

# Alpha Upsilon Today



Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4 June 2021

**Delta Kappa Gamma Mission Statement:** The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – June 2021**



### **President's View of State Convention**

Convention included the Leadership Training for all chapter presidents and chapter leaders attending this year. Connie Rensink, the International Member at Large, conducted our first workshop on Diversity in Communication. We examined our communication styles: Direct and Focus, Response and Include, Comply and Confirm, and Questions and Inform. Through a series of questions, we were able to identify which category best fit and then looked at what that meant when communicating with people from the other categories. Next, we focused on communication from the standpoint of the different generations: Traditional, Baby Boomers, Generation X, Generation Y, Generation Z and Generation i. Most of the group fell in the Baby Boomers, with only a few in Generation X. Since Baby Boomers are in general resistance to change and new members are generally from Generations X, Y, or Z, you can see the challenges in communicating what is important. We all need to consider the different styles.

The State Leadership Team provided time for presidents to collaborate and share ideas. I am glad to report several chapters are adopting our "Academy" organization strategy. Chapter presidents shared their movement to in-person meetings, while the state leadership team encouraged all chapters to consider the hybrid meetings for members who could not attend in person for various reasons.

In the General Membership Sessions, two amendments to the standing rules were submitted for approval. The first changed the options for receiving the Keystonian. The motion to change from receiving the Keystonian online **AND** by US Postal to receiving the Keystonian online **OR** Us Postal was approved. So, the bottom line is that you need to decide how you want to receive your Keystonian: online only, US Postal or both. The second amendment changed the wording about

the past president serving as the Nomination chair. The proposal changed the wording from "the past president" to "an appointee of the current president". After much discussion, this proposed change was not passed, mainly due to another provision elsewhere in the standing rules that lets the president appoint unfilled positions due to resignations.

Convention provided not only the means to complete the Society work at the state level, but also a time to celebrate. Alpha Upsilon was recognized at the birthday luncheon for our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday where we enjoyed Kaylyn Gibilterra's presentation about her experiences as a woman software engineer. Also, **Marsha Ewing was recognized at the Album of Distinction Ceremony for numerous hours of service at Allegheny Valley Hospital. During the Celebration of Life, the state recognized past members Betty Baird and Sara Jo Miller.** This year's State Achievement Award paid tribute to Karen Ball, from PSI. You may remember her as the jewelry expert that spoke to our chapter. Several fellow sisters received scholarships and enrichment grants. I encourage you to apply for one of the many opportunities provided by DKG.

In closing, if you have not attended State Convention, I reassure you it is an excellent experience. The connections you make, the feelings of empowered women and the fostered excitement to be part of something bigger than you is priceless! See you next June at Convention.

**Jennifer McKay-President of Alpha Upsilon Chapter of DKG**



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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR WOMEN EDUCATORS

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## **" Officers Honored "**

**by Barbara Gasperini, Intermediate Past State President**

I had the honor and privilege of introducing the heart of DKG, the Immediate Past and Current Presidents at the 2021 Pennsylvania State President`s Banquet. Our own Barb Summers, Immediate Past President and Jennifer Mc Kay, Current Chapter President represented Alpha Upsilon with pride.

Connie Rensink, International Member at Large and I did the Installation of 2021-2023 State Officers.

President-Eileen Little, Chi  
1st Vice President-Royce Boyd, Alpha Beta  
2nd Vice President-Marcie Erickson, Beta Epsilon  
Recording Secretary-Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa  
Corresponding Secretary-Greta Marie Taft, Pi  
Immediate Past President-Barbara Gasperini, Alpha Upsilon  
Treasurer-Wanda Keller, Iota  
Parliamentarian-Amy Dobbins, Beta Epsilon

**Also elected were Finance Committee: Mary Wilhelm-Kappa, Linda O Connor- Omega, Barbara Tobias- Nu. Nominations Committee: Barbara Clark-Psi, Carol Lane- Alpha Kappa, Diane Whitaker-Omicron.**

These women will be the governing body for the State for the next two years. Never hesitate to call on them for advice and information about the State or our Chapter. Contact information can be found on the state website.

Barbara Gasperini  
Immediate Past State President

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Including this announcement again in case you did not have an opportunity to complete the form.

## **Alpha Upsilon General Membership Meeting Programs for Fall of 2021**

Be sure to support your local chapter by attending the first General Membership meeting of 2021-2022

**Saturday, September 11, 2021 @ 9:00am Breakfast followed by the  
general membership meeting.**

**Words of Wisdom from Eileen Little, PA State President**

**Presented by Eileen Little, DKG PA State President**

Hill Crest Country Club

2021



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Alpha Upsilon 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration on July 11, 2021 @ 1:30pm**

**AU General Membership Meeting – September 11, 2021, **SAVE the DATE****

**International Convention in San Antonio , TX – July 21 – 24, 2021**

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As teachers, we know that we must wear many hats. Our job asks us to be parents, nurses, and sometimes caseworkers. This past school year really tested my ability to juggle my many hats. Students needed far more than content. They needed patience, love, a chance to communicate with adults and students their age, and most importantly stability and structure. At the DKG Pennsylvania State Convention in Scranton, I attended a workshop on mindfulness in the classroom. What exactly is mindfulness for students? Mindfulness teaches students to regulate their emotions and improve their mental health. Social and emotional health for students and teachers alike is of the utmost importance not just this past year, but every year.

The workshop was presented by Sarah Adams, a second grade teacher in the Towanda School District. She shared with the attendees what mindfulness is as well as how she uses this practice in her classroom. She gave us not only information, but hands-on experience with the subject at hand. She created an engaging PowerPoint with information and examples completed by her own students and invited us to practice some examples of breathing exercises and yoga poses.

Through Sarah Adam's passion for teaching mindfulness to her students I also became excited to use these practices in my own classroom. This was mainly due to a statement she made during the workshop. She stated that at the beginning of the year she does not jump into the curriculum right away but starts her mindfulness practices. She states that she wants her students to know how to be learners that are present and ready to learn.

It is true that I wear many hats. Some of these hats were not subjects taught in my undergraduate or even graduate coursework. However, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs was taught. His theory that one needs basic and psychological needs met before continuing to achieve other things is something to keep in mind each and every year. Students come to school with more baggage than just their bookbag. I believe it is also my job to help them work through it with the support of mindfulness exercises and me being just as present as I expect them to be.

Pamela V. Derby

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## **WOOHOO!!**

The May edition of the Alpha Upsilon Chapter newsletter was recently submitted to Linda Nickerson, DKG State Communications Chair and Sue Allen, DKG state webmaster. I am happy to report that we have received a certificate in an email today from Linda Nickerson. We were recognized at the state level for our newsletters and are grateful for the acknowledgement of our work. This was a team effort and I thank all our AU members who have contributed to the articles which have been included in our newsletters for 2020- 2021.

The certificate read, "Alpha Upsilon is recognized at the Pennsylvania State Convention for achievement in creating a Chapter Newsletter" and is signed by Eileen Little, our State President. I am so pleased with the enthusiastic response when a request for articles goes out. Keep the good news flowing. This is the last issue for this year. Looking forward to the fall as we resume our regular activities and meetings.

I also received notice from Sue Allen, DKG state webmaster that said our most recent newsletter is published on the state website. Be sure to check that out!

Many thanks to all the Alpha Upsilon State Convention participants who shared their experiences in the articles they wrote for this newsletter. I appreciate your contributions very much. You all did a great job capturing the important aspects of the convention.

Hope to see you at the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Celebration on July 11, 2021, at 1:30pm.



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## **REPORT from the State Convention**

### **by Sue Hilty**

Here are some statistics regarding the Pennsylvania State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma. There are 2,010 active members of the Pa. State Organization, 120 reserve members, and 8 collegiate members.

At the Convention, there were 133 members attending. 33 of the 51 chapters were represented.

At the State Convention, I attended the workshop “Tips for New and Experienced iPhone Users” presented by Linda Nickerson of Alpha Zeta Chapter. She is the Communications Committee Chair for State. I had attended a previous workshop by Linda at a past state convention about the iPhone and it was excellent. But since I have a new iPhone there are many more features to learn. A lot of these new features involve selecting different options in the Settings menu. She showed us a much easier way to take a screenshot. Then the thumbnail in the left corner of the iPhone’s display can be opened, marked up, cropped, annotated, and shared. We also learned how to scan and sign documents on the iPhone. She also explained how to record a video with music in the background. Linda used a large screen to demonstrate, but many of us had problems. Linda was very patient with us and our questions. We received a lot of individual help. We also learned how to take more true-to-life selfies, how to mute group text messages, and how to create a sleep timer so our device will stop playing once we are asleep. We also tried the four new voices that Siri now has. There were many other features that Linda wanted to show us, but we ran out of time. She provided a handout with all the steps for each function. It was an excellent workshop!

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## **COMFORT CORNER**

**We wish to send our sympathies and condolences to our Alpha Upsilon sister, Ann Andrews, whose mother has recently passed away. Her sister, Karen Prince, is a DKG member of another chapter to whom we wish to also extend our deepest sympathy.**

**From the Editor**





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Alpha Upsilon Sisters in attendance at PA State Convention 2021 celebrating the chapter's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Pictured are Jennifer McKay, (AU Prsident), Ann Andrews, Barbara Summers, Barbara Gasperinini, {Past State President), Roseann Currence, Pam Derby, Sue Hilty, (Treasurer), and Carolyn Sutton, (Parlimentarian and former State President). Corsages were created by Barb Summers, Carolyn Sutton, Sue Hilty and Mary Anne Battaglia for the event.

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## On a lighter note, a report from Barbara Summers from the State Convention

### ROAD TRIP!!!

So the day has finally arrived for us to depart on our road trip to Scranton, Pa! I picked Pam Derby up at 7'ish (i was running a little behind) and we were to go to Sue Hilty's house as she was driving. Well.... I finally met Pams 'imaginary' husband because any time I have dropped something off to her he has NEVER been home ( so I thought perhaps he was a 'figment' of her imagination!) Matt got Pam all packed in my car and we were off! We get to Sue's and she ready and waiting for us! We load up her car and we were LOADED. We had our luggage, garment bags, the courage and favors for our big birthday luncheon. This next part was TOTALLY MY FAULT! I go to close her hatch. Of course I didn't have my glasses on so I pushed the close hatch button....we!!!!!!! BIG mistake! I had actually pushed the lock door button. The car is sounding an alarm that something is wrong as the hatch is trying to close but at that time we don't know what it was. The keys to the car (and of course the extra set) are in Sue's purse in the front seat. Sue went to get her keys And the doors are locked so she can't get them! Long story longer, we had to empty part of the trunk and send Pam in seat surfing to crawl over the luggage, over the back seat to reach the front for the keys! Thank goodness she was able to get them! We fixed the problem and we're ready to leave! Off we go! We laughed (and ate) the whole way to Scranton Pa.

Sunday morning after the convention concluded we were packed and ready to roll home. We chatted the whole way home, talking about the weekend and what we had learned. Of course when we hit Altoona we made a traditional stop at the Boyer factory. We caught up with Marty Mallow and continued on home

If you have never attended a State Convention you don't know what you are missing. It's such a wonderful time meeting up with old friends and making new ones. Spending time with your AU sisters is priceless! We laugh, share ideas, and learn new things to help make our chapter stronger.

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## The Business of Rule Changes

By Carolyn Sutton

Alpha Upsilon Chapter Parliamentarian

At this year's state convention, parliamentary procedure was put to the test! Usually, any changes to the *By-Laws* or *Standing Rules* pass easily because they are recommended by a committee.

This year, however, there was lively discussion for both proposed changes. We even experienced an amendment to an amendment. And the amendment to the amendment passed!

The Pennsylvania State By-Laws have been changed. **Article X – Activities: Section 2 Publications** has been changed to read: A. The *Keystonian* shall be made available four (4) times a year to all members. The *Keystonian* shall be available on-line or, if requested, a mail printed version. What this means to each Alpha Upsilon member is that if you want a printed copy of the *Keystonian* mailed to you, **you** must request it.

The second proposed change referred to the Nominations Committee. As it stands now, the immediate past president serves as chairman for a two-year term. The proposal was to change it so the chairman would be a past state president appointed by the newly installed state president. (Basically, any past state president could be appointed.) Again, there was lively discussion on both sides of the issue. This amendment did not pass.

If there are any questions on this issue, you may ask Jenn or Carolyn.



***Summer in Bloom!***

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## **Recognition of an Alpha Upsilon Member for Album of Distinction**

**By Roseann Currence**

We had a great weekend at the DKG Pennsylvania State Convention. On Friday evening, we attended the Album of Distinction ceremony. Our own **Marsha Ewing** was **recognized for her tireless volunteer work at Allegheny Valley Hospital. Congratulations, Marsha!**

Following the ceremony was a delightful ice cream social to get reacquainted with sisters from across the state. We had delicious ice cream with lots of toppings, soft pretzels, and even some healthy veggie snacks. Something for everyone! It was a memorable weekend.

## **Children's Book Author Presentation**

**By Ann Andrews**

Amy E. Buckley from New Castle, PA (Alpha Sigma chapter) published a children's book called Paulie Ana. She talked at the state convention about how she found a small publisher near her to get her book published after her book was rejected by major publishing houses. For Amy, publishing is not about making money but about achieving her dream of publishing a book.

**Respectfully submitted by Editor, Mary Anne Battaglia, Ed.D.**