

DKG Alpha Omega Chapter Sigma State Minutes

Welcome Back Meeting - September 17, 2014

DKG Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/alphaomegalacrosse/>

(Webmaster: Roxanne Fox)

Our DKG sisters convened at President Jan Marson's home at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. During a social hour filled with conversation and mingling, members paid their dues, bought Herbergers' coupon books and paid for dinner. Barb Albrechtson had handmade cards available to purchase as well. The group enjoyed a meal catered by Burrachos, followed by our business meeting which began at 6:15 pm.

President Jan Marson welcomed the 17 members present and asked for individuals to share special joys they had recently experienced. Vice President Deb Keller invited us to help share any history of the three former north side La Crosse schools (Jefferson, Franklin, and Roosevelt) with her, since she was working on the time capsule for the new Northside Elementary School which opened this fall.

Secretary's Report – Lois Holper summarized the minutes from the summer meeting of June 19, 2014, which had been emailed to our members in June. The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Connie Albrechtson reported our expenses: Viterbo Scholarship-\$250.00, Initiation Expenses: Flowers-\$79.13 (Claire), Printing/miscellaneous expenses-\$43.97 (Louise).

Money Market account - \$1778.37, Checking-\$1861.70, Savings - \$5.00

Connie explained the smaller scholarship gift was due to our smaller membership and lower account balance this year. It was shared that only \$3.00 of each member's annual dues stays with the chapter, the rest goes for state and national dues.

Discussion was given to whether our chapter should raise its dues in order to have more cash to work with. Discussion points included:

- We might lose members because of the cost of dues if we increase dues.
- This group is a choice, so no one is forced to join if they do not want to pay the dues.
- Perhaps we could have a base rate for dues, with an option to contribute more if one wished to do so.
- It was decided that we would discuss raising dues at our next meeting in October.

Old Business:

Our participation in the Herbergers' coupon books fund raiser was discussed. Each member is currently donating \$10 for two books, for a total of approximately \$200 for our chapter. (Originally we had taken

3 books.) Barb Albrechtson mentioned that if we sell 75 or more books, our organization would get a small percentage of Herbergers' sales that day. Right now we just keep the \$10 each member contributes. She will bring extra books to our next meeting in October, in case anyone wants to purchase additional books before the extra books have to be returned to the store. Barb mentioned that she no longer wants to be the contact person for this project. We will need to decide if our DKG chapter wants to continue this fund raiser in the future and name a new contact person if we participate.

Our participation in Rotary Lights was also mentioned. Cyndy Schaper explained that each volunteer group earns \$300 if they help with the put up or take down process of Rotary Lights and decorate a tree. Approximately 6-8 volunteers need to work one day to meet the time requirements. After a brief discussion, our chapter decided to vote at our October meeting whether to give up the Rotary Lights project and put our efforts elsewhere.

New Business:

A suggestion was made to put an emphasis on service projects in lieu of fund raising efforts. These service projects would help build camaraderie among our members in addition to helping our community. The group shared activities previously done by chapters such as making blankets for children removed from their homes, making book bags for the Onalaska schools, supporting the Sue Blanchard kindergarten project, volunteering at Rotary Lights with take down and tree decorating, donating books/magazines/jams/jellies to the Salvation Army, and collecting items for New Horizons. Possible service projects proposed included:

- helping with the Clothes Closet, housed at Trinity Lutheran Church
- usher/volunteer at a La Crosse Community Theater production this year (Louise will check into possible dates available for this year's performances.)
- serving at the Wine Guys one evening (also a fund raiser)

A motion was made/seconded/approved that this year our DKG chapter will focus on supplying the Clothes Closet at Trinity Lutheran Church with new children's socks, underwear and monetary gifts instead of supporting the Salvation Army and New Horizons. Members can bring contributions for the Clothes Closet to each meeting. (Children's sizes 6-14 are needed the most, weight 50-100 lbs.)

Claire passed around a list of previous committees/members. She requested us to check the list and indicate if we were going to come off a committee, stay on the committee, or add our name to a new committee for the 2014-2016 time period. The committees were for fund raising, membership, nominations, scholarship, service/charities and the program committee.

The program committee had met earlier this summer and Jan reviewed the various programs/meetings set up for the remainder of the year. Jan reminded us of the pattern followed for our meetings: get together in September, tour in fall, Christmas dinner with gift/basket auction, share a craft in winter, informational presentation in spring, and entertaining activity in summer. Specific meeting places, dates, and activities were reviewed from this year's program brochure.

Deb Keller gave lots of background information relating to the Clothes Closet project at Trinity Lutheran Church. She stated how the program has grown over the last 5 years and how children/families from all areas of La Crosse can benefit from the program if they need help supplying their children with new shoes ,socks, underwear, gently used coats, snow pants, boot, pants, and shirts. The Clothes Closet gets funds from various other community organizations, including \$8,000 from the Franke Foundation. The Clothes Closet is open on Mondays from 4-7pm or by special appointments. Deb encouraged us to contact our own churches to see if they also wanted to support this cause with donations, money, or volunteer time.

It was mentioned that Barb Albrechtson is our DKG photographer and Roxanne Fox is our webmaster. We need a volunteer to do some publicity articles in the newspaper for recognizing our scholarship recipients, etc. Claire Jandt will contact the Tribune to get information relating to news articles. Jackie Meyer will contact Viterbo University to find out who our scholarship recipient was.

Items for the October meeting include: Dates for ushering at the La Crosse Community Theater, voting on whether to continue volunteering at Rotary Lights, deciding on continuance of the Herbergers' coupon book project, and discussion on whether to raise our chapter dues.

The winners of the fall towel/dish cloth door prizes were Marilyn Arndt and Jean Wetzsteon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

“Happiness. . .consists in giving and in serving others.” Henry Drummond

Respectfully submitted by

Lois Holper, Co/recording secretary