

Phi Delta Kappa
North Coast Chapter of Ohio
February 21, 2012
Open Board meeting minutes

Attendance: Margaret Betz, Greg Birney, Dr. Robin Dever, Jerry Devis, Jill Herrick, Chris Kilbane, Judy Neal, Barb Szabo
Guest: Sherie Williams, PDK International Regional Director via Skype
Guest: Paula Kucinic, PDK Cuyahoga Valley Chapter, Board Representative

President Margaret Betz called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Colony Room in the Baldwin-Wallace College Union, Berea, Ohio

SECRETARY: Minutes of the January 21, 2012 Board meeting were read by the Board and approved as written.

Correspondence: Margaret Betz read a thank you note from the Westside Catholic Center, thanking our chapter for the donation of 50 children's books to their library in the Women and Children's shelter.

TREASURER: Report not available

SERVICE:

Margaret Betz and Barb Szabo delivered 50 books to the Westside Catholic Center. The books will be used in the library of the Women and Children's Shelter.

Thank you to the following people for donating books: Peggy Mendelson, Dr. Robin Dever, Judy Neal and Barb Szabo. We will continue to collect books for a presentation at our upcoming meeting.

Barb Szabo contacted Kelsey Richards, president of the organization, "First Book," at Baldwin-Wallace College. Kelsey was informed that the North Coast Chapter of PDK is collecting children's books and would like to present them with some new books that they will then donate to needy children as their own "first book." Kelsey and five other representatives of the group will attend our March 20 chapter meeting at the Colony Room, at which time we will present them with the books.

PROGRAM: Tonight's meeting, organized by Chris Kilbane is an open board meeting focusing on the sustainability of the North Coast Chapter. Our chapter, along with other chapters in Northeast Ohio are losing members. The North Coast Chapter is the most active of the remaining chapters in the area. We have a very dedicated Board that plans monthly programs, service projects, fundraising and awards scholarships. However, the efforts of the Board to gain new members and retain old ones has been an ongoing struggle and the attendance at our programs is disappointing.

Sherie Williams, the regional director for PDK International was asked by President Margaret Betz, to join us at this meeting via a Skype connection, provided by Dr. Robin Dever. Paula Kucinic, a Board member of the Cuyahoga Valley PDK chapter was also invited to attend.

Membership and merging were the priority topics. Sherie Williams explained that most people that are joining PDK are mid-career people and university students. The university students are not actively involved in established chapters but use PDK as an online resource. The mid-career people are not interested in dinner meetings but seem to prefer planned activities and one-shot participation as through a service project.

At this point ineffective chapters are being told to merge for a broader membership base and shared leadership. Recently, the Golden Crescent Chapter merged with the Ashland University Chapter. Other chapters have also merged as a means of moving forward.

The other chapters in our region are Kent State University, Akron University, McKinley, and Cuyahoga Valley. If the North Coast Chapter were to merge with these other chapters, we would have a regional PDK chapter with a leadership team comprised of members from each of the merged chapters.

Surveys would be sent out from International to all members in good standing of the affected chapters, asking if they agree to merge. When the merger is finalized, individual treasuries will come into the merged chapter, a new name would be decided upon, the bylaws would be updated and we would have a merged Board. It would take about a month and a half to finalize.

The North Coast of Ohio Board was in favor of beginning the process by contacting the other chapter presidents and discussing the possibility of a merger. Sherie Williams will forward the presidents names and Paula Kucinic will arrange the meeting.

The next Board meeting for the North Coast Chapter will be on **Saturday, March 17th at 9:30 a.m.** at the residence of President Margaret Betz.

Barb Szabo moved to adjourn the meeting.
Judy Neal seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.