

Lone Star News

Official Publication of the Texas State Organization



Vol 70, No. 1 The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International ~ Key Women Educators Fall 2016

Young members highlighted at conventions

TSO was very fortunate to see three of its younger members step up at the Frisco and Nashville conventions to share their involvement and ideas for the future of Delta Kappa Gamma. All three of these young women are second or third generation DKG members.

Gencie Houy is the outgoing president of Alpha Sigma. As she spoke, she reminded members that as women leaders we have a responsibility to young women to show them that the sky is the limit, and in education all members can make a difference together.



Gencie Houy

She spoke of planning inspiring programs, bringing back past members with sisterly support and encouraging early career educators. She reminded members that teaching is not simple and effortless; it takes a determined individual to be successful in the teaching field. Houy even looked back with fondness on the wisdom and backing of experienced teachers that helped her to be successful as a beginning teacher.



Pam Hennigan

Pam Hennigan is president of the newly chartered Nu Gamma chapter. Looking for inspiration and guidance to lead the new chapter, she referred to a book called *Elmer* (the Patchwork Elephant) and charged new presidents to be different, be colorful, be spontaneous and be fun-loving. She encouraged them to be a leader, not just a president; to have a good time while conducting business; to be open to new ideas and develop them.

Hennigan challenged new presidents to trust their leadership skills, lean on the strength of members, look to other DKG members for assistance and have fun.

Michelle Pittman is the outgoing chapter president of Iota Tau who spoke in Nashville as a member of DKGNext. This group was encouraged to engage in Blue Sky Thinking, i.e., creative ideas that are not limited by current thinking or beliefs.

Considering the idea of unbound creativity, Pittman wonders if DKG is the canvas through which we impact society. Can the sky be painted if we don't have blue paint?

DKGNext is a group of young women (started as under 35) who served as an advisory board to Dr. Lyn Schmid to discuss ways to get younger women interested in DKG and to evaluate some of the traditions and technology uses of the Society.

She then takes a cue from the book *Sky Color* when she thinks about the colors displayed in the sunrise, the golden afternoon, the layers of dusk and twilight, and the depth of night. She concludes that colors other than blue can define the sky.



Michelle Pittman

To advance key women educators for life, she believes that chapters must use the unique colors that friends, colleagues and chapter members bring to chapters. Pittman encourages members not to be afraid to be themselves, to be different, to be a catalyst for change. After all, that is why they were chosen to be in DKG.

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The Heart of the Society is its Members



Marilyn Gregory
Texas State President
2015-2017



“Reflection – to reflect on our heritage as we advance the Society” is the fourth stated goal of the biennium. Members are constantly reviewing the past whether it is learning about the history of Delta Kappa Gamma or what happened at the last chapter meeting. Members learn from reading about the DKG heritage as well as from personal DKG experiences. They can use the information to set new goals so that DKG will continue for future generations.

Where can a member go to find our history? *The Delta Kappa Gamma Heritage, Volumes 1, 2 and 3*, enlighten members about information on our history. Most chapters have one or more of these volumes. Texas DKG State Archives is another great resource, though not as easily accessible. These materials are kept at Texas Woman’s University in Denton. In addition to state materials, TWU has chapter archives with yearbooks, chapter history and unique items that chapters have submitted. Members may view all of these items at the Blagg-Huey Library. Each of these documents allows members to think about the numerous parts that make up the whole of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Chapter presidents may review the successes and challenges of their chapter at the end the biennium. This type of reflection helps chapters set goals for the next biennium. This chapter review of programs, projects, events and achievements may be added to the chapter’s history each year.

When members reflect on their experiences of serving on the chapter, state and international levels, they learn about themselves and the practical details of the organization. Members realize that it takes everyone working together for a common goal and mentoring others to accept leadership positions to help fulfill the DKG purposes and goals.

The more each member learns about DKG through reflection, the more she will begin to understand and consider it a privilege to follow great women educators and serve in leadership positions at all levels of the Society.

Members look to the future for the continued growth of DKG. Yet, members must reflect on the past to understand legacies that create the present.

Betty's Buzz

Betty Vines
Executive Secretary/Treasurer



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Serving as your Executive Secretary/Treasurer for the past eight years has been a true joy. I have made many friends and many goals have been accomplished. When asked what I have enjoyed most about the job, my immediate and most sincere response has been "the opportunity to help others."

My best wishes to all of you as you continue to pursue the purposes of DKG.

Now---back to business. Just some important reminders:

- Welcome to the new treasurers. Thank you for accepting this important position in your chapter. Welcome back to the returning treasurers. Thank you for continuing to accept the challenge. For all of you, there is a world of information on the TSO website under "Treasurer's Page".
- The Finance Committee continues the challenge of volunteering to send email reminders and other important information directly to treasurers. They will be a wonderful resource for you when you need assistance.
- Thanks to the treasurers who have already submitted the yearly report (Form 15) that was due July 15. Since it is always a goal to have 100% reporting, reminders continue to be sent. Reports such as this can now be submitted electronically.
- Dues collection should be well underway. This is the responsibility of all members, not just the treasurers, so ask others to help you. Your dues "packet" from International should be on its way soon. If you have not received it by the middle of September, please let us or International know. Be aware that the dues and fees for state and international are the same as last year---no changes. To be counted on time, dues must be postmarked no later than November 10. Although the return address on the packet is the International address in Austin, **the dues and fees must be sent to the State Headquarters in Dallas.**
- New initiates will not receive their ID numbers or the state and international mailings if names and fees have not been submitted to the state office. There is no charge for reinstatements; continue to encourage members who have been dropped to become active again.
- Now is the time to file the 990-N for your chapter. The filing process is totally different this year. Filing instructions can be found on the TSO website. DO NOT ignore filing or it will become the 990-N Nightmare for you and your chapter. If you receive a letter regarding your filings from the IRS, DO NOT IGNORE IT. Call the state office for help. It is strongly recommended that one person in each chapter be designated to file this form with the IRS each year rather than changing each time a chapter changes treasurers. Keep a file of your receipts and all documentation. File early in case you encounter a problem.

May this be the best year ever for you and your chapter.

At-A-Glance Deadlines

Sept 1	State Treasurers Annual Report Form 16
Sept 10	Area Workshops 12, 17, 18
Sept 17	Area Workshops 3,6,8,9,10,13
Oct 1	TSO Mini Grant Application
Oct 15	Leadership Seminar Application due
Oct 31	Dues Due to chapters Recertification of Chapter Websites
Nov 1	Early Bird Yearbooks Cornetet Award for Prof Dev App LSN deadline
Dec 1	Yearbooks due to St Chair, HQ, AC

Committee Meetings

Sept 24-25	ASTEF Board
Oct 1-2	Executive Committee
Nov 12-13	Leadership Seminar Com

Highlights

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Member News	10-11
Gold Piece	12
ASTEF	13,15

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Members busy at Frisco Convention

On Wednesday, June 20, members from across Texas began to arrive in Frisco for the pre-convention activities of the 89th Texas State Organization Convention.

A special event was the initiation of two honorary members from the Dallas area: Gloria Campos, a television news anchor and champion for children; and Carla Ranger, DISD board member and a tireless proponent of education, particularly reading. Both women have visible and meaningful platforms to work for children who often don't have a voice to ask for help.



Gloria Campos and Carla Ranger, honorary members

The convention had not officially opened when members began to look for the ASTEF tables. They were eager to purchase one of the treasure boxes. Buyers walked away with jewelry, scarves, purses and much more.



Vivian Yancey and an ASTEF treasure.



Martha Lynn Lewis and Sue Thompson, chapter vendors

ASTEF couldn't fulfill the shopping needs of all members. They gathered their pocket books and headed toward the vendor area when the doors opened to purchase items from Annie's Attic, chapters and outside sellers.

Some members put off shopping and opted for a tour of the Texas State Headquarters in Dallas. Visitors not only saw the working offices that keep the state operational, but they got to

see treasures that ranged from Annie Webb Blanton's Bible and hand-written correspondence to the Alpha State charter from the State of Texas.



Ines Morua with Annie Webb Blanton's Bible.

After the new chapter presidents were trained, President Marilyn Gregory opened the convention. Awards were announced and a



Karl Kiehl, Walt Lammert, Jon Reed, Scot Brenecke serenading Marilyn Gregory.

busy day ended with Smooth Brew, a barbershop quartet serenading attendees with songs to relax them before a full day of activities on Friday. Members left, but Smooth Brew gave Marilyn a personal concert of love songs as a show of gratitude for allowing them to perform for the ladies of the Texas State Organization.

Many breakout sessions provided information about teaching, lifestyles, technology and TSO opportunities. The

Leadership Seminar brought its own band to teach members "How to be a DKG Rock Star."



Salethia Morris, rock star



Susan Geisler and Kathy Sanford with lobby art

Not long after members began arriving, they discovered the art tucked away in the hotel.

The Annie boards were their own type of art that beckoned members to inspect the displays and get ideas for programs and projects.



Hammons Obelisk, Annie boards, Suzanne Bathe



Nadyne Gartman, Loretta Eiben, Laura Packard, Ruth Spear visiting after breakfast

One of the delights of staying at the Embassy Suites was the chance for members to mingle with friends and plan their schedule at breakfast before beginning a busy day. At the end of the day, members could gather at the manager's reception. This allowed for casual conversation and fellowship in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

This convention allowed many members to observe a special event: the chartering of a new chapter. Vickie Allen of Mu Mu was instrumental in organizing the Nu Delta chapter in Frisco. Nine members transferred or were reinstated and 14 members were initiated. Additional members will be added in September.



Nancy Newton presenting Vicki Allen the Nu Delta charter



Patti Belknap, Deb Acevedo-Tamminga, Marilyn Gregory, La Donna Gatlin, Connie Rensick, Ruthie Estes, Chris Morrison at Birthday Luncheon

From the formality of the chartering of Nu Delta, members moved to the joy and laughter of the Birthday Luncheon. The TSO Chorus entertained, members sang the birthday song, and LaDonna Gatlin



Marilyn Gregory, pitcher

had members laughing about her exploits of being a member of the famed Gatlin family.

Many members chose to attend the RoughRiders baseball game together. President Marilyn Gregory threw out the first pitch, and Deb Acevedo-Tamminga sang the National Anthem.



Deborah Acevedo-Tamminga, singer

Most of all, members enjoyed rekindling friendships in Frisco.



Mary Harney, Norma Jost, Debbie Sansom enjoying Frisco

Members honored for achievements

Dr. Barbara Baethe, Achievement Awards Chair

Just as a seed takes time to bloom into a flower, a good thought or action becomes a great achievement only with time. The ladies honored with a Golden Rose or Achievement Award have been recognized for the difference they made with their achievements and contributions to DKG.

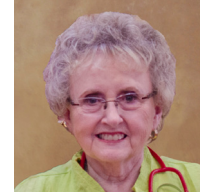
Golden Rose recipients are those members who are the backbones of our Society, working hard behind the scenes. **Sabra Doggett** moved up through the positions in her chapter sharing her “outstanding leadership qualities” with others. She is highly respected by her fellow educators and her community in her willingness to help others. **Kay Geiger** has been chapter president twice, three-time parliamentarian and worked with constitution and bylaws to get a good understanding of the organization of DKG. **Paula Haynes** has served as president of two different chapters and received the chapter achievement award. She is serving the state as area coordinator and attended the State Leadership Seminar. She has been on numerous state committees and is always willing to go the extra mile.



Sabra Doggett



Kay Geiger

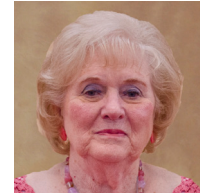


Paula Haynes



Ann Howard

Ann Howard has been active in her chapter, her coordinating council, her area and the state. She served as an area coordinator and served on many state committees. **Nila Mair** is consistent, dedicated and active in her chapter. She has shared her musical talents with the TSO Music Committee, including writing an original song for the birthday luncheon in San Antonio. **Sharon McDougale** is a tireless worker who has attended 29 state conventions, worked diligently in her chapter, worked at area workshops and served faithfully on committees at both chapter and state levels.



Nila Mair



Sharon McDougale

The State Achievement Award is given to members who have not only worked on the chapter level but have excelled in their work on the state and often international level. **Cathy Criner** has a “contagious enthusiasm” that draws people to her. She is an area coordinator, led the TSO Chorus, won her chapter’s achievement award, chaired two state committees and has been a State Leadership Seminar and International Leadership/Management Seminar participant. **Dr. Gloria Crum** has served the state as area coordinator, Program of Work, Leadership Seminar and McAllen Convention Chair. She has served on the International Rules Committee for an international convention and participated in the International Leadership/Management Seminar. She is continually presenting and participating in state and international conventions. **Jeanette Rhyan** is a doer. She was a member of the Las Colinas steering committee serving as registrar and publicity chair. She is always hosting meetings, coordinating ceremonies and presenting workshops. Rhyan has been an area coordinator, Communications Chair and is currently the State Headquarters Committee Chair.



Cathy Criner



Gloria Crum



Jeanette Rhyan

Congratulation to these women for the many contributions they have made to DKG and the lives of students they served over the years.

Unifying Project a success at Frisco Convention

Lillian Hughes, UP Committee Chair



Laura Cooper and Linda Hess gathering, bagging and boxing bears, blankets and school supplies.

The 2016 TSO Unifying Project (UP) in Frisco was a great success with 3699 individual items and an additional \$450 in cash, checks and gift cards donated.

Members donated 409 blankets and 407 Teddy Bears for 7 Northeast Texas CASA units located in Area 17.



Timika Wesley; Jan Riley; Jeanette Ashley, Kappa Mu-17; Shelly Smith; Shalonda Adams; Lahoma Lewis; Matthew Barr with bears and blankets given to East Texas CASA (Longview) as part of the Frisco Unifying Project.



Judy Mezick, Frisco Convention Chair; Marilyn Gregory, TSO President; Randy Mayfield, Hope Supply Company employee; and Laura Cooper, UP committee member.

Sixty-three boxes of assorted school supplies including pens, pencils, crayons, paper, glue and notebooks were given to Hope Supply Company to distribute to organizations that work with homeless children across North Texas.

TSO Headquarters inspires chapter programs

Jeanette Rhyan, Headquarters Chair

Chapters looking for a fun and interesting program that will involve all members of a chapter might consider presenting a program featuring the TSO Headquarters Building located in Dallas. Two versions of the updated tour of the headquarters building are on the state website: a power point presentation and a slide show presentation. There is even a Headquarters Quiz for use before and after watching the presentation. This program could lead to a wonderful discussion about the history of the Society and the history of individual chapters.

The tours are located on the TSO Headquarters Committee page of dkgtexas.org. The three bars in the upper left corner open menu selections. The committees link leads to the headquarters link.

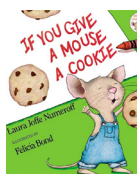
Sample Annie programs highlighted

Chris Morrison, Programs & Service Projects Chair

The highlights of four unique Annie Award winning programs are summarized to inspire ideas among other chapters. A complete listing of Annie Award programs is available on the Programs and Service Projects Committee page of dkgtexas.org.

Storybook Christmas - 25 Years! **Zeta Xi - Area 14**

This chapter has been purchasing and delivering books to each first grader in public, private and charter schools in the county as a Christmas gift for 25 years, and this program celebrated that anniversary. This is a year round project that includes fundraising, selecting and ordering books, organizing and delivering them. A DKG label is placed in each book. Newspaper articles publicize the project, and the paper also runs free ads soliciting donations.



It's A Tailgate Party: DKG Style **Alpha Iota - Area 4**

Activities were created for each of the "Playing Fields" (Activity Centers) to highlight the DKG Purposes and committee work at all levels. Attire, activities and food (hot dogs, chili, cheese and chips) followed the sports theme. Members were divided into 5 "teams" to move between the 5 Centers. The Referee signaled the beginning of the games and blew the whistle when it was time to move. "Playing Fields" included: Pennant Station (decorated Chapter/DKG pennants and shared DKG moments); World Wide Sports (Global Awareness in DKG countries); Greek 101 (Greek letters to Area 4 chapter names); ASTEF (Bingo center); and Music Huddle (singing parodies about DKG to sports songs). Prospective and new members learned about the Society & current members were re-oriented.



Financial Planning for Women **Beta Theta - Area 7**

A financial planner covered such things as a retirement roadmap for women, asset protection, common factors affecting retirement income, advanced estate planning concepts, a woman's guide to health care in retirement, moving forward financially after the loss of a spouse, and the Teacher Retirement System for both active and retired teachers. As they left, members were encouraged to go one step further and participate in a daily "Thirty Steps to Financial Wellness" challenge, giving them a concrete plan to improve their financial health and allowing them to tailor the information presented to their own particular needs.



No Beauty Shines Brighter Than A Heart of Gold **(Random Acts of Kindness)** **Mu Iota - Area 2**

The program began with a Google presentation on the origins and impact of Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) in our society. Personal affidavits of RAK were shared by the presenter and those in attendance. Members stuffed plastic eggs with candy and RAK suggestion notes for 6th grade students. Membership then participated in their own Easter egg hunt at the meeting site, and were challenged to perform an RAK for a family member, student, friend, co-worker or community member. Eggs were taken to the school the day before Easter break and "hidden" for 6th grade students to find. Students were genuinely surprised to find the eggs and were inspired to go out and "pay it forward" - perform their own RAK.



Candidates sought for elected positions

Emma Jöven, Nominations Chair

At the state convention in Houston, the TSO Nominations Committee will present a slate of candidates for officers and elected committee members to serve during the 2017 – 2019 biennium. Qualified, forward thinking, energetic women are sought now for these leadership positions.

Elected officers include president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary and corresponding secretary. Elected committees are finance and nominations. Qualifications and duties for the positions may be found in *Guidelines for State Personnel* located on the DKG website under Resources.



Applications which are located under Deadlines/Forms can be emailed to jejovent2@att.net or sent by hard copy to Emma Jöven, Nominations Chair, 1114 Lake Cross Rd., Hideaway, TX 75771. Applications are due by January 1, 2017.

During the Birthday Luncheon members and guests contributed \$7,080 for the International Emergency Fund. Fifteen TSO members sustained a major loss from natural disasters last year and received a \$500 Emergency Fund Award. This fund involves members helping members in need, and TSO received a special thank you letter from the International President, Carolyn Pittman, for the generous donation.

Chapters recognized for excellence

President Marilyn Gregory announced that 39 chapters met criteria for the Presidents Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE) in 2015-2016.

Area 1: Delta Gamma; **Area 2:** Delta Epsilon, Delta Theta; **Area 3:** Beta Eta, Eta Delta, Theta Zeta; **Area 4:** Alpha Iota, Alpha Phi, Epsilon Omega, Lambda Sigma; **Area 5:** Beta Pi;

Area 6: Beta Zeta, Epsilon Beta; **Area 7:** Alpha, Nu, Alpha Chi, Beta Theta, Gamma Omega, Epsilon Kappa, Kappa Lambda; **Area 8:** Tau; **Area 9:** Alpha Alpha, Delta Omicron, Eta Zeta, Theta Alpha; **Area 10:** Epsilon Nu, Iota Pi, Kappa Delta; **Area 12:** Alpha Sigma; **Area 13:** Lambda Xi; **Area 14:** Zeta Xi, Theta Mu; **Area 15:** Kappa, Mu Kappa; **Area 16:** Gamma Epsilon; **Area 17:** Alpha Pi; **Area 18:** Zeta Tau, Theta Lambda, Mu Pi

2015-2016 PACE Award



Alpha State Remembers

We mourn the passing and celebrate the lives of those cherished members of the Society whose deaths have been reported to Texas Necrology Chair Candy Carroll between April 1, 2016, and August 15, 2016. They are reported by their chapter and place of residence at time of death using Form 6, Report of the Death of a Member found at www.dkgtexas.org under Committees, Necrology.

Jimmie Patricia Tarry, Kappa Pi-1, Tyler
 Patricia Melton, Epsilon Epsilon-1, Athens
 Dr. Mari Parker Rich, Iota Psi-2, Cleveland
 Barbara Jean Beck, Delta Upsilon-3, Houston
 Montie Simpson, Epsilon Kappa-7, Austin
 Genelle Schlickeisen, Epsilon Kappa-7, Austin
 Ida Anna Kropp, Alpha Theta-7, New Braunfels
 Syble Miller Head, Iota Upsilon-8, Goldthwaite
 Priscilla Alden Clark, Mu Omicron-9, Irving
 Joanne R Dickey-Caldwell, Psi-9, Denison
 Paula Jones Juengerman, Theta Chi-10, Eules
 Mary Bonita Fontenot, Iota Rho-11, Nederland
 Bette Truly, Beta Delta-11, Garland
 Cassie Jean Benham, Theta Epsilon-12, Morton
 Joyce Lee Martin, Lambda Xi-13, Abilene
 Norma Jane Robbins, Lambda Xi-13, Abilene
 Donella Elizabeth Baxter Burgin, Lambda Mu-13, Hamlin
 Ruth Pearson, Theta Tau-14, Kermit
 Dolly Benson, Zeta Xi-14, Dallas
 Norma Willoughby, Kappa Mu-17, Longview
 Jodi Lynn Knuppel, Theta Lambda-18, Katy
 Sharon Kay Watkins, Lambda Kappa-18, Magnolia
 Sharon Ruth Rosales, Lambda Kappa-18, Kennard

Nu Delta joins TSO family in Frisco



Elizabeth Porter, Beta Lambda (Greenville-17), helped her French students earn the Excellence in French trophy at the Texas Foreign Languages Symposium.

Dee Ann Archer, Gamma Epsilon (Decatur-16), received designation from the Decatur Woman's Club as Club Woman of the Year for 2016.

MayDell Jenks, Lambda Tau (Katy-18), is the namesake for a new bilingual elementary school in Katy ISD.

Mary Ann Blake, Mu Sigma (Pearland-3), received a \$20,000 grant from Bank of America for the Engineering Design Graphics program at San Jacinto College South.

Laura Ewing, Mu Sigma (Friendswood-3), was awarded a \$17,000 grant from the Permanent Endowment Fund of Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church for teacher training in economic and financial literacy for Galveston ISD and Galveston County.

Sally Farr, Lambda Tau (Katy-18), was recently inducted into the National Close Up Washington Hall of Fame, a non-profit organization that educates students on our government.

Members From Page 10

Sharon Tays, Alpha Chi (Spicewood-7), and her husband James were honored by Katy ISD with a junior high in Katy named for them.

Stephanie Rundell, Lambda Tau (Katy-18), is the Katy ISD's Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Published in the 2016, Volume 82-5 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Journal*:

- **Dr. Deborah Williams**, Sigma (Nacodoches-1), "The Real Truth and Service Learning: College Sophomores Perspectives"

- **Lori McLaughlin**, Lambda (Belton-8), "A Call for Future-Minded Educators: A Review of The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies, a book review"

Published in the 2016, Volume 82-4 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Collegial Exchange*:

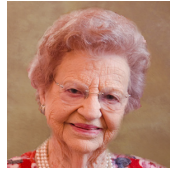
- **Allison Venuto**, Mu Beta (Dallas-9), "Scaffolding Binder Organization."

- **Sara Dubose Ranzau**, Beta Iota (Boerne-15), "Why Drama Pedagogy"

- **Dr. Theresa Kauffman**, Iota Pi (Cleburne-10), "Perseverance and Passion: Creating a Charter School"

Fifty year members recognized

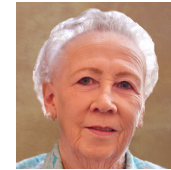
Eighteen women with 50 or more years of membership in DKG attended a reception honoring them in Frisco. They were also acknowledged at the birthday luncheon with a red rose and a certificate.



Doris Cullins-65



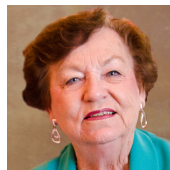
Linda Darnell-50



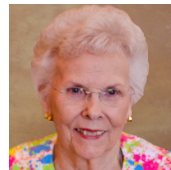
Charlotte Ann Edmons-53



Elva Garcia-50



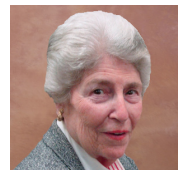
Jacquetta Graves-50



Ruth Hull-56



Carolyn Johnson-53



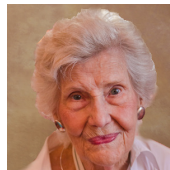
Shirley Kochman-53



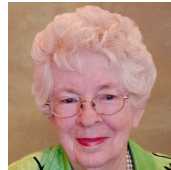
Doris Phillips-50



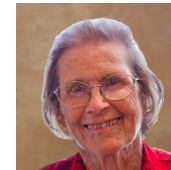
Jean Robinson-50



Frankie Smith-50



Carolyn Sowell-50



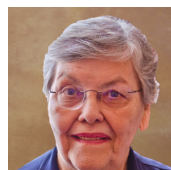
Ruth Spear-58



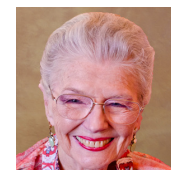
Wanda Spoonmore-52



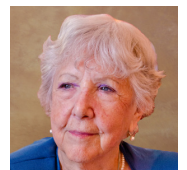
DeLois Stolusky-51



Mary Swaner-52



Emma Jean Tanner-52



Mary Ann Waldon-53

BECOME A DKG ROCKSTAR ADMIT ONE

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2017

Deadline for application October 15, 2016

Submit Seminar Application & Recommendation Form

dkgtexas.org >deadlines and forms> Leadership

Submit both forms to jomurphy981@gmail.com



GOLD PIECE

Solace

Chris Cook, Alpha Alpha

I'm sitting in prairie shade this early August-in-Texas morning on the first bench up the right side path at a small pocket prairie a few of us are attempting to restore. Bubba the life size bison sculpture is keeping me company; obviously, he doesn't talk much, but he adds greatly to the timelessness I am seeking. The heat of the day will rise soon, but a soft curling breeze and the background of insect music help to muffle the distant drone of highway traffic.

My visit is twofold. I love the come-what-wins-out life in a prairie. In the grand design of nature, all life reverts back to plants, à la our middle school study of food webs, because of those little green structures we call chloroplasts. It is that photosynthesis factor in green plants that permits the rest of us to survive—the ants my feet are trying to avoid, the dragonflies with their aerial mating, the bobwhite whose call surfaces from deep across the grasses, the turkey vultures spiraling overhead to rise with the heat, the coyote whose scat on the path lets those who come after know that he was also present.

Very little is blooming now in early August. Spring and early summer plants mostly have gone to seed, and autumn flowers are barely in bud. However, snow-on-the-prairie, that harbinger of a new school year, is showing its soft green and white stripes, and colonies of Maximilian daisy “umbrella” stems will soon enough bear tall stalks of golden suns. The sumac is in early berry-time. One season overlaps as it flows to another.

My second reason to be on this bench in this place is to attempt to make sense of my human world, to search for some understanding concerning life and death. I feel that I deeply know that the two are part of the One, but death is usually a struggle, both mental and physical, for those left behind. It is to search for the wisdom to accept this struggle and the often seeming unfairness of those we know and love being gone “too soon” that I have come here to this life place seeking acceptance and healing.

A fellow teacher was killed in a car wreck by a driver who was passing in a no passing lane. My friend was on his way to get pizza for the families who had gathered together in Colorado for vacation. He leaves behind a wife and two girls. My niece is trying to live life to its fullest now with an aggressive brain tumor; she is a single mother with a ten year old daughter. Maybe death is but a human construct that we fight because we cannot control it. Out here on the prairie the life force in the seed is great: if germination occurs, it proceeds to majority with new seeds produced, all other factors permitting more or less in the growth, each dealt with as each occurs. At some point that life is parsed out to its elements and becomes available as chemicals for another's seed time. And on go eons and eons of life, and death, including ours, in this ritual. Accept it? I'm trying. My soul knows the ancient Truth, the eternal cycle; it's my head and heart that harbor anger and sadness at the seeming unfairness. James 1:2 posits to “Consider it all joy...when you face trials of many kinds.” I know we are all one when the pain we feel at death is for another's sorrow and fear and that feeling of helplessness in the moment. Help me to help, to accept, to learn how to rejoice in the struggles of living, to focus on the joy. To be more like the prairie.

A cardinal flies above the open field: fa-loop, fa-loop, fa-loop. A mockingbird rests on the bison's hump. The Virginia rye's long seed heads swing back and forth in the breeze. Crows caw at each other in the distance, and again I hear “bob-white! bob-white!” A dragonfly with white wing bars hangs vertically on a bluestem blade. An orange butterfly progresses in up and down flight along the path's edge. I'm aware that the Texas heat will rise quickly this morning and those ever-present pesky ants have found my ankles. Time to leave the bench behind now. My heart is calmer as I walk down the path. Timelessness. Prairie solace.

ASTE F partners with TSO to impact education

TSO/ASTE F members will be busy during the 2016-2017 year as they implement the twenty-three projects that received full or partial funding through stipends from the Projects Fund. Since 2011 when the total awarded for projects was just \$1,000 to the current year when almost \$30,000 was given, the chapter and individual projects have made an impact on Texas teachers and children in many ways. The projects for this year will add to that impact.

Early Educators

Ten chapters have adopted projects that impact early-career educators by giving gift cards to educators for classroom materials, delivering goody baskets during the year, offering help with questions about classroom management and instruction, and providing supplementary reading materials and technology devices for classroom use. Those chapters and their stipend amounts are:

Epsilon Kappa	\$2000	Gamma Zeta	\$500
Mu Upsilon	\$200	Omega	\$900
Lambda Eta	\$350	Beta Omicron	\$2000
Lambda Xi	\$1000	Epsilon Gamma	\$500
Iota Nu	\$500	Delta Omicron	\$2600

Learning Supplies

Providing materials for learning activities in the classroom and other settings will be the focus of six projects. The stipends awarded will be used to purchase books, games, kits containing learning materials and other supplies needed to enhance learning in the classrooms of schools and day care centers. Chapters receiving these stipends are:

Lambda Tau	\$2000	Beta	\$2500
Zeta Gamma	\$2000	Nu	\$1300
Beta Epsilon	\$1000	Beta Theta	\$2500

Self-Esteem

Knowing how important self-image and self-esteem are for students, three chapters have projects that will address those areas through various avenues. The three projects will provide Buddy Benches for making friends on the playground, will help in giving special-needs students an opportunity to learn life skills in a natural setting and will provide activities to help young girls see themselves with positive attitudes. Those chapters are:

Theta Zeta	\$1730	Tau	\$1000
Epsilon Nu	\$2294		

Helping Hand

Other chapters are addressing needs in different ways that will impact children in Texas by providing take-home backpacks with meals and snacks for those who need help for days not in school, by helping homeless students with insurance for school-issued laptops, by providing a software package for a Cool Cubs room and by spotlighting the staff each month through a monthly article and delivery of encouragement baskets to that building. Those chapters are:

Theta Epsilon	\$500	Zeta Omega	\$1000
Delta Gamma	\$700	Theta Chi	\$900

The TSO/ASTE F Partnership makes a difference in Texas!





Help create a vision for the future

Rethink the concept of the 21st century workplace

Betty Vines, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, retired on September 1st. At that time an interim staffing plan was put into place to accomplish the work of TSO and its foundation.

At the request of the TSO Executive Committee, President Marilyn Gregory, appointed a special committee on personnel to devise a long-term, cost-effective staffing plan that would attract applicants and ensure the business of TSO and its foundation, ASTEF, would continue to be conducted according to best business practices well into the future. The appointed committee members are Sandi Causey, Shalan Inmon, Nancy Newton, Betty Vines, Billinelle Currie, Lynda Anderson, Carolyn Grantham and Marilyn Gregory.



The committee views their charge as an exciting opportunity to be visionary on how TSO business will be conducted in the future. They want all members involved in this process. Will you help? We need you to step forward if you think you have the skills to help with all or any part of the staffing work that is needed to support the work of TSO and its foundation.

- Have you given thought to working at headquarters as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer but were concerned you did not have all required skills? Were you concerned you do not reside in the Dallas area? Did you consider applying for the position but didn't? What stopped you? We want to hear from you! Under the new staffing plan your concerns may no longer be an issue. The responsibilities for this job, where they are accomplished and the compensation offered may change with the new plan. Interested? Contact Sandi Causey at crscausey@sbcglobal.net or any member of the committee. We would like your feedback, and we wish to keep you informed as the plan develops!
- Would you be interested in working for TSO remotely on a contract basis? Would you take on a specific project and work for TSO as a contract employee in some capacity? What work of TSO and its foundation do you think can be done remotely? Contact Sandi Causey.



How you are willing to become involved will help drive the development of this long range staffing plan to accomplish the work of TSO.

YEARBOOKS Early Bird yearbooks due November 1

Yearbook chairs should check out the state website for information to complete the chapter's yearbook for 2016-2017. Early Bird yearbooks must be postmarked by November 1 and On Time yearbooks must be postmarked by December 1. Yearbook guidelines for 2016 need to be included with submitted yearbook.

Lessons learned about recruiting and sustaining members

Michelle Grandinetti, Membership Committee Chair

Last year the International Recruitment Plan was extremely successful for many chapters in Texas, and the membership committee encourages each chapter to incorporate this plan or a plan designed by the chapter into the yearly activities of the chapter. We have learned that the process of gaining new members must be an ongoing effort that is constantly open to opportunity.

Likewise, we have learned that the process of sustaining a vital, healthy chapter that is relevant to the interests and needs of its members requires an honest conversation among members to diagnose concerns, highlight accomplishments and establish plans that guarantee the continuation of the legacy that represents each chapter and the members who built it.

Chapters should set goals for not just gaining new members but for keeping present members engaged and enthusiastic about their participation in DKG. TSO has many resources to help chapters with this task. Contact Marilyn Gregory, Michelle Grandinetti or an area coordinator about getting assistance with membership goals.



Members generosity impacts education in Texas

During the convention in Frisco, almost \$30,000 was awarded to twenty three chapters in project stipends. These funds were available through the fundraising efforts of ASTEF and the generosity of TSO members. Each time members opened their wallets, they opened their hearts to support Texas educators, students and their communities.

Members and chapters can plan their giving around three opportunities this year:

1

Kroger or Ralph's Community Awards program. Every time a member shops at these stores in Texas or Louisiana, dollars will be earned for ASTEF. ASTEF members who currently participate in the Kroger rewards program are encouraged to connect their current card to ASTEF. Members not presently participating are encouraged to sign up for a rewards card today and start earning for ASTEF. Step by step directions can be found on the ASTEF website, www.astef.org. Members should use the non-profit code 99982 for easy set up.

2

Cash Clutch Crew. State Personnel and members of the ASTEF Board will be stashing cash for ASTEF by collecting dollars this year in their red clutches. Members should consider giving when they see the red clutch. Each contribution is a gift that keeps giving as it impacts educators, students and communities across the state.

3

Day of Giving. Members should save the date, mark their calendars and tie a string on their fingers now so that they won't miss ASTEF's second Annual Giving Day scheduled for February 14, 2017. On February 14, ASTEF is asking all DKG members to host or attend a function where donations will be accepted to support ASTEF's three major areas: Scholarships, Leadership and Projects.

DKG Texas E-pals build global connections

DKG Texas E-pals is a program designed to connect Texas members with DKG members from other countries. It's fun to learn about each other's profession, DKG experience, personal interests, family and home country by emailing each other on a regular basis. It's easy to get connected. To register simply click the E-pals link on the Global Awareness Committee page on dkgtexas.org and fill out the easy form.

Websites need compliance assurance by October 31

Current websites linked to the international website must submit Society Website Compliance Assurance Form 72 at the start of each international biennium. The deadline is October 31st. A form is found on the international website under forms>website. Webmasters must complete this self-evaluation form and mail it to compliance@dkg.org Websites cannot be linked to the TSO or DKG website without certification to meet the current standards.



Newsletters made more personal

Getting members to write articles for a chapter newsletter is a great idea. These articles make the newsletter more personal and interesting to chapter members. This could increase newsletter readership. Editors often ask if these are required elements for a newsletter. To review what is required for a basic newsletter and what is required for the Seal of Merit Award, read the last *Communique* and newsletter rubric for details. These are available on the communications committee page of the state website. As always, feel free to contact an area communications and publicity committee member or Kim Birkelbach, committee chair, with questions.

Area Workshops



Marsha Edney, Phi, and Sharon Gullett, Theta Nu, setting up technology equipment in Area 1



Karen Burmeister and Rebecca Roy, Mu Kappa visiting in Area 15



Margy House, Epsilon Theta, and Patricia Maurer, Epsilon Eta, listening to Susan Harmon, Zeta Xi, presenting information to treasurers in Area 14

Terresa Gourley, Mu Epsilon, facilitator, & Tracy Raines, Iota Omicron, Personal & Professional Enrichment presenter in Area 16



Geralann Barnes, Mu Theta, leading a membership workshop in Area 2

