

## Alpha Chapter DKG Minutes

December 6, 2025

Tri-Boro Rescue Squad

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10 AM, by President Laura Perrius who welcomed everyone to our meeting.

**Past Presidents were introduced:** Cathy Cleenput, Jan Paxton, Cindy Sokoloff, and Claire Swanson.

**Inspiration:** In Kim Heilig's absence, Cathy Cleenput read an inspirational story "Hope and Faith."

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made to accept the secretary's report by Cindy Sokoloff, seconded by Suezette Givens. Evelyn Oberndorf reported that she sent a get-well card to Joan Oehm and Christmas cards to Peggy Firtion and Pat Marks.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cathy Cleenput presented her report. Claire Swanson made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Cindy Sokoloff. Cathy Cleenput reported that we have all we need for our Convention baskets.

**President's Report:** Laura explained that we did not have the "Between the Petals" event because of a scheduling conflict. We will have a "Galentines" event in February. Empty Bowls was a "sell out" and a huge success. The Informational Tea for prospective members was a successful event.

**Program:** Cindy Sokoloff introduced Rebecca Basinger who presented a wonderful program on Mindfulness titled "Health and Happiness."

We enjoyed a potluck brunch with seasonal music played by Laura Perrius on the harp and Evelyn Oberndorf on the keyboard. This was followed by a sing along.

### **Society Business:**

Cindy Sokoloff was finally able to contact Esther Guenin's nephew. She is in hospice at Heath Village. Evelyn will send Esther a "thinking of you" card.

**Membership:** Dr. Aarti Mallya, who teaches science at Pascack Hills High School, Natasha Tyjer-Mendez, a Fourth-Grade teacher in Riverdale, Alyssa Bitar who teaches engineering and STEM at Parsippany High School, and Jenelle Garcia who teaches at North Vale Elementary School are interested in membership in Alpha. We are very interested in expanding our membership.

A discussion followed about changing the Grant-in-Aid Scholarship because fewer high school students are applying. It is uncertain how many girls who receive the scholarship do pursue a career in education. We never get follow-up from them. It was suggested that we change the scholarship to a third or fourth-year college student who is in a teacher education program. These students are committed to teaching and have greater financial challenges. Cindy contacted Dr. Amy Ginsberg at William Paterson University who was very responsive. Jan Paxton, seconded by Linda Leddy made a motion to pursue working with the College of Education Student Emergency Fund. A meeting will be set up with Dr. Ginsberg, Cindy and Claire Swanson.

**The State Convention** will be held 4/17-4/19, 2026 at The Somerset DoubleTree. It is always a great time. It will be different this year. There will be an after party on Friday night with a DJ. We are asked to wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness. Alpha is responsible for the programs at lunch and dinner.

**Monies collected:** Grant-in-Aid - \$155    GIRLS Fund - \$95

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** –Claire Swanson discussed the new proposed International Bylaws.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Cindy Sokoloff, seconded by Linda Leddy to adjourn the meeting at 11:50.

Next Meeting is March 7, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Oberndorf