

Lone Star News

Official Publication of the Texas State Organization



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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International ~ Key Women Educators

Summer 2023

McAllen welcomes TSO June 14-17, 2023



McAllen is the second largest city in the Magic Valley. Early on, visitors saw that sugar cane, cotton, and citrus orchards, irrigated with plentiful Rio Grande water, grew like magic in the Magic Valley. Hundreds of thousands came to the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) from northern states for the subtropical climate and relaxed living.



The Rio Grande Valley is home to many **cultures**. Most of the Valley's locals are Hispanic and bring folklore from previous generations. The main traditions that visitors see in the RGV originated in deep Mexico from Mayan natives, whose customs passed down from generation to generation and are now in everyday lives.



Agriculture is a large part of the stable economy of the area. The arid climate is conducive to growing citrus, sugar cane, potatoes, spinach and other heat-tolerant vegetables. In addition, crops can be grown year-round, allowing farmers to rotate planting and harvesting throughout the year.



Leisure time is well-spent in McAllen and the surrounding area. The Rio Grande Valley is one of the most exciting places to live, work and play. As one of the most culturally diverse areas in the nation, it offers art, music and entertainment that members won't find anywhere else. With more than a dozen museums, a nationally renowned zoo and an amazing waterpark, the Rio Grande Valley is a destination that the entire family will love. <https://pharredc.com/why-pharr/recreation-leisure/>



McAllen is one of the many Valley towns and cities along the Rio Grande River, the fifth **longest** river in North America and the 20th longest in the world, which forms the border between the State of Texas and Mexico. McAllen is a gateway to Mexico with two international crossings, the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge and the Anzalduas International Bridge.



The **educational** systems in McAllen and the surrounding areas provide each child with the opportunity to excel and face the job market head-on, no matter their background. School districts and higher education institutions combine their expertise and resources to inspire children and young adults to pursue a successful future. [McAllen ISD](#) [South Texas College](#) [University of Texas RGV](#)



Nature. The Valley is where four climates (temperate, desert, coastal and sub-tropical) converge. A documented 1,200 plant species within the Valley attracts and supports a diversity of wildlife, birds and butterflies that depend on the vegetation that can only be found here in the United States. Thousands of years of adaptations and changes on the landscape have created species-specific relations found only in portions of the lower Rio Grande Delta. <https://wintertexaninfo.com/NATURE.php>

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Celebrating innovations in 2021-2023 biennium



Shalan Inmon
Texas State President
2021-2023

As the 2021-2023 biennium moves swiftly to a close, reflecting on the innovations for the Texas State Organization of DKG during the last two years is exciting. Three examples of these innovations are making strides in technology, hiring additional staff for the TSO headquarters, and planning and implementing regional area workshops.

The technology committee planned and presented three virtual workshops. A variety of topics and collaborations were covered in group meetings as well as breakout sessions. As a result, members were able to learn, share ideas and give feedback for other future technology events. The largest and most successful event was held in person over 24 hours in Cleburne. Sixty-plus attendees participated in four different breakout sessions that provided participants with CPE credit and knowledge of Google and cybersecurity. The success of this event sets the foundation for other technology-focused workshops.



As our foundation ASTEF celebrated ten years, the business side of TSO and ASTEF has steadily increased the workload of the headquarters staff. Although TSO and ASTEF have been able to employ DKG members to work at headquarters in the past, the complexity of bookkeeping for the two businesses has become more and more labor-intensive. Therefore, it was apparent that the personnel committee should hire a qualified professional bookkeeper. A professional staffing agency found the bookkeeper for TSO and ASTEF. Vanessa Diggins brought 20-plus years of experience to the Dallas headquarters office.

Finally, the Executive Committee explored the idea of a regional area workshop model that will be set into motion for June 2024. They also designed a creative model with input from members around the state to meet the needs of TSO members.

TSO will continue to seek new opportunities to meet the needs of the membership in the bienniums to come.

Summer preparations for treasurers



It is time for treasurers to begin thinking about dues, budgets and convention workshops.

Dues & Forms: May, June, July – Members may scan the following QR codes for support documents by using the camera app on a phone. Scanning is done by centering the QR code on the screen and holding the phone steady for a couple of seconds. Then tap the notification that pops up to open the link. Documents may also be found on the [TSO Treasurers' Page](#).



Leesa Cole
TSO Executive Secretary/Treasurer

1. Dues: Calendar



2. Dues: What to send where



3. Forms: What to send where



Reports: July-Aug — Form 15 and the link to the 990n IRS submission are conveniently available at Chapter Connect. Treasurers can do both of them in July and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Budgets: May-Aug. — They are critical for conducting business at all levels: International, State and Chapter. All budgets are adopted by a majority vote and used as the financial guide for the year. Treasurers may go to the [TSO Treasurers' Page](#), download the **Chapter Budget and Monthly Report Summary Template**, try it out and bring questions to the Friday, June 16, McAllen breakout session for more information.

Convention workshops — attend one or all of them.

- Thurs. 6/15/23 @ 12:30-1:15: **Show me the Electronic Money!** Accepting online dues payments at the chapter level using PayPal, Zelle & Venmo.
- Thurs. 6/15/23 @ 1:30-2:15: **Navigating the Dues Portal.** The detailed process is explored.
- Thurs. 6/15/23 @ 2:30-3:15: **Chapter Treasurers only collect dues, right?** Duties of the chapter treasurer include what?
- Fri. 6/16/23 @ 12:30-1:15: **Focus on Finance — Budgets, Reports & Financial Reviews.**

Annie's Attic will be open during McAllen Convention

Members searching for hidden treasures may find a particular piece of DKG or TSO memorabilia at the McAllen Convention in Annie's Attic. Some items are pictured on the resources page of www.dkgtexas.org.

TSO Headquarters Chair Emma Joven, jejoven2@att.net, will be glad to set aside items. Members may pick them up at TSO Headquarters or the McAllen Convention. No items will be mailed.



Deadlines at a Glance

May 1	Cornetet Application Five Star Newsletter Rpts for Conv Program Expense Rpts State Personnel
May 29	TSO HQ Closed
June 14-17	McAllen Convention
30	Dues to Chpt treasurer End of 2021-2023 biennium Fiscal Year Ends
July 1	990n Filing Window opens
15	Form 15 Chpt Treas Rpt to TSO HQ
Aug 14	Letter Chpt Pres Kit
28	Chpt Pres Kit online
Sept 1	Cornetet Award State Treasurer Form
4	TSO HQ Closed (Labor Day)

Committee Meetings

TSO Exec Comm Retreat	Aug 11-13
TSO Pres Adv Council @ HQ	Sept 9-10
ASTEF Board Dallas	Sept 22-24

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



ASTEF UPDATE

ASTEF President, Rosemary Morrow

ASTEF important to all members

Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation (ASTEF) is important to all TSO members, as the foundation is the funding arm of the Delta Kappa Gamma Texas State Organization. ASTEF Board members are elected for six-year staggered terms so that about one-third of the board rotates off in odd-numbered years and new members are elected by TSO members who are present at the ASTEF Annual Meeting

during the TSO Convention. New ASTEF Officers are elected by the current board to take office on July 1 of odd-numbered years. ASTEF Officers for 2023-2025 will be elected in a virtual meeting of the ASTEF Board on June 11.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2023 ASTEF Annual Meeting will immediately follow the TSO Business Meeting in McAllen on Friday, June 16, 2023, at 9:45 a.m. All TSO members are encouraged to attend the meeting because all TSO members are also members of ASTEF.

Meeting highlights will include:

- report of ASTEF activities
- presentation of the 2023 ASTEF Advocate for Education Award
- announcement of Aspiring Educator grants
- awarding of ASTEF Project Stipends to deserving individuals, chapters, coordinating councils, or areas with the announcement of the Founding Directors Special Award.



ASPIRING EDUCATOR GRANTS

This year ASTEF received 37 applications from amazing aspiring educators around the state. Three different directors read and scored the application on a rigorous rubric. Guidelines for the application requiring a transcript, recommendation letters from an employer or professor, and a recommendation letter from a Delta Kappa Gamma member in the applicant's area are all included in the rubric as well as the response to two prompts in narrative form.



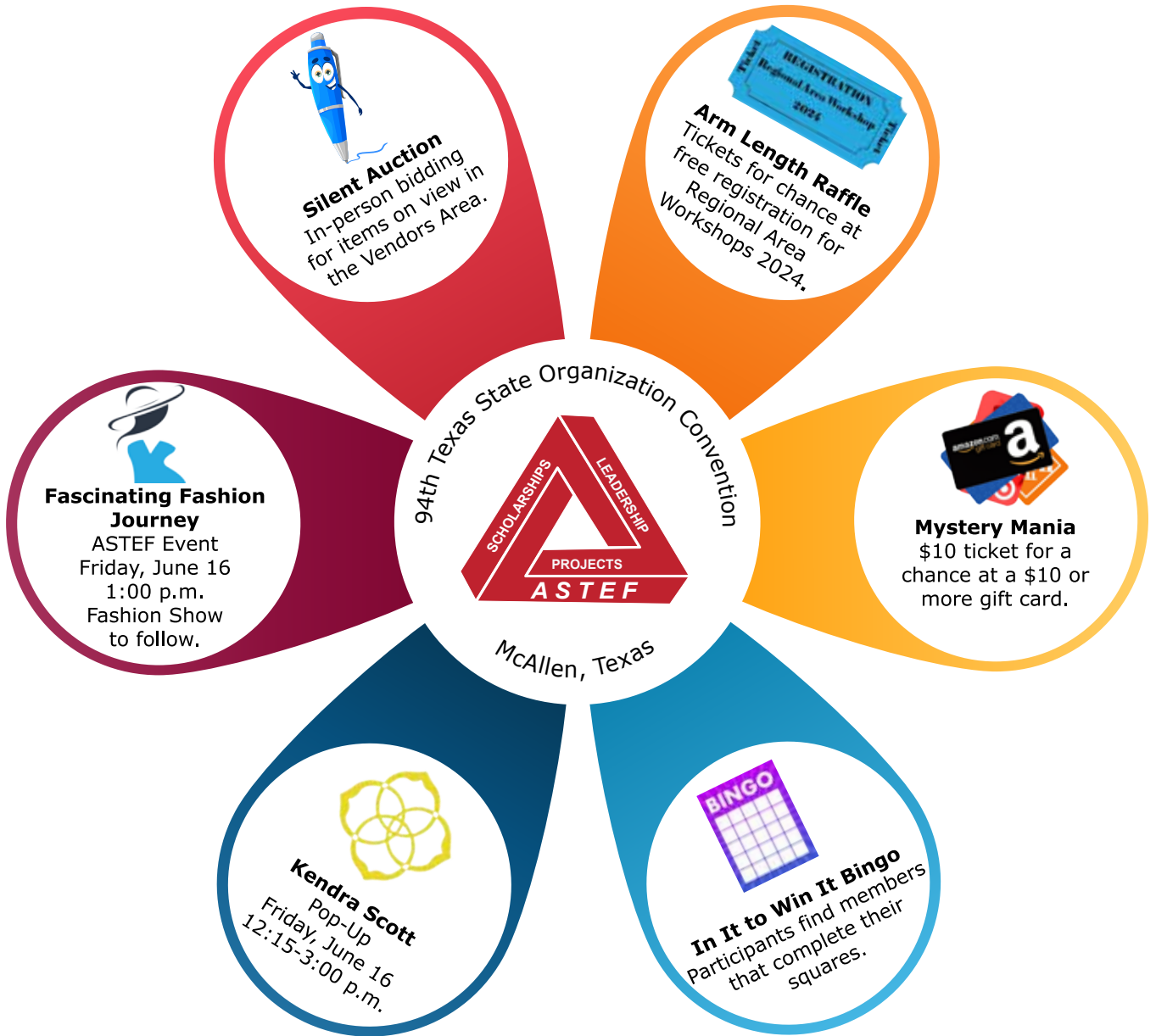
TWELVE APPLICANTS WERE SELECTED TO RECEIVE GRANTS

2023 Aspiring Educator Grant Recipients

Jaqueline Briceno Area 5	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Ava Gregory Area 6	University of Texas San Antonio	Kayla Taylor Area 17	Texas A&M Commerce
Gwendolyn Burrow Area 17	Texas A&M Texarkana	Breanna Newton Area 17	Texas A&M Commerce	Katie Waldenmayer Area 12	Texas Tech Univeristy
Sarah Fuller Area 13	McMurry University	Ashlynn Sanders Area 17	Texas A&M Commerce	Sarah Williams Area 8	Tarleton State University
Grace Goodson Area 18	University of Texas Austin	Jennifer Stephenson Area 17	Texas A&M Commerce	Victoria Williams Area 12	Texas Tech University

Members have opportunities to support ASTEF

ASTEF is packing bags and getting ready for the journey to McAllen. Returning to where it all started for ASTEF, members may look for a mix of old and new fundraising opportunities. They will find fun and excitement at the ASTEF tables in the Vendor Area.



To register items for the auction, members may use forms on astef.org.



Kendra Scott will give back 20% of all sales to ASTEF.



Everyone who plays wins at least a \$10 card.



Annette Becker, Director of the Texas Fashion Collection at the University of North Texas, will be the speaker. Purchase a \$25 ticket on the McAllen Registration form.



The first member to fill all the spaces of facts, people and details will win a \$100 gift card.




The longer the arm, the more chances to win a Regional Workshop Registration.

Breakout sessions provide information and training


CPE — Continuing Professional Education
SB — Society Business

SI — Special Interest
R — repeated

Thursday, June 15

Shalan Inmon	Area Coordinator Training	
Debbi Ball	Making Your Way through the TSO Website (SB)	
Dawn Houy	Chapter Yearbooks - Not Just for Dates and Addresses (SB)	
Sandi Causey	YOUR Foundation: Benefits & Stories (SB)	
Michelle Grandinetti	Membership – How is a chapter like Tide detergent? (SB)	
Dr. Elanza Piitre-Wilson	Teaching 21st Century Job Skills (CPE)	
Dr. Alice Smith	Take Time For You, Part 1 (CPE)	
Dr. Crystal Werkheiser	Using Google Forms to Give Your Members a Voice (SI)	
Mandy Story	First Timers Meeting (SB)	

Janet Helmcamp	Chapter Presidents Follow-up Training (SB) (R) (Presidents must attend either Thursday or Friday session)
Brenda Pearson	Bring Art into your Chapter Meetings (SB)
Brenda Clem	DKG Newsletters 101 (SB)
Nancy Varljen	Questioning Strategies to Involve Everyone... Even your Quietest Learners (CPE)
Lucinda N. Sohn	Preparing Future Teachers: Culturally Responsive Pedagogy in Science Classrooms (CPE)
Lynda Anderson	Have We Got a Deal for You! Programs & Service Projects Committee Wants You! (SB)

Dr. Lisa Rogers	Ultimate Games for DKG (CPE)	
Rita Galloway	Butterfly Gardens (SI)	
Nancy Varljen	DKG Officers: “Lean on Me, You’ve Got a Friend” (SB)	
Leesa Cole	Show me the electronic money! Accepting online payments at the chapter level (SB)	
Bonnie Moore	Rooty, Tooty, FUN and Fruity!!! (CPE)	
Dr. Barbara Baethe & Ceremonies Committee	Ceremonies Committee (SB)	

Shalan Inmon & TSO Executive Team	The Regional Area Workshops 2024 (SB) (R)
Dr. Cindy Kates	A Musical Journey: Creation, Preservation & Integrating Music Interrelationships & the impact on cognitive functions (CPE)
Lori Villarreal	“I’m reading the best book.” Member Mindset, from Casual to Committed (SI)
Teresa Toliver	No-Cost Digital Curriculum for K-12 (CPE)
Judy Mezick	Solving the Achievement Awards Puzzle (SB)
Jamie M. Goodwin	Overview and Updates for the TEA Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative (CPE)
Patricia Woodley	Navigating the Dues Portal (SB)

Lisa Yates	Creating CPE opportunities for your chapter (SB)
Ulana Ratley	Chapter Archives: Which direction will you go? (SB)

Thursday continued from page 6

Leesa Cole	Chapter Treasurers only collect dues, right? (SB)
Teresa Toliver	You're Hired (CPE)
Heather F. Adair	Reveal Your Strengths: Discovering and Contributing to the Professional Conversation (CPE)
Venita Blake	Unpacking the first year of being a Chapter President (SB)
Jeanette Rhyan	Super DKG Password (SB)
Judy Evans	Heading in the Right Direction with Your Chapter Rules (SB)
Janet Helmcamp	Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation: Projects & Advancement (ASTEF) (SB)
Jamie M Goodwin	Critical Conversations & Considerations About Interventions (CPE)
Cindy Sloan	The Texas Reading Academies - the challenge of improving reading outcomes for all students (CPE)
Libby Horton & Legislative Committee	Legislative Session: Trafficking Alert - What's Happening in Texas? (SI)



Friday, June 16

Brenda K. Lozano	The Red Folder (SB)
Jamie M. Goodwin	Data, Data, Data
Betty Hill	Pioneer Women- Recipes, Remedies and Recollections (CPE)
Trudy Holland	Bingo for Books (SB)
Jeanette Rhyan	Research Scavenger Hunt 2.3 (SB)
Melissa Aguirre	Chapter Projects Galore (SB)
Nancy Varlijen	So, I'm Retired (Retiring). What do I Do Now? (SI)
Leesa Cole	Focus on Finance: Budgets, Reports & Reviews (SB)
Dr. Bettye Cook	Book Lovers' Book Chats: Inspire, Include, Innovate (CPE)
Mary Griffin	Cross-Brain Exercises to Prevent Dementia (CPE)
Janet Helmcamp	Chapter Presidents Follow-up Training (SB) (R) (Presidents must attend either Thursday or Friday Session)
Wenndy Pray	Wakelet: A One Stop Shop for Your Digital Needs (CPE)
Tracy Shea	The Enneagram/How It Can Support the Growth of Your Chapter (SI)
Libby Horton & TRTA Representative	TRTA Update (SI)
Kitty Hutchcroft	Intro to Google Drive and Google Docs (SI)
Dr. Denese Wolff-Hilliard	ChatGPT: Nemesis or Teaching Assistant (SI)
Shalan Inmon & TSO Executive Team	The Regional Area Workshops 2024 (SB) (R)
Jamie M. Goodwin	Does Customer Service affect Culture & Climate at a Title 1 Campus? (CPE)
Dr. Karen Duke	Informal & Personal Stories About Past Society Leaders (SI)
Marsha Edney	Steal This: Ideas for Chapter Programs (SB)
Trudy Matus	A Visit with DKG International Fellowship Recipients Presentation (SB)
Carolyn Mashburn	Starting Your Own Local STAR (Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat) (SB)



Friday continued from page 7

Pamela Burge

Phyllis McPherson

Debbi Ball

Marsha Edney

Pamela Phillips

Dr. Stacey Arnold

Communications & Publicity in DKG (SB)

Best Practices for Membership (SB)

Website Security: What is It? How Do I get It? (CPE)

Projects: Both Big & Small (SB)

Mi Camino-Educational Journeys to Inspire Educators (SI)

Coordinating Councils: The what, why & who (SB)

2023 Leadership Seminar participants are First Class Leaders

Leadership Seminar is an intensive leadership training experience held in the second year of every biennium during a weekend in February. The experience provides professional and personal growth opportunities beneficial to both the member and the Society. The 2023 Leadership Seminar was held at the Embassy Suites in Denton on February 24-26, 2023. Each of the thirty chosen participants anticipated and packed for different experiences as they made this leg of their DKG journey. All repacked a variety of skills and talents as they journeyed home. A class that included kindergarten teachers to college professors, librarians to fundraising specialists, and administrators to media specialists found their place in the Class of 2023 with new friends and mentors. Their journey from this point on will be First Class (Leaders).



Standing (left to right): **Angie Smith** (Theta - 2), **Marsha Edney** (Phi - 1), **Trina Perkins** (Gamma Beta - 9), **Bettye Cook** (Alpha Gamma, - 10), **Vanessa Brown** (Zeta Zeta - 11), **Michele Cox** (Lambda Omicron - 8), **Cindy Bishop** (Alpha Theta - 7), **Cindy Hopkins** (Delta Psi - 5), **Amy Bridges** (Alpha Iota - 4), **Susan Gordon** (Zeta Omicron - 12), **Lily Limon** (Kappa - 15), **Crystal Werkheiser** (Delta Theta - 2), **Denise Johnson** (Beta Omicron - 3), **Kathy Howell** (Iota Pi - 10), **Ana Gonzalez** (Zeta Omega - 3), **Sabrina Rosson** (Theta Phi - 17), **Venita Blake** (Kappa Theta - 16), **Jennifer Garcia** (Zeta Beta - 6).

Seated (left to right): **Lina De La Garza** (Alpha Nu - 5), **Lori Villarreal** (Nu Gamma - 9), **Sarah Sponsel** (Nu Gamma - 9), **Andrea Fox** (Nu Gamma - 9), **Suzanne Stidom** (Beta Phi - 10), **Elke Eisenhauer** (Delta Upsilon - 3), **Wendy Pray** (Epsilon Upsilon - 5), **Alisha Odoms** (Kappa Theta - 16), **Kim Gaskins** (Gamma Epsilon - 16), **Maria V. Gonzales** (Alpha Mu - 5), **Theresa Kauffman** (Alpha Gamma - 10), **Amy O'Neil** (Beta Zeta - 6)



GOLD PIECE

Gruenau Hall, a gathering place

Pamela Burge, Gamma Omicron

On May 1, 1898, a group of German settlers organized the Gruenau Turn and Schuetzen Verein, an athletic and shooting club just north of Yorktown, Texas. They built the original Hall that became the center of the Gruenau community. In 1927, a larger Hall was built. Twice a year, sausage feasts were celebrated in May and October. Weddings and other family parties took place. Eventually, Gruenau and the other buildings like it became known as dance halls.

In 1974, I moved to Yorktown after my daddy retired from the Air Force. My Arkansas-raised daddy was given my grandfather's membership in Gruenau. Membership at that time was still following the old traditions. Only men could be members, and that membership had to be inherited and approved. Women were considered members through a husband or father.

My first Feast was in May of 1974. The adults made the sausage and sides. Stuffed cabbage and desserts were made at home and brought in on Sunday. There were no jobs for the kids, so we played around on the dance floor or ran outside. We were offered the opportunity to help wash the sausage casings, an offer we never accepted. After the bingo stand had been put together and cleared of dangerous insects, we'd climb all over that.

My parents also worked the dances on Friday and Saturday nights. So again, my only job was running around and having fun. Many of those nights, I would fall asleep at a table with my coloring books as a pillow. When my uncle and his friends were in town, I would bus their table of empty beer and soda cans. My brother got really good at finding the change dropped at the bar window.

In my teens, it didn't seem that cool to go out and help with Feast. Hanging out with friends was more important. College came around, and getting out to the Hall to help with Feast wasn't part of my routine. The only times I would be there would be for a wedding or reunion.

Then in January 2007, the Hall burned down.

Out of those ashes, Gruenau has risen. A new hall was built. It has features that we could never have hoped for back in the old days—air conditioning and a huge kitchen. One of the biggest changes that came to pass was allowing women to join on their own. And now even I am a part of it as a member and the event booker. I do those jobs I wasn't allowed to do as a child, like tie sausage. It's almost as much fun as running around and falling asleep on a stack of coloring books.



Gruenau Hall, Yorktown, TX

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, [Robyn Rucker](#), between February 1, 2023 and April 1, 2023. 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 under Committees - Necrology.

Nanie Fae Armstrong, TSO State Member, Tyler
Eleanor Grisham Dugger, Alpha – 7, Cedar Park
Joan Hyatt, Omicron – 3, Galveston
Carolyn Fave Kidd Griffin, Alpha Beta – 13, San Angelo
Dolores Evelyn Andrews Lewis, Alpha Beta – 13, San Angelo
Janice Nephane Harris, Alpha Iota – 4, Wharton
Dr. Maureen Claire Lindell, Alpha Omega – 2, Medina
Sireta V. Michalak, Beta Theta – 7, Cedar Creek
Maria Luisa Herrera, Beta Pi – 5, Falfurrias
Dora G. Lichtenberger, Beta Pi – 5, Freer
Debbie Redding, Beta Pi – 5, Premont
Loretta Huddleston, Beta Tau – 6, San Antonio
Alice Fern Brawner, Beta Psi – 17, Telephone
Eunice H. Sitton, Gamma Omega – 7, Waller
Lola Mae Leadbetter, Epsilon Pi – 4, Port Lavaca
Paula Greeson Williams, Epsilon Pi – 4, Port Lavaca
Joyce Lee Cloudt, Epsilon Psi – 3, Baytown
Rae Melba Harborth, Epsilon Omega – 4, Rosenberg
Verna Lea Thompson Millard, Zeta Epsilon – 11, Georgetown
Dora Scott Nichols, Zeta Mu – 3, Houston
Joann Ruth Boyd, Zeta Phi – 13, Abilene
Edith Ann Barnhart, Eta Pi – 4, Victoria
Gloria Ellen Spell, Eta Pi – 4, Victoria
Linda Kessinger, Theta Nu – 1, Tyler
Viola Sue Colburn, Iota Rho – 2, Nederland
Betty Jo Graber, Iota Chi – 10, Meadowlakes
Bonne Stroman, Iota Chi – 10, Weatherford
Cathy Ann Dalton, Kappa Lambda – 7, Leander
Linda J. Garrett, Lambda Upsilon – 9, Oklahoma
Sharon Kraus, Eta Eta – 9, Mesquite
Lilian Leta Lockhart, Epsilon Sigma - 3, LaMarque
Evelyn Farmer, Alpha - 7, Austin
Catherine Cummins, Beta - 6, San Antonio
Lupe Velez Gonzales, Beta - 6, Castroville
Mildred F. Strickland, Alpha Chi - 7, Marble Falls
René Pittman, Zeta Delta - 11, Amarillo
Bettye "Dianne" Radcliffe, Gamma Epsilon - 16, Bridgeport



Ashlee Nouri, Eta Xi (Burnet-6) was awarded the Dr. M. Margaret Stroh Scholarship by DKG International.

Yvelia Munoz, Beta Xi (Corpus Christi-5), received the TIA (Teacher Incentive Allotment) Exemplary Allotment for 2023.

Jennifer Turner, Beta Xi (Corpus Christi-5), received the TIA (Teacher Incentive Allotment) Exemplary Allotment for 2023.

Mary Ann Dolezal, Lambda Sigma (Sugar Land-4) won the 2023 E. L. Galyean Award for her outstanding and unusual service on the state level to TRTA and its members.

Lisa Yates, Lambda Omicron (Killeen-8), received a \$1500 Copperas Cove ISD Education Foundation grant to fund a district-wide Multi-cultural Night.

Mary Jane Jones, Iota Epsilon (Tomball-6) won an award for her novelty performance in the 2023 Texas Grand Championship Ballroom Dance Competition.

Included in the 2023, Volume 89-3 of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*:
Dr. Laura Isbell, Beta Lambda (Allen-17), "Teacher Well-Being: Promoting Social-Emotional Learning to Alleviate Burnout"

Included in the 2023, Volume 89-4 of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin* (Collegial Exchange):
Nancy Newton, Iota Pi (Burleson-10), in collaboration with Elena Ivanova, "Solving the Mystery of Leon Schulman Gaspard: A Writer's Journey"

Member News continued from p 10

Ashley Davis, Theta Epsilon (Levelland-12), was awarded the Mamie Sue Bastian Scholarship by DKG International.

Antoinette Kempt, Iota Epsilon (Klein-6), was named by Klein ISD as Therapeutic Education Program Teacher of the Year.

Pamela Burge, Gamma Omicron (Yorktown-4), was chosen as the new editor of the *Lone Star News*.

arts & humanities

Ten Texas members have works displayed in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts.

- **Dr. Vicki Davis**, Beta Lambda (Campbell-17), photo, "Gulf Fritillary at Home"
- **Marilyn Gregory**, Epsilon Kappa (Austin-7), photos, "Bear Resting on Log" and "Great Blue Heron"
- **Shirl Hawes**, Alpha Omicron (Mineral Wells-10), photo, "Geometric Grace"
- **Charlotte Nyman**, Alpha Phi (Texarkana-17), photos, "In-Flight" and "Rise and Shine"
- **Connie Rensink**, Theta Chi (North Richard Hills-10), photo, "Reimagining Life"
- **Janie Wigley**, Gamma Beta (Allen-9), photos, "Texas Bluebonnets" and "Yellow Rose of Texas"
- **Stefani Keller-Perkins**, Gamma Upsilon (San Antonio-6), charcoal, "Sam's Giggle and Ryan's Smile"
- **Dawna Walsh**, Delta Omicron (Dallas-9), graphite, "Do you See Me?" and acrylic, "Dance All Night"
- **Ulana Ratley**, Kappa Delta (Bedford-10), short story, "The Accident" and pottery, "Green Pottery Bottle"
- **Jeanette Rhyan**, Theta Chi (Ft. Worth-10), short story, "Buffet Drawer Mischievous"

2023 Tech conference a success

When Tracy Shea became the TSO Technology Chair in July 2021, she envisioned the committee offering a wide range of technology training, from virtual meetings with breakout rooms to a TSO Tech Conference.



Tracy Shea-10
TSO Technology
Chair

The idea was to advance the technology skills of Texas DKG members by providing a range of technology learning and venues. As a result, the technology committee held the first TSO Technology Conference in Cleburne, Texas, on April 1st, 2023. DKG members attending the conference found various ways to improve communication with chapter members by receiving training in skills needed for new ventures into the Internet and Google.



Sonja Hanks-12,
Toni McCutchen-10

Before introducing technology during the conference, Shea had members read a series of quotes, such as, "I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list" and "Some beautiful paths can't be discovered without getting lost." Then participants shared which one seemed to reflect their attitudes and why. In a stress-free manner, she was preparing members for the learning ahead.

The goal was to challenge participants to see the essence of basic Internet usage, terminology and ways to manage tasks. Tracy invited TCEA (Texas Computer Education Association) Miguel Guhlin to keynote on Friday night. He gave attendees an excellent beginning to the conference during his introductory presentation about the Internet and Google. It set the stage for the workshops offered on April 1st.



Ulana Ratley-10,
Pamela Bond-5,
Michael Guhlin-TCEA



Cynthia Hopkins-5,
Google Slides

Shea arranged a diverse group of qualified presenters to provide training for members to move forward in their personal technology growth using Google Drive, website design, cyber safety and social media. She also planned for distractions by organizing small group sessions and providing extra Chromebooks and technical support from Cleburne ISD students and administrators.

The conference promoted members using and advancing their technology skills with Tracy Shea's vision of embracing learning for chapters so that they might grow in the virtual world. She has set members on a stress-free journey, moving into the next biennium.

Special Hearts in the Arts 2023 Unifying Project

Saturdays are special in Corpus Christi for Special Hearts in the Arts participants. Not only do they get to take classes in Theatre, Dance, Music, Art and Film, but they also get to hold two-hour performances every Saturday for the



public. During these performances, they demonstrate to others the confidence, coordination and teamwork they build in their classes as they sing and dance at community events.



Special Hearts in the Arts is the 2022-2023 TSO Unifying Project. Members may help the program by bringing gift cards from Visa, Walmart, Hobby Lobby or HEB to the McAllen Convention.

Committees plan activities in McAllen

CEREMONIES COMMITTEE



The TSO Ceremonies Committee is looking forward to interacting with everyone in McAllen. The committee will present a breakout session for members with a variety of ideas that they may use with various chapter ceremonies. In addition, the committee will participate in the Presidents and Founders Banquet on Friday — closing with little-known facts in the program entitled “How Much Do You Know About Our Founders?” — and the 94th Birthday Celebration Brunch on Saturday.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE



Members who missed the TSO Research Scavenger Hunt in Lubbock last summer missed an opportunity to practice using the resources page of the TSO website. Attendees learned to find the TSO's second vice president in 1995 and how to locate who won the TSO Achievement Awards in 1987. This year, the research committee has a newly revised edition of the scavenger hunt entitled Research Scavenger Hunt 2.3. Everyone attending the breakout session gets to join in searching for information on the dkgtexas.org website. The committee will give prizes to those who show their sleuthing abilities.

MUSIC COMMITTEE



TSO Music Chair Cindy Cates invites all members to join the TSO Chorus in McAllen and help celebrate TSO's two-year Journey with Shalan through music. Singers and instrumentalists will participate in the Necrology Service, Celebration Brunch and Presidents and Founders Banquet. Members who want to lend their voices, instrumental talent, creativity and support may register for the experience on the TSO Convention Registration form available in the spring edition of the LSN or on [the convention website](http://theconventionwebsite). Selections for the performances include “Happy,” “Journey,” “Ocean and Stars,” “I Won't Let Go” and “Sentimental Journey.”

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



On Saturday, June 17, 2023, all 50+ year member who chose to be recognized at the McAllen Convention will meet in the Palm Lobby outside the banquet hall in the McAllen Convention Center at 10:00 a.m. before the Celebration Brunch. The membership committee encourages all members to stop by the Palm Lobby to meet and greet these lovely ladies. This is an informal time for members to listen to the 50+ members' stories and show appreciation for their contributions to our Society.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENTS



The TSO Leadership Training for Chapter Presidents (LDCP) Committee will present the same session twice in McAllen. Presidents or their representatives should attend only one session. The committee will use a speed-dating format for the sessions.

First LDCP Breakout Session:
Thursday, June 15th at 11:00 a.m.

Second LDCP Breakout Session:
Friday, June 16th at 1:30 p.m.

The room will have five stations: Membership, Programs & Projects, Finance Responsibilities, Bragging About Your Chapter, and a LIVE Parking Lot for Burning Questions. Presidents will spend eight minutes at each of the five stations, and the committee will build the content of the discussion around the questions presidents submitted in the survey sent out by the LDCP committee. The information will come rapidly; presidents need to come prepared to learn and share during the sessions.

Sherri Davis 2023 ASTEF Advocate for Education




Sherri Davis

Sheri Davis is a teacher who challenged her students to create a non-profit organization. She was asking them to look beyond themselves and create something that would benefit others. Davis took the challenge herself and created Special Hearts in the Arts, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with special needs who want to explore theatre, dance, art, music and film.


Davis and her team of volunteers have given the Special Hearts structure and guidance as they explore various art programs, with the ultimate goal of the Special Hearts being in charge of parts of the program. The program has grown because Davis believes in the potential of the participants and because the participants don't judge each other. The acceptance of one another brings out love and support among Special Hearts. They work hard to improve their work and make their families proud.

Strong leaders make people hopeful about the future and inspire them to want to do better. Davis has instilled hope in the participants of the Special Hearts in the Arts program.





ASTEF Weekender will explore Waco, Texas, in October 2023. Members and friends who want to participate in the 6th ASTEF Weekender, October 13-15, 2023, should watch the ASTEF website for information. Registration will begin July 1, 2023. The trip costs \$325.00, with a \$75.00 deposit due upon registration. The excursion is limited to 50 participants. Members may direct questions to travel.astef@gmail.com, and visit the ASTEF area at the McAllen Convention.



Meet the TSO McAllen Convention Chairs



Terry Dreibelbis

Terry Best Dreibelbis joined the Epsilon Upsilon chapter in 2016. She attended that year's TSO State Convention and hasn't missed one since. She has served on numerous chapter committees and has held offices, including this biennium as Epsilon Upsilon President. Terry enjoys being a member of the 2021 Leadership Seminar class, the Resilient Gems, and the 94th TSO State Convention chair. DKG has given her many opportunities to travel as she has attended STAR events, ASTEF Weekenders, the first TSO Technology Conference, and an International Convention.

Terry spent over 25 years teaching elementary students. She began at a traditional elementary campus; however, she finished happily at an alternative campus where she educated and guided young children as they learned to make positive changes and choices in their lives.

Married to Corky for over 35 years, they have enjoyed a busy and productive life filled with raising a successful son, working with the 4-H program at local to state levels, helping with the regional livestock show, showing classic cars, racing one or two, and reaping fruitful benefits from Dreibelbis Farms. However, Terry feels life is complete when she contributes to her church by serving with the Women's Ministry.



Lori Shontz

Lori Shontz has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma since her 1997 initiation to the Epsilon Phi chapter, Area 5, in Weslaco. She has served her chapter in all officer positions, has chaired most local committees, and has been newsletter editor/photographer since 1998. In addition, Shontz has served on various committees at the state level and was the 2013-2015 Area 5 Coordinator. She received her BA from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, and her MA from Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas.

Lori retired from Weslaco ISD in May 2020 after 37 years of service. She spends her days caring for her parents, loving her four rescue cats, and working as secretary/treasurer and digital organist for her church. In addition, Shontz enjoys her four-mile daily walks with friends and singing alto in the Valley Symphony Chorale.



Pam Bond

Pam Bond grew up in Iowa, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Iowa. She worked as a critical care nurse in various ICUs and open heart units throughout the US for 20 years. Pam came to the RGV as a staff nurse and became the ICU educator, manager and director of critical care in a local hospital.

She later moved into her preferred career area as the director of education, working with all incoming staff, including doctors, nurses, aides and all other new staff. She eventually received her master's in nursing (MSN) and MBA in healthcare management. As the education director, she worked with community outreach projects in the RGV, where there needed to be more adequately prepared students trying to get into healthcare. Pam worked on a project with the local economic development commissions and Dr. Gloria Crum (DKG) to educate teachers and guidance counselors about all facets of healthcare in the hospital and what the RGV students must do to prepare. Gloria invited her to receive some of the Texas Treasurer Boxes collected for the TSO Unifying Project at the 2011 McAllen Convention. Witnessing the teamwork and support for education, she inquired about DKG. Later, Gloria asked her to join Epsilon Upsilon.

Women in the Arts

Artist finds joy in creating wearable art

About 17 years ago, Barbara Ardis and her husband saw a craft booth selling jewelry made with dichroic fused glass. They were mesmerized by it. The makers offered a one-day workshop in San Antonio which the couple attended. Barbara was hooked.



Barbara cutting glass, firing in a kiln and displaying the finished products.

To create pendants, earrings, rings and bracelets, Barbara scores,

Dichroic glass is a type of manufactured glass designed to change colors under different lighting conditions and viewing angles.

breaks, and stacks layers of opaque, clear and transparent colored glass, along with one or more pieces of dichroic glass. She fires these pieces in a kiln which she programs to fire at different top temperatures to achieve a variety of dimensions and textures. Dichroic glass has a metallic oxide coating that becomes a “shimmery” part of the finished

product after firing. The coating reflects and transmits light, giving each piece an eye-catching look.



Findings are parts used to join jewelry components together to form a completed article such as bails, earring hooks, rings or bracelets.

The artist has an image in her mind as she shapes and layers each piece. Melting and fusing glass this way doesn’t guarantee a precise shape outcome. However, there is a fun (usually) element of surprise every time she opens the kiln. Once she decides how to finish a piece, she adds the findings for function and added beauty.



Members experience art in different forms in McAllen



Brenda Pearson

The **Members’ Visual Arts Display** on Thursday and Friday will feature paintings, photography, fabric arts, literary arts, ceramics, jewelry, needlework, and other media. Items created at STAR or a WIA Zoom session are perfect for display. All attendees may enter one or more pieces for the show by submitting the application form on the WIA page, the Deadlines and Forms page, and the McAllen Convention page. The deadline is April 15, 2023 for a piece to be listed in the program. However, members may still bring the art to the convention and display it.



The **Children’s Art Display** will feature art created by local students. Anyone who arrives by 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, may stop by to meet some of the young artists. The committee will leave the art on display until the end of the day on Friday.



Breakout Sessions: Brenda Pearson, Women in the Arts chair, will present a breakout session on Thursday to explore art activities for chapter meetings, and on Friday, Carolyn Mashburn will discuss ideas for starting “mini-STARs.”

Information: WIA will share information in the Visual Arts area about the 2024 STAR cruise to celebrate the 10th anniversary of STAR as well as during WIA breakout sessions.

DKG investing in the future with Avenue M

DKG leaders and staff have reviewed and analyzed DKG membership statistics for many years. International and state membership committees have implemented different

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strategies to promote growth with mixed results and have continued to see a steady decrease in membership. In August 2022, the DKG Administrative Board appointed a task force to clarify a framework for a membership consultant project. The group was to report to the board electronically for approval of the project's scope and obtain proposals from potential consultants.

The task force sought consultants with the experience and expertise to analyze data, identify trends, and develop strategies to assist the Society, state organizations, and chapters in engaging members

and strengthening growth. Three consulting companies submitted proposals that the Administrative Board reviewed at the November board meeting.

The Administrative Board carefully weighed the cost and details of each proposal and the value of professional, objective analysis. They approved the hiring of Avenue M as a membership consultant at the expense of up to \$55,000 to be paid from the Available Fund (pending a budget adjustment approved by the Executive Board). The Executive Board, comprised of state organization presidents, the administrative board, and past international presidents, approved this expense. At a February meeting, the Administrative Board authorized the DKG Executive Director and DKG International President to move forward with an agreement with Avenue M. The board sees this project as an investment in DKG's future and is committed to acting upon this study's recommendations.

DKG members are an integral part of this process. In addition to receiving past membership data and organizational information about DKG, Avenue M will conduct focus interviews and surveys with past, current and potential DKG members. The group will conduct interviews in April and May, and surveys will happen in June and July. The consulting group will present a final report in late August 2023, and the Administrative Board will share the results with the extended DKG community in the fall of 2023.



Sheri Long, president and CEO of Avenue M Group, believes associations must understand what matters to their members and understand their stressors and challenges. This would require listening to members and rethinking what matters to them.

Sheri chose the name Avenue M Group because she had a strong desire to help associations create a two-way street (or Avenue) between their organizations and their members (M) if they wanted to remain relevant in the future.