Letter from the President

If you missed last Saturday’s luncheon, you missed a wonderful time. Karen Harrell once again played hostess in her beautiful home. No paper plates for Karen as she pulled out real dishes for us. Everyone enjoyed being pampered. We feasted on a delicious array of salads plus an opportunity to catch up with friends. We welcomed Susie White back to Lambda Alpha and Janet Smith as a guest.

If you were not present and felt a slight burning sensation in your ears, it is because we talked about how much we missed those who were unable to attend. During roll call, each member shared her summer highlights. In the group, we had two weddings, a house that needed new plumbing, a trip to both Canada and South America, a new grandbaby, zillions of pumpkins have been made, two members who regularly reside outside of the Houston area made it back for the luncheon, and a husband who recovered from a heart attack to go to Boston, just to mention a few.

Please make sure you take time to complete the survey. We will use this data to guide chapter plans.

We hope to see you at the October meeting.

Mary
Minutes Lambda Alpha Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma
Meeting/Summer Luncheon
August 12, 2015

At 12:48, Mary Endress, President, welcomed Lambda Alpha members and guests to the Lambda Alpha Luncheon at Karen Harrell’s residence. A short business meeting would be added to the program. Members signed up for the different committees.

The invocation and blessing of the luncheon was given by Tobey Unrath. Wonderful food was enjoyed by all. The Secretary, Mary Moreno was present and recorded the minutes. There were 19 members and one perspective member present. Of these, one was a returning member: Susie White.

The previous minutes were not read as they had been published in the Monthly Newsletter for August. Sue Thompson motioned that minutes stand as published and Brenda Lozano seconded the motion. Mary Moreno read the Budget for 2015 – 2016. Motion to approve the budget was motioned by Brenda Lozano and seconded by Clara Reimers and Gloria Montalbano.

Mary Endress did roll call. Each person’s name was called out and was asked to share something that was going on or where they had gone this past summer. It was nice to get to know a bit from each and every one present.

Old Business:
According to Martha Lynn Lewis, pumpkin sales are doing very well. Sue Thompson will be attending a fair October 17th on Pinemont where she will be sharing half a table at a booth for free. Tobey Unrath said there will be a fair October 29th at Tallowood Church where more pumpkins will be sold.

New Business:
The pig that Brenda Lozano won at State conference in San Antonio was introduced to members. Miss Piggy, as she was named, will be present at our meetings so that members can donate any loose change they might have.

Mary Endress is planning a trip to Tomball to The Whistle Stop for an additional activity. Mary Endress also would like the scheduled meeting for February 2016 at Brenda Lozano’s for International Celebration and voting for new officers to change to the Parkway Place Nursing Home as a reaching out for one of our members Jane Burk who is in the nursing home. The matter was tabled for the time. Our next meeting will take place at Memorial Middle School on October 13th where we will work on technology. One of the topics will be how to make magnetic bookmarks for classes or other groups. Other topics will include tips and tricks with iPhones, iPads and other phones. Refreshments will be served at 5:00 with program and meeting at 5:30.

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

At 2:17 business meeting was adjourned by Mary Endress.

Mary Moreno
Recording Secretary
Important Dates:
1. October 13th – Tuesday at 5:00 pm refreshments and socialization with meeting at 5:30 MMS Technology
2. October 17th Pumpkin Sale – place TBA
3. October 29th pumpkin sale at Tallowood Church $5 box lunch if wanted
4. December 5th – Saturday at 11:00 at Junior League
   Christmas luncheon and collection of Christmas gifts for students
5. January 12th – Tuesday at 5:00 pm refreshments and socialization with meeting at 5:30 MMS
   Cards with a Purpose (distribution date to be announced)
6. February 9th – Tuesday 5:00 at Brenda’s house
   International celebration and voting for officers
7. March 29th – Tuesday 5:00 for refreshments and socialization with meeting at 5:30 MMS
   Cognitive Diversity
8. April 30th – Saturday at 11:00 The Café at Brookwood
   Founders’ Day

Birthdays!
September: Julia Gentry 6th, Cathey Jones 15th, Terry Hibbert-Ismert 17th, Aban Rustomji 20th,
Pauline Sayers 20th, Kathy Gardner 25th, Mary Moreno 26th
October: None
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.

Vision Statement
Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

For more information and pictures of DKG visit our great Website:
http://lambdaalphdkg.weebly.com/
Highlights of our Lambda Alpha members

This month we are highlighting 3 of our Original members of Lambda Alpha: Billie Golden, Mary Bett and Jane Burke.

Billie L. Golden, was a founding member of the Lambda Alpha chapter in Spring Branch Independent School District when 'dinosaurs walked the land'. She would often make this remark during her 33 year teaching career with the district. Billie and her fellow 'dinosaurs', Jane Burke and Ina Schmidt wanted to share their love and appreciation for teaching with fellow teachers and eventually influence previous students to join them in the academic arena.

The transformations which occurred over the past decades in the field of education have been monumental. Adjustments were required by educators to address the every changing attitudes of the students, curriculum, and the teachers themselves. Never the less, these few men and women banded together, taking time from their daily routines demanded by their schools and families to encourage fellow teachers to look to the horizon for a better world. It was difficult for them; the revolutionary 60’s, the laid back 70’s, the parents from the 80's eventually teaching children of their former students. Often they were rewarded by influencing those with an unseen aptitude for teaching, brought out by the resolve of this organization.

Billie sincerely loved teaching and the rewards it brought forth. She retired knowing her contemporaries would have opportunities to improve their status through Lambda Alpha's scholarship programs as would students pursuing educational degrees. The road was less onerous for them thanks to the facilitation of Lambda Alpha and their sincere desire to continue improving education in our country. Ann Golden Schmalz

Mary Bett  I joined DKG as a Founding Member of a new chapter, Lambda Alpha in 1979 formed by members of Zeta Tau Chapter. We had no money in the treasury, but managed to grow in numbers and fellowship. I made many friends and enjoyed our meetings, projects information about the teaching profession. I served as President from 1986-1988 and received the Virginia Johnson Award in 1996. Our chapter has changed from a local school membership to a diverse blend of various schools and districts.

I graduated from New York State College for Teachers in Albany, NY and taught business subjects in New York State and SBISD. I served as the Registrar for Spring Woods H.S. for 16 years until I retired in 1991.

I have four wonderful children, 10 amazing grandchildren and 1 adorable great granddaughter. Education has always been a priority in our family, so all of the above knew they were destined for college and beyond when they grew up. Four Bett women have been teachers in SBISD with my granddaughter Rachel starting her first year of teaching at Memorial Drive Elementary this year. Several others in our extended family also teach.

At the age of 85, I still say...."Ain't Life Grand?" Mary Bett
Lambda Alpha’s first president, Jane Burke, 1979-1983, has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for many years. Not only was she a founding member of our chapter, she was also a member of Zeta Tau, our “mother” chapter, and before that, a member in El Paso, TX. Her date of initiation is officially 1979, but her daughter Melissa Steger, believes her membership goes back to the early 60’s! That’s dedication!

Jane was a music teacher for grades K, 3, and 4, and has an all-level music certification, as well as upper-level management certifications. She taught in La Marque, TX; HISD; Tulsa, OK; Richardson, ISD; and in Spring Branch at Westwood and Terrace Elementary.

Jane’s presidency lasted for 4 years. She is very proud of having organized our chapter back in 1979, especially since the state sent them a box full of supplies with no instructions! Imagine trying to understand how to organize a Delta Kappa Gamma chapter with no manual!

Jane loves to spend time with her children and grandchildren. She plays the piano, reads, and visits with friends in her leisure time. We are so fortunate to have had such a talented and dedicated member of our chapter for all these years.

Here is an update on one of our scholarship recipients: Kylie Schaper

Kylie is LOVING Texas A & M University! Last year she lived on campus and became very involved at TAMU. Kylie was one of five freshman chosen to become a member of the TAMU Hospitality Committee that officially welcomes you to Texas A & M! She was initiated into the Chi Omega Sorority and is living in the Chi-O house this year. Kylie loves her major and was invited and joined two different honor societies at TAMU.

Kylie was asked to compete at the Nationals Cheer Association (NCA) competition in Spring of last year for a cheer team in Sugar Land. She drove in at least one day a week for a 8 pm - 11:00 practice from October through February. In addition to studying last year, Kylie was able to improve her time-management skills!

Kylie feels it is important for the youth to understand the importance of exercise and healthy eating habits. Her goal is reach as many kids as possible to spread the message!

Kristy Schaper

An additional note: Ruby Schaper has 3 granddaughters and a daughter-in-law that started teaching this year!
Wreaths Across America

During the past summer, we have all watched the news tell about soldiers at home who have died at home just doing their jobs. We have also heard of soldiers overseas who have perished at the hands of our enemies. How sad the families, friends, and teachers of these soldiers must feel.

Do you have a son or daughter, brother or sister, father or mother, grandfather or grandmother, in-law, or uncle or aunt who served in the military? Are they still serving? Have you thought of honoring their service by having a Wreath placed on the grave of a veteran?

We in Lambda Alpha have chosen to participate in the Wreaths Across America sponsorship drive to provide wreaths for as many military gravesites as possible. Since we are a Texas Chapter, the wreath sponsorships we collect provide wreaths that are placed on a grave at the Houston National Cemetery, which is one the busiest National cemeteries in the country. According to Wikipedia, “Houston National … encompasses 419.2 acres only about half of which is developed. The cemetery had more than 85,000 interments as of 2014.” Wouldn’t it be nice if all of these gravesites with a wreath during the holiday season?

For each sponsored wreath, our chapter receives 1/3 of the collected fee. Funds received prior to November 15 are applied to this year’s Wreath Drive. Funds received after that time is applied to the 2016 Wreath Drive, so we can collect sponsorship applications at any time. Donation forms are attached to the newsletter. There are two different forms. The tri-fold is for a general donation. If you are wanting to donate in the name of a veteran or military person, please use the two sided form so that their information can be added. Please consider either donating a wreath yourself, or encouraging another to donate one.

Sue Thompson

Trifold Brochure

Sponsorship Form

The forms are hyperlinked above. If you click on them they should open for you to be able to print. You have the forms in your red folder but feel free to e-mail Sue or Brenda if you need a form.