2018-2019 Report for Omicron Chapter-Homer Ak. Submitted by Amy Budge

We have initiated 2 new members. We lost one member who transferred to Fairbanks. We sent letters to any previous in-active members inviting them to rejoin. We plan to seek out some students working on their education degree as collegiate members.

We enthusiastically started our year on August 13th with our annual backpack project. This was led by 3 of our members Gloria Hensen, Ceil Manchester and Sue Brass. We coordinated with the local churches and both Rotaries. We gathered backpacks and supplies and then distributed them the Monday before school started through the Homer Food Pantry. We gave out 104 filled backpacks.

We held our first meeting on August 27th. We discussed new member nominations of which there are 4 and how to make our meetings relevant for our members. We brainstormed possible topics and projects.

We discussed a new education scholarship that is established by the Homer Foundation for teachers to apply for up to $500. We distributed the application and encouraged teachers to apply. We also donated $200 to that fund to honor two of our members who are retired and who continue to work hard to support our schools: Shirley Gribble and Gloria Hensen.

One area for revitalization was to host Colleen Brown at our October meeting and invite her to share her vision for our organization. She was just brilliant as always. We believe it is key to have a face to face with the State President every two years. We are sorry she is not going to continue another biennium.

We held a Christmas project, which we have done the last two years, which is to gather and create live wreathes to hang on the doors of the Senior Center in town. We also do a gathering of food for the Homer Animal Shelter.

We hosted one of our members who works at the Iditarod every year and got a firsthand account of this race.

We have been active supporting a contract for our teachers and in supporting the schools in light of proposed cuts in our district. We have tried to be encouraging to new untenured teachers in our district who face the possibility of pink slips this year.

We have several members who are snowbirds so it is always a pleasant surprise when they are back in town.

We are trying to keep a positive supportive group for education.