

Omicron Chapter of Homer continues to be a dynamic, evolving and productive group of now twenty-five sisters. We maintain four major committees under the Educational Excellence umbrella. These committees provide two meetings each with interesting programs and amazing food. We meet at our local elementary school under the Delta Kappa Gamma insurance which allows for a safe parking lot and easy access for older members and allows interaction in the community.

We have one large service project in cooperation with our local churches, several businesses and Rotary. This is to provide backpacks to children through the Homer Food Pantry. We distributed 68 backpacks filled with school supplies this year under the leadership of Karen Murdock. At Christmas, we contribute canned goods to the Food Pantry along with canned food to the Animal Shelter. This year, under the leadership of Deb Schmidt, instead of holding a holiday feast and white elephant gift exchange, our group of sisters gathered together to make Christmas wreaths for our local Senior Center. We decorated 40 wreaths and swaths to adorn the doors of our local seniors who live at the Center. We were delighted to work together while listening to Christmas music, sipping cider and enjoying snacks. We held an express version of the white elephant ornament exchange which proved to be most hilarious with two not one but two pickles appearing in the mix. We will repeat this service project and Christmas gathering again this year.

This year we were able to award scholarships to two of our local aspiring educators. One of the recipients was a young man with great talent who is student teaching with our own very dear Amy Budge.

We are excited about our programs and learning opportunities provided by the committees. We have had the State information office speak with us about testifying. We have learned about the value of Vitamin D. We have learned about 3D printing. Can you imagine? We met at the Chamber of Commerce office and learned about our local tourism industry and cruise ship offerings. We listened to the Pratt Museum Education Director teach us about local programs and units for teachers in the areas of the Oil Spill and shorebird identification. We gained knowledge on Blended Learning. We continue to enjoy brainstorming together new members to recruit and how to increase membership statewide.

Our chapter is now working with creativity and brainstorming with our art expert Deb Piper for the upcoming State Convention coming to Homer in April 21,22,23 2018. We will see you at Land's End Resort.

Respectfully submitted by
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