

BLOOMING ROSES

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Oregon State Organization -- Alpha Epsilon Chapter**

Volume 63, No. 10 ----- March 25, 2023

Marie Mueller and Kathy Martell, Newsletter Editors

April 2023 Chapter Meeting

April 4--Tuesday

5 p.m.

Room TBA (or Tara might do signs for us to follow.)

Leslie Middle School

3850 Pringle Rd., S.E.

Salem

Presenter: Tara Heikila, teacher at Leslie Middle School

Topic: Using Photovoice to Explore Mathematics with Youth in the Pacific Northwest--This is her doctoral dissertation topic, which incorporates the MAPS grant that provided the cameras. Let's hear how it's working!

DIRECTIONS

1. Take Madrona or Ewald to Pringle.
2. Turn right onto Pringle.
3. Turn left into Leslie Middle School

OR

1. Take Kuebler toward Costco.
2. Turn left onto Battle Creek Rd. at the light before Costco (if coming from Commercial) or turn right onto Battle Creek (if coming from East Salem)
3. Turn right onto Pringle
4. Turn right into Leslie Middle School.



UPDATES FROM KATHY

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Updates

Meeting with Marion County Commissioner Colm Willis

On March 6, before I left for Costa Rica, I met with Marion County Commissioner Colm Willis to explain about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL). He had read about me being a speaker in April for the Creekside Rotary Club, and he had his office call me to set up a time to meet with him. We had a great meeting, and he was very enthusiastic about the program and asked many questions. Turns out he has four of his own children he can enroll in the Stayton DPIL program which has been going for a couple of years. I don't think he knew about it so I showed him how he could register them on his phone. Commissioner Willis said he was going to present what he had learned to the other two commissioners and then he asked if I would come back and do a pitch to all of them at the same time. I told him I would after my trip to Costa Rica and I would bring Margie Lowe with me to help answer their questions. I left after learning there is a pot of money they could use to help support the program if we can bring the other two commissioners on board. They like to support the rural towns in Marion County and we have a number of them still left who are anxious to get the program started.

Meeting with Stephanie Gilbert from the Polk County Commissioners' Offices

After learning there is some funds available from Marion County, I decided to call Polk County Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst to see if they had some funds to help start a program in Monmouth since Monmouth-Independence do everything together and we only have DPIL in Independence right now. (You might remember Lyle from a workshop he did about car up-keep and a diaper collection site he set up for Family Building Blocks at our last State Convention we had in Salem.) He referred me to Stephanie Gilbert who works in their office and I have a meeting with her and the city librarians from Monmouth and Independence on Monday, March 27. Stay tuned for an update on that meeting.

Work session for HB 2872

For HB 2872 to continue through the Legislative process, Rep. Bowman told us during his presentation that it had to be scheduled for a "Work Session" by a certain date or the bill would die. I am happy to report that the work session is scheduled for this Wednesday, March 22, 1:00 p.m. in HR F at the Capitol. I will be there listening along with Jim Scheppke, Retired State Librarian who is on the DPIL Steering Committee and Lisa Harnisch, Executive Director of the Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub. The two of them have met with every representative individually on the House Committee; Early Childhood and Human Services while I was out of the country. They received a lot of positive feedback and feel we're headed in the right direction. Stay tuned for an update on this meeting too.



Representative Ben Bowman and our favorite book lady, Ms. Dolly Parton's cardboard personnae.

Salem for Refugees

I have been attending the monthly meetings for SFR since September and have decided it's time for me to get trained so I can become a volunteer and be useful. I will be attending their training class on Wednesday, April 5 from 6-8p.m. It is my hope to be working with a family or one family member on learning English or doing homework. **If anyone else is interested in joining me, let me know** and I'll walk you through the process of filling out the background paper work and getting approved before the training.

Further information follows the minutes: Page 5.



L to R

*Ivey Uppinghouse
Tara Heikila
Deb Freels
Margie Lowe*

Photos by *Kathy Martell*--and we didn't take one of her!

Shirley Lomax arrived after the photos were taken.

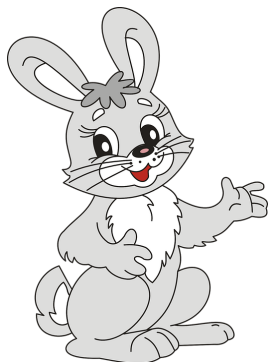
Minutes, next page

Left side, L to R

*Representative Ken Bowman
Reinstating former member
Florence Carter
Shirley House
Marie Mueller*

Right side (see photo above too)

*Ivey Uppinghouse
Tara Heikila
Deb Freels
Margie Lowe*



Minutes, March 6 Chapter Meeting

Despite other things going on, we had a good number of members and guests at our meeting:

- Kathy Martell
- Marie Mueller
- Shirley House
- Deb Freels
- Shirley Lomax
- Representative Ben Bowman
- Margie Lowe, Fiscal Officer for the HUB
- Ivey Uppinghouse, Literacy Library Winner
- Tara Heikila, MAPS Award Winner
- Former member Florence Carter (reinstated!)

Ivey brought her certificate for the co-presidents to sign and told us how excited her students were about the 70 new books. They helped her group and label each one and decided where they should be placed.

Margie Lowe from the HUB described the roles she has and explained how the HUB's status assists in asking for funding and designing grant applications. Funds in hand from the residual dollars of the Salem Keizer Foundation (\$80,000) provided the leverage for later donations. She discussed how a state match will help expand the program and relieve pressure on local donors.

Representative Bowman was interested in the variety of educational positions our members represented. He asked that we introduce ourselves and say what we had taught and where/when. He was absolutely enthusiastic about supporting the Oregon Imagination Library project and described the ways in which more support is being developed among his fellow representatives and, working with Senator Deb Patterson, among their senate colleagues. Please consider supporting HB 2872 and SB 407!

Both Ms. Lowe and Rep. Bowman listed ways in which we can support the project as individuals and as a group. Public input and testimony is vital. Alpha Epsilon can do that. Marie volunteered to design and send a group letter to members (done!). We were reminded to urge the Ways and Means Committee to fund the project, too.

Handouts on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, on the percentage of students meeting third grade

language arts competencies, on numbers signed up for v. those eligible for Dolly Parton were shared, along with ways to become active and to contribute to the HUB.

In our other vital literacy effort, Deb Freels reported on how well-received were the 72 books she delivered to the Salem Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care unit. Deb noted that she recently received another 38 books from the OEA Retired group in which Shirley House is active. Kathy Martell had donated 40 more books, so the same week as our meeting, Deb delivered another 78 books to NICU.

Should we keep collecting? Yes! The NICU has over 400 tiny patients each year, so there is one area of ongoing need. **New books are required for NICU;** bilingual books are welcomed.

Shirley Lomax says we should also think of the Early-Career Literacy Award for a new teacher for next fall. **New or gently loved books** that are age appropriate, focus on diversity and sports--or special education--will fit the goals of Mary Lynn Morgan's memorial award. The grade level won't be available until next fall, but it will be grade-school--K-5--and many classrooms have a variety of reading competencies.

A basket from Alpha Epsilon for convention: Yes! Since the theme is Empowering Independence, that leaves many options open. We decided that wine with other goodies would be a way to help the winner relax and become "independent" from stress. Bring contributions to the April meeting at Tara Heikila's school--Leslie Middle School.

Remember: The state convention is nearby in Independence, and a one-day option is available for everyone. Attend and bring friends. It's April 28-30.

After an excellent meal and good conversation, we adjourned.



UPDATE

SALEM FOR REFUGEES (SFR): EMPOWERING REFUGEES TO THRIVE

As you read earlier in the newsletter, Kathy Martell is becoming more involved with Salem for Refugees, so she asked that information on their current activities be included in the newsletters. This is for the week of March 20-25. Alpha Epsilon has not yet voted on what our projects for the coming year will include, but Salem for Refugees could be one of them. Stay tuned for further info. PS SFR staff write in first person, so that is the “we, us, our” pronoun references.

Who’s new to Salem?

This month we’ve already welcomed 4 arrivals (22 individuals) and we have scheduled arrivals for 18 more individuals in the next 2 weeks! From our last call with World Relief, we anticipate this pace of arrivals to continue through September. If you would like to be notified of airport pickups so you can join us in welcoming families at the airport, you can join our email list.

And Corvallis!

Last week, we had our first arrival that was assigned to Corvallis, where they were welcomed by a team of Corvallis volunteers. Since arriving, the family has adjusted to their volunteer host-home, the kids have been enrolled in school and the parents are scheduled with many of their initial appointments at places like DHS, Social Security, and their clinic.

If you are interested, there are many ways to volunteer, donate, or join an SFR project:

1. With our increase in arrivals, our **Welcome Home volunteer team** has been busy with lots of move-ins and host home turnovers in the past few weeks. We’re grateful to our volunteers for their support! As we anticipate many more move-ins in coming months, we would love to add to our pool of volunteers who can help in this area.
2. **Good Neighbor Teams** are volunteer teams paired with a newly arriving refugee family to provide hospitality, friendship, and community connection. This is a great way for families, small groups, friends, or neighbors to welcome a refugee family.
3. Another way you can get involved in welcoming our new neighbors is signing up to purchase one or more **pantry starter items** for a new arrival which does not have a Good Neighbor Team available.
4. **Grocery Gift Cards.** We provide gift cards to all families we receive through the refugee program to supplement grocery expenses, as well as essential clothing and hygiene items. We are collecting \$25 and \$50 gift cards for Winco, Walmart, and Fred Meyer. These can be mailed or dropped off to us at 1400 Broadway St., N.E. Salem, OR 97301.
5. **Restart Kits:** We are accepting all Restart Kits! These kits are helpful to staff and volunteers when they set up homes for our new neighbors. We have empty totes available at our Welcome Center, if you would like to take a tote and fill it.
6. **Transportation:** We often have families that require transportation from their home to our office for cultural orientation classes or to a clinic for an appointment.
7. **Tutors**
 - a. Volunteer K-5th Grade Tutors provide elementary students with after school tutoring and homework help.
 - b. Adult English Tutors help new neighbors build independence in speaking and understanding English through 1-on-1 English tutoring.
8. **Host Homes**
 - a. We are currently looking for volunteers who would be willing to host refugees in their home while we search for their permanent housing.
9. **Other Donations**
 - a. An online wishlist with other essential items includes car seats, vacuums, and coats.
 - b. We need baby wipes and larger-size diapers (4-6 and pull-ups).
 - c. We are also accepting select furniture donations again, based on our storage capacity: new or gently used furniture.

For more information, go to the Salem for Refugees website: <https://www.salemforrefugees.org/>

OREGON STATE ORGANIZATION
CONVENTION 2023

Dear DKG Friends:

Are you registered? If not, check out the convention website or read about it via the QR code or in the newsletter.

Give our new **Convention Website** a try: <https://dkgoregonconvention.weebly.com/> Grace has put everything at your fingertips to make it easy for you to join in.

Or

The Oregon State Organization **“Convention Edition,”** of The New Oregon Trail is now available on the website for your reading pleasure. Look for the top entry that says Spring 2023 Trail and you are in the right place. Happy reading.

Or

Point your cell phone at this QR code and it will take you straight to our **convention website** too.



Grace Pitzer, Webmaster
gcpitzer@gmail.com

Marie Mueller, Editor
cwmueller33@gmail.com