DKG Epsilon Fall Meeting

October 21, 2023

Sheridan’s Restaurant

Andover, NJ

12:20 PM – Meeting was brought to order.

* Betty Monaghan (president) welcomed us.
* Minutes from last meeting was approved by Barbara Henderson and seconded by Cindy Seamans. Two corrections…- .misspelling of Pat Taranto and Mary

Warden

* Correspondence - Debbie Simmons -

Debbie read a note from Kathy Sirocky who is choosing to discontinue membership in DKG (she has moved to Pennsylvania)

Debbie also read a note from Barbara Edwards thanking the sisters for the notes and cards regarding her husband John’s death

* Treasurer’s report –

Balance as of 5/6/2023 = $10,596.92.

Receipts - $ 5,244.26

Distributions - $ 5,942.64

Balance as of today - $9,897.54

* President’s report – Betty Monaghan

Welcome sisters

Reminded everyone to sign the sign -up sheet and check for any changes

Encouraged sisters to bring guests to future meetings

Encouraged sisters to bring in new members

* Vice President’s report – Patty Curtis

Encouraged sisters to check the back sheet of the agenda for important dates

Asked if any Warren County sisters have recommendations for new venues

* Today’s Program

Carolyn Vander Wall – “The Soap Project” introduced by Barbara Henderson.

Carolyn and her husband have been supporters of the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking. She cited two video/movies on human trafficking – “Sound of Freedom” and “Love 146” which she encouraged us to find and watch. Numbers of children caught up in human trafficking are 40,000,000 victims world- wide. Just in the United States between 400,000-600,000 victims are trafficked each year. Carolyn cited a book by a survivor, Theresa Flores – “The Slave from Across the Street” and told many real -life instances of trafficking taken from the book. Carolyn and her husband have started “The Soap Project” in which they drop off bars of soap with information on how to escape trafficking in schools, motels, malls and on the streets. Carolyn also warned the big events like the Super Bowls were huge venues of human trafficking. She encouraged us to do something about it…”if you see something say something”. Get involved in the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking, give a donation through info@njhumantrafficking.org, and call the number 888-373-7888 if you see anything suspicious. She also noted that January 11th is National Awareness Day of Human Trafficking in which we could distribute poster, soaps, ,etc. to make the public aware of this huge problem.

* Barbara Henderson collected gift cards from the sisters to give to DASI and DARCC. Betty also stated that Epsilon chapter will take gift cards any time of the year to pass on to these organizations.
* Patty Curtis asked sisters to vote for their two favorite books suggested by the state chapter to be discussed at our upcoming state convention.
* Scholarship – Linda Mole

Linda encouraged any sisters who are interested in a scholarship or a stipend to go on the state website to investigate and apply.

* Social – Susan Hebel

Our sisters are visiting Willowbrook Arboretum on November 9th. She encouraged anyone who has not to sign up to please so so.

* Membership – Maureen McGrath and Susan Brezina

Susan and Maureen encouraged any sisters to please ask a deserving educator to join our chapter. Sisters should email Susan or Maureen the contact information of the inductee and a formal letter will go out to them notifying them of the sister who recommended her. A social will be held after Thanksgiving to inform the new members of our chapter. Induction will take place at the state convention in April, 2023.

* Book Club – Betty spoke of the book club and the enjoyment the members appreciate. The next meeting will be held at the Andover Diner December 6th and the book is “The Tiffany Girls” by Shelley Noble,
* Necrology – Barbara Henderson – Barbara spoke of a past sister who recently passed away, Ruth McCluskey. Ruth was a past Epsilon president and lived life. Barbara brought a portrait of Ruth and a white rose to commemorate her life.
* Sunshine – Pat Steege – Pat encouraged sisters to let her know if any sister is in need of a visit with a rose from sunshine.
* Manna House – Maija Volk. The next Manna House date is December 29th. Maija encouraged members to let her know if they wish to volunteer.
* Book Smiles – Cindy Seamans. Cindy encouraged any sisters

who donate books to let her know the numbers so she can forward the numbers on to the state.

* Website – Betty asked sisters to send any news or pictures to Barbara Edwards who manages our website.
* Calendar –

December 2nd -Holiday Celebration at Farmstead Golf and Country Club – 12:00 PM

February 3rd – Potluck breakfast at Western Hills Christian Church – 12:00 pm

April 12-14 -0 DKGNJ state Convention alt the Double Tree in Somerset NJ

May 4 – Location TBD – 11:00 AM

* Old Business
* New Business – Michelle Visco announced her new position at Stillwater Elementary School as the RTI Coordinator/Interventionist… congratulations Michelle!
* Meeting was adjourned… approved by Pat Steege seconded by Cindy Seamans at 3:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Brezina