

Lone Star News

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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International ~ Key Women Educators

Fall 2020

Achievement Committee bestows awards

The women of Delta Kappa Gamma are special. They are educators who have discovered the meaning of “genuine spiritual fellowship” and work together with others to promote their profession. Their leadership shines in the classroom and the community. Those who choose to get involved with DKG on the state and international level expand their friendships and their growth opportunities as they work with others to impact education throughout Texas and the world.

Texas is very proud to announce two women who have gone beyond the chapter level of leadership and proven themselves to be leaders on a broader stage.

Cindy Drumm

Cindy Drumm of Iota Pi is the 2020 Texas State Achievement Award recipient. She has been a DKG Texas member since 1993 and has been active in Areas 9 & 10. Cindy has not only served in many capacities within her chapter, but her passion and inclusive attitude encourage other members within the chapter. She was honored with her chapter achievement award in 2010.



Cindy Drumm

Opportunities for service abound in TSO, and Cindy has taken advantage of them. She has sung in the Texas State Chorus, participated in STAR, chaired the TSO Scholarship Committee and served as ASTEF ex-officio member, ASTEF Vice President of Advancement and an ASTEF director. In addition, she is a regular presenter at TSO state conventions and DKG international conferences and conventions.

Cindy’s participation in the 2013 Leadership Seminar honed her skills for her active participation in many community organizations.

Elva Garcia

Elva Garcia of Beta Pi is the 2020 Golden Rose Award recipient. She is the epitome of a lady and of a true Delta Kappa Gamma member. She is gracious, elegant, dedicated, encouraging, and always around with a helpful hand and a winning smile.

Since her initiation into the Society 53 years ago, Elva has fostered a positive and supporting atmosphere within her chapter by holding every chapter officer position more than once. She was honored with her chapter’s achievement award.



Elva Garcia

Elva has kept her involvement fresh and relevant by serving on TSO committees and sharing her enthusiasm through presentations at area workshops and state conventions. Not only has she participated in 27 state conventions since her first convention in 1966, but she has increased her knowledge of the Society by attending DKG international conferences and conventions.

Chapter members look up to Elva’s leadership, style and willingness to share her knowledge while guiding them in all things DKG.

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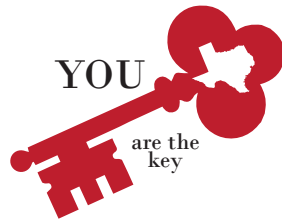
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Keys to endless TSO possibilities

Patti Belknap
Texas State President
2019-2021



Each day after the morning news, the television show “Let’s Make A Deal” comes on. Although the host is different from the one most of us remember, it operates on the same premise of costumed contestants trying to guess what’s behind Door #1, Door #2 or Door #3. Sometimes the contestants get a wonderful prize like a boat or car, but other times they end up with a kangaroo. The past few months have been a bit like that game show. Members are wondering what is behind those doors and which one should they choose? Let’s examine our DKG doors.

Behind Door #1 we find chapter members having chapter meetings on Zoom, Facebook Live or Google Hangouts. Members who perhaps stopped attending meetings because they were unable to drive at night, or they are home taking care of a sick child or relative, are now attending. Tech buddies are helping members adjust to the technology while building stronger bonds with each other. Business meetings are held by sharing the screen, and programs are presented in new and interesting ways. Regardless of the format, members are connecting.

Behind Door #2 we find TSO making plans for the training of future leaders with Leadership Seminar applications now available on the website. Soon members will be considering submitting their names to be TSO officers or serving on an elected committee during the next biennium. The Denton Steering Committee is making plans for the Denton Convention, June 17-19, 2021, and is providing many opportunities for member participation. This convention will have a shorter schedule and will end by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Behind Door #3 we find our active educators learning to teach in a whole new way. Some will meet their students in person wearing masks and using a variety of personal protective equipment while others will teach virtually. Whatever their district’s situation, they will do their jobs with the same passion and flexibility that they always have because they are Key Women Educators. We also find many of our retired educators supporting those active educators by sending gift cards and notes of encouragement.

No one knows what the future will bring. Like the game show, we sometimes just need to take a chance. There are no unwelcome prizes for us. We have the keys we need and endless possibilities for creativity behind each door.

Which door will you unlock?

WHAT'S NEW @ TSO HEADQUARTERS? We're glad you asked . . .



Positions: Leesa Cole, Executive Secretary from State Treasurer
Deborah Thomas, State Treasurer from Executive Assistant
Katherine Grogan, Executive Assistant from TSO Volunteer

Emails: Leesa tsosecretary29@gmail.com
Deborah tsotreas@gmail.com
Katherine tsoassistant@gmail.com

Chapter Support: Updated documents on the DKG Texas Treasurers' Page:
990N filing: <https://www.dkgtxas.org/treasurers-page.html>
Membership Forms: [Forms: What to Send Where](#)

Biennium Pins: TSO has a beautiful pin available for Patti Belknap's
biennium that can be yours for a \$5 donation. See the
article on page 13 for details.

WHICH TSO HQ STAFF MEMBER FITS THE DESCRIPTION BELOW?

Submit answers to the TSO Executive Secretary's new email address by Oct. 30. A random drawing will be held for a few lucky responders to receive a surprise!

A	B	C
Number cruncher Money manager Bill payer Finance partner Precious Moments collector Budget watcher Treasurer supporter Profit/Loss reporter Thrifty shopper	Friendly phone answerer TSO HQ guest greeter Forms, lists, data keeper ASTEFL donation receiver Czech/English family Card sender Contact list updater All-around organizer Avid birder	State leadership supporter Meeting details arranger Lubbock area is "home" Communicator Document maker State President's partner Business arranger TSO workflow manager "Crazy Cat Lady"

WHAT'S NOT NEW? . . . DEADLINES

See sidebar



- ▶ Oct. 1: Unbilled members in Dues Portal are auto-dropped by International
- ▶ Nov. 15: 990N ePostcard filed with IRS — TIP: file before Nov. 1

At A Glance Deadlines

Oct 1	Chapter Website Compliance (Form 72)
15	Leadership Sem App & Rec form
Nov 1	Cornetet Seminar Application Fall Mini Grant Applications STAR 2021 Applications LSN Submissions Early Bird Yearbooks
15	IRS 990N
Dec 1	TSO Yearbooks Expense Reports/ Travel Logs for St Personnel
Jan 1	Nominations for 2021-2023 St Elected Positions
3	Int'l Ed Found Project App
24-26	STAR
31	ASTEFL Mid-Year Reports
Feb 1	Cornetet Application LSN Submissions State Achievement & Golden Rose Nominations Int'l Scholarship Applications State Honorary Member Application App to serve as a committee member, chair or AC
15	CPE Conv Proposals
Mar 1	Membership Snapshot Convention Rpts State Personnel Budget Request to Finance Chair Scholarships and Mini Grant Applications ASTEFL Aspiring Educator
31	Bylaws/State Rules Changes/Proposals

Committee Meetings

ASTEFL (Zoom)	Sept 26
Executive (Zoom)	Oct 3
L Seminar	Nov 14-15
Nominations	Jan 23-24

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www.dkg.org

MEMBERS: Send address changes to your chapter treasurer or go to www.dkg.org /MyDKG to make any changes in your information.

Mineral Wells Mural Project a new challenge for artist

I am a self-taught artist, influenced by my grandmother's personalized birthday cards and admiring her art desk every time we visited her. Even though I was very young, the details are still vivid in my memories. I still have some of her artwork, supplies and birthday cards.

My mother was also a big influence on my creativity. When sitting in church listening to the sermon, she would doodle on her bulletin, and I would mimic her later on to keep from squirming in the pew. Outside of church, she would doodle small pictures on notes to me when she wrote them.

When I was bored or restless, she would always encourage me to go outside and take pictures. My personal journey in art started with the camera, and I had high hopes of a career in journalism working for National Geographic. I had one high school art class. My art teacher was a lively, colorful lady who had a fun disposition and would let us explore our own creativity. Supplies were not available for anything other than drawing, pastels and painting, but that was enough to get me hooked. Even as a terrible artist I realized it was an outlet for ideas.

I took a few courses in college in art, photography and journalism, and ended up with my Associates in Art before deciding I loved science just as much. Science was also a field that would generate more job opportunities. I had strong support from my mentor teacher Elizabeth Calhoun from Mineral Wells. Her guidance gave me the confidence I needed to lead my own chemistry class.

During my years teaching chemistry, I realized I had let my love of art go and wanted to get that back. I started my own painting party business in town and gained recognition from members of the community and school for my artwork. Because of my business, I was thought of when the Mural Project came up in Mineral Wells. I have now done two in town. Then the high school art position came up; I passed my art certification exam and was officially offered the job in May 2020. I am looking forward to picking up new skills and facing new challenges.

Mural: The mural is a combination of:

Music-I felt that was an artform missing from the murals project — Jazz and a big-band feel were asked for as part of the theme; I still have some musical notes to add that actually play a song written by a local musician.

Baker Hotel-The re-opening of the Baker is used as symbolism for our little town re-awakening; having the bell tower connect to the actual Baker Hotel was also requested by the owner of the building.

Southwestern Style & Symbolism-Cowboys had already become part of the Murals Project, and the building next to my mural was going to be another western theme. I decided our Native Americans were missing from the western theme and are just as important to our history. Kokopelli is familiar with many tribes and represents life, creativity and balance. He is playing Jazz instruments rather than his traditional flute to make up the Big Jazz Band/Roaring Twenties.

There is movement in the mural as well as tributes to Welcome Mountain, the cactus that grows on the Baker, hummingbirds to represent strength and the wildlife in our county, and the bell swinging before there is actually a bell in the tower to show hope for the future.



"Water is Life, Music is Soul" mural is painted on the back of a building that lines up with the Baker Hotel. Art by Autumn Wraight & photo by Audrey Mae Sawyer.

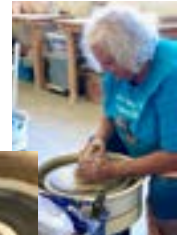
Women in Arts

Debbi Ball, Gamma Eta

Wet clay and spinning wheel good therapy

One of the main things I always wanted to instill in my students' learning was never to be afraid of trying new things. So, when my daughter called, asking me to join her for pottery wheel lessons, I could not say "no." Eight years later, I still rely on the wet clay and spinning wheel as the best therapy in keeping me grounded.

As I choose a plug of wet clay, I already have the design in mind that I will create. The first step is to move the clay into a centered hump on the wheel. It always reminds me that my thoughts and focus must be centered on my goal as I begin any project. Once the clay is centered, it is time to open the clay and begin pulling the sides of the walls up into a cylinder form. That is the base of the piece, just as we each need to have a strong foundation before we begin growing into our own personality. From there, the clay is manipulated into a shape through pushing and pulling into the shape before being set aside to partially dry. At this point, the piece is trimmed and prepared for glazing.



Debbi Ball creating a strong base



Finished projects

Through my throwing experience, I have met many wonderful artists who have guided me through the learning process, increasing my confidence as I learn new ways to use the wheel in creating a multitude of objects. I am a member of the Lubbock Clay Guild and the LHUCA Clay Studio that several of our Texas DKG members visited when the state convention was held in Lubbock.

Women in Arts

Katherine Bunce, Kappa Pi

Large paintings are close-up and personal

In 2006, I retired from teaching middle school science and moved to Tyler. I met a new friend while working at the Bullard Mission House. She was a former Tyler art teacher. She invited three of us to her studio so that we could learn to watercolor. I told her absolutely not, but the others were thrilled. Reluctantly, I agreed. I had never held a brush and could not draw a stick turtle! Well, that art teacher saw something that I had never ever visualized — me as an artist. I began to love the way the paint rolled on my paper and made images that were bright and beautiful. Who knew that watercolor could be so bold and exciting?

A couple of years later she shared news with us that she had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, stage 4. Our little group forged on, but with an idea. We asked if we could start an Art Show in her honor with the proceeds going to the Bullard Mission House. She agreed, but only as a Fine Arts Show. For 11 years, the Genny Wood Art Show was a major success and many, many people were helped with food, clothes and medical treatments. Genny lived to hear about the success of the first show. Art to me is multileveled. It is a joy to paint, a blessing to share and a sweet place to remember our Genny.



Charlie the Dog

I paint rather large paintings that are up-close and personal. I love bold colors combined with joy! With a science background, I am very detailed. My world exploded with the connections with other artists and their willingness to show me new techniques. Each painting is a 'baby' that has been birthed and nurtured. Who knew?



Dress-Up Day



Mary's Amazing Paradise

Committee deadlines need attention

AUGUST 1 - OCTOBER 31

On even-numbered years, all DKG websites are required to update the Compliance Seal on their website. Chapters must resubmit the compliance form between August 1 and October 31 of even numbered years. The website must be fully updated and in compliance before submitting the form.



In order to do this:

1. Log into dkg.org (Chapter webmaster will need to log in using her DKG member number and password.)
2. Click the Forms tab.
3. Click Website.
4. Click Form 72 and complete the form.

OCTOBER 15

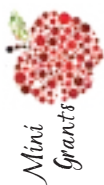
Members are invited to pursue the precious riches of friendship, inspiration and empowerment found at TSO Leadership Seminar. The journey will take place February 26-28, 2021, at the Arlington Hilton Hotel and is designed to enhance professional and personal growth. Participants will discover valuable skills that can be applied to a multitude of leadership roles.



The application and recommendation form, due October 15, 2020, can be found at dkgtexas.org on the Leadership Seminar Committee page. Applicants should refer to the DKG Sample Resume to serve as a guide for completing the application.

Apply today to unlock the treasure of successful leadership at Leadership Seminar.

NOVEMBER 1



The TSO Scholarship Committee provides fall Mini Grants for special projects. Guidelines and the application may be found on the TSO State website www.dkgtexas.org. Eligible non-traditional activities include attendance at a professional conference or workshop that can enhance professional skills. The deadline is November 1, 2020. Applications are submitted to: scholarship@astef.org.

NOVEMBER 1



A well-planned, informative chapter yearbook will be a vital source of communication for chapter members. In this time of social distancing and virtual meetings, it is imperative that members are well informed and aware of events, programs and projects that will continue as part of chapter business.

The yearbook will be a strong binder of chapter unity and genuine spiritual fellowship. A chapter yearbook needs to be in the hands of chapter members as soon as possible. The guidelines remain the same, but the contact information requirements for international officers, chapter officers and chapter committees are different.

An article entitled, "Suggestions and Tips to Make Your Chapter Yearbook a Perfect 29," is located on the TSO Yearbook Committee webpage.

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JANUARY 1

Key qualified, forward thinking, energetic women are sought now for elected officer positions to serve TSO during the 2021-2023 biennium. These include president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary and corresponding secretary. Elected committee positions include finance and nominations.



Qualifications and duties for elected positions may be found in Information for Applicants for TSO Elected Positions located at www.dkgtxas.org/nominations-committee.

Applications may be emailed to carolynmashburn44@gmail.com or sent by hard copy to Carolyn Mashburn, Nominations Chair, 3307 Village Oaks Drive, Kingwood, TX 75339. The deadline for the application is January 1, 2021.

FEBRUARY 1



The Achievement Award Committee encourages chapters to nominate eligible members for either the Golden Rose Award or the TSO Achievement Award. The nomination outline formats are available on both the Deadlines and Forms page of the TSO website and the Achievement Award Committee page. The deadline is February 1, 2021. Members are encouraged to begin completing a nomination form early. Only complete and thorough nominations are considered. The committee encourages chapters to recognize outstanding members within the chapter.

FEBRUARY 15



The Personal/Professional Enrichment Committee is in search of presenters for the 92nd TSO State Convention in Denton, TX. Presentations are needed on Society Business, Special Interests and Continuing Professional Education (CPE) sessions.

Members who applied to present in McAllen may tweak the presentation and be ready for Denton. Each presenter must complete a new application and submit it.

The convention presenter sign-up form is on the dkgtxas.org website. It is available from now until February 15th, 2021. The form must be filled out completely to be considered. Submission information is included on the form.

Dates set for ASTEF Houston Weekender



Plans are being made and registration is now open for the 5th annual ASTEF Weekender to be held April 16-18, 2021, in Houston, TX. Highlights include an Alley Theater Backstage Tour, a visit to Bayou Bend Gardens, Discovery Green, Avenue of the Americas and other hidden gems of the fourth largest city in the U.S. The total cost of the trip is \$325 with a deposit of \$75 to hold a place. Members may plan now to celebrate the beauty of Houston and to explore some of the unseen treasures of this major urban area. Additional information and registration forms are on the ASTEF website at www.astef.org.



2020-2021 ASTEF Project Stipend awardees



TSO/ASTEF members will be very busy implementing the 30 projects that received full or partial funding through stipends from the Projects Fund.



Project awards this year include mentoring early educators in a variety of different ways.

Alpha Pi (17)	Alpha Pi Mentors are the Keys to Success	\$2,000
Beta Upsilon (10)	New Teacher Grant	\$500
Donna Mohlman (3)	Baytown Early Educators Dig Deep for Literacy & Music	\$1,200
Eta Omega (4)	Enriching Emerging Educators	\$1,300
Kappa Upsilon (9)	Adopt a Newbie	\$1,400
Mu Iota (2)	Increasing Teacher Retention	\$1,000
Phi (1)	Early Educator Enrichment: Encouraging Excellence	\$800
Theta (2)	Theta Mentoring	\$500
Zeta Epsilon (11)	New Teacher Success with Storybridge	\$2,800



Other projects are providing books, books, and more books to enhance reading, math or science STEM learning activities in the classroom.

Alpha Mu (5)	Garden Based Learning Project Gr. 6-8	\$900
Beta Lambda (17)	Wanted: Page Turners! Scientists & Mathematicians	\$300
Diane Sikkenga (7)	Taking Learning Home with STEAM Backpacks	\$2,833.69
Epsilon Gamma (17)	Iron Horse Square Little Free Library	\$1,500
Kappa Lambda (7)	Beyond the Textbook, part 2	\$800
Mu Tau (1)	Forever Families Children's Library: Book Display Cases	\$300
Mu Upsilon (2)	STEAM Ahead with IPADS	\$800
Omega (13)	Make Kindness Normal	\$1,000
Omicron (3)	Mentoring the 21st Century Student	\$800
Theta Beta (6)	Sensory Room Children's Wonderland	\$1,878.96
Zeta Sigma (16)	The Great Outdoors	\$2,181.96
Zeta Theta (9)	Backpacks of Books	\$400



Many chapters recognize the many different needs that students have by supporting children in a crisis center or in shelters with clothing, food, or supplemental learning materials.

Beta Epsilon (12)	Take Along Bags	\$825
Epsilon (9)	Blessing Bags	\$250
Eta Alpha (11)	Serving Children and Families in Crisis	\$2,000
Iota Epsilon (18)	Babies Raising Babies	\$400
Iota Lambda (10)	Life Shelter Love	\$2,000
Theta Epsilon (12)	DKG Theta Epsilon Fills Blessing Boxes	\$800
Zeta (8)	Pack of Hope	\$500



In addition, one project challenges students to submit poetry in a writing competition, while another project assists student teachers in ESL and ELL strategies.

Alpha (7)	ESL and ELL Strategies for Student Success	\$1,500
Alpha Gamma (10)	2020-2021 Alpha Gamma Poetry Festival and Competition	\$300

Our Heritage Volume IV captures treasured parts of past

Evelyn Barron, Epsilon Kappa

“Why don’t you submit a proposal to write *Heritage IV*?” DKG International President Carolyn Pittman asked me at the beginning of 2017. “Look at the RFP posted on the website. You have time to prepare a proposal before the deadline.”

Thus began the many experiences that culminated in the publication of *Our Heritage Volume IV* in July 2020. While the book was not featured as planned at the international convention in Philadelphia, I was able to introduce it in an interview with Dr. Judy Merz, international editor, that was shown as one of the virtual convention events.

Writing an extensive history was a new experience for me. I taught English and composition for many years. As a curriculum specialist, I attended and conducted workshops on the five-step writing process. I even wrote an article published in the *DKG Bulletin* many years ago. But this was different. I soon realized that the research was more important than the writing itself. Many steps — including locating material, reading, notetaking, organizing, weighing facts and events and making decisions about their relative importance — preceded the actual writing. And then, of course, came the seemingly endless rewriting, editing, and proofing (with a lot of help). As with most significant things, the process took far more time than I could ever have envisioned.

Volume IV sets into context and develops ten years of Society history — from 2008 until 2018. The book details events of five biennia, led by international presidents Dr. Carolyn Rants, Dr. Jensi Souders, Dr. Beverly Helms, Dr. Lyn Schmid, and Carolyn Pittman. The book is developed both chronologically and thematically and includes extensive appendices organized to correspond with topics developed in 18 chapters.

DKG members may approach the history in various ways. Some readers may read the 18 chapters straight through. Others will look for specific information — about awards, projects or Society expansion, for example. Individual chapters can form the basis for chapter programs or brief “Society Tidbits” to begin each meeting. The appendices are there for research; in their own way, they tell stories of members who served and awards that were made during the 10-year period.

Now that the book has been completed, what did I learn about the Society? I can say that, despite many changes and challenges, the core values of the Society are still applicable today and are exemplified in the members. A strong focus on leadership, scholarship and philanthropy defined this organization from its beginning. These emphases are part of our heritage as DKG members, and they are still motivating forces for Society programs and projects. While the activities, methods and terminology may be different today, the ideal of a strong professional organization for women educators, designed to support the work of educators and students, is just as relevant as it was in 1929.

Our Heritage Volume IV is available in several different formats. A limited number of printed copies are for sale in the Society store on the DKG website (www.dkg.org). The complete volume is posted on the website as a flipbook with navigational aids to assist the reader, and the volume also may be downloaded as a pdf document.



Evelyn Barron, a past president of the DKG Mississippi State Organization, served as 1998-2000 DKG international president and 2000-2002 executive director of the Society. She is a resident of Austin and a member of Epsilon Kappa Chapter.

Members share COVID-19 experiences

Hilda Diaz, Epsilon Kappa

Who would've known that after leaving school for spring break, one hundred and fifty-one days ago, we were saying goodbye to our normal school days? Within very little time, school

districts across the United States redefined education and in a matter of weeks transformed in-person education to a modality that no one even imagined possible. For the past 151 days, teachers have been forced to learn new platforms, new technology and new ways to interact online with their students. Most importantly, they have worked hard to continue to build relationships with students and their families, not just as a source of knowledge, but also as a support system. We are at a stage where having a short term goal seems almost impossible because of the uncertainty of our current COVID-19 pandemic situation.

I've always known that teachers are resilient, but during these past months, I just confirmed it. We didn't have a choice but to grab the bull by the horns and take charge. What we didn't know was that we were creating new and different ways to educate our children! We had no choice but to adapt to our new normal and continue learning, teaching, living. We were facing a propletnuity, *an opportunity that arises when a problem has to be solved. The opportunity may give rise to benefits that are unrelated to the problem being solved.*

What benefits?:

- Parents understanding the daunting task that teachers face every day.
- Students understanding how much they actually miss school and being able to interact with teachers and peers.
- Teachers attending webinars of all kinds, without complaining about having to attend yet another workshop.
- International conventions that turned into virtual events with large numbers of participants because the physical boundaries were removed.

Propletnuity, I love the concept, love the idea. I want to think about this whole pandemic as an opportunity for us to look at new ways to approach situations, to push ourselves to learn and try new things — without fear of the unknown and come out of this pandemic with a new superpower, a new perspective of what we are able to accomplish when we get rid of the boundaries and obstacles confronting us. Let's use this propletnuity to become a better version of ourselves.

Lynda McQuaid, Kappa Pi

Chapters who have trouble finding speakers during this time of social distancing might try Kappa Pi's method for creating programs that members enjoy. The Kappa Pi Executive Board,

along with other interested members, meet for summer planning. We begin program planning with discussions about things that interest us: hobbies we are pursuing, history that intrigues us, places we have been or want to go, books we have read or want to read, and subjects we would like to know more about. As topics are discussed, we ask, "how could we work that into a chapter program?" Our members take ownership and enjoy participating with research and presentations for our programs. Some examples of these programs are:



- "First Ladies of Texas" was presented before a November election. Members researched interesting stories of the "first ladies of Texas."
- "Having a Great Time; Wish You were Here" was an opportunity for members who had taken trips and cruises to offer tips and helpful advice for trips they had taken.
- "What Does That Mean?" happened when we found ourselves using the same idioms as our parents. We decided to explore idioms, old sayings and old wives' tales. Matching the sayings, guessing the meanings and sharing the superstitions brought much laughter.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

Libby Horton, Mu Tau

Just before everything was closed because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, I had gathered milkweed with monarch eggs on them to take to my granddaughter's school to teach the children the complete life-cycle through raising and releasing monarch butterflies. I had all the milkweed with eggs and no place to go. Then it occurred to me to put it all on Facebook. I could virtually teach all my friends about monarchs, the complete life cycle and the necessity of preserving habitat.

I began with the first entry about finding the milkweed with the eggs and posted the first picture. There were a few that commented but the response was mediocre. Then the eggs hatched to the larva stage and that post received a few more comments. I posted about caring for the caterpillars during the time that they eat and prepare for the process of metamorphosis. Now I have people who are interested and a few who have gathered their own milkweed and are raising their own caterpillars for themselves or their children.

As I posted pictures and videos of the releases, more and more people were involved and making comments. The whole process lasted over two months.

Adults and children have since mentioned my monarch project and how much they enjoyed it. It made me think I just may start a group project next year. Whether or not I can go to my granddaughter's school, I am convinced that using social media is a way for me to continue as an educator and amateur naturalist.



Nancy Barron, Zeta Gamma

As an "older" new teacher, I have had many learning curves. This spring provided one of my most interesting challenges.

One of the courses I have been teaching the past two years is called Mathematical Applications in Agriculture. The first semester of teaching this course, I determined that it was very boring for the students, and I purchased a Drone Technology Curriculum. I had my students build pretty sophisticated drones, and I purchased some smaller units for them to use to practice.

When the shutdown occurred, I brought a couple of the smaller drone units home with me and had my 17 year-old grandson come over to work with me on becoming a proficient "pilot" with these little wonders. Of course, he was an "expert" after a few minutes, while I still struggled to control mine. It was slightly windy while we were practicing, and mine was caught by a gust of wind. Even though I had "told" my unit from my controller to land, the wind carried it up into a very tall tree limb and parked itself among the branches. We tried various things to get it down before giving up.



I kept anticipating that the March winds would shake the unit out over the next few days, but no such luck. A few weeks later, my grandson with his great "throwing arm" attempted to lasso the branch and shake it, hoping we could untangle the drone and let it fall to the ground. He spent almost an hour doing this and grew very weary.

About that time, my husband came out on the front porch with his 20-gauge shotgun and asked my grandson if he were a good shot. Well, that was exciting. After about 15 rounds of birdshot, the limb came down with the drone. The poor little unit was not ever going to fly again — it had many little holes through the body and motors. But, we certainly had a good time.

Lesson learned? Don't fly a mini drone on a windy day. That is something I can certainly share with my students this year when we begin practicing with our drones at school. Now I can actually control my drone — which is a great accomplishment for this granny teacher.

Texas State Organization Remembers

We mourn the passing and celebrate the lives of those cherished members of the Society whose deaths have been reported to the Texas Necrology Chair, Rhonda Hall, between April 1, 2020 and August 15, 2020. They are reported by their chapter and place of residence at the time of death using Form 6, Report of the Death of a Member, found at www.dkgtexas.org under Committees - Necrology.

SH = State Honorary SM = State Member

Janet Clem, Beta Omega-1, Ben Wheeler
Naomi Bledsoe, Kappa Pi-1, Chandler
Betty Joyce Denson, Theta Nu-1, Tyler
Nancy McClain, Alpha Omega-2, Port Arthur
Katie Beane, Rho-5, Edinburg
Ernestine Carson, Delta Beta-6, Barksdale
Dr. Donna Metcalf, Iota Beta-6, San Antonio
Dr. Carol Annelise Vela, Kappa Beta-6, San Antonio
Dorothy Baum, Epsilon Kappa-7, Austin
Berdie Marie Smith, Beta Nu-8, Marlin
Jeannette Kelley, Lambda-8, Temple
Martha Lynn Shaver, Tau-8, Fairfield
Beverly Jane Funk, Eta Eta-9, Dallas
Joan Huntley, Theta Alpha-9, Dallas
Linda Robards, Theta Alpha-9, Duncanville
Billie Sue Fields, Theta Theta-10, North Richland Hills
Rose Shook, Delta Xi-11, Hereford
Wanda Bishop, Zeta Delta-11, Amarillo
Ima Sue Stephens, Zeta Zeta-11, Amarillo
Connie Gilbert, Lambda Xi-13, Kerrville
Dr. Sandra Jean Smith, Zeta Phi-13, Abilene
Dr. Virginia Dick, Gamma Epsilon-16, Bridgeport
Nelda Carter, Beta Lambda-17, Canyon Lake
Dr. Mavis De La Rosa, Epsilon Gamma-17, Mineola
Frances Hollenbeck, Rho-5, Pharr
Shila Smith, Eta Chi-18, East Lansing, MI

**Member
News**



Connie Richardson, Iota Omicron (Wichita Falls-16), recently received her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Texas.

Lila Murphy, Kappa (El Paso-15), was elected President of El Paso Retired Teachers Association (EPRTA) for 2020–2022.

Jean Fuller, Kappa Pi (Bullard-1), received the TRTA 21st Century Award.

Ronnie Rocio, Delta Rho (Richardson-9), recently completed her doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership from Grand Canyon University. She also published her first children's book, *I Finally Told Mom*, which is the story of her daughter's life.

Dr. Guylene Robertson, Iota Psi (Goodrich-2), was elected as Polk County Precinct #1 County Commissioner.

Susan LeTourneau, Mu Upsilon (Lumberton-2), is president of the Lumberton ATPE chapter which won the Floyd Trimble Local Unit of the Year Award.

Renee Tolin, Eta Mu (Beaumont-2), received her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from Lamar University.

Rachel Medrano, Beta Xi (Kingsville-5), was named a Tech Innovator by the PWC Charitable Foundation and awarded \$7500 for an Innovation Lab.

Dr. Cynthia Hopkins, Delta Psi (Corpus Christi-5), was a semi-finalist in the 2020 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards.

Brenda Burks, Gamma Zeta (Stephenville-10), was selected as Stephenville ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Lisa Baley, Eta Zeta (Dallas-9), won \$50,000 for West Mesquite High School as a recipient of the Amazon Future Engineer Teacher of the Year Award.

TSO accepting applications for webmaster

The TSO webmaster, Diane Moose, is retiring. The duty of webmaster is to maintain a Texas State Organization website on the internet. This is a part time position. The person serving in the position must present a positive image and a sincere desire to serve the Society. The person can live anywhere in the state and needs knowledge in technology and website design.

Anyone interested in applying for this position may complete the [application](#) and send it to Susie Nesmith, chair of the TSO Personnel Committee. Her email is snsmith@gcecisp.com.

2019-2021 biennium pins available



TSO President Patti Belknap’s “You are the key” biennium pins are available from TSO Headquarters for a donation of \$5.00 for each pin.

Mailing Information

Pins with 1st Class Tracking

Number of Pins	Pin DONATION	Envelope & Postage	Total DONATION	Number of Pins	Pin DONATION	Envelope & Postage	Total DONATION
1	\$5.00	\$3.59	\$8.59	7	\$35.00	\$4.31	\$39.31
2	\$10.00	\$3.59	\$13.59	8	\$40.00	\$4.31	\$44.31
3	\$15.00	\$3.59	\$18.59	9	\$45.00	\$4.31	\$49.31
4	\$20.00	\$3.59	\$23.59	10	\$50.00	\$5.79	\$55.79
5	\$25.00	\$4.31	\$29.31	25	\$125.00	\$7.72	\$132.72
6	\$30.00	\$4.31	\$34.31				

“You are the key” Pin Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Number of pins _____ Pin donation amount _____

Envelope and postage cost for sending pin(s) to one location _____

Total amount enclosed _____

Mail a check made out to TSO to : TSO Headquarters
P.O. Box 797787
Dallas, TX 75379-7787



GOLD PIECE TSO and TRTA: A winning combination

TRTA Immediate Past President Patricia Macias, Beta Pi

This summer, plans were in place for Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) and the Texas State Organization (TSO) of Delta Kappa Gamma to have informative tables at their respective state conventions. Patti Beknap and I were hoping to bring together these two vibrant organizations involved with active and retired educators and their issues. Unfortunately, COVID-19 made face-to-face meetings impossible this year.

TRTA is the largest association in the nation that advocates solely for improved benefits for all education retirees. It is the legislative voice not just for current retirees, but also for future retirees. As legislative advocates, TRTA members lobby the Texas Legislature on issues such as teacher pension and health care benefits.

While the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) handles educators' pensions and health care, it is important to understand that TRS answers to the legislature and Texas laws that are enacted, upheld or improved every legislative year. That means that every educator, retired or active, is at the mercy of Texas Legislators. The influence educators exert on legislators is important. TRTA has a lobbyist to bring concerns to legislators, but the greatest lobbyists are the members. The organization has more than 97,000 members, and a group of that size has the power to impact elections. Last year, TRTA was a major contributor to the passage of Senate Bill 12 that finally provided the funds to get the TRS pension fund actuarially sound and to provide a fully funded 13th check, capped at \$2,000, for everyone retired as of December 31, 2018. The legislative accomplishments are possible because TRTA has member volunteer legislative teams that make sure every legislator from the Texas Governor to Texas State Representatives and Texas State Senators are visited and lobbied for the needs of Texas teachers.

At TRTA, the work is never ending because members' needs are always the top priority. Many retired educators have not seen a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and struggle with an unfair Social Security formula that takes up to 40% of their hard-earned money. Retirees also struggle to find an affordable health care plan, especially those members under the age of 65.

Why is it important for TRTA and TSO to come together? Members of TSO bring excellent leadership and organizational skills to their TRTA Local Units and Districts. They also know retired teachers who might join forces with TRTA to ensure that education and the needs of educators needs are always a top priority of the Texas Legislature. Being members of TRTA and Delta Kappa Gamma shows strength and commitment to issues involving educators better than contributing money to a candidate. TSO and TRTA are a winning combination.

TRTA welcomes all TSO members and educators to join and be on the forefront of all legislative issues that affect educator benefits. Whether through the TRTA App, the *Inside Line* or the TRTA website, www.trta.org, educators stay informed on all that TRTA does and offers.

Committees actively working for members

GLOBAL AWARENESS

The primary purpose of the TSO Global Awareness Committee is to promote the global projects, initiatives and goals of DKG International. These projects include Schools for Africa, World Fellowship, the United Nations involvement, and the Conference for Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). Extensive information on the initiatives is available on the DKG website, www.dkg.org.



In addition, area members of the Global Awareness Committee have information and suggestions for programs. Chapters interested in a Zoom presentation may contact Michelle Grandinetti, Global Awareness Chair, mrgrose2014@gmail.com, for more

information. The Global Awareness Committee helps members to fulfill Purpose 7: “participate effectively in a world society.”

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

The Leadership Development for Chapter Presidents (LDCP) Committee took a giant leap on June 16-18, 2020, to train chapter presidents in a new way. LDCP met in a virtual setting to prepare for a brand new training for the chapter presidents of Texas. After much discussion and condensing of the topics for presentation, nine virtual training sessions were held over the three day period that would have been presented at the McAllen Convention. Chapter presidents completed pre-training homework, printed and read documents from TSO and International, and prepared any questions for the presenters.



The training allowed for breakout sessions by TSO Areas. This format allowed for presidents to meet and visit with their area coordinators. In addition, presidents who could not attend received a link to the recorded session and were able to view the training.

A total of 181 of 231 presidents were trained. They represent 79.61% of all chapter presidents. Three areas had 100% attendance.

Questions and answers from LDCP were compiled by the committee and were prepared for posting on the TSO website along with the training documents. In addition, presidents were surveyed concerning the effectiveness of LDCP and any gaps in topics covered. Participants reported that the training was excellent and met their needs.

MEMBERSHIP

Embrace the Challenge is the motto of the TSO Membership Committee. Chapters may find the slogan useful when inspiring members to continue the work of recruiting and maintaining membership. After all, membership is everyone’s responsibility. In these times of pandemic, chapters are often focused on keeping current members involved. However, teachers everywhere are rising to the current challenges to help and to educate children. Stories of the inspiration and creativity of these teachers meeting current teaching challenges involve women educators who meet the criteria of a DKG woman. These outstanding teachers need to be recognized. TSO members can recognize them with an invitation to DKG.



The membership committee page on dkgtexas.org has a detailed plan for recruiting new prospects. The key is not to assume that the teacher will decline, but instead carefully follow the steps that emphasize the honor the teacher is being offered. The teachers who show interest are introduced to DKG through the *Pride in the Big Picture*, a presentation designed to highlight what opportunities are available through membership.

Thirteen Aspiring Educator Grants awarded for 2020

ASTEFL annually awards Aspiring Educator Grants to women in Texas to assist them in completing a bachelor's degree in education and/or Texas teacher certification. With the exception of a "collegiate member", the applicant must not be a member of DKG but must be sponsored by a DKG member in the Texas State Organization. Applicants may apply for a grant every year for up to four years. ASTEF is pleased to award the 2020 Aspiring Educator grants to the following:

Name & Area	Institution	Amount Awarded
Kelsie Andrews (18)	East Texas Baptist University	\$1,000
Julianna Cavazos (3)	University of Houston Clear Lake	\$1,000
Catherine Collins (2)	Lamar University	\$500
Madison Cooley (9)	East Texas Baptist University	\$500
Hanna Gonzalez (12)	Texas Tech University	\$500
Hanna Hall (18)	University of North Texas	\$1,000
Sara Heinrichs (10)	Howard Payne University	\$1,000
Catherine Jeffers (1)	Paris Jr. College	\$500
Charis Jordan (2)	LeTourneau University	\$500
Madelyne Pipes (17)	Texas A & M Texarkana	\$1,000
Jocelyn Quintanilla (7)	St. Edward's University	\$1,000
Yulissa Santos (5)	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$500
Destiny Saucedo (3)	University of Houston Clear Lake	\$1,000

A current application will be available in October on the ASTEF website, www.astef.org. The next applications will be due March 1, 2021.



July 3, 2020

Dear Delta Kappa Gamma Members,

It is with deep gratitude that I write to express my profound appreciation for receiving your ASTEF Advocate for Education Award. Such a distinguished award, coming from such a wonderful organization of lifetime educators, means the world to me. Thank you!

I have long admired Delta Kappa Gamma through knowing many of your outstanding members. Their lifetime of dedicated service to the children of our state is immeasurable in terms of impact. I can think of no other organization which has contributed so much to so many, and ultimately had such influence for good. Good teachers change lives, and great teachers change the world ~ and that is Delta Kappa Gamma's profound impact! To receive your Foundation's award is humbling and powerfully meaningful, an honor I will treasure deeply in my heart forever.

Blessings to each of you as you continue to go about your good and important work. May you have good health and much joy in knowing the difference you make to our state and country.

My great appreciation!

Gerry Fleuriet

