

Alpha Kappa Chapter
Georgia State Organization (GSO)
DKG society International

Alpha Kappa chapter Minutes February 25, 2019

Prior to the call to order Virginia McChesney, our state president read the words of the DKG song and encouraged us to apply the words and our 7 purposes. She stated that "being a teacher is being a leader". The coming (long) newsletter from the State will have the new amendments and Virginia asked us to read those.

Mary Anne called the meeting to order and passed around the volunteer sheet. Alpha Kappa members had 137.5 hours in January 2019. The treasurer's report stating the total assets of the chapter was approved by the chapter with a statement from Melinda that the amount of dues that goes to state and international is not correct on the financial report and will be corrected. Our parliamentarian was not present, (recovering in rehab from a broken leg bone), so the chapter agreed to accept the report as written with corrections forthcoming. The minutes from January 2019 were also approved.

Ginny Robinson reported on the new bill 109 that will change funding for TRS beginning with teachers who become employed after June 2019, therefore not affecting the current retirees or employed teachers. The bill sets a new range for mandatory employee contribution of 5%-10% in place of 5%-6% to TRS. The bill also proposes to eliminate the opportunity to use unused sick leave toward retirement credit. This along with limiting salary increases used to determine the highest consecutive 5 years instead of 2 years will better support TRS remaining a defined pension.

Mary Anne attended DKG Day at the Capitol Feb. 18.

Mary Anne brought up 2 volunteer opportunities for us in April. The Clarkston Cultural Festival is Saturday April 27; Connie Black is the contact person. Mary Anne is the contact person for the WRC to be discussed later.

We voted to have the April meeting on April 29, the 5th Monday instead of our usual 4th Monday, April 22, so we can get reports about the volunteer opportunities and the State convention April 26-28 in Jekyll that Betsy and Mary Anne are attending.

Aalam Farhad reported on her experiences living in Afghanistan before and after the Taliban regime came to power. She was 9 years old. Schools for women were closed. Her family became migrants. Iran and Pakistan opened their borders to millions of migrant people. When her family returned to Afghanistan, she was in 6th grade. Much of her homeland had been bombed. The classrooms were held in tents. Children had to share one textbook and took turns sitting in the one chair. She had access to school but not every child was secure in going to school especially girls. The children in Afghanistan come to schools with no chairs, the schools are burnt, no walls, no books and they write on the ground. Aalam was supported by her family and especially her father who encouraged and wanted education for her.

Aalam feels privileged in her opportunities to get an education. She attended Kabul university which is the "most privileged but also in the one of the most insecure cities in Afghanistan". She has studied at

the American University of Central Asia and at Georgia State University with the Fulbright program. She sees societies' injustices of "some want education and don't have access, others have everything and they don't want it". She wants to "pave the path for those who want to learn and for those who have dreams."

After Aalam presented her experiences to us we inducted 3 new members, Che Guilford, Gi"Anna Bell and Aalam Farhad. Our state president, Virginia McChesney participated in the ceremony. Lynn Albertson was not present and will be inducted later.

At our next meeting on March 25, 2019 Peggy Haller will present her clowning program.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Robinson- recording secretary-Alpha Kappa