

Alpha Psi Administrative Board Meeting
August 9, 2018
Viles Center, Augusta

Attending: Georgene Coombs, Donna Kennison, Maureen Downs, Crystal Ward, Nancy Grover, Janet Buck, Linda Hussey, Mary Whitten, Mary Hyland, Rheba Michaud, Kathy Wilcox, Priscilla McFarland, Elaine Hendrickson

President Elaine opened the meeting with a welcome and a S-T-R-E-T-C-H-I-N-G activity in which everyone shared a circular stretch (one way to reach out to others by sharing something about yourself).

Members who attended the 2018 International Convention in Austin shared two take-aways from the convention:

Georgene Coombs: the joy of having no responsibilities and being able to reach out to old friends.

Maureen Downs: attended the workshop for treasurers and is overwhelmed by the new system that goes into effect; she enjoyed a workshop she attended on NASA.

Donna Kennison: Keynote speaker, Ben Zander impressed Donna with his dynamic speech. She attended a creativity workshop that got her “thinking!”

Mary Hyland: commented on the joy of being able to work together as a group to vote on 122 amendments, even though there were a variety of opinions; she commented on the importance of Synergy in order to work together.

Mary Whitten: impressed by Nadia Lopez, one of keynote speakers, who referred to her impoverished students as “student scholars.” Mary commented that there are fewer members applying for International positions.

Elaine Hendrickson: mentioned the excitement of meeting Connie Hoag, the lady from whom she learned about horizontal, vertical, and now circular stretching; she also enjoyed reconnecting with the Northeast Regional presidents she met last year.

Officer reports:

President Elaine:

Fall Workshop Preview: Instead of traditional officer workshops during the first session, there will be an Alpha Psi Forum where all voices can be heard during a Carousel Activity to focus on questions facing all chapters. Maureen will also have a Treasurer’s meeting during this time to explain the new procedure of collecting dues.

*Elaine passed out a sheet with a list of workshops – total offered during sessions II and III, 14. These fourteen provide Professional Development (PD), Society (S), and Personal Growth (PG) opportunities.

*Keynote speakers: Tammy Matula, Dave Connelly, and students from the East Grand Outdoor Education Program will present “Teens in the Outdoors.”

*Ted Ruark will also be hosting a walk of the Belfast waterfront during the General Session on Saturday morning for all those family members who may be attending with their DKG wife,

mother, or grandmother. Rather than a Men's Auxiliary, it is more aptly known as the Maine DKG Auxiliary.

Stepping Back in Time: Reliving History, Fall of 2019 get-together with the New Brunswick Chapter of DKG. During International Elaine, Rena Kearney, and Mary Whitten met with four NB members and planned a trip to Kings Landing outside of Fredericton, NB, dinner and an evening gathering of Maine and NB ladies at a local restaurant, followed by an overnight in the Amsterdam Inn with the possibility of another activity Sunday morning.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Tour with President Elaine and husband, Eric, June 27 and 28, was successful. 20 DKG members, husbands, and friends attended. The first day was a Loop Road Tour with several stops, short hikes, and explanations of the history of the area and its geology, flora, and fauna. The final stop was at Lunksoos Camp where Donn Fendler was rescued. Dinner, socialization, an evening presentation by Park Ranger, Susanne Norris were held at Mt. Chase Lodge where members spent the night. The next morning dawned rainy, but everyone hiked into Haskell Rock Pitch, got out of the rain for bagged lunches at Haskell Hut, and walked back to the cars. \$200 from the registration money was donated on behalf of Alpha Psi to the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters NM.

Display of Spring Convention Photos: Alfreda Fournier took over 300 photos of the 75th Anniversary. We discussed how these photos might be shared and preserved. One idea was to have all the photos copied to 16 pen drives, one for each chapter. Perhaps a memory book could be made using some of the photos using Shutterfly. Only physical photos can be put into the Archives at UMO. Elaine will be looking for a member who might be interested in helping with this project.

*Elaine shared a thank you note from former DKG International President, Carolyn Pittman, received following Spring Convention.

First Vice President and EEC Chair: Donna

Donna will soon be sending out requests for nominations for the Achievement Award. She will be working with Mary W. on the S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Teaching Workshop in March. She will be sending out letters to committee chairs under the Educational Excellence umbrella and as about their needs, as well as working on increasing membership.

Second Vice President and Membership Chair: Mary H

*At International it was passed that we may now include Collegiate Members. Those ladies who are still in college enrolled in education degrees are eligible to join our chapters. She would like to look at this more to determine how this will look in Maine.

*Does anyone have any ideas for honorary members?

*The tour of DKG headquarters made her realize that we are all working toward new members, not just the Membership Committee. In order to do this, it is important to stay away from generation labeling. We all need to keep our eyes and ears open for potential members, use the media, and even develop a "marketing" plan.

Some questions for chapters to think about: Does your chapter want to grow? Who decides in the worth/potential of others?

*Mary enjoyed her Leadership Management Training in Austin. She urges others to apply for this wonderful opportunity provided by the Golden Gift Fund. The application date for the next training is December 1, 2019. Even if you are refused once, don't quit, try again.

Treasurer: Maureen Downs

As of July 1, we have \$15, 159.20 available funds.

Clara Soule: \$4393.30

Scholarship: \$11,285.54

Permanent Fund: \$\$1,523.65

Founders Fund: \$249.90

Roberta Rogers investment: \$5552.01

There are still four chapters, as of August 9, who have not filed information with Maureen, Theta, Lambda, Xi, and Omicron.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee: Crystal Ward

As of August 9, the Maine legislature was in session. The MEA would like to raise insurance coverage from 45% to 60%. We need to be aware that our Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are under threat of being taken away because they are deemed "entitlements." The COLA for Maine Retired Educators for 2018 is 2.9% with a cap of \$20,000. The proficiency-based education diploma was repealed. It is up to school districts now as to graduation requirements. We must work with the candidates in the upcoming election that will help provide Maine students with the best education possible.

Scholarship: Rheba Michaud

*Rheba with our approval will be changing the Scholarship Form that requires the lady applying to have it signed by her chapter president. It will now read that an officer of the chapter can sign the application should the president not be available, as happened last year. A rubric will be created to score scholarship and Founders Fund applications. The winners of the scholarship and Founders Fund are required to either write an article for the Mainspring or do a workshop at Fall Workshop. The Founders Fund can be awarded every year, as can a Scholarship. However, the First Timer's Award is only given in even-numbered year for International Convention.

*The amount of money is dwindling in the Founders Fund. Several suggestions were made as to how to replenish the funds. Rather than host fund raisers, it was suggested that we might combine the Founders Fund and the Scholarship Funds. We could also take the CD's for both accounts and place them in a money marketing account such as Roberta Rogers. The group decided this needed to go before the Finance Committee (who at this time have been made aware of the issue).

S-T-R-E-T-C-H Workshop and Nominations: Mary W

*STRETCH will be held on March 16, 2019 at the Hutchinson Center. Mary has lined up several presenters and is waiting for confirmation of a keynote speaker. She will have a Save-the-Date Flyer ready for Fall Workshop.

*For Nominations, Mary has agreements from several ladies who are willing to take an office for the 2019-2021 Biennium. She hopes to have a slate ready by October.

Communications: Kay Grindall (written report)

A second set of brochures has been printed and are available for chapters to pick up at Fall Workshop. She is currently designing a bookmark to be used for a promotional tool, as well as a set of four postcards with photos of Alpha Psi members being actively involved in projects to be used for thinking of you or thank-you cards. If your chapter has good photos of your members in action, please send them to Kay at kay_grindall@yahoo.com Kay will be taking over the Mainspring at the end of this year.

World Fellowship: Linda Hussey

Linda reported that we took in \$1,340 at Convention from the raffle of the baskets. Mu, Omicron, Alpha, and Kappa also contributed money to bring the total up to \$1608.00.

UN Liaison: Nancy Grover

Nancy attended the United Nations Convention in NY City. Alpha Psi pays her registration fee, as well as printing of information for chapters. She suggested that since Alpha Psi pays a stipend for officers to attend Northeast Regional and International Conventions, perhaps we should consider paying a stipend for travel and hotel for the Liaison. It was suggested this go to the Finance Committee. (At this writing the committee has been made aware of the request.) The Anniversary of the UN is coming up.

75th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee: Georgene Coombs

*Approximately 150 ladies attended the 75th Anniversary Luncheon. The Committee requested and was approved \$7000 from the Roberta Rogers Fund to make this a special occasion. The Committee is happy to report they came in under spending at \$6500. Georgene stated she was lucky to work with such dedicated and enthusiastic members. She witnessed chapters working together to put on the Fashion Show, contribute to the Memorabilia Room, participate in the Founders Skit, and take so many photos of the event.

*Georgene proposed that a workshop session be dedicated to learning more from the personnel at the University of Maine as to how chapter and state memorabilia be stored.

Alpha Psi Memorabilia Chair: Mary H

Mary still has many pieces of DKG paraphernalia in her home. Several suggestions were proposed as to how to take care of it. After much discussion, it was decided that Mary would write an article for the Mainspring and send a letter to chapter presidents listing the items available to chapters who might need them. These could be picked up at Fall Workshop. A set of ceremonial items that might be used if a new chapter forms in Maine should be set aside.

Crystal volunteered to store them in her home. A proposal will then go before the Executive Board at Fall Workshop to decide if we could then:

- send one or two items to DKG International as a gift from Maine
- individuals could purchase items for a donation at Fall Workshop. The money donated would go to an Alpha Psi Fund such as Founders Fund, Scholarship, Permanent Fund, etc.
- the rest would be made available for an antique dealer to purchase with the money being used for those funds listed above.

(The Finance Committee has been made aware of this decision.)

Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee, Kathy

*Kathy reported she had presented a workshop on bylaws and standing rules at the 2018 Fall Workshop, updated the Alpha Psi website with the current set of Bylaws and Standing Rules, and helped a couple of chapters rewrite their bylaws and standing rules. She was contacted by Cathy Dougherty, chair of the DKG Constitution committee, currently the new DKG International President, to review 4 articles for compliance in our state Bylaws and Constitution. The amendments passed this summer at International will be incorporated into our state Bylaws and Standing Rules. Chapters will need to do this as well.

*Officers, committee chairs, and members are asked to review our state Bylaws and Standing Rules to make any suggested amendments for the 2019 Spring Convention. A form is available on the website to use in doing this.

Highlights of the Amendments that passed in Austin: Mary W

Following the International Convention, Mary highlighted some of the amendments that will directly affect Alpha Psi and our chapters.

*Alpha Psi will be referred to by International as our geographic name, Maine.

*New members will know be inducted, rather than installed.

*As mentioned previously, we can now invite collegiate members to join our chapters.

*A lady becomes a member when her dues are paid.

*The term former educators is now used instead of retired in reference as to whom may become a member.

*Rules governing the Permanent Fund have changed; since we do not have a building, we will not need to keep as much money in the fund. The money saved can be used elsewhere. (The finance committee will need to review this one.)

*Chapter treasurers will be reporting membership and dues electronically to International, rather than through the Alpha Psi Treasurer.

*A chapter has to only host one state-wide convention a year. Mary W suggested that the STRETCH workshop might be offered in the Fall instead of Fall Workshop.

*This year's 2018-2019 dues will be paid in the fall as usual. However, with the change of the fiscal year at DKG International to July 1, the dues for 2019-2020 will need to be paid in May of this year.

Much discussion ensued about this one. Two recommendations were made:

1. In May of this year, if a member prefers, she can pay only the \$40 International fee, with the rest owed to the state and chapter being paid in the fall of 2019.

2. The second one was to be sure to let members know immediately that dues will need to be paid in full this year two times, but thereafter will only be paid in May. If ladies know what is coming, they can budget for it.

(This item has also been sent to the Finance Committee to discuss.)

Clara Soule Fund Committee: Elaine for Lynette Heath

The Clara Soule Fund is unique to Maine. It was set up to give funds to retired educators, not necessarily our members, nor only women in need. At this point chapters have been using the money to mail Christmas cards to retirees, to help with medical bills, to provide flowers, or for transportation. It has also been used in the past to help an active member pay for chemo bills. This is the Maine version of the DKG Emergency Fund. Elaine suggested that Lynette Heath, Committee Chair, write an article for the Spring Mainspring describing the formation of Clara Soule and how it can be used.

Discussion of Registration Fees: Elaine

Several questions arose during Spring Convention about registration fees:

1. It was decided last year that a person who is presenting at Fall Workshop will not be required to pay registration or for the luncheon. This is a way of thanking them for their time.
2. This year, a question came up: If a person is only working for 1-2 hours for the hostess chapter, not going to any sessions or meals, should they have to pay? The Administrative Board felt that the person should not have to pay registration if this is the case.
3. Another question: If a 40-year honoree is only coming for the Birthday Luncheon, should they pay registration and for the meal? It was moved and seconded that a 40-year honoree only attending the luncheon should not pay a registration fee to Alpha Psi and that the chapter to which the lady belongs should consider paying for her meal.
4. At the STRETCH workshop a lady who volunteers to work all day, but who is staying for lunch should pay a \$10 registration fee to cover the cost of lunch.
5. Should the registration fee be raised to \$25 to help cover rising costs of printing and materials needed?

(All of the above items have been shared with the Finance Committee.)

Theme for the 2019 Spring Convention: Elaine

Elaine is looking for any ideas members might have for a theme for the 2019 Spring Convention. She is considering a couple of ideas:

*members be invited to bring in their crafts to share, such as knitting, beading, photographs, painting, sewing, quilting, etc. If she would like to sell any of her items, we could call it a Craft Share and Fair.

*everyone brings a packet of seeds to share at her luncheon table explaining why she choice these particular seeds. The theme could then be "Planting Seeds, Cultivating Creativity" (Mary Hyland)

Special Thanks to Janet Buck who took notes for me.
Respectfully submitted by
Elaine Hendrickson

Upcoming Events

Fall Workshop: October 19-20, 2018, Hutchinson Center, Belfast, ME
S-T-R-E-T-C-H Workshop: March 16, 2019, Hutchinson Center, Belfast, ME
Spring Convention: April 26-28, 2019, Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor, ME
Tour to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument: Early summer, 2019
Joint New Brunswick/Maine Meeting: Fredericton, NB, in planning for 2019
Leading Effective Meetings Seminar: June 21-24, 2019, Asheville, NC
Northeast Regional Conference: July 30-August 3, 2019, Foxwoods Resort and Casino,
Mashantucket, CT
2020 International Convention: Philadelphia, PA