

Delta Kappa Gamma

Alpha Chapter

October 9, 2024

**Call to Order and welcome:** Meeting was called to order at 5 PM by President, Laura Perrius, who stated how proud and excited she is to serve as our new Chapter President.

**Past Presidents** were introduced: Cathy Cleenput, Megan Connolly, Debbie Hoeflinger, Jean Jaeger, Jan Paxton, Cindy Sokoloff, and Claire Swanson and our speaker for this meeting, Kate Okeson was welcomed.

**MOTIVATION:** Kim Heilig inspired us with a story from “A Year of Miracles,” by Marianne Williamson.

**Business Meeting:**

**Secretary’s Report:** Evelyn Oberndorf’s minutes were amended. Joan Oehm made the motion to accept and Claire Swanson seconded the motion.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Cathy Cleenput distributed the treasurer’s report and said we are in good shape financially. Motion was made by Jan Paxton and seconded by Kim Heilig to accept the treasurer’s report. The budget was presented, and Jan Paxton made a motion to approve the budget and Joan Oehm seconded the motion.

**President’s Report:** Laura Perrius told us a little about herself and some plans for her biennium. More events will be added in between our meetings. “Between The Petals” will provide fun activities for Alpha Members. The first event was a wonderful book study discussion and pool party at Cindy Sokoloff’s home.

Laura discussed the purpose of joining DKG and how we can attract new members.

Jameelah Wright was introduced as our new Hospitality Chair. Jameelah and her volunteers will be welcoming sisters as they arrive at our meetings. Jameelah will be defending her dissertation in the coming weeks. Laura reminded members that we would be having another “Between the Pedals” event in November at Jan Paxton’s house. We will be learning to crochet or knit. Carpooling was recommended. More news is coming soon when a date is set. Finally, we received important information from Irene Maskaly about fraud and identity theft.

**First Vice President:** Joan Oehm stated that the State is moving toward a paperless convention. Joan mentioned there is a list of proposed workshops for the convention. DKG will be having a table at the NJEA Convention in November in Atlantic City.

## **Society Business:**

**Membership:** Claire Swanson and Cindy Sokoloff gave out index cards for the names of prospective members. Think of the benefits of DKG membership when you talk with prospective members. Cindy suggested that we should reach out to members who have not come out to a meeting lately and perhaps give them a phone call or write a note. Ann Calvin introduced her guest today. Stephanie De Bruyne is a retired Special Education Teacher and was Supervisor in northern Bergen County. Nicolette Villanueva, a graduate student at Montclair State University, daughter of our own Jennie, also attended the meeting.

**HOITSMA:** Cindy Sokoloff pointed out the pink sheet which included the Hoitsma Financial Report, and she explained it in full.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** Suezette Given directed everyone to our meeting packet describing all the scholarships available. An ad hoc committee looking at Grant – in- Aid will be meeting soon.

**CONVENTION:** Jan Paxton reported that the State Convention will be April 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, NJ. This is an important convention because we will be voting for new officers, there will be induction of new members on Saturday night and Barbara Ann Ellert will be remembered at the necrology service on Sunday. Alpha will be assisting with the Arts Display. Cathy Cleenput graciously agreed to oversee the party room. One day registration will be available this year. For members who just want to come on Sunday for the necrology service, we will have a Google form for carpooling.

**GRANT IN AID:** Patti Caruso read a thank you note from Riley Darlington, our scholarship winner this year. \$200 was collected for Grant-in-Aid at this meeting.

## **PROGRAM AT WORK:**

Program: Our speaker, Kate Okeson was introduced by Joan Oehm. Kate is the Community Youth Equity and Inclusion Affirmative Action Officer. She gave an enlightening speech entitled “Transgender Discussion- Classroom and Beyond.”

**OLD BUSINESS:** Theresa Maughan spoke about presenting at the International Convention and she encouraged everyone to attend it. Ann Calvin, Claire Swanson, and Cathy Cleenput also attended and said it was a wonderful experience not to be missed!

**NEW BUSINESS:** Laura Perrius contacted Strengthen Our Sisters. They have enough school and children’s supplies. What they need is women’s toiletries. Laura asked for a volunteer to publish a list. Cindy Sokoloff is doing a project at her local school. We must decide where we will help.

A motion to adjourn was made by Cathy Cleenput and seconded by Laura Perrius. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15. The meeting attendance was 24.

Next meeting is December 7, 2024, at the Tri-Boro First Aid Squad in Butler.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Oberndorf