

# Lone Star News

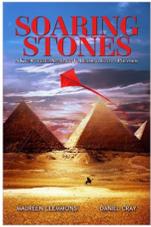
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## Innovation offers new ideas for old problems

Dr. Maureen Clemmons captivated the audience at the Southwest Regional Conference as she related her work on using the power of the wind to build the Egyptian pyramids and install Egyptian obelisks.



**Soaring Stones: A Kite-Powered Approach to Building Egypt's Pyramids**  
by Daniel Clay and Maureen Clemmons

Who is this woman who brought laughter and awe to everyone? Personally, Maureen Clemmons is the mother of two who kept her children busy exploring ideas. No experiment was too crazy for the siblings' inquiring minds as long as they cleaned up afterwards. Along the way the young minds developed a passion for science, math and new ideas. Professionally, Dr. Clemmons is an organization development specialist who coaches groups through innovative change.

The wind and stone project was a perfect example of an inquiring mind that led to innovation. Reading about people trying to recreate the raising of an obelisk in an Egyptian stone quarry and failing, Clemmons thought there had to be an alternative to using brute force in accomplishing this task. She took time to let her subconscious work on the problem. A theory began to form when she read about a 164 foot kite shaped like a trilobite that had to be anchored to a 7 ton flatbed truck during a 5 mph wind. That was power, and if it could be controlled, it just might move large stones.

Dr. Clemmons knew the Egyptians were mathematicians, engineers and sailors. Their skills would be valuable tools in making kites move stone. While she had vision and passion, she didn't possess the engineering skills to calculate wind, pull and lift. However, she did have the advice of a father who told her to develop new ideas and not to worry about details because there are plenty of people who could handle data and make applications.

This led her to tapping into the expertise of a NASA meteorologist, the Caltech aerospace department, sailors, kite builders, an entomologist and anyone else who would listen to her theory and would add expertise. It took years of field testing various combinations of equipment before she and her team were able to lift a 3.4 ton obelisk off the ground with two men in 25 seconds. Later, at Cal Poly Pomona, stones were moved and stacked to form a small pyramid using only equipment available to the ancient Egyptians.

Radical change is never easy. Developing and proving Dr. Clemmons' theory took years of perseverance and tenacity. Her quest to prove wind could be harnessed to build the pyramids and move obelisks is not over. She still wants a chance to move some actual Egyptian stone. In the meantime, her theory has attracted inquires from Nicaragua, where cost effective methods of construction are being explored, and from NASA, where interest in an application of the idea for Mars is being discussed.



Gary McGavin and Maureen Clemmons atop a pyramid constructed with kites as a Cal Poly Pomona architecture class project.

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# The Heart of the Society is its Members



Marilyn Gregory  
2015-2017  
Texas State President



This is the beginning of a new state biennium. It is a time for renewed energy with new state personnel, theme and goals. Members, chapters and state personnel working together can strengthen our Society.

The state theme is: “The Heart of the Society is its Members.” We must nurture our own members and encourage them to take leadership roles. Providing excellent programs, recruiting new members and mentoring our members will help us as a Society grow and prosper. Our members are the heart, and we want to keep the membership healthy.

The biennium goals are taken from the acronym of the word Heart.

- H – Health – to encourage members to practice healthy lifestyles to promote healthier chapters** – We need to become healthier in body and mind. Keeping a positive attitude and working together makes our chapters healthier.
- E – Education – to educate members about the importance of membership and encourage them to make an impact on their communities and the world** – Involving members in outstanding programs and projects helps them become informed of the many benefits of membership and current issues to make a difference locally and worldwide.
- A – Achievement – to achieve our goals as leaders in our chapters and recognize our accomplishments as key women educators** – Chapters need specific goals so members work toward achieving these goals, which improves their chapter.
- R – Reflection – to reflect on our heritage as we advance the Society** – Members should increase their knowledge about our heritage, yet encourage participation in programs of action where members will work in the present to advance the Society for the future.
- T – Teamwork – to work as members of a team to strengthen involvement in all levels of the Society** – We work at all levels to encourage the professional interest and knowledge for women educators. Chapters work as a team, state works as a team and international works as a team, yet we are all part of the Delta Kappa Gamma team. The stronger the membership, the stronger the DKG team.

Working together as a member, chapter, state and international organization, we can show that “The Heart of the Society is its Members.”

# Betty's Buzz

Betty Vines  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer



The TSO Treasurers are so special that there is now a special presence especially for them on the TSO website. Just look on the homepage menu for Treasurers' Page. Visit that site and a world of helpful information can be found. Deadlines, how-to information and many forms can be found all in one place.

The Finance Committee continues the challenge of volunteering to send email reminders and other important information directly to treasurers. Treasurers may have already heard from a Finance Committee Communicator.

Thanks to the treasurers who have already submitted the yearly report (Form 15) that was due July 15. Since it is always a goal to have 100% reporting, reminders continue to be sent. Reports such as this can now be submitted electronically.

Dues collection should be well underway. This is the responsibility of all members, not just the treasurers, so ask others to help you. Your dues "packet" from International should be on its way soon. If you have not received it by the middle of September, please let us or International know. Be aware that the dues and fees for state and international are the same as last year—no changes. To be counted on time, dues must be postmarked no later than November 10. Although the return address on the packet is the International address in Austin, **the dues and fees must be sent to the State Headquarters in Dallas.**

New initiates will not receive the state and international mailings if names and fees have not been submitted to the state office. You are welcome to send them ahead of time or with the chapter dues and fees. There is no charge for reinstatements; encourage members who have been dropped to become active again.

Now is the time to file the 990-N for each chapter. DO NOT ignore it, or it will become the 990-N Nightmare for you and your chapter. If you receive a letter regarding your filings from the IRS, DO NOT IGNORE IT. Call us and we will get help for you. It is strongly recommended that one person in each chapter be designated to file this form with the IRS each year rather than changing each time a chapter changes treasurers. Keep a file of your receipts and all documentation. Thanks to many of you who have already filed and sent a copy of your receipt to the State Headquarters in Dallas.

May this be the best year ever for you and your chapter!



## At-A-Glance Deadlines

Sept 1	Int'l Cornetet Award-individual prof development application State Treasurers Report Form 15
Oct 1	TSO mini grant application
15	Nominations for Int'l Personnel
31	Dues and fees paid to chapter treasurers
Nov 1	LSN Deadline Cornetet Award-prof dev seminar application
Dec 1	Leadership/Management Seminar application Chapter yearbooks due to yearbook committee chair

## Committees

Sept 12-13	PSP Advisory Council
18-20	ASTEF Board
26-27	AC Training
Oct 2-3	Exec Committee
3-4	LDCP Meeting
17-18	Membership
31	Edu Excellence Comm Meeting
Nov 1	Edu Excellence Comm Meeting

## Highlights

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Wichita	1,15,16

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# Cultures highlighted in San Antonio

Corlea Plowman, Convention Publicist

With an emphasis on the varied cultures in Texas, the 86th State Convention foreshadowed the status of The Alamo, along with four other Spanish Roman Catholic sites, known as the San Antonio Missions, as a United Nations World Heritage Site, the first in Texas and 23rd in the United States. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee designated the sites as having “outstanding value to humanity.”



Alamo: World Heritage Site



Sandra Morales

Sandra Morales, Presentation of Chapter Presidents Chair, Nu; Glenda Shafer, co-chair, Theta Kappa; and Bernadine Eaton, co-chair, Epsilon Kappa, highlighted Alpha State’s 18 areas and a plethora of cultures represented in each during “A Cultural Evening in San Antonio.” Using five mannequins (created by Morales) dressed in various cultural costumes to dress the stage, the trio presented approximately 230 chapter presidents to the convention. Morales said, “The cultures we have shared with you tonight are but a few that have shaped our great state. Each has given us customs, expressions or words we have embraced and now claim as our own.”

Well-known classical guitarist Michael Richter, a staff member of The University of Texas at San Antonio, played background music. Linda Richter accompanied her husband on the recorder.



Linda and Michael Richter



Sandy Whitney

On a different cultural note, Past State President Sandy Whitney surprised the crowd during Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation’s (ASTEF) Celebration following the opening session when she appeared as Miss Piggy. The Piggy Posse’s donations, piggy bank auction and other activities conducted in the cleanest pigsties in Texas brought in more than \$20,000 for ASTEF.

International representatives to TSO conventions are usually greeted in a whimsical manner by the state president. TSO President Nancy Newton was outfitted in a sombrero, maracas and a mustache as she welcomed



Beth Schieber, Nancy Newton

Beth Schieber, Southwest Regional Director, to San Antonio.



Shopping the marketplace.

Vendors offered bells, books and bling among a sea of festive tables and friendly sellers. From hand-crafted cards and clothing to anything that could have DKG applied to it, items pleased shoppers at every turn.



Sandi Causey, Sue Blair

Over 1,000 members registered for the San Antonio convention. The combined voices singing *Texas Our Texas* and *The Delta Kappa Gamma Song* were very inspiring. Equally uplifting was seeing Girl Scouts during the flag presentation and hearing them comment on what they learned while achieving the DKG-GS patch. They were recognized as the first Girl Scouts in the world to achieve the patch.



Sharon Kraus



Angie Ruffin, Sharon Daugherty, Cathy Criner

Business was conducted, members and chapters were recognized and awarded, Annies were displayed, music was performed and invitations for future conventions were accepted. Members laughed with Angie Ruffin, North Carolina-Gamma Lambda; learned from all the speakers and breakout session presenters; discussed current educational issues in small groups; and attended a Celebration of Life and Remembrance.



Leslie Valentincic



Cookee Johnson

Cookee Johnson, Programs and Service Project Chair, presented Ada Saenz, Director of Branch Operations for the San Antonio Boys and Girls Club, with 65 boxes of school supplies and approximately \$1,800 in cash and gift cards. The Unifying Project will have an impact on the youth of San Antonio.

Many members spent time admiring and attempting to identify bags from past conventions that were on display. Ann Schmidt stayed busy adding to the exhibit as she continually discovered new bags that members were bringing in to share.



Bags from past conventions

The location of the convention invited members to explore the Riverwalk and enjoy the culture, food and shopping that San Antonio had to offer.



Dr. Elva Garcia, Melle Smithwick

At the end of the night on Saturday, TSO had a new president. Marilyn Gregory accepted the gavel from Nancy Newton to become the 39th president of the Texas State Organization.



Nancy Newton, Marilyn Gregory

# Members educate, inspire and encourage

Pat Osborne

Societies and organizations are defined by the people who make up their membership. Those who educate, inspire, and encourage are at the heart of the Society.

Golden Rose recipients are those members who are the backbones of our Society. These are the four Golden Award recipients. Elizabeth Newell is a loyal, dedicated, continuously active member in her chapter who supports Early-career Educators. Joyce Ann Warwas inspires each and every member to become more actively involved in all things DKG by her own behavior. Carolyn Hooker is a living example of the purposes of the Society. Everything she does is done with enthusiasm and dedication. Sharon Kraus has been a loyal member for many years, giving of her time, presence, financial gifts, knowledge of the Society and friendship. These are the outstanding women of the Golden Rose.



Golden Rose recipients: Joyce Ann Warwas, Elizabeth Newell, Carolyn Hooker and Sharon Kraus.

The State Achievement Award goes to women across the state who have demonstrated leadership skills at all levels including chapter, state, regional and international levels. The following are the five Achievement Award Winners. Dr. Barbara Derrick has been



Barbara Derrick



Karolyn Caldwell



Rita Currington



Diane Moose



Carolyn Riggsby

instrumental in recommending new members to the chapter and is always willing to help a fellow educator follow her dreams. Karolyn Caldwell is her chapter's go-to person. Anytime a questions arises, the first thought is, "Ask Karolyn." After careful consideration Karolyn either provides the needed answer or points us in the right direction. Diane Moose, in the words of her chapter, is the perfect candidate for this honor and deserves to be recognized as an outstanding member. Diane embodies the truest and best qualities of a DKG member. Rita Currington has served her chapter with loyalty, dedication and honor. She has demonstrated fidelity to the mission and purposes of DKG through her service at every level. Carolyn Riggsby provides a very positive role model for all her chapter members and encourages involvement in the area workshops, the state conventions, the regional conferences and the international conventions. Her chapter knows that their trust in her is well placed.

These nine women exemplify what it means to be a Delta Kappa Gamma member and the Texas State Organization is very proud of their contributions.

## Star Retreat scheduled for February 2016



The second STAR Retreat will be February 19-21. This is a holiday weekend so that working teachers can join the fun. A deposit of \$100 is due now with the final payment of \$125 by November 1, 2015. See complete details and application on [www.dkgtxas.org](http://www.dkgtxas.org).



## Membership everyone's responsibility

Michelle Grandinetti, Membership Committee Chair

There is a rallying cry in TSO. Have you heard it? It goes like this: Who is in charge of Membership? WE ARE! The WE being each member in TSO from the 50+ years members to the brand new initiates. This biennium is continuing the drive to bring new members into the organization as DKG extends its reach into the communities to find those excellent educators who will enrich and be enriched by the Society. Each member in TSO has a charge to embrace a fellow educator and introduce her to Delta Kappa Gamma.

Uncertain how to do this? Go to the TSO website. Select Committees; then, select Membership. Scroll down to the Recruitment Plan. The plan is an easy to follow approach to gaining new members. At the state convention there were many testimonials about the successfulness of this plan. Accessory pieces to help strengthen and sustain a healthy chapter can also be found on the same page of the website. Each piece is a must read. Simultaneously, each chapter must continue to reach out to former members who have resigned and encourage them to rejoin their friends in DKG.

The honor of membership in Delta Kappa Gamma belongs to all women who evidence potential in a field of education. Who is in charge of honoring these women? We All Are.

## Chapters earn PACE Award for 2014-2015

**Area 1:** Phi, Alpha Epsilon, Delta Gamma, Zeta Gamma, Kappa Pi; **Area 3:** Beta Eta, Gamma Nu, Eta Delta, Theta Zeta, Theta Sigma; **Area 4:** Alpha Phi, Gamma Omicron, Epsilon Omega, Eta Pi, Eta Omega; **Area 5:** Beta Phi, Epsilon Upsilon; **Area 6:** Beta Zeta, Epsilon Beta; **Area 7:** Alpha, Nu, Alpha Chi, Beta



2014-2015 PACE Award

Theta, Gamma Omega, Epsilon Kappa, Kappa Lambda; **Area 8:** Zeta, Tau; **Area 9:** Alpha Alpha, Delta Omicron, Eta Zeta, Eta Eta, Theta Alpha; **Area 10:** Gamma Zeta, Epsilon Nu, Iota Pi; **Area 12:** Alpha Sigma, Gamma Eta, Theta Epsilon; **Area 13:** Lambda Xi; **Area 14:** Zeta Xi; **Area 15:** Mu Kappa; **Area 16:** Gamma Epsilon, Kappa Theta; **Area 17:** Alpha Pi; **Area 18:** Delta Kappa, Zeta Tau, Lambda Gamma, Mu Pi

# 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 Candy Carroll between May 11, 2015 and August 15, 2015. They are reported by their chapter and place of residence at time of death.*

Betty Jean Elder, Alpha Omega-1, Port Arthur  
 Laverne Bates Holton, Alpha Omega-1, Georgetown  
 Patsy Ruth Summers, Phi-1, New London  
 Bobbie B. Cobb, Zeta Upsilon-3, The Woodlands  
 Elizabeth A. Obelgoner, Alpha Phi-4, Hallettsville  
 Cecile Wavell, Beta Xi-5, Corpus Christi  
 Olga M. Gomez, Beta-6, San Antonio  
 Bessie Kirby, Beta Tau-6, San Antonio  
 Herminia Macias, Gamma Rho-6, Eagle Pass  
 Ofelia Rodriguez, Gamma Rho-6, Eagle Pass  
 Willa Peek, Iota Beta-6, San Antonio  
 Dr. Lilyanne Van Allen, Alpha-7, Austin  
 Nelda Barton, Beta Theta-7, LaGrange  
 Helen McFadden Kassen, Iota Phi-7, Georgetown  
 Maxine Browning, Upsilon-8, Scotland  
 Janet Ann Gordon, Gamma Delta-8, Hillsboro  
 Mary Katherine Baxter, Iota Omega-9, Frisco  
 Billie Rose Cox, Eta Eta-9, Dallas  
 Dr. Aleene King Van de Grift, Delta Tau-9, Dallas  
 Bennie Sewell Barnett, Iota Chi-10, Weatherford  
 Shirley Avis Hall, Iota Chi-10, Wylie  
 Christine Mudge, Theta Theta-10, Colleyville  
 Sandra Carlene Morgan, Beta Delta-11, Shamrock  
 Lucille Locks Rendleman, Omega-13, Brownwood  
 Jeanene Dittman Merka, Alpha Iota-14, Wharton  
 Otha Ferguson, Kappa-15, Ft. Worth  
 Carolyn A. Sargent, Mu Xi-17, Mt. Pleasant  
 Dorothy Shannon, Kappa Mu-17, Longview  
 Dorothy Walker, Delta Kappa-18, Willis  
 Shirley Ann Kirk, Kappa Alpha-18, Bryan  
 Surita Ann Hatton, Kappa Theta-16, Lewisville  
 Novella Wiley, Alpha-7, Austin  
 Ava Koehn, Beta Theta-7, Weimar  
 Frances Edmiston, Delta-10, Ft. Worth  
 Audrey Jean Chambliss, Kappa Chi-2, Anahuac  
 Dr. Marrietta Crowder Walker, Zeta Gamma-5, Tyler  
 Eula May (Pris) Lyle Tynes, Iota-16, Denton  
 Agnes Hardin Sides, Xi-7, Granger  
 Catherine Marie Reavis, Mu Pi-18, Humble  
 Graciela Estringle, Mu Omega-5, Freer  
 Elizabeth Ann Jones, Gamma Pi-6, Boerne  
 Earline Sellier, Beta Epsilon-12, Colorado City

## Member News



**Becky Reed**, Alpha Chi (Marble Falls-7), was selected by the readers of *The Best of the Highland Lakes* as the Biggest Mustang Fan.

**Dr. Beulah Agnes Jones**, Epsilon Kappa (Austin-7), honorary member, was named Ebenezer Baptist Church's 2015 Woman of the Year.

**Marilyn Leasure**, Beta Gamma (Vernon-16), received a Cornetet Professional Development Award in the amount of \$1,200.00 to attend the First Year Teacher Training of Trainers and Mentor Training of Trainers.

**June Shipper**, Epsilon Chi (Waco-8), received a standing ovation when she retired after 52 years with the Waco Symphony.

**Omicron-3** qualified for a Five Star Award for their newsletter but was not listed in the convention program. Congratulations, Omicron Chapter!

**Nancy Maples**, Alpha Chi (Pontotoc-7), was awarded the Reader's Choice award in *The Best of the Highland Lakes* publication as the Best School Teacher in Llano. She was also presented an Educator of the Year Award by the Llano Chamber of Commerce.

**Cathy Hooper**, Phi (Henderson-1), was recognized by Henderson ISD for her contributions to the Latino Family Literacy Project.

Members From Page 8

**Delores McCright**, Alpha Delta (Wake Village-17), was featured in *HER Magazine*, a publication of the Texarkana Gazette that highlights and celebrates women in the greater Texarkana area.

**Dr. Margaret Berry**, Alpha (Austin-7), had a reflective essay on the freedom that comes with aging published in the July/August 2015 *Alcalde*, the official publication of the University of Texas Exes.

**Patti Ross Loya**, Mu Sigma (Danbury-3) received a Cornet Professional Development Award in the amount of \$2,000.00 to attend the 2015 National Conference for First Grade Teachers, I Teach 1st!



Keeping member information up-to-date is very important. This information includes an address, a telephone number and an email address. To update the information, to go to **www.dkg.org** and look at the gray member center area on the front page. Find the My DKG banner. Use a **member ID** number for the user name and **dkg2014society** for the default password. Members without Internet access may call DKG International Headquarters at 888-762-4685.

## Honorees attend reception

Sixteen members with fifty or more years of membership in DKG were honored at a reception during the 86th TSO Convention in San Antonio.



Mary Margaret Burges



Elizabeth Connell



Minnie Conner



Charlotte Ann Edmons



Carolyn Harrell



Ruth Hull



Carolyn Johnson



Jane Knapik



Vivian Morris



EdWinnie McWhitter



Ann Ham Reagan



Emma Jean Tanner



Helen Taulbee



Peggy Tooker



Merle Upham



Dr. Mary Ann Walden

## Action needed from chapter editors

Kimberly Birkelbach, Communications Chair

Each chapter editor should send her email address and phone number to her area Communication and Publicity Committee member via email. The members names are found on **www.dkgtxas.org**.

Paper copies of chapter newsletters must be mailed to:

1. Marilyn Gregory, TSO President
2. Carol McMillan, Editor/Photographer
3. Kimberly Birkelbach, Communications Chair
4. Area Coordinator
5. Area Communications Committee member

# Members' suggestions solicited

Kitty Hutchcroft, Technology Chair

Technology has become an important part of everyone's lives, but sometimes it can cause stress. The Technology Committee members want to help de-stress everyone's lives and have fun learning new things. For this reason the committee is asking whether members will respond best to a newsletter, a blog or a Facebook page? They also want to know whether members need help with technology in their personal life, professional life, societal life or all three? Send suggestions to Kitty Hutchcroft at [techkat1517@gmail.com](mailto:techkat1517@gmail.com).



## ASTEF conducts annual meeting

The ASTEF Annual Meeting was held during the 2015 TSO Convention in San Antonio. Newly elected officers for 2015-2017 were announced during the meeting.

They are as follows:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| President                                      | Carolyn Grantham, Area 15, El Paso       |
| Vice President, Programs                       | Virginia Bowers, Area 11, Muleshoe       |
| Vice-President, Marketing/<br>Public Relations | Katherine Reid, Area 3, Houston          |
| Vice-President, Advancement                    | Dr. Barbara Derrick, Area 3, Santa Fe    |
| Vice-President, Finance/<br>Administration     | Dr. Earin Martin, Area 7, Austin         |
| Secretary                                      | Dr. Marian Clinton, Area 10, Colleyville |

During the meeting five new ASTEF directors were elected. They are:

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Lynda Anderson | Area 1, Tyler         |
| Gail Herring   | Area 8, Axtell        |
| Lou Hitt       | Area 16, Decatur      |
| Cindy Neander  | Area 16, Flower Mound |
| Rhonda Posey   | Area 2, Nederland     |

Marilyn Gregory, TSO President; Cindy Drumm, TSO Scholarship Chair; and Dr. Jo Murphy, TSO Leadership Chair will all serve as ex-officio members of the ASTEF Board of Directors during this biennium.

President Evelyn Barron honored the following with special recognition for their service to the ASTEF Board of Directors:

- |                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Lee Bourg       | Founding Director, 2010-2015 |
| Dr. Vicki Davis | Founding Director, 2010-2015 |
| Ruth Hull       | Founding Director, 2010-2013 |
| Joanne Davis    | TSO President, 2011-2013     |
| Nancy Newton    | TSO President, 2013-2015     |

## Leadership Management Seminar offered in July

Dr. Jo Murphy, International Golden Gift Fund Chair



The Golden Gift Fund Leadership Management Seminar will be held July 17-19, 2016, at The University of Texas at Austin. The seminar is offered to all members to develop their leadership, communications and management skills. Participants have a chance to grow personally and professionally while interacting with instructors and DKG members from around the world. The award covers all but a \$500 registration fee for which applicants are responsible. Electronically submitted applications are due by December 1, 2015. All information pertaining to the application can be found at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) on the Golden Gift Fund Committee page. Contact Dr. Jo Murphy at [jomurphy981@gmail.com](mailto:jomurphy981@gmail.com) with questions.



## ASTEF Piggy Posse Campaign wildly successful

At convention in San Antonio we said good bye to the yearlong Piggy Posse campaign. Sixty-three pigs traveled the state attending a multitude of DKG events to spread awareness of ASTEF and to raise funds to support ASTEF project stipends.

During Opening Night, the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion were crowned. Betty Hill, 2013-2015 Area 4 Coordinator, and her pig Miss Teffie were named Grand Champion raising an impressive \$1,751.68. Reserve Grand Champion was awarded to Lone Star News Editor/Photographer Carol McMillan and her pig Winner. They raised a grand total of \$1,157.00. Rounding out the top five pigs were Natalie Eustace and Jingles; Nancy Newton and Petunia Pennywhistle and Little Red; Katherine Reid and Princess Tess Secret.



Fannie Watson with Winner, Miss Piggy,  
Betty Hill with Miss Teffie

A not-so-silent, silent auction was held at convention whereby 22 pigs were adopted by convention goers with the highest bids. Accompanying each pig was a \$25 gift card donated by ASTEF Directors. Other pigs were given away at ASTEF sponsored breakout sessions and during the Opening Night Celebration as door prizes.

We are pleased and excited to announce that the entire Piggy Posse campaign raised a total of \$20,081.68! Many Texas educators, students and communities will be helped due to everyone's participation. Thanks to all who participated in any way.

## TSO Mini-Grant deadline approaching

Cindy Drumm, Scholarship Chair

The TSO Mini-Grant deadline is fast approaching. The goal of this grant is to provide funds for non-traditional types of professional development activities for TSO members. The grants can be up to \$750.00 for applicants who have been a member of DKG for five years before June 1 of the application year. Events or activities for which the applicant has applied must occur November 1 through October 31 of the following year. Additional information concerning the application procedure can be found on the TSO website, [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org). Members must follow instructions and the application must be postmarked no later than November 1.

## Guidelines available online for 2015 yearbooks

Natalie Eustace, Yearbook Chair

Yearbook chairs should check out the state website at [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org) for information to complete the chapter's yearbook for 2015-2016. Guidelines and examples are under Committees then Yearbook. A completed 2015 Yearbook Guideline should be included with the yearbook when it is submitted. Early Bird yearbooks must be postmarked by November 1 and On Time yearbooks must be postmarked by December 1. Contact Natalie Eustace with any questions.

**YEARBOOKS**



# Making learning stick

Bonnie Moore, Eta Delta

As neuroscience continues to advance and tell us more about the brain, we are discovering more about how students and teachers learn. Studies show that adults can only give their fully undivided attention for no more than 20 minutes at a time. Students between the ages of 10-18 give no more than 12 minutes of focused engagement. With such a small window of true engagement time, how do we make the learning stick so that students and staff can continue to grow, learn and realize their potential?

To maximize learning, we must be aware that things like multitasking, interruptions, and exterior factors become detractors or even an enemy of learning. Therefore, we need to use strategies that help us develop students and staff in ways that increase learning, retention and application. Drs. Josh Davis and David Rock of the NeuroLeadership Institute have proposed, tested and used the AGES model. This model of focusing on Attention, Generation, Emotions and Spacing in instructional design and delivery increases all aspects of learning.

**Attention is the time in which someone is truly focused before he/she needs a refresher of the concepts and material.** To keep the brain engaged, you must employ techniques for capturing or rejuvenating attention. Allowing learners to have downtime or to introduce something novel or unexpected allows the brain to stop, recharge and refocus on the concept/task at hand. Multitasking doesn't provide additional focus time and often produces interruptions that contribute to reduced focus and attention. To make learning last, aim for a single focus of attention on the point and then continue to refresh the learning by spacing.

**Generation is the act of creating and sharing one's connections to new or presented ideas.** The act of generation or making connections is what matters, not the depth or brilliance of the generation. Peer learning, group work, and storytelling are all methods of social information generation. Connecting to information with self and/or others creates rich networks of association and helps us make the connections needed to make the learning stick. Relating the content and materials to one's own ideas, experience or thinking will also provide generation.

**Emotions definitely influence learning, and positivity is better than negativity.** Positive emotions that are part of learning can aid creativity, insight and expansion of perception. All of these are very helpful in initial learning as well as the application of learning.

**Spacing is having a period of time, usually a day or more, between learning and the review of the learning.** Spacing the concepts and application over a longer period of time allows the students and staff to sleep between learning sessions. Sleep is essential for long-term retention and provides opportunities for increased memory. By returning to the learning and its application over a longer period of time, we raise the opportunities for greater learning and therefore increased success.

Learning is the central premise of education. Our goal is to help each student and staff member fully learn. Using the AGES model allows us as educators to use the current science for the learning, growth and achievement for all.

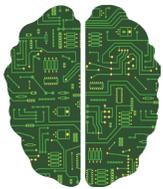
# Annie Awards provide program ideas for chapters

Chapters seeking ideas for programs may find inspiration from some of this year's Annie Award programs.

**Kappa Pi-1** members looked at the history of shoes and felt a new appreciation and sympathy for those who wore shoes from the 9th through the 18th century. Through their study, members learned that shoes reflect a person's personality and are important in creating a professional image. Parents, students, teachers and administrators notice and evaluate appearances which include shoes as well as clothes and cosmetics. The chapter made an itemized list of advice for beginning teachers about shoes worn to work and the importance of looking professional. The list went in goody bags which were delivered to new teachers when school began.



Members of **Rho-5** studied the two sides of the brain by watching a presentation of the function of each side. The presenter gave them a test to determine which was their dominant side. Participants then used computers to find additional information about the brain. They shared information about their findings with other members. Finally, they divided into left and right brained groups to discuss similarities within the group.

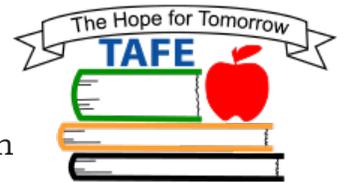


**Mu Pi-18** wanted its members to learn how technology is being used as a tool to encourage students to study much deeper into the four core curriculum areas and prepare for success in their future. Presenters demonstrated lessons in the four core areas without using any paper. They showed how to use many websites to get students involved with learning, including how to connect with



their peers and teachers for quick feedback on all work. Members were very excited to observe how students were controlling their learning and how their learning is being individualized to meet their needs.

The **Lambda Omicron-8** program was an informational exchange with the local Texas Association of Future Educators.



The TAFE students presented the program's goals and shared the numerous accolades and awards garnered by the group in educational competitions. Students brought examples of their teaching projects to share and engaged in a thoughtful discussion of the teaching profession with Lambda Omicron members. Students shared some of their experiences and explained why they wanted to pursue a career in education and expressed the need for support from Lambda Omicron.

**Lambda Eta-5** members came up with monthly ideas and ways to remember the early career educators that current members identified. Members felt that these educators were often overwhelmed and under appreciated. Besides a beginning of the year survival kit, members packaged



Claudia Penuelas and Sylvia Cruz

inexpensive gifts which were distributed each month. In addition to the gifts, the new teachers got monthly inspirational email from the chapter president. The project encouraged members to become more involved by donating their gently used and well-loved teaching material to be distributed.



# ASTEF awards project stipends

Seventeen TSO chapters received partial or full funding for projects that meet the ASTEF Mission Statement of helping Texas teachers or school children. For the first time, funding was given to a project submitted by an individual. Awarding the coveted checks was a highlight of the annual ASTEF meeting in San Antonio.



Nine chapters had projects that give support to Early Career Educators in various ways: gift cards for classroom supplies, goodie bags throughout the year, baskets of classroom supplies, mentoring and volunteering in the classrooms, providing lunches, mini-grants to teachers, and tutoring. One project awarded will provide mini-iPads for classrooms where they are needed. Chapters with these projects and funding amounts are: **Lambda Eta** (\$300), **Epsilon Kappa** (\$2500), **Iota Nu** (\$500), **Lambda Xi** (\$1271), **Iota Pi** (\$500), **Delta Omicron** (\$1947), **Gamma Zeta** (\$750), **Beta Theta** (\$1200) and **Omega** (\$1250).

**Gamma Eta's** Kids Kubbies (\$1000) provides pencils, crayons and glue for elementary students in eight school districts. **Gamma Beta** members host parties and provide gifts and cards for the children in a homeless shelter in their Holidays at the Inn project (\$320). **Theta Zeta** will provide The Buddy Bench on playgrounds at two elementary schools. The members will visit the schools to share books about friendship and encourage students to use the bench as a way of making friends (\$793). **Epsilon Phi** members participate in the Alfresco Weslaco Literacy Project by giving books to children coming to the monthly event and by recognizing a teacher each month who has been nominated by the students attending the event (\$800). **Theta Gamma** will use their funding to help with the Teen Bookfest by the Bay by paying for a young adult author to speak (\$2500). **Beta Epsilon** will give books to children who stay at Samaritan House while visiting incarcerated parents. Several members also volunteer there (\$800).



**Iota Epsilon** will work with Care Net to provide items to help women in crisis and their babies by having a baby shower (\$600). **Kappa Iota** will use their funding to purchase car seats to be used in the bus that transports teen mothers and babies to Matthews Alternative School (\$1790). **Ashlee Boothe** will use the ASTEF funds to provide baby clothes and educational materials that can be used through the Pregnancy Related Services Group. **Risa McCann** will also be working on this project which received \$1200.



TSO chapters and members care about teachers and children in Texas schools and have designed projects to meet needs in each group.



## Experience Savannah with ASTEF Travelers Program

ASTEF travelers will embark for Savannah on Sunday, October 11, 2015 to Friday, October 16, 2015. This is Road Scholar Program #11376 – Savannah's Rich Heritage, Remarkable History and Memorable Music. Interested parties should call (800) 322-5315 and indicate they are with DKG/ASTEF. See [www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org) for more information.



# Members must be informed and stay connected

Ruthie Estes, Legislation Chair

To remain informed on the issues affecting women, children and education in Texas is vital to all DKG-TSO members year round, not just when the legislature is in session.



Texas State Capitol

The Legislation Committee members are contacting each chapter and requesting the name of the Legislation Chair or contact person so that we can disseminate important information to the entire membership.

Although the Texas Legislature is not in session again until 2017, we need to stay connected to our legislators during the interim. Make sure that you know who your representatives are. Many helpful resources can be found on our website [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org) on a link placed on the Legislation Committee page. The names of the committee members for each area are also listed there. Please contact any of us with your questions and concerns. Working as a team we strengthen our involvement in the legislative process and make an impact. Be part of the legislative team!

## Dear Texas Members,

Thank you for your warm welcome and genuine Texas hospitality when I attended your state convention. I especially enjoyed my “souvenir” quality program and JoAnn Brooks as my caretaker/guide. She most certainly demonstrated true southern charm as she kept me on schedule and in the right place with her friendliness and knowledge of Texas tradition.

I congratulate Nancy for a most inspiring and motivational convention. Her theme of Expand the Vision did and does uphold and promote the mission and purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma.



JoAnn Brooks and Beth Schieber,  
Southwest Regional Director

The Celebration of Life and Remembrance was a poignant and beautiful ceremony honoring those who have paved the way, and the 86<sup>th</sup> Birthday Luncheon was a unique and wonderful celebration of our founders. I am so honored to have been a part of your Presidents’ and Founders’ Banquet which was a beautiful ceremonial meal that honors those who have served or now serve as your state organization leaders.

Although I did not win a prized pig in the auction, I was awestruck by number and quality of projects supported by ASTEF, a most impressive foundation. What an accomplishment for Texas!

From the welcome basket in my room to my treasured James Avery rose cross, I have lovely reminders of the time I spent with my Texas sisters.

As you know, Texas and her members hold a special place in my heart. I treasure the friends, new and old, that I have in the great state of Texas.

*Beth Schieber, SW Regional Director*

# Changes blow through Wichita

The winds of change blew through Wichita, Kansas, for the Southwest Regional Conference. Dr. Lyn Schmid, International President, challenged Beth Schieber, SW Regional Director, to organize an innovative conference and celebrate change.

Some changes are traditional such as the presentation of the incoming and outgoing state presidents with their state banners. Once that practice was completed, subtle changes were apparent. Members from all states were more involved in the general sessions. This led to a more member-centered conference.



Salethia Morris brought an inspiration and spoke at the US Forum

Instead of having Kansas Night filled with entertainers on stage, members created their own entertainment by leisurely listening to a jazz band, interacting with old west costumed characters, sampling different food products of Kansas and observing folk characters tell about forgotten arts of an earlier time in Kansas.



Marilyn Gregory, incoming TSO president & Nancy Newton, outgoing TSO president

Nancy Newton was on the phone again.



Nancy Newton (Photograph courtesy of Photographs by Jim, Floresville, TX)

She made a call to Mamie Sue Bastian, the DKG founder who organized the Birthday Luncheon or Celebration Luncheon as it is now called. She and Nancy had a very pleasant conversation that included Nancy congratulating her on her many accomplishments. The



Betsy Gonzales...Laura Packard...Andi Kirby with Kansas pioneers

fun loving Bastian wanted Nancy to describe the table decorations. Nancy dutifully detailed the beautiful sunflowers in boots that brightened the room. The mood changed as the founder pointed out that roses should be used at the Birthday Luncheon. Nancy assured her that the decorations were appropriate, but someone from the decorating committee was listening. The next day, roses appeared along with the sunflowers.



Deborah Payne, Cathy Criner, Jennifer Stanfield singing the DKG song adapted to different tunes.

Music is always an important part of any DKG event. This year's music was under the direction of Deborah Payne. She was aided by many Texas musicians from instrumentalists to vocalists. Usually events begin or end with the members singing The Delta Kappa Gamma Song. Instead of the traditional version of the song, Deborah, Cathy Criner and Jennifer Stanfield from Kansas sang adapted versions to the tune of well-known songs, such as "Ain't We Got Fun," at each session.

Rather than a formal banquet the last night of the conference, organizers had a Boots and Bling event. With no guidance other than the name, members were encouraged to show off their interpretation of boots and bling. The result was a wonderfully eclectic and fun time. It was definitely a change from the traditional banquet.



Sharon Daugherty in her boots and bling