

DKG Alpha Omega Chapter Sigma State Minutes

Holiday Meeting – December 8, 2015

Fifteen members were present for the holiday meeting at Manny's Mexican Cocina. There was a social time at 4:30 pm followed by dinner, the Chinese raffle of baskets/gifts, the 50/50 raffle, and the Wooden Nickel drawing at 6:00 pm. Connie Albrechtson won the 50/50 raffle (\$42.50) and the door prizes from the wooden nickel drawing were won by Karen Weigel and Jan Marson.

We were welcomed by Jan Marson, President, as she called the meeting to order. Jackie Meyer reintroduced Ruth Jostad to our group, explaining how Ruth had been a very active member of DKG in the past, helping to raise money with the ornament auctions years ago and actually taking on the role of auctioneer at those earlier meetings.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the October 13, 2015 meeting at the Gundersen ICE building had been emailed to all members. Since there were no additions or corrections to those minutes, they were approved as written. Comments were shared how valuable the presentation was, stating that the MedLink man had offered to do a future presentation for us. Marilyn commented that Jerry Arndt's Santa suit was used to dress Stan the mannequin for the holidays!

Treasurer's Report: Connie Albrechtson, treasurer, reported that all the DKG dues were paid, Barb Albrechtson's card donations were \$23.50, and the Herbergers' coupon books sales raised \$200. The money market has a balance of \$2,486.39, the checking account balance is \$1664.81, and the savings account has \$5.00. Connie suggested that from now on, dues should be sent to her right away if a member misses the fall meeting when dues are collected. That would eliminate the delay in her paying the dues.

General Discussion:

Clothes Closet: Deb Keller thanked us for the sock and underwear donations we made to the Clothes Closet at Trinity Lutheran Church. She shared the success of the organization, stating that all coats, boots and snow pants had been distributed to needy families and that the supply of socks and underwear was low. She explained that the \$10,000 Franke grant would provide funding to purchase additional clothing. She explained that clothing for teenagers was being provided by a congregation in Onalaska. Trinity Church has started providing meals to families and access to a food pantry during the week. The Clothes Closet is serving a large area in the Coulee region, beyond the La Crosse north side.

February 18, 2015 meeting: Claire Jandt gave an update for our next meeting at Savory Creations in La Crosse. For approximately \$30, we will be making tamales and other appetizers. We were reminded that the costs would need to be paid in advance, but that refunds would be given if someone could not attend.

Scholarships: A motion was made and carried to add Western Technical College to our schools (Viterbo and UW-L) receiving scholarships from our chapter. Connie Albrechtson will contact WTC to set this up. We will discuss the amount of the scholarship in the spring. It had been \$250 in the past. WTC will receive the scholarship money this year.

DKG State Literacy Award: Jan Marson mentioned making a connection to the state DKG organization by participating in the Literacy Award program. The other La Crosse DKG chapter is not involved in this project. There is a March 1 deadline for submitting stories to the program. Concerns were raised that there were too many rules to comply with for the state competition. It was decided not to pursue the state literacy award this year, but we would get the state guidelines to study for the future. Jan Marson pointed out that writers could submit poetry and nonfiction writing in addition to narrative pieces.

Little Schoolhouse Libraries: A suggestion was made for our DKG chapter to make donations to the little schoolhouse libraries. Mary Dunn has a list of boxes available or we could check the public library website for the locations of Little Schoolhouse Libraries. Anyone can donate new or used books for children or adults to these libraries.

Publishing Center: Deb Keller suggested having our DKG chapter either staff or supply materials (Bare books, posters, binding, DKG stamp, etc.) for a publishing center with Northside School. Deb will research publishing supplies and contacting Northside School to see if there is an interest to have a publishing center there.

Leadership Committee: Jan explained that she and Deb Keller are on the DKG state leadership committee. They will give a presentation at the June, 2016 state meeting. Jan welcomes anyone to join them and help out on the leadership committee.

Jan Marson closed the meeting with a reminder to invite new members to any of our meetings. We will have our initiation meeting in spring.

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” AESOP

Minutes prepared by:

Lois Holper, co-recording secretary