. This will go into the chapter's scholarship fund for juniors in the field of education.

The 2013 annual June picnic was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> at President Rosemary Valasek's home. Members were very pleased to welcome Deloris Simmons at this meeting, a sister who has not been able to attend for a long time. President Valasek reported on the Alpha Alpha State Convention at which Kay Stuart was installed as state president of DKG for the 2013-2015 biennium. Mary Jo Valasek was thanked for her creation of a red, white and blue-themed basket for the raffle at convention. Winners of Alpha Theta's scholarship for education majors were introduced and presented with their \$500 awards. They were Kelli Johnson from Freeport, a senior music education major with a concentration in oboe at Seton Hill, and Lydia Steele from Ford City, a senior at Geneva College majoring in elementary and special education. It was announced that the October meeting will be about our furry friends and the beneficiary that evening for the chapter's Biennium of Giving will be Orphans of the Storm. A new Recording Secretary is needed as Barb Meleason has accepted the position of Corresponding Secretary for the next biennium after the resignation of Barb Carnahan. Maxine Bieber has moved to a home in Doylestown near her daughter. Following the meeting, Rebecca Frazier and Rhonda Reed were initiated and welcomed into membership in Alpha Theta.

October 1, 2013, saw the sisters of Alpha Theta at the Free Methodist Church in Kittanning for their first fall meeting. A raffle basket was created by the hostesses that reflected the many unique “special” events October offers, such as National Pizza Month and National Golf Day. Proceeds from the raffle benefitted the state DKG’s Schools for Africa project. President Valasek spoke on state President Kay Stuart’s theme of “Engage, Equip, Empower.” She reviewed the many ways the chapter has been “engaged” through it’s projects and donations, how members can help “equip” themselves by taking advantage of all the scholarship and grant opportunities available through the local, state and national societies, and how assuming leadership roles can help members feel “empowered.” A motion was made and approved for the chapter to sponsor a Christmas family again this year. The annual scholarship auction was held after this meeting. Almost \$1000 was raised from the donated, many homemade, items auctioned to members. The scholarships will be given in the spring to young women pursuing careers in the fields of education.

The November 7, 2013 dinner meeting of Alpha Theta was held at the Free Methodist Church of Kittanning with President Rosemary Valasek presiding. Members were recognized for the number of years they have belonged to the chapter. Miss Florence Crisman and Miss Madge Weber were the two surviving charter members, having joined Alpha Theta in 1955 when the chapter was formed. Eleanor Walter had 44 years of membership, Mary Jo Valasek, 42 years and Carolyn Gallaher, 39 years. For this meeting, members brought in cat and dog supplies to be donated to Orphans of the Storm Animal Rescue and Shelter. A Christmas family has been secured from HAVIN and a shopping trip scheduled to get items for them. Madge Weber has celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Alpha Theta chapter met on March 4, 2014, at the Free Methodist Church of Kittanning with President Rose Valasek. Dr. Seuss’ birthday was honored through the decorations and favors for the meeting. A memorial service was held for our dear member, Sharon Walsh, who passed away in December, 2013. A remembrance written by Lynn Sibley was read by Connie Marr. Sharon was a math teacher dedicated to her students, a community activist and an active DKG member, having been chapter president from 1994-1996. Sandy Deforno led a “Get to know each other better” program after our dinner. She also shared points from the DKG Leadership weekend she recently attended. A new slate of officers for the next biennium was voted upon and they will be initiated at the April meeting. Members are encouraged to sign up for committees and hostess responsibilities. The basket raffle proceeds were \$70 and this will be sent to DKG World Fellowship Fund. In addition, \$200 was sent to the state project, UNICEF for Schools for Africa. The new state project for the 2014-2016 biennium will be on early childhood education with an emphasis on Head Start programs.

The Kittanning Free Methodist Church was again the site for the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 dinner meeting. Rose Valasek called the meeting to order and a memorial service was held for Maxine Bieber. Maxine taught Home Economics for 28 years and had been a faithful DKG member, rarely missing a meeting. Enrichment Grants from Alpha Alpha State DKG have been awarded to 2 of our members: Sandy Deforno, who will travel to New Orleans to learn about hurricane aid and to attend the Jazz Fest; and Lynn Sibley, who will travel to Serbia to do mission work (Lynn later had to decline the award as the trip was cancelled). It was decided that Besse Ekis Barr’s DKG president’s pin will be passed down from president to president of Alpha Theta. This pin dates from chapter installation in 1955. Jean McCleary and Mary Jo Valasek told the members how sisters used to dress formally in gowns or robes for meetings beginning in the 1950s. They were required to attend 3 of the 5 yearly meetings and could

not be pregnant when joining DKG! New officers were installed for 2014-2016: President, Sandy Deforno; First Vice President, Connie Marr; Corresponding Secretary, Barb Meleason.