

Alpha Chapter DKG Minutes

May 1, 2025

Cedar Grove High School, Cedar Grove, NJ

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:35PM, by President Laura Perrius who then introduced past presidents and welcomed our new inductees. Kelly Carroll and Bernadette Orsita and newest member, Stephanie DeBruyne.

Past Presidents were introduced: Megan Connolly, Cathy Cleenput, Deborah Hoeflinger, Jan Paxton, Cindy Sokoloff, Claire Swanson and Joan Konetschey.

Inspiration: In Kim Heilig's absence, Cathy Cleenput shared an Inspirational Thought.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were accepted without corrections. No motion needed.

Kristin Massotto reported on behalf of Evelyn Oberndorf who was unable to attend. A message from Evelyn thanking the chapter for the Key Award that was received during convention was read.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Cleenput presented her report. The convention expenditures summary: Basket total collected \$135 total cost to Alpha was \$57.86. Convention room \$763.15 - Convention party room \$188.85 total cost to alpha \$78.85, but because we had so much left over in terms of food/snacks we were able to offset the May meeting to come in under budget. Total expenditure for the convention was \$357.86. Cathy thanked the Alpha Sisters for their incredible generosity. Dues are due: \$85 by the end of May. Cathy indicated you can pay via PayPal or mail a check. June is the time that the money must be collected because all reports go to International. A Rosebud will go out as a reminder.

President's Report: Laura reported on the convention. Such a wonderful turn out from Alpha. Of the attendees, at least 10 were very active members that weekend. Laura thanked Cathy for the party room and indicated that it was a wonderful opportunity to meet our keynote speaker. Outstanding participation from Alpha made her very proud. Laura had Cathy Cleenput explain "Between the Petals" for our new inductees.

Convention Report: Megan Connelly and Jan Paxton Megan reported on the training she and Theresa did for the 15 initiates that attended the convention. Jan shared that all but two chapters were represented. A new slate of officers was elected for the next biennium. Waiting on results of surveys for convention only 80 responses - statistically useless.

Convention next year 4/17-4/19 2026 at Double Tree

At the June state meeting there will be a portfolio exchange so officers can turn things over to the next slate of officers

We are excited about the project we are doing today because it will benefit others.

Membership - Claire and Cindy reported: Inductees; Kelly Carroll 2024-2025 Hudson County Teacher of the Year works in Bayonne; Bernadette Orsita 2024-2025 Passaic County Teacher of the Year works in Passaic

Claire Swanson, Cindy Sokoloff, Joan Oehm, and Laura Perrius participated in the Induction of the two candidates.

Hoitsma- No report

Scholarship - Suzette reported that the Margaret Abel Scholarship was given at the Convention to Megan Corby from Montclair State. In late June, or early July, Suzette will be setting up a meeting for the Grant-in- Aid committee. The money will go to someone from college, but changes must be made to chapter documents to reflect new procedures. Stephanie would be a good resource for the committee as she belongs to an organization that currently gives scholarships to college students.

Monies collected: Grant in Aid - \$170 Girls Fund - \$85

Programs-Blanket project - blanket going to St. Peter's Haven in Clifton. They are a food pantry and community outreach. They will raffle the blanket off at their Empty Bowl event. There was also an informal discussion of the book The Teachers: A Year Inside America's Most Vulnerable, Important Profession by Alexandra Robbins. Members shared their reflections on the book.

In honor of DKG's 96 years, Claire shared some DKG trivia, including the fact that the organization was originally supposed to be called Delta Gamma Kappa, but had to switch the letters because there was already a DGK registered as an organization in Texas.

Old Business - Teacher Appreciation (5/2 - 5/6) Claire did an amazing job of getting hand cream which she beautifully packaged with a thank you from DKG. Jennie and Kristin will distribute the token to the elementary schools in Cedar Grove next week.

New Business - None

Adjournment:

Laura asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. Joan Oehm made a motion and Claire Swanson seconded. The meeting was adjourned.