Lambda Alpha

Letter from the President

Dear Lambda Alpha Members,

March has arrived and Spring Break is in sight. Educators typically countdown to Spring Break because we are so fatigued from working hard to make sure our students are equipped with the knowledge needed for the upcoming spring testing season and to be promoted to the next grade level. Teachers and students alike need Spring Break to recharge their batteries, so they can finish the school year strong. We as educators see each child’s potential and make a personal investment in ensuring each child’s academic success; this dedication can be exhausting. I am sure each of you has a story of running into one of your former students years after that student left your classroom and having that student tell you how you influenced his/her life. One of my personal favorites involves a young man who arrived in the U.S. speaking no English. This extremely intelligent young man was in my beginning ESL class at Mayde Creek Junior High School. I kept in touch with this student as he moved from junior high through high school encouraging him to stay in school. I was surprised last year when this young man arrived at my school with his kindergarten-aged daughter. He was so glad to see me. He told anyone who would listen that I was the person who had encouraged him to learn English and graduate from high school. His daughter told her classmates, “Our assistant principal was my daddy’s teacher. She taught him English.” Little moments like this one affirm the commitment we have made over the years to our students and help us see the result of the countless hours we invest in our students.
During the beginning of 2016, the dedicated educators who comprise Lambda Alpha have been very active. In February, the chapter celebrated with an international dinner during which we celebrated and learned about other countries where DKG chapters are located. Also in February, we honored one of our charter member members Jane Burke during an event at Parkway Place. As a charter member and former president, Jane dedicated herself to helping Lambda Alpha become a strong chapter. We have received invitations to celebrate with Eta Chi as their chapter turns 50 years old. Zeta Tau has invited us to learn more about the DKG song.

Reflecting upon teachers’ dedication to their students and our chapter’s recent activities, the term legacy comes to mind. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines legacy as something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past. We as educators leave a legacy with our students, and we as members of Lambda Alpha honor our chapter's legacy while also working hard to ensure that legacy continues in the future. Our chapter is fortunate to have family legacies such as Jane Burke and her daughter Melissa Salyer (maybe one of Melissa’s daughter will want to join), Cathy Jones and her daughter Erin Johnston, myself and my daughter Marianne McKee. The founders of DKG left a legacy without which Lambda Alpha would not exist. During Spring Break, take a moment to consider your DKG legacy.

I send heartfelt thanks to Brenda Lozano who organized and presided at the International Dinner. I hear the food was delicious. Also I send a huge thank you to Melissa Salyer who organized our event at Parkway Place. Everyone who attended had a great time catching up while honoring Jane Burke.

I wish each of you a restful Spring Break, a happy Saint Patrick’s Day and a joyous Easter. I look forward to seeing everyone at our March meeting on Monday, March 28.

Mary
Minutes Lambda Alpha Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma
Board Meeting
February 9, 2016

At 5:00 p.m. Lambda Alpha members gathered at Brenda Lozano’s home for an International gathering and after helping to setup enjoyed appetizers. At 5:30 everyone sat down for the evening dinner. Everyone brought a dish which represented one of the 17 countries of DKG. Our host, Brenda Lozano, First Vice President demonstrated how to prepare tostones (fried plantains) from Costa Rica. Tobey and Leigh brought dolls that represented Japan to share with the members.

There were a total of 14 members present. After everyone sat down to eat and visit Brenda Lozano welcomed Lambda Alpha members and called a short meeting of the Lambda Alpha Chapter around 6:30 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were not read as they had been posted in the newsletter. The minutes were approved as printed in the Newsletter with Sue Thompson making the motion to approve as printed with the minor correction of PTA to PTO and Tobey Unrath seconded the motion all were in favor.

Quorum was met with 14 members present and two electronic votes for the new slate of the Executive Board nominations: Brenda Lozano, President, Rosemary Armstrong 1st Vice President, Gloria Montalbano 2nd Vice President, Martha Lynn Lewis, Recording Secretary and Jane Riddle Corresponding Secretary. Kathy Gardner proposed motion to accept officers as nominated and Cathey Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Tobey Unrath read the Treasurer’s report: Current account balance $2,366.68, Grant and Aid balance $2,124 which included $1,521 in pumpkin sales after subtracting expenses to make them.

New Business:
Mary Endress invited Lambda Alpha members to “Celebrate all Educators” meeting being held for the residents on February 20, at 2:00 p.m. at Parkway Place in the Cabana Room. Mary Endress also asked that members bring gently used costume jewelry to the next meeting and hold a Lambda Alpha Boutique.

Additional valentines were made for Memorial Herman Rehabilitation Center and HUD’s Brookside Rehabilitation Center by Leigh LaVergne, Sue Thompson, Martha Lynn Lewis, Kathy Gardner, Brenda Lozano and Kristen N. Wiggins.

Brenda Lozano suggested Lambda Alpha purchase a Rose Bracelet at $69.00 for a raffle to be held at the upcoming convention in Frisco, Texas in June. Tobey Unrath motioned we purchase the bracelet and Ruby Schaper seconded. $2.00 tickets or 3 for $5.00 was the agreed upon raffle ticket sale price for Rose bracelet. Suggestion was also made to plan to carpool to the convention in June.

Kathy Gardner has not received applications for Grant and Aid. She will forward applications to teachers in charge of Future Teachers at the Spring Branch High schools to see if we can obtain more applicants for Grant and Aid.

Thanks were given to Brenda Lozano for being such a great hostess.

For updates on all of the future meetings, refer to the upcoming Newsletter which will be sent out by Brenda Lozano.

At 8:30 Mary Moreno motioned meeting to adjourn and Kathy Gardner seconded the motion.

Mary Moreno, Recording Secretary
Jane Burke, one of our charter members and former presidents was honored at a celebration of educators held at Parkway Place on February 20th.

Mary Endress led a discussion of the teachers’ most memorable memories of teaching.

It was a great time for friends to visit.
Sue Thompson and Leigh LaVergne presented some of the 160+ handmade Valentine cards made by the Lambda Alpha chapter of DKG to residents at Memorial City Health and Rehabilitation Center. The Activities Director, Pam, shown with Sue and Leigh, was thrilled. Comments from the recipients included, "Yes, I'll be your Valentine", and, "You've made my day!" The center is located in Spring Branch on Blalock at Westview.

**Outreach with Valentines**

**Vision Statement**
Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

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

**Important Dates:**

1. March 28th – Monday 5:00 for refreshments and socialization with meeting at 5:30 MMS Cognitive Diversity program followed by installation of officers.  
   **Note this is a day earlier than originally set.**

2. April 30th – Saturday at 11:00 The Café at Brookwood Founders’ Day
3. June 23rd-25th – 87th Texas State Convention in Frisco, Texas – See updated information in the Heartline Issue 4 at end of Newsletter. Start gathering the supplies for the Unifying Project
4. July 6-9th 2016 International Convention  
   Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee

**Birthdays!**
March: 17-Sue Thompson, 18-Krisky Schaper  
April: 17-Janis Benefield

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.
Dolls from Japan were provided by Leigh LaVergne and Tobey Unrath. The money collected with Miss Piggy and from selling cards was sent to the ASTEF Valentine fund.

**Foods**
Tobey provided the recipe for the flan she brought and Cathey and Karen gave information on Estonia and Sweden respectively. Gloria brought Tres Leches, Cathey an Estonian cold soup and potato pancakes, Kathy a quinoa salad, Martha Lynn - smoked salmon, Leigh - Canadian beef bourgeon, Sue - Swiss chocolate, Mary Moreno - Mexican enchilada casserole, Rosemary Armstrong - Swedish meatballs, Ruby a Guatemalan salad, Margaret an English trifle, Brenda tostones, German beef on rye with horseradish sauce and Dutch eggnog.
Founders’ Day Luncheon

Saturday April 30th at 11:00
Brookwood Community Café
1752 Farm to Market 1489, Brookshire, TX 77423
1. I-10 West
2. take exit 731 toward Farm to Market 1489/Koomey Rd/Simonton
3. , turn left onto Farm to Market 1489S/Koomey Rd. 1.1 mile

If you have not been to the Brookwood Café you will enjoy beautiful garden views while enjoying the cuisine of Chef Michael Fernandez from the Culinary Institute of America. Our menu will include:
   1. Dinner Salad
   2. Entrée
   3. Tea or Coffee
   4. DKG Founder’s Day Cake

Three Choices of Entrée’s:

1. Fresh Herb Chicken Crepes
   Chicken & mushroom crepes with Mornay sauce, French green beans, sautéed red peppers & toasted almonds

2. Rosemary Grilled Beef Flat Iron
   6 oz. beef flat iron steak topped with roasted cherry demi-glacé, served with garlic mashed potatoes & roasted asparagus

3. Grilled Atlantic Salmon
   Salmon filet topped with jumbo crab meat & basil butter sauce, served with herb roasted potatoes & French green beans.

Please send your check made out to Lambda Alpha for $30 and choice of Entrée to Martha Lynn: 818 Wycliffe Drive Houston, TX 77079 by April the 8th. We will have some flexibility for changes up to the 15th but really need to know head count. If you need a small change such as the vegetable, please contact Martha Lynn.

Contest for a new name for our newsletter.
Put your thinking caps on and help us rename our newsletter. Send ideas to Brenda and we will vote at the March meeting. Some ideas so far are: Lambda Alpha’s loving apples, Rose petals, and the Pumpkin Patch.

For more information and pictures of DKG visit our great Website:
http://lambdaalphdkg.weebly.com/
**Why Attend?**

*By Mary Claire Welch, Convention Co-Chair*

To see DKG in action, attend convention!

Just what does “the action” look like?

Smiling, hugging, laughing, singing, dancing, voting, shopping, learning, teaching, celebrating, and encouraging. The beginning moments of new friendship, and the reflective moments of seasoned friendship.

Convention is about the members who grace our organization.

I once walked into a convention where I thought no one would know me, only to be greeted warmly by Past State President Catherine Davis. Serving on a state committee for convention, TSO President Marilyn Gregory and I became friends. At one of my first conventions, the ladies from McKinney’s Gamma Beta Chapter invited me to dinner, leading to many years of friendship. Michalene Nunn from Waxahachie’s Alpha Alpha Chapter danced, sang, and laughed with me in a convention skit—and became my friend.

I’m glad I decided to join the action! I hope you will, too. See you at convention in Frisco!

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**RoughRiders Game Menu**

The RoughRiders baseball game on Friday night, June 24, will be a time to enjoy ourselves with our DKG sisters, families, and friends!

The evening’s meal is included in the $39 ticket price. So what’s on the catered, all-you-can-eat-and-drink menu?

- Two kinds of barbecue; plus, hot dogs
- Two sides: potato salad, baked beans
- Popcorn
- Dr Pepper products, beer, wine, water
- Dessert available for purchase
- 6:15 – Dr Pepper products, water
- 6:30 – the rest of menu
- 9:00 and after – 7th inning, typical cutoff at any ballpark:
  - Dr Pepper products, water

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**Order your Frisco RoughRiders baseball tickets by May 1:**

Print Name_________________________________________
Email_____________________________________________
Cell Phone_________________________________________
Chapter___________________________________________

Cost: adult or child/$39 each; 2 & under/free

Number of tickets at $39 each_____ = Total________________ Make checks payable to TSO Convention Fund.

Mail reservation form and check to Tish Mulkey, 2312 Northcrest Dr., Plano, TX 75075.
**Two Overflow Hotels**

Q Did you miss out on a room at the Embassy Suites by Hilton?

A You’re still in luck! TSO has signed contracts with Hilton Garden Inn and HYATT house!

Both hotels...
- Are north across the street from the Frisco Conference Center and Embassy Suites by Hilton
- Offer complimentary shuttle service within a five-mile radius
- Offer suites, king ($135), double ($145), with separate living areas and kitchen amenities
- Offer complimentary hot breakfast
- Offer free Internet access
- To reserve, see TSO website’s “Lodging” link: [http://dkgtexas2016convention.weebly.com/](http://dkgtexas2016convention.weebly.com/)

**Note** - For a two-minute video of what Frisco offers convention guests, click on this link:

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**For More Information:**

- Click on this link to check the TSO website regularly: [http://www.dkgtexas.org/](http://www.dkgtexas.org/)
- Contact Janet Burgess, Frisco Convention registrar, at jburgesstx@sbcglobal.net

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**2016 Unifying Project**

*2016 State Convention’s Unifying Project: Heartline to Our Communities*

At the 2016 Frisco State Convention, we’ll collect crayons, pencils, pens, wide-ruled notebook paper, new fleece blankets, and new Teddy bears.

We’ll divide these donations equally between Area 9’s Hope Supply Company and Area 17’s CASA in Northeast Texas.

Areas 9 and 17 are the host areas for our 2016 TSO Convention. Each year TSO’s Unifying Project serves the needs of the state convention community and unifies chapters across Texas in service.

Marylin Nease, Editor, neasem@sbcglobal.net

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Mission Statement

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