

ALPHA DKG MEETINGS

February 4, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 10AM by President Theresa Messineo

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Theresa Messineo welcomed everyone on this frigid morning and introduced the Past Presidents who were present. They included Claire Swanson, Debbie Hoeflinger, Cathy Cleenput, Cindy Sokoloff, and Megan Connolly.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT: Theresa Messineo read a lovely message about “Love” on Kim Heilig’s behalf since Kim could not attend the meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as corrected. Nu chapter not MU and correction on the spelling of Megan Connolly’s name. Motion by Claire Swanson, seconded by Linda Leddy.

Treasurer: Cathy Cleenput reported that we are in “ok” shape financially. We cannot do \$1,000 in Grant in Aid this year as this money comes from donations and we have not collected enough. (However, by the end of this meeting we reached our goal of \$1,000!) Cathy asked if the members who are attending the Convention would donate \$10 toward food for the party room. Cathy felt it would be easier for her to purchase the food and drinks than everyone bringing something to share. Everyone agreed. Cathy thanked all the members, including all the sisters who can’t attend meetings for their generous contributions.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

STATE MEETING: It was decided that dues would be increased on the State. Level. Local dues are not being raised. However, Cathy Cleenput informed us that this increase would hurt our financial situation. Increasing local dues was discussed to ease this problem. It was voted to raise dues from \$75 to \$80 a year.

CONVENTION: The State Convention will be March 24 through 26, 2023, at the Double Tree Conference Center in Somerset, NJ. All information is on the website including hotel information, menus for meals and the workshops. Please register soon and reserve rooms through the DKG group rate. The deadline for registration for State Conventions was February 1, however, Theresa said she can contact Gail Starr if you are interested in attending the Convention.

DKG archives are in transit. Georgian Court is not the best location for these important documents. The location is not secure. State President, Nora Pollard has contacted the Georgian Court deans to find out if DKG members can mentor students. Perhaps we can also contact local colleges so we can mentor students in our area and make them aware of what DKG is as an organization.

Tammy Cooper will carry the banner at the Convention. Cathy, after some very smart shopping, bought a tripod for the banner. The cost was \$31.98, which is very reasonable. Thank You Cathy Cleenput. Cathy and Ann Calvin are working on making the baskets. Our own Debbie Hoeflinger and Laura Perrius are presenting programs at the State Convention! Go Alpha!

MEMBERSHIP: Laura Perrius hosted the New Members Tea on January 8, 2023, which was well attended. Laura introduced Andrea Ritacco, who is the Morris County Teacher of the Year. Andrea spoke of her career and some of the activities she is involved in with her students. Emily Blumberg will be joining Alpha and attended the tea, however, she could not attend the meeting today because of her Baby Shower! With a newborn she will not be attending State Convention. Emily is the Passaic County Teacher of the Year. Gina DiMaggio has voiced interest in joining Alpha, however, was unable to attend the tea or today's meeting. Gina is the Bergen County Teacher of the Year and teaches English in Lyndhurst.

BY-LAWS: Claire Swanson updated the Chapter Rules and did a wonderful job. The updated By-Laws are on our website.

BOZEARTH SCHOLARSHIP: Laura Perrius reported there are thirty applications which she is going through. All the of the applicants are deserving.

GRANT-IN-AID: Cathy reported that the total is \$960 so we will be giving a \$1,000 scholarship this year. Again, she thanked everyone for their generosity.

LEGISLATION: Cathy Cleenput encouraged everyone to visit NJspotlightnews.org for all the latest legislative information.

HOITSMA: Cindy Sokoloff reported she has received no applications for the Hoitsma Fund but there is \$54,000 in the fund. She reminded us of the criteria for applying and urged everyone to think about applying for financial help for a special project.

CTAUN: Was not scheduled in January. It was felt that this was because of a security issue at the United Nations.

PROGRAM: Laura Perrius introduced Sandra Ramas who gave an enlightening program on "Strengthen Our Sisters" and the project she is involved in here in N.J.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Cindy Sokoloff to accept the updated Alpha by-laws, seconded by Debbie Hoeflinger. Motion passed.

Cindy Sokoloff made a motion to increase our Chapter dues to \$80 a year, seconded by Megan Connolly. Motion passed.

Pattie Caruso sent forty letters to high schools about our Grant in Aid Scholarships. These schools are in districts where our members live or work.

CLOSING: Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 motion by Joan Oehm, 2nd. Linda Leddy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Oberndorf, Secretary