

# Lone Star News

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## Waco welcomes 2018 TSO Convention

Texas State Organization members should plan on bringing their toolbelt and hardhat to Waco on June 14 -16, 2018, for TSO's 89th State Convention where they will be "Building Bridges." Jimmy Don Holmes, well-known metal artist featured on HGTV's *Fixer Upper*, will be the highlighted speaker at ASTEF's ticketed event.



Convention events will open midday on Thursday in the Waco Convention Center with no pre-convention parties or events. The

convention will close with brunch on Saturday. The steering committee plans to make every minute count with a mix of traditional events and new opportunities for each Society member. Even the traditional events will have a twist. Sessions will offer CPE credit, but members have up to two weeks to earn the credit after the convention. Chapters will no longer have to bring Annie Boards to the convention; everything will be done digitally. Members will still celebrate the Society's birthday, but they will do it at a Saturday morning brunch. The Founders' Day Banquet is still a highlighted event, but formal attire will be absent. The event will be a Denim and Diamonds affair.

While change will be evident, members will feel comfortable celebrating the ASTEF stipend winners, browsing the vendors for treasures, learning new things in breakout sessions and visiting with friends from other parts of the state.

The Waco Convention Center and surrounding attractions form the perfect site for "Building Bridges-Waco 2018." The vibrant city of Waco embraces its history while celebrating the present. Convention attendees will enjoy exploring the area's university, museums, parks and popular shopping sites, including the Magnolia Market at the Silos.



Magnolia Market at Silos



Waco Convention Center

Convention hotels are conveniently located. The Hilton Hotel is joined to the Convention Center by a covered walkway, and the Courtyard by Marriott is only a few feet away across the street. More information about hotel arrangements will be available soon.

TSO President Jo Murphy and the Convention Steering Committee invite all members to highlight their 2018 calendar for June 14-16, and make plans now to attend the 2018 Texas State Organization Convention in Waco.

What is the dress for Denim and Diamonds? That is the fun of the event. Every member will have a different interpretation. Some will have jeans with a denim jacket. Some will have a denim jacket with a dress. Some will have jeans with a fancy top. Some will have a denim dress. Some will have a fancy dress and boots. Boots are optional and come in a variety of styles from working boots to fashion boots. The one thing that is essential for any outfit is bling. A girl can't go to a banquet without her "diamonds."

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# Sharing stories is important



Dr. Jo Murphy  
Texas State President  
2017-2019



As some TSO members have faced catastrophic challenges and hardship at the beginning of this school year, once again we have been made aware of how diverse and varied we are in the state of Texas. Yet, in many marvelous ways we have come together to help, support and encourage each other. Schools and teachers, students and parents have learned the meaning of TEXAS STRONG. What do these words mean to you? One meaning is the strength of a common purpose – learning and evaluating the importance of each day and the stories of what has happened and how we have helped each other. Each TSO member, no matter where she lives, has had to put herself in the shoes of someone who lost much of who and what they are. Their stories are interesting, and they often pull at one's heartstrings. They are poignant, scary yet wonderful.

When teachers begin a new school year, they face feelings of excitement as they prepare for new students with individual learning styles, family issues and special characteristics that must be dealt with if they are to learn, be productive and grow as expected. The other side of that dilemma is that those same teachers know it will be an exhausting year. It always is because teachers give their all to teach students. Finally, if they will admit it, teachers are somewhat scared or nervous because a new year brings so many unknown elements. Then, a hurricane happens. A natural disaster that no one could have foretold. The stories change. It is about so many heartfelt, terrifying moments. As the water rises, the boats come to rescue and the landscape of the year changes drastically. Every story, every phone call, every near miss, every flooded home, every flooded school and classroom bring members and families heartaches and shared stories.

What are the stories to be kept, told and retold? What are the stories of grandparents from flooded homes coming to live with their grandchildren and each finding the time together becoming more consequential, memorable, unforgettable? What are the stories of principals who let families “live in the school” while their homes filled with water? What are the stories of families finding one thing—just one item—they can keep from their former home?

As each life is unique so is the story about that life and its time. When put in writing or recorded orally, these stories can be told, shared and re-shared. By sharing stories, this time can be remembered as a time of common purpose when all of Texas stood TEXAS STRONG.

## Hints and Tips from Headquarters



Headquarters has been a busy, busy place this fall. The first year of a biennium means the calendar is full of meetings, dues and yearbooks coming in daily. We have been helping treasurers who are working diligently to meet the two November deadlines of 990N filing and dues reporting. Our hearts are full from the generosity of our members who have contributed to the Harvey Relief program.

A special thanks to those treasurers who filed their 990N and got their dues to us by October 31. A very special salute also to those volunteers who have generously given of their time this fall to help here at TSO Headquarters.



Remember, a November 10 postmark was the deadline for dues and November 15 was the deadline for filing your 990N with the IRS. If you need help with either dues or the 990N, please call us.

- Have you encouraged your members to go to the International website to check their Member Profile? It is important that addresses are correct in order to avoid returned mail fees.
- Have you contacted former members to reinstate? It is never too late! A call from a chapter member often encourages them to return to your chapter. There is no reinstatement fee and forms are found on the International website.
- Have you used the Recruitment Plan to identify outstanding teachers and invited them to join? Completing the Initiate Form (it's online) is also important because it provides the information for State and International to send communications such as the newsletters and bulletins. Just send in the initiation form with a Form 18, their dues and the initiation fee as soon after initiation as you can.
- Do you have members who have moved to another city? Did you help them to complete a transfer request form? Transferring to a local chapter is a good way to become acquainted with other DKG members in the community. We, as well as your area coordinator, can help you assist them with the transfer process.
- Have you considered sending in your donations for Waco Convention recognition? It's not too early to take care of that for your chapter.
- The membership "snapshot" for convention recognition will be taken on May 1. Treasurers can check their chapter membership under Chapter Connect on the [dkg.org](http://dkg.org) website under My DKG: My Account.

### At-A-Glance Deadlines

Dec 1	Golden Gift LMS application Chapter yearbooks award
Jan 3	Ed Foundation Project App
Jan 31	ASTEFL mid-year project report
Feb 1	Cornet Award professional development Necrology Form 2 to State Chair State Honorary Member App LSN deadline St Achievement & Golden Rose nominations
Mar 1	Int'l annual reports Convention reports Convention proposals Scholarships and mini grant apps Budget adjustment requests to finance chair

### Highlights

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### Committee Meetings

Mar 3	Achievement Award Comm
15	Personnel Comm
17-18	Scholarship Comm

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# Chapters nominate for achievement awards

It is that time of year again when chapters meet to examine their membership to determine which members in leadership positions are deserving of recommendation for one of the two state achievement awards: Golden Rose or Texas State Achievement Award. These women have given countless time and effort as they have served in the various levels of their chapter and Texas State Organization.

Recommendation forms can be found on the Achievement Award Committee page on the TSO website. The process is outlined along with the qualifications needed to be nominated for the awards. The items needed are a digital wallet size head shot, a letter of endorsement by the chapter executive board and the completed appropriate form. These required documents need to be emailed to Achievement Award Committee Chair Lynda Anderson at [andersonlm52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andersonlm52@sbcglobal.net) by February 1, 2018. The results are announced when the awards are given at the TSO Convention in June.



## 2018 ASTEF projects and grant applications online



### ASPIRING EDUCATOR

The Aspiring Educator Grant Guidelines and Application for 2018 are also available on the ASTEF Forms page. A deserving woman in Texas who is not a member of DKG and who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in education and/or a Texas teacher certificate is eligible. The applicant must be sponsored by a TSO member (i.e., a DKG member in Texas). Applicants may apply for a 3-hour award, a 6-hour award or a one-time award to pursue alternative teacher certification in Texas. The deadline to submit the applications for the Aspiring Educator Grant is March 1, 2018.



### PROJECTS

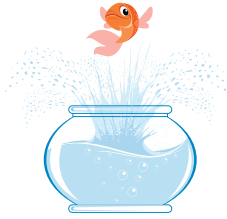
The 2018-2019 Project Stipend Application Guide, which includes the guidelines, requirements, instructions and application, is now available on the ASTEF website. Members may view the forms on the ASTEF Forms page at [www.astef.org/forms](http://www.astef.org/forms).

ASTEF anticipates awarding \$40,000 for projects at the 2018 TSO Convention in Waco for implementation in 2018-2019. The deadline to submit applications for project stipends is April 1, 2018.



# Innovative changes coming to breakout sessions

Members can expect new and innovative changes to the breakout session format at the Waco Convention in June 2018. A limited number of live workshops will be offered for CPE credit. Organizers anticipate that there will be a selection of webinars that will complement on-site presentations. Convention attendees will be able to access the webinars for up to two weeks after the convention. Some sessions on personal development interests will be available. Training sessions for upcoming jobs in the TSO chapter biennium will be in a new format named "15-minute Info Blasts," a new concept in Speed Training. State personnel are having fun planning some of these new delivery methods and members will be impressed with how easy it will be to get the information they need.



Proposals for breakout sessions and applications for presenters will be open on the Personal and Professional Enrichment Committee page of the TSO website beginning on December 1, and must be submitted to the committee chair by the February 17 deadline.

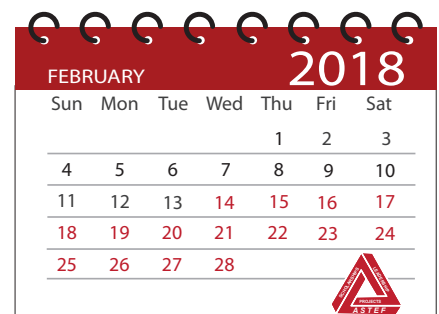
# Training for new presidents planned for Waco

Chapters will be electing new presidents for the 2018-2020 biennim. Because the newly elected chapter leaders will have many questions and concerns about their office, TSO will provide a training session at the convention in Waco. The Leadership Development for Chapter Presidents committee met in early October to plan for presidents' training. Current chapter presidents were asked to evaluate previous training and to share challenges and areas of strength in their work. Using the results and comments from that survey, the committee examined both content and format to design the upcoming training session. They worked together to create an engaging schedule that emphasizes teambuilding within areas while sharing the most important information a president needs to know. The committee encourages every chapter to be sure its incoming chapter president is in Waco on June 14, 2018. Convention registration is paid for 2018-2020 chapter presidents.



# ASTEF online auction coming in February

A new twist to the Third Annual Giving Month this year is an online auction to be held February 14 to February 28. Members will have the chance to place online bids on popular items such as a stay at a Texas Bed and Breakfast, a Kendra Scott necklace and matching earrings, a designer handbag, DKG items, gift cards, a handcrafted mesquite Lazy Susan by Tommy Herring, and member art. Details will be posted on the ASTEF website ([www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org)) and in Constant Contacts coming in January.



# Participation maximizes DKG benefits

Are you fully utilizing all that membership in Delta Kappa Gamma has to offer? Take a moment to answer the following questions; hopefully your answers will all be “yes.” If not, then consider this a call to action to turn the “no” into a “yes.”

1. Have you applied for and participated in TSO Leadership Training seminar weekend?
2. Have you applied for and participated in DKG International Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar?
3. Have you applied for and received a DKG or TSO scholarship or mini-grant?
4. Do you visit the TSO and International websites frequently?
5. Do you read your chapter newsletter, *LoneStar News*, *Bulletin*, *Collegial Exchange* and *DKG News* cover to cover?
6. Are you a part of a DKG online community?
7. Do you use social media to connect with DKG members?
8. Do you utilize the group discounts and shopping features that DKG has to offer?
9. Do you attend chapter meetings, TSO State Conventions, DKG Regional Conferences and DKG International Conventions?
10. Do you read the DKG Blog written by Annie Webb Blanton?



## ASTEF seeking Advocate for Education nominees

The ASTEF Board of Directors is seeking nominations for the ASTEF Advocate for Education Award. This award will be given at the TSO Convention in Waco pending the selection of a suitable candidate.

The ASTEF Advocate for Education Award is given to a woman in Texas who is an avid supporter of education by showing her commitment to service and financial contributions to multiple areas of education while not a current educator herself.



The first ASTEF Advocate for Education Award was awarded to Erin Steele at the 2017 TSO Convention in Houston. Read more about Erin Steele by visiting the “Events” tab on the ASTEF website at [www.astef.org/advocate-erin-steele.html](http://www.astef.org/advocate-erin-steele.html)

Anyone who has knowledge of a deserving recipient is encouraged to send an email to the ASTEF Vice President of Programs at [projects@astef.org](mailto:projects@astef.org). A nomination form is posted on the ASTEF website under Projects.



Waco Suspension Bridge

In 1970, one hundred years after its completion, the Waco Suspension Bridge became the first Waco edifice placed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The historic suspension bridge was completed in 1870. For years the bridge served as a Chisholm Trail crossing, and at the time of its completion, it was the longest single-span suspension bridge west of the Mississippi.

# Annie program submissions have new format

TSO Executive Committee and State Personnel are excited to introduce the new format for the “ANNIE” for 2017-2018. In the past, chapters were encouraged to apply for an Annie Award. This year all TSO chapters are invited to participate in an Annie Extravaganza by submitting a program that reflects the interests of the members in education, community, health, the Society or any topic consistent with the purposes of DKG.

These programs will be shown in a slideshow presentation prior to the general assembly, business meetings and the banquet, as well as any other time that is appropriate at the Waco Convention. In this format all convention attendees will have the opportunity to be energized by program ideas that are innovative, creative and timely.

Each chapter may participate in this fun and informative event by developing a personalized slideshow presentation highlighting a program of interest. The slideshow will be submitted electronically. All chapter slideshows submitted will be assembled into a loop that will run continuously at various times during the convention.



*Instructions are located on the TSO website, [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org)*

To facilitate the process and maintain consistency, a slideshow template for either Powerpoint or Google Slides and instructions for creating a slideshow are available on the TSO website, [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org). They are accessible on the Programs and Service Projects Committee page and the Deadlines and Forms page. Contact information for technical assistance is located with the instructions.

The deadline to submit a program is April 1, 2018, but Annie slideshow presentations may be submitted once they are completed. Early submissions are encouraged. They will help prevent online congestion and will provide the “Annie technicians” ample time to assemble the final slideshow and assist chapters if needed.

Goals of the new format for Annie are to provide all members access to programs that will generate fresh ideas for topics, as well as stimulate discussions for programs and program delivery that are inviting and appealing to members.

For questions or information not answered in the guidelines and instructions, chapters may contact Programs and Service Projects Chair Michelle Grandinetti at [mrgrose2014@gmail.com](mailto:mrgrose2014@gmail.com).

## Administrative Board selects Nita Scott as Executive Director



Nita Scott

Nita Scott will become the new Executive Director of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in Austin, Texas, on January 1, 2018.

A former mathematics and business teacher in Tennessee, Scott moved to Texas in 2011 to be the DKG Membership Services Administrator.

Scott lives outside Austin with husband James, five horses, four dogs, a cat and a small herd of cattle. She is an active member of Xi-7.

## We'll get by with a little help from our friends...

The ordeal began with a night filled with torrential rains, unending lightning flashes and rising water. Anxiety turned into fear as the night progressed. At first light, it was clear that water had risen to levels and in places unseen before. Boats circled the neighborhoods in search of people needing rescue. Once the waters subsided, many found that even their vehicles were lost to the flood waters. Now a lifetime of gathered treasures has become an ever-growing pile of debris. Hearts are saddened, tears are shed and anger is expressed.

Yet, despite all the negatives apparent in this situation, many positives shine through. Neighbors, friends, relatives and total strangers from near and far all made tremendous contributions to help life return to some form of normalcy. Tragedy brings people closer together and strengthens bonds that over time may have been neglected. Simple acts of kindness seem to rule the day as people show that they care for one another in ways that were not evident before the storm. In these trying times, differences are set aside and common ground is found for the good of the community. Hopefully the positive lessons learned during these times will serve as a guide to future relations.

Rhonda Harmon, Theta-2

### SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE TEXAS

My daughter is employed by a construction company in Pacoima, CA. When her employers and co-workers learned that her parents lived in Rockport and that Rockport was devastated by Hurricane Harvey, they wanted to send donations to help the community. We weren't sure where to have the donations sent, so we told her to send them to our address. Well, they put together a pallet weighing 464 pounds and shipped it to us! When it arrived, we found that it consisted of three main groups of items: food and baby items, safety equipment and clothes. We were able to distribute the items where they did the most good. We are grateful for these generous folks; they have definitely helped Rockport.

Barbara Serota, Delta Psi-5

Dear DKG Texas State and its chapter presidents,

Gamma Rho chapter of Greater Cleveland, Ohio, is sending to you and your members our thoughts and prayers. Tragic news has shown the degree of impact Hurricane Harvey has rendered on Texas. The good news is that Texas DKG educators have a determination to overcome adversity. After all, it was a Texan named Annie Webb Blanton who showed us the way to do just that.

From this Greater Cleveland Ohio DKG chapter to yours, we wish you Godspeed in rebuilding. See you at the DKG International Convention in Austin this coming summer.

Stay strong and God bless all of you,  
Gamma Rho (OHIO) Members  
Marilyn Okoye, President

### DKG MONETARY SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

DKG Emergency Fund money given to Texas members	\$67,000.00
TSO Member to Member contributions for distribution to Texas members	\$12,219.78
TSO Campus Helping Hands contributions for distribution to Texas campuses	\$ 3,974.00
TSO Gift card contributions for distribution to Texas campuses	\$ 255.00

Amounts are current as of November 15, 2017



## Chapters and members respond to Harvey in different ways

On this beautiful Sunday afternoon, a week after floodwaters started to recede, I am ironing five tiny, delicate baby gowns and three heirloom pillowcases. My mind begins to wonder... How old are these baby gowns? Who wore them? Two pillowcases are for small pillows and hand embroidered. Must have been for newborns. I also wonder if I might know or have known who wore these baby gowns, since I know several of the members of this family.

These are a few items from a pile of quilts and blankets I volunteered to wash after a neighbor's house flooded during Hurricane Harvey. My husband and I offered to help with clean-up, but the families had plenty of help. When I found out about the need for items to be washed, I knew I could help.

The past several weeks at the end of August and beginning of September have been very emotional for so many all over our country. Seeing the devastation Hurricane Harvey left in its path along the Texas coastline weighed heavily on my heart. The amount of flooding experienced is unbelievable.



For me to be able to save heirlooms and memories for this family has filled my heart with hope and love for our country. I felt privileged to iron precious heirloom baby gowns and pillowcases on this beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Gayle Stephens, Mu Upsilon-2

Our Brazosport area suffered losses during the recent flooding. When one of us is suffering, all of us are suffering. Eta Omega chapter members stepped up in many different ways to support one another through these tough times. Whether it was helping to remove debris, provide meals, offering prayers or providing monetary support, the feelings of genuine spiritual fellowship could be seen by the community.



## Members express appreciation for financial help

THESE ARE TYPICAL OF THE THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED BY TSO

I want to thank you for the \$500 from the Emergency Fund. The day the check arrived I had just spent my last \$20, and didn't know what I'd do till pay day. We are safe and doing the best we can with each new day. I want to thank you for helping me and my family. My husband and I both work and we have a 13 year old daughter and 7 year old son. We are very grateful for your financial help and continued prayers.

The hurricane relief check was received and greatly appreciated. We are still in the process of repairing floors, walls and ceilings, so this gift will be used immediately. It is wonderful to be associated with an organization like Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Thank you for the gift of membership dues also.

# Alpha State Remembers

*We mourn the passing and celebrate the lives of those cherished members of the Society whose deaths have been reported to Texas Necrology Chair René Pittman between August 16, 2017, and November 1, 2017. 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.dkgtxas.org](http://www.dkgtxas.org) under Committees, Necrology.*

Martha McCulloch, Beta Eta-3, Houston  
Patricia Ann Ivy Cauley, Epsilon Psi-3, Baytown  
Gertrude Smith Marsh, Epsilon Psi-3, Baytown  
Doris M. Kuhnert, Gamma Omicron-4, Beeville  
Magdalen K. Cardwell, Epsilon Omega-4, Rosenberg  
Myrtle Agnes Bartels, Alpha Theta-7, New Braunfels  
Gay Anita Galey, Alpha Chi-7, Marble Falls  
Ida J. Coleman, Epsilon-9, Dallas  
Betty Jo Richardson, Zeta Lambda-12, Hermleigh  
Donna Stehley, Zeta Lambda-12, Snyder  
Tommie Dearth, Epsilon Eta-14, Midland  
June McAllister Duke, Epsilon Gamma-17, Quitman  
Wanda D. Johnson, Lambda Delta-18, Kingwood

Member  
News



**Pat Guthneck**, Eta Tau (Austin-7), was presented the Lumen Gentium Award for her continued service and faithfulness to her parish.

**Evelyn Weinheimer**, Beta Zeta (Fredericksburg-6), received the national 2017 Country School Association of America Award.

**Mary Pfeiffer**, Iota Omega (Plano-9), was one of ten winners of the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference at UNT. Her essay, "Searching for Sarah Powel," was recently published in *Ten Spurs*, the literary journal of UNT's Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism.

**My Tykowski**, Nu Gamma (Navada-9), is the winner of the American Geosciences Institute's 2017 Edward C. Roy, Jr. Award for Excellence in K-8 Earth Science Teaching.

**Maridale Still**, Eta Mu (Beaumont-2), received her doctoral degree from Lamar University.

**Louise Watkins**, Epsilon Nu (Ft. Worth-10), is the president of TSTA-Retired, an organization dedicated to the promotion of retirement with dignity, happiness and adequate income.

**Cheryl Crawford**, Kappa Theta (Dallas-9), was the recipient of the Marcus High School Distinguished Service Award.

**Sister Jane Meyer**, Theta Lambda (Houston-18), had her 60th Jubilee celebrated by The Dominican Sisters of Houston.

**Candis Hicks**, Alpha Beta (San Angelo-13), was honored at Howard Payne University, Brownwood as Distinguished Alumni.

**Norma Mathews**, Eta Zeta (Dallas-9), along with her husband Bill, debuted their book, *Hope Over Fear*, at the U.N. Day Celebration at the University of North Texas Law School.

## arts & humanities

Three Texas members will have works displayed in *The Butterfly Effect Exhibit* of the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts. [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

- Marilyn J Nease, Delta Omicron (Dallas-9), has three essays, "Part 4: Sister Talk," "Part 5: Unexpected Gifts" and "Part 6: Planting Memories."
- Ulana L. Ratley, Kappa Delta (Bedford-10), has two photographs, "Red Admiral Butterfly" and "Butterfly Seashell on Black Beach."
- Jeanette Rhyon, Theta Chi (Ft. Worth-10), has a short story, "My Father's Bet!"

## ASTEF announces Stay at Home Tea for members

Now is the perfect time for members to make an end-of-year tax-deductible contribution to ASTEF by participating in the first Stay at Home Tea. Contributions can be made with ease by using the form found on the ASTEF website, [www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org) and then mailing the contributions to Headquarters. Also, a user-friendly “Donate Now” button can be found on the front page of the same website for a convenient way for members to donate using a credit card. Members are encouraged to make their donations now through January 31.



After a donation is completed, members can relax and enjoy a cup of tea with pride knowing they are helping make possible chapter, individual or area projects that impact Texas students and educators. Contributions may also be designated for scholarship and leadership funds by using the printable form.

ASTEF wants members to send a short note stating the reason for the contribution and a photo of the member sipping tea in her favorite tea cup. The notes and photos are to be sent to webmaster Shirley Owens at [webmaster@astef.org](mailto:webmaster@astef.org) for posting on the ASTEF website and Facebook page.



## Gregory and Rensink receive international nominations

Two TSO members have received nominations to serve at the international level of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.



Marilyn Gregory

Marilyn Gregory has been nominated to serve as Southwest Regional Director. She has served on the International Educational Excellence, Golden Gift Fund and Personal Growth and Services committees. Gregory is a 2001 graduate of the Golden Gift International Leadership Management Seminar. She is the Texas State Organization’s immediate past president and serves as a consultant to the 2018 International Convention Steering Committee.

Connie Rensink has been nominated to serve as Member-at-Large. She currently serves as chair of the International Membership Committee and the Texas State Organization Leadership Development for Chapter Presidents. She is a 2012 graduate of the Golden Gift International Leadership Management Seminar and has previously served on the International Scholarship Committee. Rensink was an International Speakers Fund speaker in Costa Rica.



Connie Rensink

Both of these positions serve on the International Executive Board and the International Administrative Board.



By signing up for a rewards card at Kroger, Randalls, Tom Thumb or Ralphs or by connecting a current card to ASTEF, a member will be earning funds for ASTEF each time she shops. That means funds for scholarships, leadership and projects. Not only will a cardholder have access to discounts, digital coupons and discounts on gasoline purchases, but she will also be earning money for education.





## GOLD PIECE

# Counting my blessings

Jeannine Wilson, Kappa Chi

Leaving school, I received a phone call that my mother, an Alzheimer's patient, was being evacuated from her nursing home due to Hurricane Harvey. I brought her home and waited for my sister, Cheryl, to arrive from Galveston to help care for her. Considering Mom is totally immobile, and there had not been a voluntary evacuation notice for the area, we decided we would put her in bed, feed and change her and ride out this storm. We quickly realized how much this disease had progressed. My mother repeatedly asked questions about her location and why she couldn't walk; yet, she knew we belonged to her. We made sure she felt safe and comfortable.

After two nights of constant rain, the water was not receding; we knew we were in trouble. Water was coming in the house. Neighbors were leaving in boats and the neighborhood began to look like a ghost town. My sister and I knew we had to get Mother out. I hung white towels on trees hoping someone would see them and rescue us. A deputy came by airboat, and when he learned of Mom's situation he promised he would come back to get us.

Hours later, the sheriff's department brought a special air boat, three volunteers and an ambulance waiting at the other end. At the local hospital they told us they could put my mother upstairs but no one could stay with her. Since Mom can't answer for herself we couldn't leave her there alone. Our only option was a shelter at a local church. My sister and I made Mother as comfortable as possible on a cot and bedded down for the night. Early the next morning, one of my teaching partners, Stacey, and her family arrived to volunteer. We locked eyes; she saw my mother. We hugged and cried and she immediately went to work. At the shelter store I found some dry socks and shoes. My sister joked with me that my shelter shoes were cuter than the ones I wore in. Apparently, she doesn't appreciate teacher shoes like I do! I wore those shoes for many days after and will forever cherish them.



A former student, Lilly, was handing out supplies. We embraced and cried for some time. This little girl that I cared for in 5th grade began to take care of me. There were many boys from my school district volunteering that, I'm certain, were shocked to see me in this role. I, however, was not surprised to see them giving back to their community. One teenager said she had been watching us and asked if she could pray with us. These young people gathered around my mother's cot and began praying. Within two hours, we found a nursing home room for my mother and a hotel room for my sister and me. A miracle had just occurred!



Volunteers Stacey, Lilly and Steve went into action. Steve backed his SUV up to the church gymnasium, gathered about ten boys who carried my mother and put her in the back of Steve's vehicle. Lilly jumped in with Mom as they drove to the new nursing home. These young men followed Steve to the home and transferred Mom to her new room. My sister and I spent several days at the hotel.

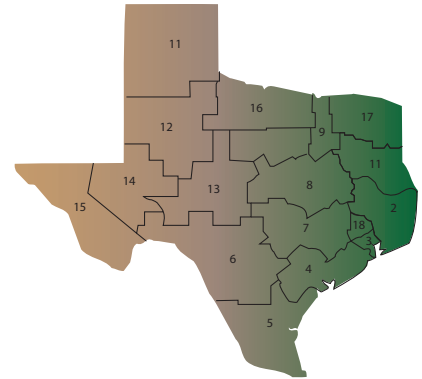


When the water receded, one of my assistant superintendents picked Cheryl and me up and took us home. I was shocked to see my principal, assistant principal and approximately 25 colleagues and students in my front yard ready to demo my flooded home. These friends went into serious action producing three weeks of work in a matter of hours. Although, life has not resumed its normal pace, I count my blessings daily.



# Fast growing areas are opportunities for expansion

TSO is looking for places where there is growth in our state. The expansion committee would like to talk with members who are located in the faster growing parts of Texas and investigate the feasibility of establishing new chapters in those areas. Current chapters could be sponsoring chapters and help bring new chapters into Texas this biennium.



New chapters should have at least 20 or more members. Charter members of this new chapter would be the newly initiated members, transfer members and reinstated members.

The Texas State Organization Expansion Committee is ready to provide support and guidance as the new chapter is organized. There are key women educators in Texas that the committee wants to contact to become part of DKG. Members who live in growth areas and would like to help create a new chapter should contact Marilyn Gregory, Expansion Chair, for more information.

## Fredericksburg offers cabbage, bluebonnets and fellowship

What does German red cabbage, a trolley ride, pecan pie never served to First Lady Jackie Kennedy, bluebonnet seeds, shopping and DKG Fellowship all have in common? These are some of the many experiences shared by ASTEF Travelers during the Second Annual ASTEF Weekender trip held recently in Fredericksburg.



Gloria Riggs and Trudy Mathus

Fifty members from across the state gathered in the best small city in Texas: Fredericksburg. They enjoyed a fast-paced weekend filled with many educational, recreational and fun activities paired with time to make new friends and visit with current ones. In the process, they were making a contribution to ASTEF.

The Events tab on the ASTEF website has pictures and comments shared by the travelers. Soon a survey will be posted to gather ideas for the next Travelers adventure.

The ASTEF board wants member opinions and ideas. Anyone may suggest a place or serve on a committee to plan future trips.

Members should send their name and ideas to Dr. Barbara Derrick at [president@astef.org](mailto:president@astef.org).



Fredericksburg is home to a unique form of residential architecture called Sunday Houses. A majority of the farmers and ranchers lived in rural areas, and these houses were built by the early German settlers of Fredericksburg as weekend homes. The settlers would use these homes while in town for the weekend to do shopping, take care of business and attend church services.

# Scholarships bridge opportunity and learning

Who is the DKG Texas State Organization (TSO) key woman educator? She is a woman motivated to make a difference, and a woman who chooses to apply for a professional conference, university course or professional workshop to better her skills. TSO provides funds for undergraduate, doctoral, adult learning and mini grants for special projects.



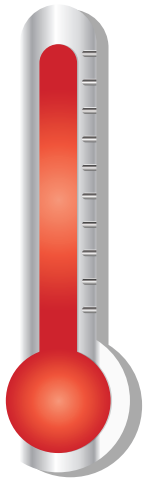
Money is available for those who take the time to read the guidelines, do the ground work and send in an application by the March 1, 2018, deadline. The guidelines and application form may be found on the TSO website [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org) by scrolling in the upper left hand corner menu to the State Scholarship link. The written guidelines and eligibility criteria must be followed carefully. TSO women have the opportunity to bridge the past of their own DKG history and reach out to the future development of their professional skills to impact not only their own future but the future of all the children and teachers with whom they interact.

## Goal set higher for February Month of Giving

ASTEFL's Third Annual February Month of Giving is coming soon. Chapters are encouraged to begin planning something special to support this very important fundraiser.

\$18,000

Last year this event raised approximately \$12,000 which funded scholarships, leadership, and projects across the state. This year, members are challenged to meet an even larger goal - \$18,000.



February is the perfect time of year for members to open their hearts and support the work of ASTEF as students and educators directly benefit from these funds.

ASTEFL belongs to the members of TSO. It is the educational foundation that provides funding for scholarships, leadership, and projects. Chapters, individuals and areas may apply for project funds to support a new or existing project. Information on how to apply is posted on the ASTEF website. A list of the 2017 project stipends that member contributions have made possible is located on [www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org).

The ASTEF board of directors encourages each member to give and watch the mercury rise to \$18,000 as the tax-deductible donations fill the bank. A gift to ASTEF is a gift that keeps on giving.



## Legislation: *Spanning the Divide* available to chapters

The Legislative Committee has an updated Powerpoint presentation available for use with chapters. *Legislation: Spanning the Divide* is now available to be downloaded from the legislation page on the TSO website. This presentation will give members an overview of what happened in the 2017 Texas Legislative Session and the Texas Special Session. There is also information included about sources of legislative information and representative information.



Members may find the latest updates from the TSO Legislation Committee on the committee webpage, [www.dkgtexas.org/legislation-committee.html](http://www.dkgtexas.org/legislation-committee.html), along with names of legislation committee representatives. Chapters are encouraged to select a member who will ensure that these updates are available to the members.

## Annie Webb Blanton blogging about the Society



Annie Webb Blanton

Members perusing the DKG website have discovered several active bloggers writing about subjects that affect members. One notable blogger is Annie Webb Blanton. She regularly reflects on the past and shares her thoughts about members and the challenges of today.

### DKG Women: Thinking Together

(<http://dkgsi.blogspot.com/2017/09/dkg-women-thinking-together.html>)

“I am pleased to see that DKG women are turning over ideas and thinking about different ways of sustaining the Society. That’s what we Founders did too when we were organizing the Society. We struggled with how best to describe and organize for the changes we wanted to make for women and particularly for women educators.

“Occasionally, you will hear ideas with which you don’t initially agree. Some may be taken aback by others who want to try different paths of membership or who question DKG customs. We Founders respected each other even when we did not agree on the elements of the plan as we were building the Society; we respected each other because we believed that the goal to establish the Society was too important to let differences in thoughts about ways and means disrupt our success. We had to learn and re-learn that the ideas expressed are not the person.

“I, Annie Webb Blanton, want to emphasize that tolerance for the person who is expressing ideas grants the important option of keeping the conversation open. Saying what one thinks or just thinking aloud often indicates a search for understanding, an attempt for clarity or a frustration with what one experiences. I urge you to be open-minded and to actually hear what the other person says and try to understand her intent. What another says deserves the respect of being heard and considered. Emotional reactions without a mutual search for understanding are detrimental to human hearts. Free exchange, open dialogue and civil conversation are elements of a sustainable Society. The bond of mutual regard is the only path to candor and a satisfactory path to DKG’s future.”



## 2018 DKG International Convention coming to Austin

In just a few months, Texas members will join other DKG members at the 2018 International Convention on July 16-20 at the JW Marriott Hotel in beautiful and exciting downtown Austin. International President Carolyn Pittman is counting on all Texas members to be her ambassadors to welcome DKG members to Texas. The convention committee is beginning to reach out to Texas members to serve on committees for this convention. The spring of 2018 will be a busy time as the convention gets closer. Members should begin gathering their cowboy hats, boots, pins, and gear and plan on an adventure in the capital of Texas and the birthplace of DKG. The “Convention News-Texas Edition” is coming to members via email so they may learn more about what to do to be prepared, informed and ready to welcome others to Texas.



JW Marriott Hotel in Austin

## Massive tree inspires sense of Texas perserverance

Hurriane Harvey destroyed most of Rockport, Texas, with 108 mph winds and 40 inches of rain. Yet, even Harvey was not mightly enough to destroy a 1,100-year-old oak tree in Goose Island State Park. Barbara ten Brink, in her poem *Ancient Texas Oaks*, captures the majesty of Texas oak trees that inspire everyone to stay Texas Strong.



The Big Tree, Goose Island State Park, Rockport, Texas

### *Ancient Texas Oaks*

Barbara ten Brink

Ancient Texas oaks  
 Goose Island, Columbus, Brazoria  
 Battling it out century after century  
 Season after season  
 Leaf after leaf  
 Competing for grandeur.

I sit and contemplate in the shadow of time.  
 What has passed by and under your steadfast countenance?  
 Primitive people revered you.  
 Explorers set their course by you.  
 Modern men give you a stage and boundaries of dignity and honor.

Like others before, I come to be awed by your magnificence.  
 My visit a mere breath,  
 One wink,  
 One nod,  
 One heartbeat  
 One wing stroke  
 On your millennial timeline.

I bear witness to your majesty.  
 I pay homage to your limitless countless continuous years.  
 I slow my pace but cannot begin to match yours.  
 You with infinite patience to mark time.  
 You set the pace. You create the peace.  
 You are all the serenity of time and age.

Your age bears the ravages of ancientness.  
 Bark gnarled and knotty. Warty to extreme.  
 Squat bodied trunk anchors your mighty girth to the Earth.  
 No storm no wind has ripped you free.

Your canopy arches across the sky as opulent as any rainbow.  
 I walk under its cathedral arches.  
 You stretch your limbs and exceed the limits of physics.

Like hordes of parties before me, I set my basket to share a crumb with forest creatures.  
 To them you are home and giver of acorns.  
 They offer no reverence for your scale of time and size.

Children too are impertinent.  
 They squeal and run and hang from low branches.  
 The sign reads: Treat with Respect. We aspire to.



*“Squat bodied trunk anchors your mighty girth to the Earth.  
 No storm no wind has ripped you free.”*