



Pi State

Omega Chapter

**Omega Executive Board Meeting, January 23, 2016
St John's Episcopal Church, Canandaigua, NY**

Members present: Peg Snyder, Mary-Martha Harvey, Helen Goodberlet, Lynda John, Judy Kiehle, Sharyn Powell, Adele Miller-Wadsworth, Laura Hill, Mary Cherniss, Mary King, June Renner, Beverly Lanoue, Della Ludwig, Dawn Scales and Katja Stevens

Members absent: Linda Upchurch, Gail Rumsey, Gail Burr, Susan Cunningham, Julie Hadyk, Christine Taylor

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Mary-Martha Harvey at 9:12am.

Executive Committee Reports:

President – Mary-Martha W. Harvey

All state reports are up-to-date. Many reports have been combined into one. The Invitational Brunch is all set and invitations have been sent.

First Vice President – Mary Cherniss

March meeting will be about technology. Mary is waiting to hear back from possible presenters. Della is willing to share what she learned at the Google Institute this past summer if her calendar allows. She will let Mary know.

Second Vice President – Laura Hill

Eleanor Stearns is coming to do her one woman portrayal in April. The Executive Committee decided on requesting Clara Barton.

Secretary – Katja Stevens (Acting for Mary Shelley)

Approval of Minutes – *Bev Lanoue made the motion and Peg Snyder seconded to approve the August 13, 2015 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.*

Treasurer – Judy Kiehle reported for Linda Upchurch

Auction total was \$3446.00 which was \$16 more than last year. Thank you letters were received from UNICEF and St. John's Episcopal Church. Linda is currently out of town but Judy is covering for her until March. Linda will be finished with her Treasurer appointment in June.

Parliamentarian – June Renner

Nothing new to report

Immediate Past President – Della Ludwig

Nothing new to report

Area Council Member-at-Large – Mary-Martha reported for Gail Rumsey

Gail attended the fall meeting and plans are in the works for the next East Central Area Council meeting. Members are in favor of doing the Vendor Night meeting again at Club 86 in Geneva. Money (approximately \$156.00 each) was given to Pi State Awards Committee for Awards, Scholarships and Grant(s)-in- Aid and to the Pi State Educational Foundation from the basket benefit sales. Each Chapter donated a basket. Mary-Martha gave special thanks to Deb Trombino for her service as Representative during the past two years.

Webmaster – Katja Stevens

The website is constantly being updated. Katja welcomes new photos of *Omegans* emailed in JPEG format. Chapter History has been expanded to include Presidents' History and Chapter History documents. The current project is to update Committee Reports. Mary-Martha added that the International Website has been totally changed. Some parts will need new passwords to enter. In July, HTML will no longer be supported. It will be the State's responsibility to oversee the various websites.

The old certification process will no longer be in place. A “*No Hold Harmless Agreement*” has been signed by Chapters and States so that International will still be responsible for any legal issues that may come up regarding websites. Katja will check what the cost will be in August 2016 to renew our website and domain name, due in September.

Committee Chair Reports

Mary-Martha needs an email with an attachment or a written report from all Committees for 2015-16 with “to date of January 2016” accomplishments so that our website can be in compliance.

SOCIETY BUSINESS COMMITTEES:

Audit – Mary-Martha

Linda Coons is finished with this appointment. Contact Mary-Martha with suggestions for a replacement.

BYLAWS & Rules – June Renner

Nothing new to report. Revised BYLAWS were approved last year and are good for two years.

Ceremonies – Bev Lanoue and Dawn Scales

The Ceremonies Committee has completed its report. There are several ceremonies coming up this year including supporting the Membership Committee on the Initiation Ceremony in April and organizing the installation of officers in June.

Communications/Publicity – Mary-Martha reported for Gail Burr

Gail and the Communications Committee has been working on the *Omega* Facebook page. Member Jennifer Knobel will manage the page. The account has been set up so that others can research our organization, but no posts, pictures, comments, etc. Everything has to go through Jen before it can be put on the page. A password would be required. Facebook will be a nice way to “share” what Delta Kappa Gamma and *Omega* is about since most members have friends on *Facebook* who would be interested in our organization.

A motion was made by Della Ludwig that we move forward with putting a managed Facebook page up. The motion was seconded by Dawn Scales and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

Finance – Judy Kiehle

Nothing to report

Historical Records & Scrapbook – Mary Cherniss and Judy Kiehle

Nothing to report. Della is almost finished with her report. She will email the finished copy to Katja as a PDF file with a copy to Judy Kiehle and Mary-Martha Harvey.

Membership & Expansion – Mary King

The Committee is planning to send a letter to members who have resigned inviting them to attend meetings and to explain the reinstatement process. The Committee is planning on unveiling the “*Celebrate Us*” quilt at a Chapter meeting. They are continuing with the “*Member of the Month*” activity at each monthly meeting. The Committee has received four new member recommendations.

Mary-Martha explained that a second call of recommendations for new members was put out at the request of members. The Executive Committee discussed the best way to go about processing these new recommendations in such a short time span while still maintaining protocol. It was decided that these additional recommendations will be presented to the membership at the March Chapter Meeting. Members will vote by ballot and those accepted would be invited to an informal tea prior to the April Chapter Meeting to learn about the Chapter before being initiated with date to be set soon. Mary King and her Committee will need support to do this extra work. There will be potential total of nine Initiates.

The Executive Committee also discussed the concern of member resignation, retention and reserve status for members. It was recommended that the Cheer Committee maintain contact with members who have resigned. *Omega* needs to continue its work of keeping members informed of what DKG has to offer. Members who have recently resigned will receive information about being reinstated via mail. Resigned members should turn their DKG pins back to the Chapter.

Regarding reserve membership, the Chapter does not get any money from reserve membership but pays an additional \$1.00 to State. Reserve members can request to move back into active

membership. Judy Kiehle named the eight reserve members and their reasons for reserve status to make sure we were in compliance.

Name tags – Initiates order them unless the Sponsor(s) wants to purchase for them. There are enough pins this year for new Initiates to rent or they can purchase them through Linda Upchurch. An opportunity to order name tags will be presented to full membership in March.

Judy will prepare a finances information page for the Initiates.

Nominations – Lynda John

The Nominations Committee met in January. Lynda made a presentation in September asking members to submit any recommendations or thoughts for nominations. This same request was put via email and newsletter. Responses have been minimal.

To date the following people have agreed to be on the ballot:

Mary Cherniss – Willing to be Co-President, possible Co-President TBD

Sally Maxson – First Vice President

Adele Miller-Wadsworth – Second Vice President

Bev Lanoue - Secretary

Gail Rumsey – Area Council Representative (2016-2018)

Auction – Mary-Martha reported for Susan Cunningham

Susan has done a remarkable job with the Auction. She will be asked to continue if she wants to.

A suggestion was made that we don't have to change Committee Chairs every biennium if a member is happy in a Chair position. It is important to note, however, that some members are nervous to take on a greater role as Chapter Officer if they have not served as a Committee Chair. Co-Chairs would be a good compromise, keeping someone experienced while training someone new.

SOCIETY MISSION & PURPOSE COMMITTEES:

Legislation/US Forum – Lynda John

US Forum – Dr. Angela O. Bedenbaugh keeps up information that she sends out via newsletter once a month. Lynda suggests that all members sign up for this newsletter. There is a link on our website to the US Forum and to Dr. Bedenbaugh. Every DKG member is a member of US Forum.

Personal Growth & Services – Mary-Martha reported for Julie Hadyk and Christine Taylor.

Report has been submitted. This Committee would like to do a healthy recipe in our newsletter. Due to copyright concerns, other options are being explored for this new idea.

Professional Affairs – Della Ludwig

Della suggests sending healthy recipes via email once a week or month. She stated that she doesn't have a report since her Committee has not been able to come together.

Program – Mary Cherniss and Laura Hill

Nothing new to report. It was noted that Brian Kolb is unable to attend the May meeting due to responsibilities in State Legislature.

Scholarship/Grants-in-Aid – Peg Snyder

All districts contacted are participating in the scholarship - . Each district has an *Omega* contact person. The Committee has received one application. The Committee will look at all applications and select winners. Contact members will invite winners to a Chapter meeting and present scholarships at the high school graduations.

World Fellowship – Adelle Miller-Wadsworth

Adelle reported that she has had difficulty getting her Committee together. Adelle will be finished in her role as Chair in June so is interested in who the new Chair will be. The “*Jewels for Schools*” project raised \$356.00 that was sent to UNICEF.

Adelle suggested a new project based on One Thousand Cranes of Hope Project (see <https://www.1000cranesofhope.com/>). *Omegas* could work folding origami paper cranes and Katja can help teach. Della suggested donating the cranes to Golisano Children's Hospital. Peg suggested the Wilmot Cancer Center as a back-up. Adelle will present this idea to the membership at the March meeting. Supplies will be available at the April meeting. Mary-Martha suggested that the May Chapter

Meeting be about the One Thousand Paper Crane Project instead of what was originally planned since a speaker has not be found as of now. Brian Kolb is unable to attend. A book list will be created so that members can bring books about the project for distribution with the cranes.

Arts & Music – Sharyn Powell

The Committee would like to inform the membership at monthly meetings of various visual and performing art projects that are going on in the districts. They would like one person from each district to share what is going on in the next two months (dates/times). She needs a little bit of time to explain this to the membership. Mary-Martha can publish this information in the March newsletter and then the information can be printed to pass out at the March meeting.

The Committee continues to work on having various student performing groups to attend Chapter meetings. The Committee would like four meetings within a biennium where the arts are showcased so that they can plan. The Committee or Chapter would provide treats for the presenters. Mary Cherniss suggests that one be visual and one be performance. Deb Poplasky has given us a songbook of teacher related songs. The committee would like to sing two a year at meetings. They will include a blurb in the March Newsletter and a surprise flash performance.

Cheer – Helene Goodberlet

September 2015-January 2016 the Committee has sent out 23 birthday cards, 9 cheer cards and 2 roses for loss. Information about Julie Haydk's Dad was shared and a rose will be sent. The Cheer Committee will also remember members who have resigned quarterly.

For Action

- The Executive Committee approved name change of “*Omega Cheer*” to “*Omega Joys and Concerns*” in President emails to membership. Thank you to Sally Maxson for suggesting this name change.
- Committee Reports are due to Mary-Martha by January 30, 2016
- Proposal for new **Educational Excellence Committee** with a Chair to include Arts & Music, Legislation/US Forum, Professional Affairs, Personal Growth & Services but still retain Chairs and Committees within that umbrella if needed.

Mary-Martha would like the format in our notebook and in the State Directory to match what is stated in our *Standing Rules*. Chairs would still exist but under the umbrella of an Educational Excellence Committee.

Della Ludwig made a motion that we merge Professional Affairs and Personal Growth & Services into Professional and Personal Growth that meets the need of a retired and working membership. Bev Lanou seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

- Proposal for *Historical Records & Scrapbook* to become part of **Communications & Publicity Committee** was approved. Pi State 2015 Convention made this change in *Standing Rules*.
- Proposal for **Ceremonies** to become part of **Membership & Expansion Committee** but retain Chair and Committee if needed within that umbrella. At the State level this is how it is being done in *Standing Rules*.
- **Program and location ideas for 2016-17**

Concerns have been brought up about cost of dinners at meetings. It was agreed that we should offer a variety of venues and costs. Program ideas include:

- Red Jacket tour and discussion of cookbook with a healthy food night at Trinity
- Hope Hall – Sister Dolcia
- *Common Core* update
- *Omega's Got Talent* with workshops done from within membership
- Legislator
- *Pathways to Graduation* (new regulations)
- *Race to Nowhere/Beyond Measure*
- *National Board Certification* by Christine Taylor

A motion was made by Laura Hill and seconded by Della Ludwig to adjourn the meeting at 12:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Katja Stevens, Acting Secretary