

## TSO Headquarters History, Dallas, Memories and Reflections



**Backstory...** TSO Secretary/Treasurer's offices through the years—  
1929-1982: Austin, Fort Worth, or Snyder home of the state officer.  
1982-2005: TWU, Denton.  
2005-present: Dallas.

**Vicki Tigert Davis, Ph. D.**  
2009-2011 TSO president  
Written January 29, 2019

### **Money, money, money...**

I had very little to do with securing the Texas State Organization (TSO) Headquarters building located in Dallas. Gratefully, others took care of those details.

After the move-in and excitement of the grand opening, there was tremendous pressure—real or imagined—to repay the monies *borrowed* from the scholarships fund.

We *struggled* to continue fundraising: committing to “Building Bucks” or to “Raise the Roof”; campaigning for “Hundreds for Headquarters”; asking for another gift, another basket, another raffle, or any other request for money fancied up with a clever title to ease the pain.

Members became somewhat anxious to get the debt obliterated; after all, we were professional educators, not fundraisers. We did not exactly hit the high mark quickly enough in our fundraising efforts. By 2011 we were grateful to come up with \$200,000 to partially repay the loan to the scholarships fund. We still needed about \$100,000 more. We *scrambled* for other means and a plan.



Cheryl Crawford, Jean Webb, Dr. Vicki T. Davis

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## ***For unto us is born...***

Like their predecessors, the 2009-2011 Headquarters Committee was hard at work. *And unto to them was born* the idea of the Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation. The committee members' individual and collective imagination, resourcefulness, research-based thinking, daring, and creativity *brought forth* one of the most progressive and productive ideas TSO has yet developed. From the beginning they called it *ASTEFA*.



## ***In their footsteps...***

While not busy brainstorming or counting the large and small treasures repositied at the new facility, the 2009-2011 committee had a bit of fun following in the footsteps of those who had visited an earlier headquarters in the Fort Worth home of Phyllis Ellis and Dr. Eula Lee Carter. *See photo to the left.*

Famous among DKG members, this framed door now on display at the Dallas Headquarters was the veneer on the upper portion of the inside of the entry hall closet door in the home of Dr. Carter and Miss Ellis. All overnight guests had the privilege of signing the door.

Thus, creating a new tradition, many newbies who came to the Dallas Headquarters building signed the attic flooring.

Though being agile was not a committee member or visitor requirement, many visitors to headquarters made the trip *up above*...after pulling down the folding stairs...to register their autographs on a plank or two in the attic. *See photo to the right.*

Early DKG TSO members who signed *the door* that now hangs in the hallway of the new headquarters had nothing on this group!

## ***Helpful may they be...***

As many TSO members (Ruth Hull, Catherine Davis, Joanne Davis—add your name, if applicable) can attest, the Texas version of DKG is often a family affair.

To be specific, though the new facility had great space,



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the headquarters staff needed more filing cabinets. Money was scarce. Remember, we were searching for ways to pay for the facility, not buy more filing cabinets...*smile!*

*Answer:* Two of the light-colored metal file cabinets at the Dallas headquarters came from my husband Jerry's law office. He had lots of them when he retired from practice and was delighted to give them away!

But transporting them was an issue. The solution...*ask another husband!*

Tish Mulkey and her husband, Clark, came to Greenville, Texas, loaded the filing cabinets into their truck, and took them back to Dallas. Jerry and I supervised!

All this is just to say that several husbands have contributed to the care of the TSO Headquarters through the years. *See the photos in other "Headquarters History, Memories and Reflections" writings and "Headquarters History" slide shows. You'll see Herbert Hull and George Davis helping whenever needed.*

### ***Forward moving ever...***

It's funny how the people and the furnishings have changed at headquarters even though we thought we had everything just right the first time! As I understand, plans are to continue to change as we move forward!

*Text courtesy of Dr. Vicki T. Davis.  
Photos courtesy of Joanne Davis, Dr. Vicki T.  
Davis, Jeanette Rhyan.  
Document compiled by Marilyn Nease, 2017-2019  
TSO Headquarters Committee chair.*