

Alpha Chapter DKG Minutes

September 25, 2025

Memorial Middle School, Cedar Grove, NJ

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:55PM, by President Laura Perrius who welcomed everyone to our meeting.

Past Presidents were introduced: Megan Connolly, Cathy Cleenput, Deborah Hoeflinger, Jean Jaeger, Theresa Messineo, Jan Paxton, Cindy Sokoloff, and Claire Swanson.

Program: A very informative program was presented via zoom by an NJEA Representative, Jessica Taube, from Make the Road.org, "Immigration: Impact on Students and Teachers." After the presentation several sisters shared their stories about this important issue.

Inspiration: First of all, Kim Heilig thanked all her sisters for all the help that was given to her following her surgery. The phone calls, the texts, the cards, the visits and all the dinners were so appreciated. Kim then shared a story from Marianne Williamson's book, "Year of Miracles."

Secretary's Report: A motion to accept the minutes with corrections was made by Debbie Hoeflinger and seconded by Joan Oehm. Evelyn reported that since our last meeting she sent out several sympathy, get-well, and congratulations cards. She encouraged sisters to alert her if one of our sisters should be sent a card for any of these reasons.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Cleenput presented her report. Claire Swanson made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Cindy Sokoloff. Unfortunately, we lost five sisters but initiated three. Cathy distributed to the members a list of Alpha events for the year. The programs will be switched between the December and March meetings because of the availability of the speaker. Cathy encouraged anyone creative to donate their creations for the convention baskets. A few of our sisters have done this and our baskets are always special.

President's Report: Laura reported that the summer "Between the Petals" event was wonderful. We had a mystery book exchange, great food, conversation and the benefit of Cindy's pool on a hot day. Laura shared information about the St. Peter's fundraiser, Empty Bowls, which will be held in Clifton on November 14, 2025, from 6:00 until 9:00 PM.

First Vice President: Joan Oehm asked that book selections and ideas for workshops are needed for the State Convention. If you have any ideas, please send them to Joan, Jan or Laura.

Society Business:

Membership: Claire and Cindy reported that Alpha would love new members. Please invite a teacher you work with or know to come to a meeting to see what DKG is about. October 7th, there will be a Zoom session from International about collegiate membership. Information about the Blanton Stamp Advocacy was distributed. Please write to your legislator before October to urge their action to promote the legacy of Dr. Blanton with a postage stamp in her honor.

The State Convention will be held 4/17-4/19 2026 at The Somerset Double Tree.

Hoitsma: Cindy Sokoloff informed us that we had to appoint a new trustee for Hoitsma Fund. One of the members of the trustees is no longer an Alpha member. Tamisha McKoy agreed to serve as a trustee. Thank you, Tamisha.

Scholarship – Suezette Given reported she will be setting up a meeting of those interested in discussing the changes to our Grant-In-Aid scholarship.

Monies collected: Grant in Aid - \$235 Girls Fund - \$75 Convention Baskets \$110

Program at work: Blanket project was completed for the Empty Bowl Fundraiser on November 18, 2025. Cathy Cleenput displayed the blanket which she completed, and pictures were taken.

Old Business - None

New Business – Jan informed us that Alpha is responsible for convention programs for lunch and dinner. Jan, Joan and Claire volunteered to help with the graphics. Our new State President, Cathy Fortunato’s project focus is Breast Cancer Awareness, and she has asked attendees to wear pink to the state convention.

Laura asked if sisters would like a potluck brunch for our December meeting with holiday music by Laura and Evelyn. No objections.

Adjournment:

Laura asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. Joan Oehm made a motion and Claire Swanson seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Oberndorf