Birthday Ceremonies Presented at State Conventions

84th Birthday Ceremony

June 21, 2013

Austin Convention ~ Austin, Texas

Patti Belknap, TSO Ceremonies Chairman

On May 10, 1930, during the first National Convention, a luncheon was held in celebration of the first birthday of Delta Kappa Gamma. Held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Driskill Hotel in Austin, members paid $1.00 for their meal.

All members were invited and could bring guests to the luncheon but not to the Founders’ Banquet that evening.

Miss Mamie Sue Bastian, one of our founders and First Vice President of the National organization, was the presiding officer.

Before the delegates attended the social events of the convention, they were advised to have fun. “Please do not mention salaries or the Depression during either the luncheon or the banquet.”

Miss Bastian, who initiated the idea of the Birthday Luncheon, encouraged lively Delta Kappa Gamma songs to add color to the drab lives of teachers. She felt strongly that we needed to value the “frivolous, social fun, and the things of the heart.”

So today, on the celebration of our \_\_\_\_ (number) birthday, I encourage you to do as Mamie Sue advised in the greeting, she wrote for the Bulletin on the 15th Birthday of ours Society. “We need to love each other, laugh together, and to enjoy -to some extent- the lighter phases of life. So let us cling to the stunts, the birthday luncheons with cake candles, and songs, the Founders’ banquets and the lightsome songs and music. There is a place in Delta Kappa Gamma for both the scholarly and the gay.”

Happy \_\_\_ (number) Birthday, Delta Kappa Gamma. May you continue to promote excellence in education through scholarship, fellowship, and leadership.