



**Omega Executive Board Meeting  
August 13, 2015  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Canandaigua, NY**

**Members Present:** Mary-Martha Harvey, Mary Cherniss, Laura Hill, Judy Kiehle, Mary King, Della Ludwig, Sharyn Powell, June Renner, Dawn Scales, Peg Snyder, Linda Upchurch and Mary Shelley.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by President Mary-Martha Harvey at 9:10 am.

**President's Report:** (Mary-Martha Harvey)

Mary-Martha reported that all is well. There have been no new cheer notices for over a month. Plans for the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Linda Coons is accepting reservations for the dinner at the Holloway House in Bloomfield.

*Committee Reports:* Mary-Martha would like all Committee updates for the September Newsletter by 25 August. Committees will have time to meet in September to set 2015-16 goals and will then complete a report form to be posted to the website and included in the October Chapter Newsletter. These reports should be emailed to her by 25 September. Committee Chairs will give updates at the September Meeting.

Mary-Martha reminded all Committee Chairs and Officers to keep their red binders updated for the next Chair or Officer.

**First Vice President:** (Mary Cherniss)

Programs are all set for the year. Mary Cherniss explained the Member BINGO for the September Social Time, which will help members get acquainted with one another. The September Meeting will also be one of celebration.

**Second Vice President:** (Laura Hill)

Laura Hill reported that all venues were set for the 2015-2016 meetings. She has given the Hostess packets to Laura had a 25-yr. pin returned by a member. She will keep this for future.

**Secretary's Report:** (Mary Shelley)

The minutes of the January 2015 Executive Meeting were accepted by consensus.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Linda Upchurch)

Linda reported the balance on hand as of June 30, 2015 is \$4904.30 (\$3889.54 Checking + \$1014.76 savings). The IRS 990 forms have been filed and copies given to President and sent to Pi State Treasurer. The complete report is filed with the minutes.

**BYLAWS & Rules/ Parliamentarian:** (June Renner)

President Mary-Martha Harvey sent the Chapter Standing Rules to meet the June 30<sup>th</sup> due date to Pi State President and State BYLAWS & Rules Chair. There has been no notice of receipt received. The Standing Rules are posted on the website. The Standing Rules are a fluid document. Changes may be recommended for vote during the year.

**Immediate Past President:** (Della Ludwig)

Della stated that her Biennial report is nearly complete.

**East Central Area Council:**

Mary-Martha reported for Deb Trombino that the meeting of East Central Area Council will be October 27 at 5:00 pm at Club 86, Geneva. The theme is "Women's Health" and Jacquie Johnson has been asked to be a

speaker about her journey through cancer. *Omega* is responsible for registration form, publicity and the program flyer. Deb Trombino will continue on ECAC until the meeting and then Gail Rumsey will take over.

**Webmaster:**

Mary-Martha reported for Katja Stevens. She and her family were in Europe. She continues to update the *Omega* web page.

**Ceremonies:** (Dawn Scales)

Dawn Scales reported for the Committee. A remembrance for Claris Schwing was held in 2015. The Newsletter helps keep all informed on current happenings. Initiation of new members is planned for April 2016. Retirement celebrations and installation of Officers will be held in June. The Membership Committee will handle the Initiate Invitational Brunch and the Initiation ceremony.

**Communication:**

Mary-Martha reported for Gail Burr. Monthly press releases are done as well as quarterly articles for *Pi Lights*.

**Finance:** (Judy Kiehl)

There is concern that expenses are running more than income by about \$500.00. Judy reported that *Omega* has given away \$1400 in Philanthropy in June. Subsequently the budget for Committee expenses is low. The finance Committee recommended that the Pink Pig income be moved from Budget B to Budget A. Deposits for dinner locations for the coming year were paid.

There was a discussion concerning a dues increase. It is thought that International may ask for an increase next year. Mary-Martha will vote “no” on any increase to International. Since some folks have paid their 2015 dues of \$73.00, there will not be an increase this year. The Executive Board recommends that there be a \$2.00 increase in 2016-17 (\$1.00 for reserve), bringing dues to \$75.00. The increase will stay with our local Chapter. Having a dues increase will be a dinner discussion topic in September.

There was a discussion of the Pink Pig monies. The Executive Board recommends that the price of Pink Pig ticket this year will be 2 tickets for \$1.00. This will be a trial. *It was so moved by Della Ludwig and seconded by Mary Cherniss. Motion carried.*

The budget for 2015-2016 is on file with the minutes and will be included in September Newsletter for action at the September Meeting. Judy will present the Budget and Pink Pig recommendations at the September Meeting.

*Website:* There is no change for this year. *Omega* has a two year contract which saves about \$30.00.

**Historical Records:** (Mary Cherniss)

There was a discussion of the storage of *Omega* records and history. Financial records need to be kept for only seven years. All Secretary’s Minutes are kept indefinitely. Della suggested that *Omega* could open a free g-mail, password protected, account for historical records. Documents could be saved as a PDF which could be transferred to a web page. It would be preferable to have this available on our website, instead of member separate accounts. Mary-Martha will speak to Katja about having our historical records on our website, password protected.

Laura Hill volunteered to type Lynda John’s Past President’s Report, save in PDF and send to Mary Cherniss. Mary will format the pictures. Della, Mary and Judy will finish the Historical Records for publication.

After discussion it was decided to give new members our *Omega* Directory on CD.

**November Auction:**

Mary-Martha reported that Susan Cunningham is the Auction Committee Chair and is at work collecting items for the November 17<sup>th</sup> fundraiser to be held at Club 86, Geneva. She has a donation letter that she is giving all merchants thanking them for their donations from her and *Omega* President.

**Personal Growth and Services:**

Mary-Martha reported for Julie Haydk and Christine Taylor. The Committee’s theme for this year will be “*Body, Mind and Spirit*” to bring awareness of and to promote women’s health. Goals for 2015-16 include organizing and supporting one service activity in the spring, establishing an awareness of and promoting

personal growth and wellness, and giving recipes and articles to members at the April meeting to promote personal growth and wellness.

The *Omega* Book Club continues and Linda Coons lists the books reviewed which are posted on our website.

The Committee plans to continue support for the Red Book Shelf Project. They will bring red bins to each meeting.

**Professional Affairs:** (Della Ludwig)

The Committee will meet at our September meeting. The active teachers have heard enough about the Common Core. It may be time to have conversations with retired teachers as they could be lobbyists for education.

It was discussed that it may be time to combine the Committees of Professional Affairs and Personal Growth and Services.

**Program:** (Mary Cherniss and Laura Hill)

The programs for the year are planned and distributed to membership and are on the website. Mary-Martha secured May on NYS Assemblyman Brian Kolb's schedule (*pending no Legislative session convened*) to present a program on "*Legislation & Education.*" It was reported that some retired teachers do not want to have a March meeting since many do not return from winter residences and the weather can still be a challenge in March. Plans are already made for the March 2016 meeting. State BYLAWS & Standing Rules require only four meetings per year. This will be a table discussion along with the issue of a Chapter dues increase at the September meeting.

The Committee recommended that the June Hostess Co-Chairs and members be retired educators. June is such a busy month for active teachers. The Executive Board approved. The Hostess chart will be revised and included in the September Newsletter and on the website.

It was suggested that in September 2016 we have a collection of school supplies to be distributed to our membership schools.

**Membership:** (Mary King)

Five nominations have been received, reviewed and accepted by the Committee. They include: Karen Busby, Jennifer Harris, Kristen Lawrence, Mary Lou Lawsen and Kristen Wahl. Discussion and voting will take place at the September meeting. A summary document with nomination biographies as well as ballots will be distributed and collected. Members will be encouraged to invite candidates to the Area Council meeting in October and the Auction in November.

There will be a December or January introductory meeting at the Wood Library or a designated location for new members and their sponsors, the Membership Committee and Mary-Martha. The International powerpoint will be shown and membership materials distributed. Feb. 6, 2016 is the Invitational Brunch at Warfield's, Clifton Springs at 11:30. The Membership Committee will do the program. All Committee members will be encouraged to participate. April 19<sup>th</sup> is the Initiation Ceremony. The Membership Committee will be encouraged to attend and participate.

*Member-of-the-Month* display has been well received. Members seem to be reading the posters and the Red Notebook containing past *Members-of-the-Month*. We need more members to complete the questions. The Committee suggested putting names on the question sheets and passing them out at the September meeting. All information from the questions should be put in the Newsletter so that others could read about the members. The complete Membership Committee Report is on file with the minutes.

**Scholarship/Grant(s)-in-Aid:** (Peg Snyder)

There was discussion concerning the best and most fair way to recruit applicants for the scholarship and how to inform the schools of the *Omega* scholarship opportunity. After discussion, the Executive Board decided to poll schools in the 14 districts to determine if there is interest in participating in the *Omega* Scholarship program.

***Dawn Scales moved and Mary King seconded to award five \$750 scholarships in 2016 to applicants from Omega school districts. Motion passed.***

A letter will be mailed to all *Omega* districts by the end of September, stating that there will be five \$750 scholarships awarded in 2016 to a high school female who plans to study education. This letter will include a return letter to state the district's interest in participating. After a district consents to the scholarship program, posters, flyers and application forms will be taken to that school by an *Omega* member.

The recipients will be invited to the June meeting. The *Omega* members of that district will share in their dinner cost. The grant is paid after proof of a successful semester. The Executive Board decided that Williamson, Red Jacket and Honeoye will be excluded since they are covered by other Chapters. This is considered a pilot year. Our purposes are to expand the awareness of the *Omega* Chapter and DKG and to enhance our membership.

**World Scholarship:**

Mary-Martha reported for Adelle Miller-Wadsworth. The “*Jewels for Schools*” two-year fundraiser has been completed and the Committee will plan something new.

**Arts and Music:** (Sharyn Powell)

The Committee is thinking ahead to 2016-17. The focus will be to highlight music and art in each district. A formal invitation will be sent to each district in February or March asking for a short music or art program to share with *Omega*. The *Welcome Song* will continue this year. A new song will be planned for each month in 2016. Sharyn would like to include songs from a book Deb Poplasky purchased.

**Cheer:**

Mary-Martha reported for Helene Goodberlet. From February 15 to August 15 cards sent included: 52 birthday cards; 8 cheer, “*thinking of you,*” sympathy or get well. One single red rose was sent one sister on the loss of her Mother. The Committee wants to continue support of all *Omega* sisters with cards and a red rose at the loss of a parent, spouse or child and to honor their birthdays at Chapter meetings with a small gift and song.

**Audit:**

Mary-Martha appointed Sally Maxson to replace Phyllis Frantel due to family obligations on the Audit Committee. Sally will work with Linda Coons. This is Linda's last year completing the Audit.

**The next Executive Board Meeting** is scheduled for January 23, 2016 at the reception area of St. John's Episcopal Church, Canandaigua.

**Adjournment:**

*It was moved by Della Ludwig and seconded Mary Shelley to adjourn the Executive Board Meeting. Motion passed.*

Mary-Martha adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Shelley, Secretary