

Alpha-Bits

Alpha Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma

Spring 2011

President's Message from Judy Rule

Dear Alpha Sisters,

The joint meeting with Psi Chapter is almost here. We are meeting a little earlier this year (at least that is the way it seems) and will be meeting in a different location as well. I do hope that many of you can be there! We are looking forward to initiating two new members at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. Please make our new members welcome, they are **Jessi Miller** and **Stephanie Nida**. Also, remember that we initiated **Theresa Rapp** at our February meeting so she is still new and we want her to feel welcome as well. We have gained three new members this year and they seem very enthusiastic. However, we have lost several members so I expect that we have had a net loss this year. Please start thinking now of potential members for next year.

Later in April we will be going to Charleston for the Alpha Phi State Convention. Since our chapter will be helping host the conference for next year, we really need to go and observe what we will need to have for the Convention in 2012. It will again be at Embassy Suites so we will have a good idea of what will work and what to avoid. Our great planning committee is moving right along with the plan for 2012 and I am sure that all of you will do your part to make the Convention go smoothly. Do plan to go this year, at least for part of the Convention—you will have a great time.

Please let me know if you have ideas about next year or if you wish to change committees. I need to know that as well because I am counting on the committees remaining about the same for my second year as president. If we need to make changes, we can do so but I am hoping that most of you will remain with your position for another year. If you are like me, I think I have figured out what I am supposed to be doing and hopefully will do it better next year!!

Wendy Thomas Honored

On March 5, 2011, **Wendy Thomas** received the Focus Award for community service from the Women's Philanthropic Society of Cabell Huntington Hospital during their annual luncheon at the Guyan Golf and Country Club in Huntington. (This news made the Herald-Dispatch on Sunday, March 6, 2011, page 2A, complete with picture!) Congratulations!

Alpha Chapter Yearbook Printed

Yearbook pages were distributed at the March meeting. See Judy Rule if you need one.

Alpha Chapter April 2011 Meeting

Date: Saturday April 2, 2011; Joint meeting with Psi Chapter
Location: New Baptist Church, 610 28th Street, Huntington, WV
Initiation: 5:30 p.m.; Psi Chapter in charge
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00; buffet meal catered by Joe Daulton
Program: Founder's Day by Alpha Chapter

February 2011 Chapter Meeting

The February meeting began with the initiation of new member **Theresa Rapp**. Participating in the initiation were **Diane Bowsher**, **Becky Wood**, **Lynn Murphy**, and **Gloria Urian**. **Diane Bowsher's** husband Donald presented a very valuable program on Women and Heart Disease. He gave us details on optimal cholesterol, blood pressure, weight and blood sugar. There were a number of questions and the PowerPoint presentation is available by contacting Diane.

March 2011 Chapter Meeting

Those of us who traveled to Point Pleasant for the March meeting enjoyed a wonderful, delicious meal, as usual, prepared by the ladies of the Point Pleasant First Church of God. Jack Fowler gave a talk, accompanied by historical video clips, about river facts and history. He presented information about the New River Gorge Bridge, Hawk's Nest, Gauley River, Summersville Dam, Kanawha River, recovered boats, Silver Bridge, various Point Pleasant floods, fish of the river, and much more. For more information and a list of upcoming events visit the web site of the Point Pleasant River Museum at <http://pprivermuseum.com>. For the March project Alpha Chapter collected \$72 for World Fellowship.

2012 Alpha Phi State Convention Update

We will be selling raffle tickets for a special Delta Kappa Gamma print by P. Buckley Moss. The drawing will be held at the 2011 State Convention in Charleston. Proceeds from the raffle will be used for 2012 Convention expenses. P. Buckley Moss is known for her paintings of nature, farm life and family and friends. The picture being raffled features a teacher reading to her students and has several Delta Kappa Gamma symbols. Tickets are \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.

The weekend of April 27-29, 2012 we will be at the Embassy Suites in Charleston and we will need everyone to help out. There will be a variety of jobs including table hostesses for both the Birthday luncheon and Banquet on Saturday. When asked, please say YES!

2011 Alpha Phi State Convention

Alpha members, **Christy Groves, Carol Hastie, Gloria Urian, Gay Bird, Suzanne Campbell, Edna Congleton, Lois Merritt, Mary Beth Elmore, Kathy Van Horn, Becky Wood,** and **Libby McClung** will don their Uncle Sam hats and present the Invitation to the 2012 Convention at the 2011 Convention in Charleston. The girls have been rehearsing for several weeks and will be singing some Patriotic tunes.

Personal Updates

Becky Wood attended the NRFTAC conference in San Diego, CA, on February 23 and 24. The title of the conference was Comprehension and Writing. The discussion centered around comprehension skills being the same ones that should be taught in writing. The two go together and should be taught together. It was pointed out that English grammar should never be taught in isolation – students only understand the grammar when they can apply it to writing.

Lois Merritt just returned from a trip to Israel. When asked about the trip she said that it was “Past awesome. I didn’t want to come home.”

Alpha Chapter Dues for 2011-2012

Dues for 2011-2012 are \$63 for active and \$38 for reserve membership (this includes the \$3 convention assessment). Bring checks to the April meeting if you wish to pay this spring. You may also mail checks to **Carol Watson** or bring with you to one of the fall meetings – September or October. Carol reports that the Alpha Chapter accounts will be moved to Universal Credit Union.

Recipe: Wild Rice and Chicken Salad

1 cup uncooked wild rice
Seasoned salt, optional
2 cups diced cooked chicken
1½ cups halved green grapes
1 cup sliced water chestnuts, drained
¾ cup light mayonnaise
1 cup cashews, optional
Lettuce leaves

Cook rice according to package directions, omitting salt or substituting seasoned salt if desired. Drain well; cool to room temperature. Spoon into a large bowl; add chicken, grapes, water chestnuts and mayonnaise. Toss gently with a fork. Cover and chill. Just before serving, add cashews if desired. Serve on lettuce leaves or line a bowl with lettuce leaves and fill with salad. Yield: 6 servings.