

2016-2018 Biennium

On May 3, 2016, the officers for the 2016-2018 were installed at our final meeting at the Free Methodist Church in Kittanning.

President – Connie Marr

1st Vice President – Denise Gamble

2nd Vice President – Trisha Dilick

Corresponding Secretary – Barb Meleason

Recording Secretary – Rhonda Reed

The 2016-2018 Biennium officially began with quite a bang! On August 4th the Summer Picnic was held at the President's house. We were also honored to have Tracey Dusch, Alpha Alpha State President, attend the picnic. Tracey brought her insight into how other chapters in the state handle financial matters. The meeting was the longest meeting in recent memory, but the decisions made at the meeting set the financial course for the chapter for years to come. Since the budget was presented as a deficit for the year, lots of discussion ensued. Financial discussions are difficult, but the membership worked through the issues and made significant progress. It was decided to raise the local dues to \$17 per year and to not charge new members any of the additional fees for joining. So, the International, State, and Local dues total \$75.00 for the 2016-2017 year.

The Scholarship committee worked hard to select our first **Early Career Educator Grant-in-Aid** recipients. The decision was made in the previous biennium to move from awarding Scholarships to college seniors majoring in education, to Armstrong School District teachers or DKG members with 6 years of teaching experience or less. The grant may be awarded for classroom supplies, classroom projects, and personal and professional growth through travel, study, conferences, and programs. Grant-in-Aid awards over the course of the biennium were given to ASD Early Career Educators, Jill Thiessen, Shannon Cornetti, Lindsay Dunlap, Heather Hielman, Melissa Hoener, Jamie Myers, and Kayla Wolfe.

We **honored the memory and service** of Eleanor Walters, a sister who passed away in May of 2016. Eleanor, a former chapter treasurer, had many DKG adventures traveling to International DKG events and was a great support to our local chapter.

Meetings were held at the Church of God in Kittanning during the biennium and the Fall meeting started with the **recognition** of Jean McCleary as a 50-year member of Alpha Theta. Memories were shared as it was her last meeting with the chapter before moving to Florida to be closer to her family. While we all miss Jean, we are excited for the new adventure she is taking. Jean was also nominated and recognized with the Album of Distinction at the State Convention in 2017. Jean was recognized for her work in establishing the Worthington Library.

Besides supporting Grant-in-Aid awards for Early Career Educators, we continued to fill and distribute Hygiene Baskets to the faculty restrooms in the various schools and supported our local libraries financially.

Over the course of the biennium, we had several members **initiated** into membership of the Alpha Theta Chapter. Heather Hileman, Kim Barnett, Justine Freeman, and Melissa Hoener, Tiffany Dailey, Hope Davidson, Kelly Hirska, Kim Miller, and Angela Wolfe were all initiated. It was an honor to have so many outstanding teachers join our ranks. Each new member also received a **Mentor** to help them acclimate to DKG and to make sure they have a friendly face at DKG events. The mentors are to contact the new sister periodically to offer support and encouragement as they learn about Alpha Theta Chapter specifically understand the big picture of DKG.

Trisha felt that there were many members she did not know so she decided to have a **Featured Member** for each meeting. This great idea gave us the opportunity to share all sorts of information about the member. Each of us learned more about each other through the discussion and the poster prepared listing interesting facts about the featured member and the sister got a free meal to boot. Phyllis Lampo, Carla Slanicka, Melissa Hoener, Chris Chimka, Kathy Valasek, Val Wilson, Connie Marr, Trisha Dillick and Denise Gamble were all featured members over the course of the biennium.

Alpha Theta received the seal of compliance from International for their **website**. <https://alphathetapa.weebly.com/> . Communicating with members using many forms became a priority through the website, chapter email, Remind, as well as snail mail.

Due to personal issues Barb Meleason needed to resign as Corresponding Secretary and we thank her for her service to the chapter. We were quite fortunate that our new sister, Justine Freeman, volunteered to step up and take the position. Now, if you talk to Justine there is this story about me announcing the need for a Recording Secretary and refusing to go on with the meeting until

someone volunteered. Not quite the way I remember it but... We are thankful for Justine's willingness to jump into the position.

The biennium started the way it ended. Tracey Dusch, Immediate Past State President attended the meeting and helped with the installation of the 2018-2020 officers. As always it was fun to have Tracey visit our chapter!

I do count it quite an honor to have been able to serve as an officer for the past four years and as President for the biennium. Many challenges presented themselves but with the help of good friends and sisters we were each ready for each challenge. Never be afraid of change. Be afraid of not changing!

Connie Marr

Alpha Theta President

2016-2018