

ALPHA CHAPTER DKG MINUTES

February 8, 2025

Tri-Boro First Aid Squad, Butler, NJ

Call to Order-The meeting was Called to Order by President, Laura Perrius who welcomed members and our guests, Jody Walsh and Dr. Stephanie De Bruyne.

Past Presidents were introduced: Megan Connelly, Theresa Messineo, Jan Paxton, Cindy Sokoloff, and Claire Swanson.

Motivation- Kim Heilig read a story “Love.” What do four through eight-year-olds think love is?

Secretary’s Report- Claire Swanson made a motion, seconded by Joan Oehm to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Evelyn Oberndorf read correspondence Claire received from Peggy Firtion and Pat Marks. They were so thrilled to hear from us at Christmas time.

Treasurer’s Report- In Cathy Cleenput’s absence, Ann Calvin, distributed the treasurer’s report. Cathy will answer any questions when she returns from her trip. Work has begun on our Convention Baskets. Cathy is making a ceramic bowl and Emily Hoeflinger is making mugs for the small basket. “Between the Pedals” will be March 15, 2025, at 11 AM at Jan Paxton’s home. Our project is for Project Linus. We will be knitting and crocheting blankets. Prior knowledge of knitting or crocheting is not necessary as instruction will be available. Bring your own lunch.

President’s Report- Laura reminded us about the “Art’s Festival” at Convention. Sign up on the website or call Patty Curtis by March 1st. We will be hearing more about ways to help others in the next months.

First Vice President- Joan Oehm spoke briefly about today’s program. May 1st. our program will be a book discussion on The Teacher’s: A Year Inside America’s Most Vulnerable, Important Profession, by Alexandra Robbins.

Society’s Business-

Membership- Claire Swanson and Cindy Sokoloff welcomed our guests Dr. Stephanie De Bruyne and Jody Walsh. Stephanie and Jody told us about themselves. Kelly Carroll joined our meeting later, and several of us greeted her.

Hoitsma- There was no new report, however, Cindy Sokoloff was asked to tell our prospective members about the Hoitsma Fund and its member benefits.

Scholarship- Suzette Given informed us the Scholarship Committee met on zoom and discussed changes to the scholarship selection process. It was suggested that grant-in-aid be awarded to young women already enrolled in college teacher education programs. A motion was made by Megan Connelly, seconded by Cindy Sokoloff to have the Scholarship Committee work on making changes to how Grant-in-Aid is awarded.

Grant-in-Aid- The change in direction in awarding of a Grant-in-Aid scholarship will be addressed by the scholarship committee and will be offered next year.

Convention- Jan Paxton reported that all the information for the upcoming State Convention April 4-6 is on the website. Convention promises to be a wonderful event with a wonderful keynote speaker and great workshops; however, some workshops are filling up fast.

Programs at Work- Strengthen our Sisters-Jennie Villaneuva delivered our Christmas bags to the house where the girls live. Since it was empty, Jenny was given a tour of the house, and she was very impressed with the facility. It had an industrial kitchen and appeared to be a safe place. The staff thanked Jenny for the bags and said they were greatly appreciated.

Program- Joan Oehm spoke about the importance of self-care for teachers. Joan distributed and spoke from Chris Mumford's article: 9 Stress Management Strategies Every Teacher Needs to Know. <https://www.wgu.edu/blog/9-stress-management-strategies-every-teacher-needs-know1712.html>. A video followed, and we all participated in Chair Yoga, a practice which can be done by people 25 to 99. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8BsLIPE1m4>

Old Business- Kristen Massotto, who is an Administrator in Cedar Grove suggested putting information about DKG out to the elementary school teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Perhaps we could provide a treat or a hand lotion with the DKG emblem on it to the teachers. Jenny, Kristen and Claire volunteered to work on this project.

New Business- Laura suggested that we have a joint meeting with Epsilon Chapter in the future to share ideas and socialize. Something that Epsilon does is, the last ten minutes of their meeting, they have "Tech Ten" to learn how to better navigate the internet and DKG information.

Linda Leddy is collection young adult and children's books for "Book Smiles."

At this meeting, \$135.00 was collected for Convention Baskets, Girls Fund- \$80.00 and \$230.00 for Grant-in-Aid. Thank you for your generosity.

A motion was made by Patti Caruso and seconded by Jennie Villaneuva to close the meeting at 11:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Oberndorf, Secretary