

Alpha Psi State Administrative Board Meeting
Viles Estate, Augusta, Maine
July 24, 2017- 10:00 A.M.

Present: Elaine Hendrickson, Donna Kennison, Mary Hyland, Rachel Danner, Priscilla MacFarland, Maureen Downs, Venise Philbrick, Mary Whitten, Kay Grindall, Sharon Romanow, Nancy Grover, Melanie Ruark, Crystal Ward, Janet Buck, Kathy Wilcox, Nancy Ruark, Georgene Coombs, Rheba Michaud, Linda Hussey

Elaine began the meeting with a thought for us: What things can we do to better serve our members and can we do more to promote educational excellence in our schools?

Donna Kennison, 1st Vice President, reminded us of the ways we currently promote educational excellence mentioning:

1. The work being done in the UN and our Liaison representative Nancy Grover.
2. The follow up we can do about dropped members, stay in touch, often
3. Send money to our international programs in Nepal
4. Send money to our "Schools for Africa" program.

Northeast Regional Conference reports

Elaine asked each member who attended the conference and attended this meeting to share 4 items that impressed them about the conference in Canada.

Georgene Coombs commented on the nice rooms, Caesar's Palace, a seminar on the native population, and overall time well spent.

Mary Whitten who drove to Canada enjoyed the scenery along the way. Once there she attended the Webmaster Session, mentioned she has a new book entitled, "Ways to Engage Parents: Strategies & Tools for Teachers & Leaders, K-12." Also that Dr. Lyn Schmid, the Northeast Director for 2014-2016, received the Achievement Award. Finally, she had a great time at the Bistro for Maine Night.

Mary Hyland received a lot of training. She realized that our founders were mavericks. "Do we dare to be like them?" She was also inspired by Dr. Patricia Edwards and her book. She stated that if your dreams are not scary they are not big enough. She also attended a session on parliamentary procedure. She stated that the 6 most dangerous words are, "We've always done it that way."

Sharon Romanow attended a training for technology and a session by a native Canadian Speaker about the way they were treated.

Donna Kennison attended a training for First Vice Presidents. She stated that her husband got a great insight into the DKG group since he accompanied her to Canada. He commented on how

passionate DKG members are in the organization. Donna mentioned that even though we have traditions and rituals, it is okay to simplify, and it is acceptable to back away sometimes.

Elaine Hendrickson said that she was asked how she knew about technology in Northern Maine. She replied with something like she just plugged into a tree. She stated that this is a Constitutional & Bylaws year and some cutting and changes will occur. Here are some questions to be answered: What do we want to keep? And since we are not a religious organization, should we keep prayer?

Committee Reports

Mary Hyland Second Vice-President and Membership Chair spoke about her priorities. She discussed numbers and solutions. International membership is now around 71,000, half of the peak numbers of 1991 that were at 169,000. We are dropping twice as many as we are initiating. These trends are not too new and often the biggest reason for leaving involve personal and family obligations. Some solutions can be looked at by addressing the culture of the organization. Using the DKG Recruitment Plan that is found on the web site as a possible solution. Mary spoke of a 10 year plan where someone in the 60's looks for someone in the 40's then they look for someone in their 30's working towards younger members as a way to increase the numbers in the long run. She also mentioned getting college age categories to help drive the programs. There are three things that Mary wants to focus on during her biennium:

1. Discuss the Recruitment Plan
2. Use the STRETCH workshop for recruitment and
3. Use the 75th anniversary for recruitment.

Maureen Downs stated that the Roberta Rogers Fund was \$10,231.00 And as of June 30, 2017 the amount was \$18,649.82.

Chair Kay Grindall stated that she is continuing to get everyone on e-mail. She will send to all chapter members a file that includes as many media publications as she has received. The Social Media Committee includes Kay Grindall, Sharon Romanow and Betty Morrell. Kay's number two goal is to send each chapter a template for articles that includes the 5 W's that members could fill in with activities and pictures and then send in to the media.

Sharon Romanow stated the **Mainespring** deadlines are: August 9 and February 20. However, articles may be sent anytime. She is also looking into blogs such as "Educator Tip Column," "A Leader is needed for that" and an editor is needed- perhaps the scholarship recipients could write an article or post an article on our website.

Mary Whitten spoke about the Alpha Psi website. Copyright continues to be discussed. There are new graphics available for each state. Betty Morrell is the new Webmaster. Some states have a state photographer. Should we have one? DKG International website has a YouTube channel. Just type in DKG U Tube. There are lots of videos to view. We have a Facebook page that is private. Is it possible to have a public section as well? Mary mentioned a program called BLAST which she would like to use at workshop, there is a small fee for it. Google Docs is a program each chapter can use to update emails etc. Google Gmail is a private option for members who are

currently using school emails. Kay also mentioned that if you look at DKG.org and Northeast Convention there is a link to convention photos.

Mary W. brought up leadership training and the possibility of offering it on Friday at the Spring Convention. If contact hours are offered participants may be able to use a personal day for the training. After a discussion Elaine took a straw vote, and it was decided to try it for one year. Is there a possibility of making a video of the training? A reason for it not to work include the fact that it may be difficult for smaller schools to get substitutes. It is also possible that other members may step up to take the training.

The next STRETCH workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2018, at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. There are sufficient meeting rooms, 5-6, and a large meeting room. The Theme continues to be "STRETCH Your Teaching." Mary asked if we could include service and pre-service teachers. Mary also proposes not charging chapter members who are also presenters at the Fall Workshop. A possibility for a keynote is someone who could speak about TIF Grants (Teacher Incentive Fund). We may need more funds for a speaker this year. It was suggested that presenters at the Fall Workshop not pay a registration fee. There would be a charge for lunch. A straw vote was taken that anyone presenting at the fall workshop would have registration and lunch waived. The majority accepted this for one year. Alpha Psi will also pay for lunch.

Ted Ruark presented a proposal for a Men's Auxiliary Group. There are some men who tag along to the various DKG functions. They usually find things to do during the events. He suggested a book of kindred spirits, which comprises information about the local areas visited, for example, museums, stores, places of interests to visit. Rick from Pennsylvania coined the expression, "DKG-Auxiliary." Ted and Rick met in Nashville and shared information about each other and areas to visit. Ted has suggested a Maine's Men's Auxiliary. He would be willing to make up a brochure about things to see and do in Maine and possibly a tour of the area. It was proposed that there would be a brochure on a table at the Fall Workshop.

Georgene Coombs, Chair of the 75th Supreme Birthday Party, stated that the cost so far has been quite reasonable. Each chapter who attends the spring convention will receive \$200.00. The chapters should decide how this will be allocated. To receive funds receipts should be turned in to the State Treasurer. Mary Hyland is responsible for the memorabilia part of the celebration. She has asked all chapters participate and to let her know what they will be bringing so she can make arrangements for setup and display. All attendees at the luncheon will receive a gift, a jewelry item, as well as a pin designed and made by our own members. These items will be paid with the Roberta Rogers Fund. Members can also buy shirts for the event.

A discussion about an International Guest included the possibility of inviting members from New Brunswick since they are interested in getting together. An invitation will be sent for the Fall Workshop as well as the Spring Convention. There are also members who have moved out of state, and they should be invited as well. The fashion program will require at least one hour. Delta Chapter will honor the founders at the Luncheon. Sigma is responsible for the Necrology-Breakfast. Each chapter has been assigned an era to represent at the celebration. At least two

members will represent its chapter. Georgene will send this information to Elaine. The \$200.00 will go to the Presidents in March.

Kathy Wilcox stated that a copy of the bylaws has been given to Elaine. It was mentioned that a standing rule can be changed at any point of time. There was a discussion about the word "formal." Kathy believes that it refers to the table service which includes wait staff as in a formal table service, a sit down meal. She thinks a change should be made to include both a sit down served meal and dressy attire. So this conflict should be presented at workshop and decided so there will be less to take care of at the Spring Convention.

Rheba Michaud reminded us that there are several scholarships available to the members. There are International Scholarships which one can access at dkgef.org (DKG Educational Foundation) and the Cornetet Awards. Elaine stated that she received some information at the Spring Conference which she will send to Rheba. Rheba thanked Pamela Partridge and Mary Hyland for their help.

Crystal Ward asked for the email information of all the chapter presidents so she can keep them all informed. She also mentioned that if anyone is interested in any information to let her know your email and she will contact them directly. Please contact your legislative representative about any upcoming issues.

Linda Hussey is very pleased with what our sisters do. We will continue to do our baskets this year.

Nancy Ruark reported that the Roberta Rogers Fund did well this year. We have \$215,000.00 this is an increase of 7.3%. She asked if we could invite Tony to a meeting to thank him for his investments. She mentioned that we should toast him with Champagne or Sparkling Wine.

Nancy Grover, our UN representative, shared a link with us about the work that is being done to help children. Please check out CTAUN (the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations). The DKG/UN relationship is explained on the international site DKG.org.

Elaine Hendrickson spoke about the Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Plan was implemented to attract and keep members, to offer professional workshops for the State of Maine. This resulted in the folder entitled, "Bright Ideas." Chris O'Roark wishes to step down at this time but needs someone to step up.

Elaine mentioned that the State of Maine has lost a lot of members and her question to us is, "How can we promote our organization?" "How do we get the word out about who we are and how can we promote education?"

A thank you to everyone who brought food and all their thoughts and ideas and the new potatoes went to Georgene Coombs.