

Delta Kappa Gamma  
Alpha Theta Chapter  
2018-2020 Biennium

**OFFICERS**

Denise Gamble, President  
Trisha Dilick, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Laurel Glover & Connie Marr, Co-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents  
Kim Miller, Recording Secretary  
Justine Freeman, Corresponding Secretary  
Rhonda Reed, Treasurer  
Immediate Past President, Connie Marr  
Lynn Sibley, Parliamentarian

Our new biennium started at a new meeting home at the First Baptist Church, Ford City (near Lenape Elementary). We continued with some old projects and added some new projects and activities. Our State Organization encouraged local Presidents to simplify, give ownership to the members and to use electronic correspondence. And, for the craziest reason, I became known as President Sparkles, your 31<sup>st</sup> DKG Alpha Theta President.

A Facebook page was created by Trisha Dilick. We started to send meeting invitations and minutes via email and the general membership was encouraged to receive the Keystonian electronically.

It was necessary to make many revisions in our local Standing Rules due to several State updates. Much of it was wording, i.e., Initiation is now called induction and Alpha Alpha State is now referred to as DKG Pennsylvania. The fiscal year was adjusted to start in July, "Collegiate Membership" was added and it was learned that Treasury records only need kept for seven years. Annual dues remained at \$75.00 per year now due in June of each calendar year.

**"Feature Member"** continued by showcasing an Alpha Theta member at each scheduled meeting. One member is recognized per meeting via a poster with her fun facts and is given a complimentary dinner. It is always interesting to learn more things about our members to bring us closer together. Barb Meleason, Sandy Deforno, Denise Gamble, Trisha Dilick, Deb Ceraso, Deloris Simmons, Val Ripple, Barb Szymanski, and Audrey Kaufman were our featured members during these two years.

We also continued to support **"Hygiene Baskets"**, which is a project that was introduced two bienniums ago by then president Sandy Deforno. A Basket filled with personal items are placed in faculty restrooms throughout the Armstrong School District, including the Administration Building. Our members donate products and/or cash to fill the much used baskets.

We also continue to award **Grant-In-Aid Scholarships** to Early year Educators. Melissa Hoener, Jamie Myers, Kayla Wolfe, Lauren Walters, Sarah Coleman and Jessica McCauley were recipients in this biennium. Scholarship funds are raised through our annual auction, which seems to be one of the chapter's favorite meetings. Thank you to Mary Jo Lipski for your continued role as Auctionista!

Our newest project was **"Blessings in a Backpack"**. We kicked off this initiative with an introduction from our local representative, Molly Atwood. Alpha Theta members have donated needed food items, monetary gifts as well as their time to help to pack bags that are sent home with students in need.

I hope to see this project continue as an Alpha Theta project for years to come.

We had a one-time project making "**Cards for Kids**". We used stamping items and created cards to send to children's hospital, ACMH and any other requested location. It was later learned that the hospitals would not accept the donations due to covid so the cards were donated to classroom teachers.

For several months we individually saved empty and clean prescription pill bottles at the request of Lynn Sibley. The number of bottles collected was overwhelming and they would be shipped overseas where such bottles are not available. While this was a on-time project, it will be helpful to many.

Lynn Sibley applied and was granted an Enrichment Grant. She will be travelling in the U.S. and abroad as a Mission Ambassador.

We initiated six new members in two separate ceremonies: Trisha Foust, Lorelei Smathers, Brittany Weaver, Patricia Goldinger, Carolyn Smith, and Kayla Wolfe are now valuable DKG members.

For personal reasons, Laurel Glover resigned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Connie Marr continued to fill the obligation of this job. Also resigning for personal reasons, Kim Miller stepped down as Recording Secretary, which led to a larger change in leadership. Rhonda Reed became Recording Secretary and Carolyn Smith was appointed as Treasurer.

Alpha Theta celebrated its **65<sup>th</sup> Birthday**. January 22, 1955, the Alpha Theta Chapter became a charter organization. We celebrated on January 22, 2020, with a social dinner at the local Craffhouse restaurant to honor the creation of our chapter.

We sadly lost member Carolyn Gallaher on May 4th, 2019. Carolyn was a valued member of Alpha Theta and served as President 1984-1986. A rose was placed in her coffin and a DKG memorial was held at the August meeting. She was also memorialized at the state convention in June. Her soft spoken, friendly and supportive personality is missed by all.

In March of 2020, we will never forget the covid pandemic. Not only did this affect us personally, but also as an organization. We cancelled the March and May meetings and put our sights on an outdoor picnic in August. I did my best to electronically correspond with members and to encourage working members to be positive and to remember that their DKG sisters are there for them professionally, emotionally and spiritually.

Although there were some member resignations from our chapter, new member induction has kept our membership near fifty. We had joys and sorrows on many different levels: birth of children and grandchildren, weddings, retirements, deaths, sickness, but most importantly, Sisterhood. It is because of all of our talented and gifted educators that we continue to thrive, to support and to achieve. I am honored to have served you as President.

Sincerely,  
President Sparkles