

## **Omega Biennium 2018-2020**

### **President Denise Clark**

#### **'Together We Bloom'**

#### **Officers**

President: Denise Clark

First Vice President: Cynthia Lynch

Second Vice President: Dawn Scales

Secretary: Beverly Lanoue

Treasurer: Judy Kiehle

Parliamentarian: Lois Ludwig

Webmaster: Beverly Lanoue

Immediate Past Co-Presidents: Mary Cherniss, Kerry Smartt

#### **Society Business Chairs**

Area Council Member-at-Large: Gail Rumsey

BYLAWS and Rules: Jerry Fletcher

Finance: Judy Kiehle, Linda Upchurch

Audit: Jan Astles, Helene Goodberlet

Historical Records and Scrapbook: Jennifer Knobel, Christine Bennett

Membership: Lynda John

Nominations: Mary Cherniss

Ceremonies: Renee Durso, Sharry Cirulli

Auction: Mary Cherniss, Evelyn Bottorf

#### **Society Mission and Purpose Chairs**

Legislation/U.S. Forum: Karen Varricchio

Personal & Professional Growth: Jan Astles, Jackie Johnson

Educational Excellence/Program: Cynthia Lynch, Dawn Scales

Scholarship/ Grants-in-Aid: Tammy Olmstead, Linda Upchurch

World Fellowship: Mary King

Arts & Music: Laura Hill, Sharyn Powell

Cheer: Helene Goodberlet, Jan Wright

#### **Program 2018-2020**

September 11, 2018 Torrey Park, Geneva: Summer Book Reads, Committee Work Clothing Collection, Launch New Member Drive for 2019

October 9, 2018 Notre Dame, Canandaigua: 2018 Initiation of New Members, Reception, Roads Scholar

November 13, 2018 Kings Catering, Canandaigua: Annual Grants-in-Aid/Scholarship Auction, *Make It, Bake It, Fake It*

April 9, 2019 Centerpointe, Canandaigua: Administrators Night, Panel Discussion, Student Performance

May 14, 2019 Masonic Temple, Phelps: New Member Induction, Women's Health

June 11, 2019 Club 86, Geneva: Dealing With Change, Speaker Ron Newman, Retirements, and Omega Grants-in-Aid/Scholarship Recipients

September 17, 2019 Warfields's, Clifton Springs, Induction of New Members, Committee Meetings

October 17, 2019 Geneva Country Club, Geneva: East Central Area Council Conference

November 5, 2019 Kings Catering, Canandaigua: Fundraiser/Auction

April 4, 2020      Warfield's, Clifton Springs: Saturday Lunch, Women's Health  
May 5, 2020      Torrey Park, Geneva: Founder's Day, 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Music in Our Schools  
June 2, 2020      Shandling Hall, Hobart-William-Smith College, Geneva: Grant-in-Aid/Scholarship Recipients,  
Retirements, Installation of Officers

### **Introduction**

In April after 20 years of being a snowbird my husband and I sold our home in Florida to return to our NY home. Due to health issues for my husband we would not be snowbirds anymore. I walked into the lobby of the residence where my husband was living and saw the familiar face of Sally Maxson. We chatted and talked about Omega. Then I was asked if I would consider being President of Omega Chapter. That was my beginning of my introduction to the biennium ahead.

I do not regret having done this, volunteering to be elected. Being in this role has helped me grow and maybe bloom a little. Working with the members of the chapter and getting to know them has been a great pleasure. I appreciate the support given to me.

Following Immediate Past Co-Presidents Mary Cherniss and Kerry Smartt's advice my VP's and I met with the committees during the summer months to listen to what each had planned. And programs were set up for the years ahead in my biennium.

### **Activities**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> Torrey Park Grill, Geneva** After our opening greetings, we honored those families and victims of 9/11 with a moment of silence. Jan Wright's brother and Dawn Scales' brother-in-law were victims. During our dessert at dinner two books were reviewed. Sally Maxson talked about "The Light Between Oceans". Mary Cherniss talked about "Telling Memories Among Southern Women" Two members resignations were read. Jeanne Guastafarro and Kathy Eckler. They were accepted with regret. The film "Pride in the Big Picture" was shown. Jan Astles and Jackie Johnson surveyed the membership on volunteering opportunities. They also put together a way to collect clothing for the schools represented in our chapter. These were suggested items by the nurses at each school. Jackie and Jan wrote the items needed on 3" by 5" cards with the sizes. We each picked the cards out that we wanted to purchase for the schools. Checked to record this with Jan and Jackie. It was done by November and the collected items were delivered to each school. Lynda John spoke about recruiting new members. Mary Cherniss spoke about the auction. Goal sheets were handed out to the committees to fill out for the year.

**October 9<sup>th</sup> Notre Dame, Canandaigua 30 members and 3 guests Deanna Massucco** was inducted into Omega. The secretary, Bev Lanoue read Deanna's letter enthusiastically accepting membership in Omega. Also read were the grateful messages from the scholarship winners, and a note from Peg Snyder and Tammy Olmstead thanking Omega for the many cards and notes following the death of Peg's sister. Treasurer Judy Kiehle presented the budget which was approved. She also explained that International has designated June as the last month in our fiscal year. July being the first month. Dues will be expected by June instead of the fall. June Renner was placed on the reserve membership list. Pi State according to Cindy Lynch was selling benefit tickets for state convention. No new member applications were received by Lynda John. Kristen Wahl

introduced her parents Chick and Ron Sherman who presented a program about travel, called Roads Scholars.

**November 13, 2018 King's Catering, Canandaigua** Our annual auction night began. We had a chance to browse all the items and make our silent bids. After dinner we had a short meeting before starting the bidding. Bottles of water were provided by Pi State through Mary-Martha Harvey promoting the upcoming state convention. Lynda John mentioned working on a new timeline for induction of new members. Cindy Lynch volunteered to sell benefit drawing tickets, but Gail Rumsey was already doing that. Omega is providing healthy snacks at the hospitality center as well as being hostesses. Lynda John, Laura Hill, Sharyn Powell, Gail Rumsey, and Della Ludwig offered to chair committees for the convention. Recommendations for the Woman of Distinction in Omega were asked for by me.

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Centerpointe Golf Club, Canandaigua 28 members and 3 guests**

Several thank you notes were read by Bev Lanoue, secretary. Lois Ludwig for prayers for Debra, Dawn Scales for husband's kidney surgery, Scholarship recipient, Hannah Dentil for the scholarship, Katja Stevens, former member, thanking Lois for delivering the Pi State Education pin. Notes also mentioned that Lynda John's husband was hospitalized and that new member, Deanna Massucco was in the hospital. A letter from the state said that at the State Convention Ceremony of Remembrance Mary Luckern would be included. The treasurer, Judy Kiehle completed two reports, November/December and January/March. The November Auction raised \$4,395 and \$4500 was sent out for the scholarship grants. Omega donated \$25 to the Pi State Education Foundation and \$25 to Geneva Reads in memory of Mary Luckern. State President Mary Martha Harvey spoke about the convention. She mentioned that 20 Omegas would be attending. Working teachers could earn professional development credits by attending those workshops. VP Dawn Scales noted that the Omega ceremony of remembrance for Mary Luckern would be at the May meeting. VP Cindy Lynch speaking for Lynda John, Membership chair, said that Lynda has a new timeline for adding new members. Linda Upchurch said that the chapter has received 10 applications for the Omega Scholarship. The winners will be announced in June. Jan Astles thanked everyone for their generosity in the committee's recent clothing drive. Deb Poplasky invited creative Omegas to help with art display at the state convention. Sharyn Powell said there would be beautiful flowers provided by the chapter. Phyllis Frantel brought guests Wendy Kierst and Nicole Green, who are potential members. 1<sup>st</sup> VP Cindy Lynch introduced Geneva Elementary School Principal Eric Villencourt. A second administrator was unable to attend due to a sick child. Woman of Distinction 2019 in Omega was Lynda John. Lynda wasn't able to attend because of her husband's hospitalization. First VP Cindy Lynch took her dinners and her pieces of cake to her later.

The Business meeting was adjourned for dinner and was followed by a musical presentation by St. Peter's Community Senior Youth Choir.

A motion was made by Dawn Scales to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bev Lanoue. All approved. Meeting ended at 7:50.

**May 14, 2019 Masonic Temple Phelps Attendance: 31 members and 1 guest**

**Prior to this meeting a short session of the Executive Board met.**

We had a quorum. A motion was made by Linda Upchurch that 5 Grant-in-Aid Recipients be given each \$750 This year. Motion approved.

A motion was made to approve the changes to the Omega Standing Rules. It was approved.

The Executive Board needed to approve these motions before being presented to the chapter for a vote.

**A Ceremony of Remembrance was held for Mary Luckern.**

A Presentation was given about the Elizabeth Wende Breast Care Center In Rochester.

7:28 Business Meeting was called to order by President Denny Clark.

**Treasurer** Judy Kiehle gave her report. Balance at this time is \$9502.40 . Judy also noted that the dues process had changed and the dues would be collected by June 1.

**Thank you** by Mary Martha for the help from Omega volunteers for the April NY State DKG Convention. Carol Lord was her guest tonight. Revenues from the Convention will be distributed between the chapters of the ECAC. **Minutes** approved. **Correspondence** from Riley Backus for receiving a grant-in-aid, from Lynda John for being chosen "Woman of Distinction", from St. Peter's Community Senior Youth Choir for the donation given to them for their performance at the April meeting. Geneva Reads thanks Omega for the donation made in the memory of Omega member Mary Luckern. Also a letter of resignation from Jeanne Guastafarro who cited family travel and volunteer commitments as her reasons. **The By-Laws** report was given by Lois Ludwig and Jerry Fletcher. Five corrections were made. Lois said corrections can be made at any time. Corrections approved. Della Ludwig suggested that a short snippet about each rule be given at each meeting. Lois volunteered to do this. **Scholarship** Linda Upchurch reported that the committee had selected five winners. A motion was made to give each winner \$750. Approved. **Membership** Maggie Wiegand and Lynda John noted that there are two nominations for membership by Phyllis Frantel. They are Wendy Kierst and Nicole Green. Motion was made to accept them by Renee Durso. Gail Burr seconded. Approved. **Hostess Committee** Second VP Dawn Scales said it would be easier for people to sign up for the time they want. No New Business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

**June 11, 2019 Omega Meeting at Club 86 in Geneva 35 members, 3 guests**

**Introductions:**

Linda Upchurch introduced Riley Backus, scholarship winner, from Midlakes.

Phyllis Frantel introduced our newest prospective member, Wendy Kierst. Nicole Green was unable to attend. Adelle Miller-Wadsworth introduced our guest speaker, Ron Newman, who is a retired school psychologist and would speak about dealing with change. **Scholarship Winner:** Linda Upchurch and Tammy Olmstead presented Riley Backus with a rose. Riley read her winning essay for the scholarship. It talked about her desire to become a teacher of history. **Speaker:** Ron Newman talked about dealing with change and how both teachers and students were reluctant to change. He discussed

how we can only impact things over which we have control, such as changing our behavior. **Business: 7:54** President Denny Clark called the business meeting to order.

**Secretary Report:** Beverly Lanoue reported a gap in last month's meeting notes as to who initiated the motion and seconded it when the members approved the changes in the Standing Rules. Members agreed that Jerry Fletcher made the motion and Renee Durso seconded it. Beverly made a motion to accept the amendment to the minutes. Kerry Smartt seconded. All approved. Beverly also revisited the resignation of Jeanne Guastoferro which required a vote. Maggie Wiegand made a motion to accept the resignation with regret. Jan Astles seconded. Members approved. Beverly also presented correspondence regarding the request from Liz Hezel to become a reserve member of Omega. Liz has moved out of the area and requested the status. Judy Kiehle noted that the DKG international rules allow a member to make such request based on physical disability or geographical location. Sally Maxson made the motion to approve reserve status. Sharri Cirulli seconded. All approved. **Treasurer's report:** Judy Kiehle reported that Omega chapter now has fifty-four active members and four reserve who have paid their dues by the June deadline. Balance on hand: \$10162.67. **Standing Rules "Minute":** Lois Ludwig presented the first of several short presentations on the standing rules. This moment discussed how members can propose and obtain a vote on changing the rules. **ECAC** President Denny Clark asked for volunteers from Omega to help prepare for the October meeting of the East Central Area Council Conference. Denny will become chair of the council following the October meeting. Mary Shelley volunteered to help with reservations and check in members at the conference. Mary Martha Harvey will be collecting reservations for the October conference which will be due Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Della Ludwig offered to make a basket that would be used for a fundraising activity. **Retirement:** Omegan Holly Rich has retired from her job at the Phelps-Clifton Springs District. **Committee Schedule:** Second Vice President Dawn Scales handed out the calendar for Fall/Spring 2019-20 and hostess committee assignments. **Summer Board Meeting:** President Denny Clark said the executive board of Omega would meet on August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Centerpoint Meeting Room. **Hostess Committee:** President Clark thanked the hostess committee for the table decorations and treats as well as the Pink Pig donation from Mary Lou Lawrence. **Old and New Business:** Being no other business before the members, President Clark called the meeting adjourned at 8:14.

### **September 17, 2019 Omega Meeting held at Warfield's in Geneva**

At 5:00 we held the induction ceremony for **Wendy Kirerst**. It was held early because Wendy had a class to teach later that evening. We had a receiving line even though it was tight quarters during our social time. Christine Bennett gave our blessing and then we ate dinner. After dinner we had time for the committees to meet. The business meeting started around 7:15. Corrections to the minutes were made that there were **54** paid members and **4** reserve. **Treasurer, Judy Kiehle**, presented the budget proposal and noted that since dues were already in, it appeared that there was extra money. But, this was due to the change in the state's move to collect dues in June to be in alignment with the fiscal year. Overall the budget had not changed much. Della Ludwig made a **motion to approve the budget and it was unanimously accepted**. Judy also said that Phyllis Frantel was taking over as treasurer. Sally Maxson thanked Judy for her service in the position for over 9 years. President Denny Clark wrote a letter to Canandaigua

National Bank giving Phyllis permission to sign checks. **Parliamentarian, Lois Ludwig, reported that it is no longer necessary to have a motion to adjourn.** The ECAC is meeting October 17<sup>th</sup> and reservations are due by October 3<sup>rd</sup> to **MM Harvey, ECAC registrar.** **Lynda John, Membership Chair,** gave us The Rose activity to do. The Rose is to be colored in as you have done each item listed on the rose. No old business. New business: Bev Lanoue said she needed help with the website. Della Ludwig offered to volunteer that help. Question about the \$866.53 funds from the NYSO event in April. Della suggested forming a committee to investigate this. Mary Cherniss, Dawn Scales and Jerry Fletcher volunteered to be on the committee. Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

### **October 17, 2019 East Central Area Council Meeting held at Geneva Country Club**

The four chapters in this council are Alpha Tau, Beta Delta, Beta Theta and Omega. The keynote speaker was NYSO President Sue Kenoyer, who intertwined her biennium theme, "DKG...Opportunities for Dialogue, Knowledge and Growth" with the conference theme of "Learning from the Past--Knowledge for the Future." Sarah Walters, Halocaust Program Director at the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, spoke about her work in service of the Survivor Community. Helen Kashtan, featured speaker of the evening, spoke about her parents lives in Poland before the Halocaust, the terrifying years of WWII spent in the concentration camps, their time as displaced persons in Europe, emigration to the US, to meeting in Rochester. She is currently chairperson of Journey for Identity; a trip to connect teens from Rochester and Modi'in, Israel to learn about Jewish identity and culture of the past and present.

### **November 5, 2019 Omega Meeting at Kings Catering in Canandaigua, NY**

The Omega members held their annual fundraiser, The Auction, No business was done. During the social time items to be auctioned were placed on the appropriate table for their category. The members had an opportunity to bid in a silent auction. They also could buy fundraising tickets to place in envelopes of the item they would like to win. It is always a merry time and Kings Catering does a fantastic job of hosting us with a great decorated venue and wonderful buffet.

Covid-19 arrived. We were told to stay home. Businesses and schools were closed. So March Executive Board Meeting was cancelled. We didn't know whether we would be able to have the April 4, 2020 Omega Saturday Lunch at Warfields, Clifton Springs. It was cancelled as was the state meeting in Utica. When May 5<sup>th</sup> arrived things were not better. Founders Day and Omega's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at Torrey Park, Geneva was cancelled. By this time we had several deaths to remember in a Necrology Service. June Renner, Deb Trombino and later Betty Mussack. But by June 2<sup>nd</sup> the pandemic had not ended and that meeting had to be cancelled. So we did not get to meet the Grant-in-Aid/Scholarship recipients and hear their essays, nor celebrate the retirees, or install the new officers. My 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Dawn Scales decided we would be co-presidents for the 2020-2022 biennium. So we continued.

To be continued in the next biennium.