



# Lambda Alpha

Lambda Alpha Newsletter  
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## Letter from the President

It is beginning to look a lot like... the start of school. Stores advertise extra special savings on school supplies. Parents hurry to the mall to outfit their children for school. As I reflect upon the start of school, I remember my own feelings about the start of school. I was happy to return to school to see my friends but also a little sad to see the lazy days of summer fade away. I loved buying new school clothes and coloring with a fresh box of crayons. But the most exciting moment revolved around finding out my teacher's name.

Each school year, children have the opportunity to begin anew. This year I have the opportunity to open a new school. Everything is brand new. I love watching our teachers as they enthusiastically come to school to prepare their new rooms before their contractual year has even begun. They anticipate an exciting school year. Their love for children is so evident.

Lambda Alpha members will also have the opportunity to renew their relationship with our chapter. I challenge you to feel the same excitement children feel at this time of the year. We hope you will mark your calendar for Saturday, September 12 when we will gather in the beautiful home of Karen Harrell to enjoy a salad luncheon.

This year, we will Re-member why we joined DKG. Interviews with members will run in each newsletter. Members will share why they decided to join DKG. Take a moment and contemplate the following: Who invited you to join DKG? How did you feel when you were invited to join? What has DKG done for you? How can we ensure a healthy chapter for the future?

Looking forward to seeing you in September.

*Mary*



## Reflections on the 86<sup>th</sup> State Convention

I had the great opportunity to attend the 86<sup>th</sup> State Convention of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International June 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, Texas. I was in the company of two great Lambda Alpha Chapter sisters: Brenda Lozano 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Gloria Montalbano 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. We left on Thursday and rode together with Gloria driving us to the convention at the wee hours of the morning.

Once in San Antonio we checked in, dropped off our luggage and checked to see what sessions we would attend. There were several great sessions of which we could not attend all, but we picked and chose the ones that we thought would be beneficial for each day we were there. I enjoyed the QR Codes: Read ‘em, Make ‘em, Use ‘em” session. There was a session on “Organizing your life with Goggle”, “A closer look at Dyslexia”, and many more. The one that got my attention was “Who is Ted and what is he talking about?” I will have to go back and log on to TED.com to view it and listen to it before I can explain this one intelligibly.

It was awesome to be amongst so many great women from different states and to run into other sisters from other chapters like Zeta Tau. We got to visit the TSO Mercado (vendors), attend the First General Meeting: Opening Session, ASTEF Celebration and Annual Meeting of Members, and walk and have dinner on the Riverwalk,

**What did I come away with from this conference?** Well, I realized that we need to do more as a *team, and be fully committed as members* to get things accomplished. Some of us already do but we need *all* members to participate not just a few. I witnessed what some of the chapters present at this convention have done to be successful. We all know the saying: “It takes a village”. We all have to be present and want to be a chapter that is recognized for our hard work and efforts. So my challenge to all of you is to be present in your commitment to your chapter, our chapter Lambda Alpha. The program mission of the conference on the cover was; “Expand the Vision”, so we all need to do this.

Mary Moreno

State Convention Report  
Gloria Montalbano

Attending the DKG State Convention in San Antonio, “*Expand the Vision: Educate, Inspire, Encourage*” was enlightening, educational, and fun among other adjectives. The number of delegates from Texas, other states and different parts of the world connected all of us as DKG sisters. I attended general sessions and received great amounts of information and new ideas about DKG chapters. There were also 3 days of hourly sessions on: Educational Topics that are being used in the classroom or Personal Development Interest.

“6 Apps in 60 Minutes” This session was presented by Teresa Toliver a DKG sister in Alief ISD. We learned about: *padlet.com*; or *remind.com*; and others *bloomz* and *voxer*. These apps help with collaboration, printing flyers, or just to send notices or short messages to help with communication. As a Texas History teachers I enjoyed “Pioneer Women - Journey to Texas”. This was presented by two DKG sisters from Alpha Iota a chapter in the Richmond/Rosenberg. They did a reenactment of the book Sunbonnet Angels: Hitch Your Wagon to A Star, by Josephine Ella White. Besides giving the expectations and cures and concoctions of pioneer women they suggested how the book could be incorporated to nearly every subject in the curriculum.

Note from Brenda: Many items were collected and donated to the Unifying Project that benefited the Boys and Girls Clubs of S.A.

## Important Dates:

1. September 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday at 11:00 at Karen’s house (E-Mail with map and more info to come soon)  
Salad Luncheon
2. October 13<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday at 5:00 pm refreshments and socialization with meeting at 5:30 MMS  
Technology
3. December 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday at 11:00 at Junior League  
Christmas luncheon and collection of Christmas gifts for students
4. January 12<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday at 5:00 pm refreshments and socialization with meeting at 5:30 MMS  
Cards with a Purpose (distribution date to be announced)
5. February 9<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 5:00 at Brenda’s house  
International celebration and voting for officers
6. March 29<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 5:00 for refreshments and socialization with meeting at 5:30 MMS  
Cognitive Diversity
7. April 30<sup>th</sup> – Saturday at 11:00 The Café at Brookwood  
Founders’ Day



Vision Statement  
Leading women educators  
impacting education worldwide

## Pumpkin Patch 2015 – Martha Lynn Lewis

Volunteer Hours. Total hours over 280 hours

Kathy Gardner, Cathy Jones, Leigh LaVergne, Martha Lynn Lewis, Brenda Lozano, Mary Moreno, Gloria Montalbano, Margaret Rankin, Clara Reimer, Jane Riddle, Ruby Schaper, Sue Thompson, and LaJuana Wehunt met for 6 Wednesdays to work on pumpkins. About 300 pumpkins (or soft sculptures) were created. Many have been sold already with about \$460 in sales. They have been sold in book clubs, beauty shops, Georgetown and at convention. The top sales person has been Margaret Rankin. A great time was had by all. Great food, conversation, creativity, bonding, and planning for next year.



In case you do not recognize LaJuana Wehunt she is a neighbor of Martha Lynn Lewis and for the last 2 years has participated in creating the pumpkins and her pulled pork is the bomb!

For more information and pictures of DKG visit our great Website:  
<http://lambdaalphdkg.weebly.com/>

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of education of women educators and excellence in education.

## Tobey has found other activities we can share. Here is information on the **Communities in Schools Program**.

Our Houston Astros are shining in two big ways right now. They are playing great and they are also spotlighting the valuable Communities In Schools program that is an integral part of the Spring Branch School system and my school, our school, Buffalo Creek Elementary. Communities In Schools of Houston is a campus-based Dropout Prevention program. CIS works with the school system on over 100 campuses to provide direct social services to at-risk students and connect students with available community resources. Our Astros are giving us a discount of \$5 on a game ticket on Fri., Aug 14, Sat., Aug. 22, and Mon., Sep. 21. For each ticket we purchase, they will give \$5 to Communities In Schools. A few years ago, campus social workers were discontinued in Spring Branch due to funding shortages from the state. This wonderful CIS program took their place and help our families daily with medical needs, food, clothes, and shelter, uniforms and school supplies. If you are an Astros baseball fan, here is your opportunity for a great sports event, as well as direct help to children in our schools. I've seen CIS in action and they are awesome!!

### Game Dates:

Sports GameMinute Maid ParkHouston 	Fri, Aug 14	Astros vs Detroit Tigers <i>Tigers</i>	7:10 pm
Sports GameMinute Maid ParkHouston 	Sat, Aug 22	Astros vs Los Angeles Dodgers <i>Dodgers</i>	6:10 pm
Sports GameMinute Maid ParkHouston 	Mon, Sep 21	Astros vs Los Angeles Angels <i>ANGELS</i>	7:10 pm



The Houston Astros are pleased to offer you discounted tickets for Communities in Schools. Use the password **CISDAY** to receive your discount!

*\$5 from each ticket sold benefits Communities in Schools.*

### How to Order:

1. Click the  icon next to the game you wish to attend.
2. Enter the password **CISDAY** in the box stating "Enter offer code/password" and press OK.
3. When prompted, select "Show Offer on Map" to see available seats.
4. Use the Interactive Seat Map to see the available highlighted sections and select one.
5. Choose your desired seats.

For the discount to apply, you must enter the password **CISDAY**. For more information, call 1-800-ASTROS2.



\*Discount does not include premium games and exclusive marketing promotions.

## Lucile Cornetet Award

If you are still teaching and need money to attend a conference, a seminar lecture series, get national certification, take an online course or participate in workshops and other non-degree programs you may want to apply for the Lucile Cornetet Award. There are 3 deadlines each year: September 1, February 1, and May 1. The link for more information and application is [dkgef.org/awards.html](http://dkgef.org/awards.html).

Another great article from Tobey:

We will be selling the wonderful pumpkins that were made by our Lambda Alpha dedicated summer volunteers at the Tallowood Holiday Market on Thursday, October 29, 2015. What a fun outing this would be. A Jason's Deli box lunch is available for purchase for \$5.00. Talk with your friends and go together to enjoy the booths and find some treasures for the coming holidays!



## Birthdays!

August: Gloria Montalbano 6<sup>th</sup>, Diane Higgenbotham 8<sup>th</sup>, Melissa Steger Slayer 16<sup>th</sup>  
September: Julia Gentry 6<sup>th</sup>, Cathey Jones 15<sup>th</sup>, Terry Hibbert-Ismert 17<sup>th</sup>, Aban Rustomji 20<sup>th</sup>,  
Pauline Sayers 20<sup>th</sup>, Kathy Gardner 25<sup>th</sup>, Mary Moreno 26<sup>th</sup>

If we have missed someone, please let us know. We are going off the information in the Year Book and do not want to miss a single Birthday.

If you attended one of the Pumpkin making sessions you may have had a **Red Rooster**. Here is the recipe:

32 oz of Cranberry Juice  
32 oz of Orange Juice  
2 cups of Vodka or to taste  
Freeze, scrape, and serve

## Highlights of our Lambda Alpha members

We are going to highlight several of our members this year with the goal that we will eventually highlight all of our wonderful sisters. The plan this year is to alternate highlighting our new members with our seasoned members. I am really excited to learn so much about our members. So without further delay we will jump in with an interview with Jane Riddle. Tune in each month to see who is highlighted. It may be YOU!

Memorable trip: She and her husband went to Paris for a week to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. It was her first trip overseas and the first time away from their children. She loved visiting the Louvre and especially seeing the Mona Lisa. She got to visit Versailles and it was “as cool as it could be”. Also she visited the Museum l’Orangerie and got separated from her husband accidentally and bravely took the Metro back to their hotel and 3 hours later he returned to find her a basket case from worrying. She has always loved Monet's paintings and took a private tour to visit Monet’s home inside and the gardens. Their guide on the private tour suggested a special restaurant that only served cheese and wine. They tried 16 different types of cheeses. The restaurants in Paris are superb and they loved the food and did not have a bad meal there. The people were very friendly and she loved the chocolate candy there because she is a chocolate fiend.



Why she decided to teach: When she was a junior in high school in Mr. Frederick’s class in Lafayette Parish in Lafayette, Louisiana the student teacher was a Miss Rose. She made math exciting. She told her that she inspired her to want to be a math teacher just like her and said that the student teacher beamed. Up to that time she wanted to be a doctor but did not like all the illness and pain that her mother endured while she was in high school. She has taught all levels of math from FOM and consumer math on up to Calculus AB AP. The only math class she has not taught is AP Statistics. For a time she was a legal secretary but did not like working in a little cubicle. She taught at Northside High School in Lafayette, Louisiana from 1975-1977, at Westchester High School from 1977-81 and then had her daughter. In 1982 she started working at Stratford. Mr. Stafford, the principal at the time, told her that she would need to change her orange blood to green. She praised him for letting her do her job and backing her when needed.

Difficulties-She has had a gun and a knife pulled on her (in Louisiana), the attitude of some students, inservice that does not really help, and that the red tape can be overwhelming.

Memorable students: Tracy Renshaw, a cheerleader in her Precalculus class at Westchester High School, who was always excited about learning new things in math, and said that Mrs. Riddle knew how to explain new concepts in ways so that all students could understand.

Advice to new teachers: Always be honest to your students, show them you love teaching your subject and them, and definitely show them your silly side once you get to know them.