

Alpha Upsilon Today



Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4 JUNE 2023

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 2023



Dear Sisters,

C*O*M*M*U*N*I*T*I*E*S!!

Think about it- how many communities you have in your life. Your family- a community, your circle of friends- a community, your faith - a community, your DKG sisters - a community. You are starting to get the idea! We are completely surrounded by different types of communities! This is the new direction Pennsylvania DKG is going under our new President, Royce Boyd. At the PA State Convention in Lancaster, she introduced us to her President's Project. She wants us to start thinking about creating communities using our chapter as a starting point. Perhaps we should divide our chapter into working members and retirees? Perhaps we can better meet the needs of the working women? They all lead such busy lives, maybe they could meet up for a coffee or tea and just share and vent with each other? This doesn't mean to say that they wouldn't attend our four General Membership meetings, but perhaps they could help support each other on a smaller more intimate gathering. Think about where you fit in, in our community. Where shall we start?

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Convention Reflections

By Jennifer McKay

The 2023 PA State Convention in Lancaster, PA proved to be a very exciting convention for me. I was able to see firsthand the hard work and organization the convention team dedicates to the organization so that all of the 234 attendees have an enjoyable experience. From helping with registration to attending all the sessions and listening to the wonderful guest speaker from international, Susan Perkins and Keynote Speaker - Kim Luxen Meredith, my knowledge and appreciation of my fellow sisters has grown.

In my session "Writing Memories: A Recipe for Preserving the Past", Amy Radford described a process of writing creative non-fiction stories. Using the acronym CUP, she explained the contents "C" are the ingredients of your story. This would include the setting, details, characters, scenes, conflict, outward plot and inward plot. She reminded us that we can use computers or write in journals. Using writing prompts are helpful, including websites that will send you writing prompts daily. The "U" stood for Umph and this part of the journey takes the most time. You need to ask yourself two question: 1) How did this experience shape me to who I am today? and 2) Why did this memory stick with me? You will need to see yourself as a character in the story and write from that new perspective. The "P" stands for Product. This could mean journal books, articles, blogs, or scrapbooks.

In my session "COM-MUN-I-CATE with CANVA, Amy Snyder explained how to use this free site to create professional looking newsletters. She reminded us that inservice teachers will be given access to the professional level of the site for free. She took us step by step through creating a newsletter, editing color and adding photos and clipart for a very polished result. She explained how she uses the same newsletter each time and replaces components to make the process simpler. I found the website to be very similar to Weebly in its look and location of elements.

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Finally, I enjoyed networking with different sisters throughout our state that share their experiences teaching and their excitement to be part of something bigger - DKG. I soaked in the wisdom bestowed upon me during my breakfast with the Past State Presidents prior to receiving the Nancy Grove Visionary Award. It was overwhelming to receive this accolade in front of all my fellow sisters. I shared my plans for the *Geometry lesson using Origami to reinforce constructions in Geometry for my classes next year*. I look forward to partake in the distribution of students' experiences next year at the 2024 PA State Convention.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Alpha Upsilon Chapter of DKG would like to congratulate our member and former chapter president, **Jennifer McKay** for winning the prestigious **Nancy Grove Visionary Award** at the DKG PA State Convention in Lancaster, PA this year. She was presented with the award at the second business meeting breakfast with the Past State Presidents. Jennifer submitted a proposal for her geometry classes as stated in her article above titled Using Origami to Reinforce Constructions in Geometry. The award was presented to her by Tracey Dusch, Chairperson of the selection of proposals committee. (Picture included at the back of the newsletter) Jennifer was transferred to the Highlands Middle School for the last leg of her career before she retires next year. She plans to implement this project with her students, both in the high school and middle school in the district. Jenn said she was humbled by being selected for the award and wishes to live up to the standard/quality of work established by Nancy Grove.

As most of you already know, Nancy Grove was a member and chapter president of AU and later became a PA State President. She is remembered warmly by current members who were acquainted and worked with her. **Carolyn Sutton sent the following message.** "Nancy was an elementary teacher in the Highlands School District and was called upon to serve as interim principal. On a visit to York, she met Bruce Grove and after they were married, she was an elementary principal in the Red Lion School District. Nancy was active in the state organization and served as our PA State Organization President. During her biennium, Nancy saw the need for funding for programs and projects that weren't a part of our state budget, and The Visionary Fund was established. Nancy asked members and chapters to consider supporting her cause." Thank you, Carolyn, for that historical note giving context to the Award.

Judy Schaffer also shared memories: I joined Alpha Upsilon Chapter when Nancy Grove was president. To me I always thought of her as a true lady-classy, gracious, poised, friendly and always well-dressed. Her voice was soft, but everyone knew she meant business. She quickly got me involved in chapter business, a member of her board. 42 years later, I am still active with Alpha Upsilon Chapter. She remarried and then moved to Virginia to work as a school principal. Our chapter really missed her presence at our meetings. I was honored when she called me to ask if I would be her escort when she was Past State President at Penn State Convention after she moved to the Williamsburg, VA area. Nancy was always looking to the future for DKG; thus, she began the Visionary Fund which was named in her honor. Thank you, Judy Schaffer!

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DKG PA State Convention 2023 Workshop by Barbara Gasperini

Coping with Grief and Learning to Live Again

Grief is an unwelcome visitor in anyone`s life. but we cannot escape its presence as it barges in anyway. What we do with it is the key. Kim Kluxen Meredith told us how a single car crash made her a widow at 45. She learned how to listen to her inner soul, her whispers. The more she trusted herself and accepted her fate, the stronger she grew. Her book, Listen for the Whispers: Coping with Grief and Learning to Live Again, was featured in her workshop. She provided some tools to open your heart in order to return to a joyful life.

Also, Alpha Upsilon was acknowledged as Immediate Past State President, Barbara Gasperini, announced the Slate of Officers and Elected committees at the First General Session, installed the State Officers, and introduced all the Chapter Presidents at the Presidents Banquet.

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JUDY'S REPORT FROM PA STATE CONVENTION

I attended both the Purposeful Seminar and the Convention held in Lancaster at the Wyndham Hotel. I dressed for normal Pennsylvania Convention weather but found myself facing Arctic temperatures within the hotel. Ladies huddled in coats or in clothing layers, wrapped up in our cloth dinner napkins, or wore the fleece blanket favor at the President's Banquet held on Thursday evening. I am still thawing out from that experience!

My workshop on Thursday was Martial Arts in Society delivered by Jade Leung.

I have always been fascinated by this physical and mental activity. Jade uses her martial arts background training to teach biology and engineering, currently at Shaler High School. She has earned a 3rd black belt ranking.

She emphasized that her techniques can be a means to overcoming obstacles, developing confidence, respect for the world and a belief in mind over matter. Proudly I earned 3 karate stickers by the end of her session!

We made a STEAM balancing bunny, took a Martial Arts Movie Trivia Test and watched demonstrations by Jade in her complete uniform. I was even a fighting partner with her.

Guess who won!

Her unique ideas to teach students fascinated by martial arts are fun and educational.

She uses repurposed blocks of pine wood, broken with her feet in practice sessions, to teach tree structure and age in biology. Jade's physical appearance emanates a "don't

mess with me" approach, thus reaching all her students. She combines fun with education.

I strongly urge having Jade do a program for our chapter!

Submit

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We are once again implementing the following chart for our 4 General Membership meetings during the year. We are looking for volunteers to address our needs for each meeting. Notify Mary Anne Battaglia at mab202@comcast.net or call her to sign up. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Member Signup Sheet for

Hostesses/Greeters, Sign-in Table Assistant, and Favor Providers

At Each General Membership Meeting

Dates of General Membership Meetings	Greeters/Hostesses	Favor Providers	Sign-In Table to Assist Pam Derby
<u>September 9, 2023</u>	Becky Timlin		
<u>November 18, 2023</u>			
<u>March 23, 2024</u>			
<u>May 18, 2024</u>			

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PHOTOS FROM PA STATE CONVENTION 2023



President, Barbara Summers





**Jenn McKay receiving the Nancy Grove Visionary Fund Award
Presented by Tracey Dusch, Chair of selection committee.**

Dates to Remember for DKG

Alpha Upsilon Chapter 2023-2024

September 9, 2023 -First General Membership Meeting of 2023-2024 year at Puckety Church in New Kensington

November 18, 2023 – 2nd General Membership Meeting

December 2, 2023 – Alpha Upsilon Christmas Party – Hill Crest Country Club

March 23, 2024-3rd General Membership meeting

May 18, 2024 – 4th General Membership meeting