



Lambda Alpha

Letter from the President – by Wanda Baker



The year 2011 was a great year for our chapter. We gave away two scholarships, we continued to raise funds for future scholarships through our annual garage sale and the sales of hand made fabric pumpkins, and we continued to support two elementary schools in Spring Branch by honoring their teachers and collecting Christmas gifts for less fortunate students. We accomplished our goals and we celebrated multiple achievements. We contributed to our community and our profession by extending ourselves in love and by serving and helping others in different ways. I am proud to be part of a chapter whose members continuously seek ways to make a difference and to enrich the lives of others. The year 2012 promises to be even more exciting and busy with an upcoming state convention in Las Colinas, an international convention in New York City, and an Area XVIII Workshop in Houston.

I want to start this year by acknowledging the talent and the capital that each of our members brings to this chapter and to our organization. Your talents, knowledge, experience, and wisdom add value to everything we do as a group. Our members are creative, resourceful and dynamic. Your generosity has allowed us to accomplish much and to help many others. Echoing the words of State President Joanne Davis in the recent edition of the Lone Star News I encourage each of you to explore and develop your possibilities. Challenge yourself to do something new and different that will remind you of your limitless potential. Consider taking a class, engaging in a sport, keeping a journal, learning a language, reading a new book every month, taking on a leadership role at work or in our chapter, volunteering, mentoring, or even learning how to play a musical instrument. Whatever your goal is write it down and set a timeline for accomplishing it. Remember, goals without deadlines are nothing but dreams.

I wish each of you a very successful and rewarding year full of endless opportunities to continue shining your light and inspiring others to be the best they can be. You make a difference every day in somebody's life and you each make the world a better place. Thank you for being part of Delta Kappa Gamma and an invaluable member of Lambda Alpha.

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Alpha State
Texas Area XVIII
Texas State Organization
Chapter 265
Houston, Texas

Every day is my best day; this is my life. I'm not going to have this moment again.

Bernie Siegel

Important Dates

February 7– 4:30 PM - Tri Chapter Meeting – Rummel Creek Elementary School – Program/Theme: *Share DKG Love*. Make jewelry to donate to women in need to brighten their situation. Fellowship with mother and sister chapters. Please bring a contribution of \$5 to help defray the cost of materials.

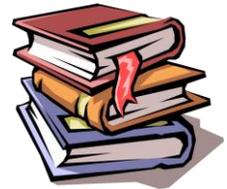
We will also bring cookies to make DKG appreciation packages for the teachers of Northbrook High. We will let them know someone is thinking about their hard work.

March 8–4:30 PM Rummel Creek Elementary School. Program – Book study + fellowship. Election of officers for 2012-2014 and voting on new members

May 17 – 5:30 PM - Founders' Banquet / Initiation of new members / Installation of new officers. Location - Café Benedict- 15455 Memorial Dr.

Book Club Selections for March Meeting

- Teaching with Poverty in Mind – Eric Jensen
- The Same Kind of Different as Me – Denver Moore



Do not forget to find a copy of one of these two books and start getting ready for the discussion at our March meeting.

In the Spotlight – Gloria Montalbano

As a very quiet member of our chapter, Gloria is always willing to help with anything and to participate whole heartedly in all chapter activities and events. During the last biennium, she served as officer in the capacity of recording secretary. She is dependable, caring, and totally committed to Lambda Alpha. All of these traits make her a deserving recipient of the 2011 Lambda Alpha's Virginia Johnson Award. In her early years of the profession, she joined DKG because she felt it was great to be part of an organization that was solely devoted to female educators. She had joined professional organizations of history teachers and speech teachers, but DKG was different because educators from all areas and levels of administration were together in one organization with so much to share.

Gloria was born and raised on Galveston Island. She has also lived in Texas City and Houston. She obtained a Bachelor in Science in Secondary Education with majors in History and Speech from the University of Texas at Austin. She also holds a Masters of Arts in Public Speaking from the University of Houston. She is a veteran teacher with 30 years of experience in the classroom, teaching students and caring for them. Her current assignment is teaching 7th grade Texas History.

Gloria is married to Anthony Montalbano, who owns Montalbano Tire and Auto Repair. It is a family business and has been in Houston for 70 years. They are the proud parents of Mark, Michele, Melissa, and Melinda. Their three oldest are married, and the youngest is teaching 8th grade Science at James Bowie Middle School in Fort Bend ISD while working on her masters in educational administration. Gloria and Anthony have four precious grandchildren, all under the age of four.

As an active member of the Catholic Women's Organization at her church, Gloria is always busy. She is also a member of the Catholic Daughters of America. Her hobbies involve her family, reading, collecting recipes, cooking, and visiting places of interest. She is also a Daughter of Italian Heritage, and her group helps with the Festa Italiana each year; her group is also known as the "Meatball Divas".

Recent Events and Celebrations

On December 16th Lambda Alpha members honored the staff at Shadow Oaks Elementary School by providing breakfast. We also gave as door prizes poinsettias and gift cards that were generously donated by Bullritos. Old Town Kolaches, on Memorial Drive, donated kolaches and pastries. In this picture (left to right) Clara Reimers, Chris Morrison, Julie Baggerly (School Principal), Mary Endress, Eileen Kress, and Margaret Rankin.



Once again, Lambda Alpha members stepped up and contributed with food, cash, and the gift of time. The teachers enjoyed kolaches, fruit, pastries, and juice and were grateful for the treat during the hectic last week of the fall semester.



MAKE YOURSELF NECESSARY TO SOMEBODY.
RALPH WALDO EMERSON



Lambda Alpha's Annual Christmas Lunch at the Junior League – Dec. 3rd
Our members did not waste another opportunity to display their generosity as we collected children's Christmas gifts for less fortunate students at Buffalo Creek Elementary School.



LAMBDA ALPHA CHAPTER'S THEME FOR 2011-2012
The Power of DKG: The power to support and mentor, the power to present ourselves professionally, and the power to help.

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Treasurer's Report- Current balances

Operating account: \$3346.48

Grant-in-Aid Fund: \$589.98

(Garage sale money has not been transferred to the GIA account yet)

Have you nominated a key woman educator for new membership this year? Are you planning to? If you have someone in mind please let Norma Muñiz, our Nominations Committee Chairperson, know so that we can nominate, document, vote, and initiate.

Accomplishments and Celebrations

Emily Farmer graduated with a master's degree in Library Science and received her certification. Way to go Emily!

Chris Morrison is the proud grandmother of her fifth grandchild Isaac Sweeny, born in October to her daughter Catherine.

If you or someone you know deserve to be featured in this section please e-mail me at wandabaker1@yahoo.com while Erin is taking a well deserved break from the newsletter duties.

Friendly Reminders:

Don't forget to check out Lambda Alpha's NEW website: <http://lambdaalphdkg.weebly.com/>

Also be sure to check the TSO website: <http://www.alphastatetexas.org>

and the International website: <http://www.dkg.org>

Mission Statement:

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

Nothing we learn in this
world is ever wasted.

Eleanor Roosevelt

