

Lone Star News

Official Publication of the Texas State Organization



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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International ~ Key Women Educators

Fall 2021

DKG unusual among organizations

Michelle Grandinetti

Educators join many organizations specific to the content they teach or the position they hold. For example, an administrator would be a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. A science teacher would join the National Science Teachers Association. A nurse might join the American Nurses Association. These organizations are valuable because they provide new information and ideas that increase content knowledge and skills.

Membership in Delta Kappa Gamma, however, is unique among educator organizations. Delta Kappa Gamma is about the educator herself. DKG is about the person and the profession she chose. She comes to a chapter with experiences and knowledge from years of training and practice, or she comes as a new educator. She might also be a wife, mother, caregiver, and have other interests that she pursues. In her chapter, she can merge these parts into one place and bond with fellow educators in a non-judgmental, supportive, encouraging and caring environment. She can grow as an educator, express her talents and develop confidence and leadership acumen. DKG is unique because it recognizes each member's unique qualities and endeavors to encourage her growth as an educator and person. Other educator organizations will support her profession, but membership in DKG will promote her professionally and personally because she is unique, just like DKG.

Catherine Davis served DKG with excellence



Catherine Davis

Catherine Smith Davis was TSO President from 2005 to 2007. She began her teaching career in New Orleans working with elementary children and later moved to Houston to take a position as a librarian. Catherine left education briefly to become a paralegal/secretary and volunteered at a crisis hotline. Here she met George, the love of her life.

In 1982, when Catherine was a curriculum coordinator and librarian in Cleveland, she was initiated into DKG. She served in various leadership capacities in TSO, including area coordinator, recording secretary, first vice president and president in 2005-2007. As TSO President, Catherine used the theme *Excellence: A Roadmap to Success*, and one of the highlights of her biennium was to purchase, furnish and establish the state headquarters in Dallas.

Internationally, Catherine served on the DKG Golden Gift Committee and the Constitution Committee. Later she would be chair of the DKG Constitution Committee that revised the Society governing documents.

Catherine always emphasized the honor of membership in the Society and how special it was to her. She said that it meant she was a better person, a stronger leader, a wiser woman and a recognized key woman educator.

Through DKG, church and teaching, Catherine made friends all over the world and developed lifelong relationships. Eventually, Catherine and George established their home in Fredericksburg, where they continued to serve in their church and enjoyed time with friends and family. Catherine passed away on April 24, 2021.

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Shalan Inmon
Texas State President
2021-2023

Let's go on a journey

Let's go on a journey — not a trip or a vacation, but a journey. It does not matter the method of travel. The Texas State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma is invited to go on a journey.

Which way will TSO go? A compass can provide the direction that chapters and members will take. The goals serve as the compass points for the 2021-2023 biennium.

GOALS

- NURTURE Develop relationships with current and new members
- SERVE Give of your time to others
- EDUCATE Promote the purposes and mission of DKG to others
- WONDER Dream, Ask, Reflect

The TSO executive committee, committee chairs, committee members and area coordinators are anticipating a journey forward. TSO state personnel have agreed to serve the membership on the road to developing strong chapters that intentionally develop relationships with new and current members. In addition, state personnel are prepared to listen and care about the chapters and members in all eighteen areas of TSO. Promotion of the Society's mission and purposes provides a road map for the journey of educating members about our rich heritage. Finally, the state personnel expect to experience pitfalls and potholes on the journey, but by reflecting on the past and dreaming about the future, these problems can be overcome.

Prepare for a journey with superhighways and clear weather.

Prepare for a journey with potholes and torrential rains or maybe even snow and ice.

Prepare for a journey with laughter and tears.

Prepare for a journey with questions and answers or maybe questions with NO answers.

Prepare for a journey with uncomfortable stops.

Prepare for a journey with amazing views.

Prepare for a journey together.

Grab a compass and your friends.... Let's go.

FROM THE HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Navigating the TSO website

Members often need information about the Texas State Organization, and one of the easiest ways to find it is to become acquainted with the restructured TSO website. Information is found by clicking a menu link and reading the listed headings.



- 1 Begin the website tour by typing in www.dkgtexas.org to find the navigation bar that leads to all information and the search box that keeps you from getting lost.



HOME ABOUT US COMMITTEES RESOURCES UPCOMING EVENTS ASTEF INTERNATIONAL

- 2 Hover over each of the links. Which link contains the Treasurer's Page?
 - Which 3 help documents on that page are most useful right now?
- 3 Information may be found by more than one method. It may be displayed on the home page, sighted by clicking on a link or revealed through the search box. Use all three methods to find the Denton Breakout Sessions.
 - Under what link are they located?
 - What is listed from the Treasurers' Session?
- 4 Open the Committees Page.
 - Which Guidelines are found there?
 - What are two Special Committees?
- 5 Go to the ASTEF site from the TSO site.
 - What is the location of the next Weekender?
- 6 Find the direct link to the International site.
 - Sign in and verify personal contact information
- 7 Submit discoveries to TSO Executive Secretary, tsosecretary29@gmail.com, by November 1. All eligible entries will be entered into a drawing for a gift card.
- 8 Cross your fingers and hope that your name will be drawn for a gift card.

Deadlines at a Glance

- Sept 1 Int'l drops for non-payment of dues
- Nov 1 Cornet App
- Fall Mini Grant
- 2022 STAR app
- Early Bird submission
- LSN deadline
- Nov 8 State Survey released
- Nov 15 IRS 990 N
- Nov 22 State Survey due

Highlights	
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Committee Meetings

ASTEF Board (Zoom)	Sept 17-19
Executive Board (Zoom)	Oct 1-3
Membership (Zoom)	Oct 23
EEC (Zoom)	Oct 23

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www.dkg.org

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

TSO members excited to meet in person



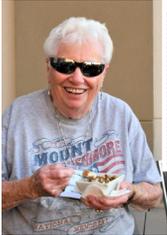
Two vertical green walls made up of 1,752 plants

The Embassy Suites in Denton, Texas, was an excellent location for the TSO Convention. Members quickly noticed the smart lights and the Bluetooth mirror in the rooms. However, they might not have realized that the hotel won awards in environmental sustainability. Solar panels on the roof supplied 20% of the hotel's energy use, while the three beehives helped pollinate all of the live plants that surrounded the hotel. An eco-friendly living wall reduced noise levels and improved energy efficiency by moderating indoor temperatures and humidity levels. The oxygen produced by the plants is equivalent to that produced by 16 fourteen-foot-tall trees.

Linda Russell, Charlotte Nyman, Bonnie Moore, Risa McCann and Darlene Hargett



Texas Woman's University was close to the convention center. It provided the opportunity to visit the Woman's Collection, browse through the files in chapter archive boxes and see treasures on display.



Kathryn Wright

Lou Hitt, Carolyn Adkins



The space was quiet and orderly at TWU, but as members began to assemble on the hotel patio for the Leadership Seminar ice cream social, the fun and fellowship began. Friends enjoyed seeing and interacting with each other as much as eating ice cream.



Madeline Gill



Created for a design class, this dress made of paper back book pages was actually worn.



Janet Helmcamp, Linda Yates, Diane Moose

Thursday, members began to focus on the convention's business with sign-ins for presenters, VIPs and hostesses. Members also had the opportunity

Donna Carver, Laura McQuerry



to register and donate gift cards for the TSO Unifying Project to benefit Denton County CASA units. Members gave \$6,150 in gift cards.



M.J. Tykoski, Liz Garrett

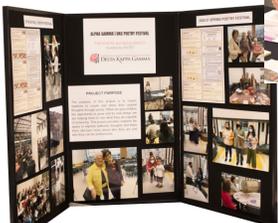


Teresa Howard, Peggy Clayton, Janis Besselaar



Charlotte Nyman, Rhonda Posey, ASTEF President, Carolyn Grantham Past ASTEF President.

ASTEF was active throughout the convention. Board members were promoting raffles, auctions and travel opportunities to help fund the project stipends that provide opportunities for children and teachers. The ASTEF Ticketed Event featuring Johnny Quinn, former Olympic bobsledder and professional football player, raised \$7,975



toward the stipends for 2022. ASTEF awarded 18 project stipends totaling over \$20,000 for 2021.



Kelli Whiteside, Charlotte Mathler, Mandy Grubbs



ASTEF Board Members Elke Eisenhower, Kitty Hutchcroft, Janet Helmcamp, Sherri Davenport and Risa McCann introduce Quinn.



Johnny Quinn, Virginia Bowers



Nancy Newton, Marilyn Gregory, Jo Murphy

After two years of planning and promoting, ASTEF was finally able to celebrate its 10th birthday.



Terry Dennis admiring student artwork

Cindy Neander, Gail Herring, Lynda Anderson, Charlotte Nyman, Barbara Derrick, Rhonda Posey



The Women in the Arts Committee proudly displayed Denton ISD student artwork and held an art show to display member art.



Katherine Bunce with her watercolor paintings



Ellen Sablan Theta Mu

Members eagerly shopped for treasures and bought chances on a quilt to help a chapter's fundraiser.



Pat Osborne, TSO Legislative Chair; Brock Gregg, TRTA Associate Director; Ella Gauthier TRTA 2nd VP/Public Relations

Dee Ann Archer



The legislative committee hosted Brock Gregg, TRTA Associate Director, to talk to members about what TRTA does to support and advocate for retired teachers.

One purpose of a convention is to conduct necessary business for the Texas State Organization. Members of the executive board, including chapter presidents, were given Texas flags to identify who was casting a vote.



Patti's Key Players (area coordinators) helped with the organization and count.



Debra Mahlmann, Betty Hill



Patti Belknap



Workshops covered a wide range of topics, from the homespun humor of the Pioneer Women to the inside scoop on applying for a project stipend to the science behind the Greek letters ΔΚΓ.



Kerry James



MJ Tykoski

The joyful sounds of the Texas State Chorus reminded everyone that "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now."



Norma Jost, Venita Blake, music chair



At the Celebration of Life and Remembrance, the Necrology Committee celebrated the lives of 184 TSO members. In addition, JoAnn Brooks, Carolyn Grantham and Corlea Plowman remembered past TSO Presidents Mary Frances Rowlette, Sandy Whitney and Catherine Davis.



JoAnn Brooks, Carolyn Grantham, Corlea Plowman



Denise Charleston, accompanist

2019-2021 TSO President Patti Belknap passed the gavel to Shalan Inmon, the incoming TSO President for 2021-2023. The new state theme becomes

JOURNEY
Which way will you go?



Patti Belknap, Shalan Inmon

Connections key to maintaining membership

The Texas State Organization convention was a success. Members streamed into the hotel eagerly anticipating a reunion of Texas members, and they were not disappointed. Attendees laughed, hugged and felt at ease as the feeling of the familiar returned to them. Patti Belknap, 2019-2021 TSO President, watched at the end of the convention as all Texas members stood, held hands and sang *The Delta Kappa Gamma Song* with enthusiasm. Tears came to her eyes as she realized that members had connected with friends, the Purposes of DKG and the Texas State Organization.

The importance of making connections was one of the themes in both the TSO Denton Convention and the DKG San Antonio Conference.

Chris Coladonato, featured speaker at the Denton convention, asked the question, “Why, if human beings who are essentially social in nature and are wired to be connected, are chapter memberships declining?” Her simple answer was that connections happen in environments that facilitate interactions among people. Therefore, she encouraged members to work to create environments where members build connections moment by moment.



Chris Coladonato

Creating welcoming environments can be accomplished in three ways:

- First, creating occasions for members to connect is a necessity. They may use existing opportunities before meetings, during a break or during a social gathering to learn about one another’s lives.
- Second, taking time to stay connected to others is essential. When people do not see each other daily, relationships can be complicated. What kind of activities can keep members connected when they are not coming together for a planned meeting?
- Third, making personal connections is imperative. Individuals have to be open, interested and present. They must listen to what others are saying and share ideas, insights and interests. Personal connections create moments that individuals remember and cherish.

Wendy Gates Corbett extended this idea in her message in San Antonio. She equates the sense of connection to a feeling of belonging. For years, Corbett struggled with this and finally realized that belonging comes from a sense of security and support from feeling accepted, included, and part of something larger than herself. As she contemplated this idea, she isolated three themes that run through an individual’s need to connect or belong: connect, respect and protect.



Wendy Gates Corbett

When people feel connected, they show genuine interest toward others and empower them to empower others. The connection may include sharing stories, remembering details about others’ lives, greeting others with a smile, asking for input or opinion, inviting them to join a conversation, and generally including them in chapter leadership. These things can build a connection between individuals and the organization as a whole.

Members want to be respected by others for their time, talents, contributions and commitment. Individuals are encouraged to ask others with a particular talent for help, positively acknowledge input and listen to the contributions of others. Disagreements over issues will happen, but those involved still treat each other with respect.

Finally, individuals need to know that their hearts and spirit are protected. If members feel ignored, dismissed, excluded, or confidentially betrayed or passed on as gossip, they will cease to infuse energy into a connection.

DKG members who have experienced “genuine spiritual fellowship” get a sense of belonging to one another and the organization. These members have the opportunity to renew that same feeling of connection, respect and protection at each meeting and extend it to new members through their examples.

ASTEFL congratulates 2021 - 2021 Project Stipend recipients

Alpha-7	ESL and ELL Strategies for Student Success*	\$2500
Lambda-8	Helping Homeless Students	\$1500
Sigma-1	DKG, Sigma Chapter - Lending Library	\$1875
Phi-1	Welcome to the World of Teaching Mentoring Project	\$855
Omega-13	Make Kindness Normal	\$938
Beta Epsilon-12	Take Along Bags	\$375
Beta Upsilon-10	New Teacher Grant	\$600
Eta Alpha-11	Continued Service to Children and Families in Crisis	\$500
Eta Zeta-9	Trojans Post-Secondary Preparatory Success Class	\$602
Theta Epsilon-12	Mental Health Matters	\$1938
Theta Iota-15	Leading with Literacy	\$1000
Iota Epsilon-18	The Writing is on the Wall	\$250
Kappa Lambda-7	Beyond the Textbook #3	\$1600
Lambda Gamma-18	Sharing Love with the Owens Jackrabbits	\$1200
Lambda Sigma-4	Thanks for Teachers Snack Bags	\$500
Mu Zeta-5	College Awareness Program	\$620
Mu Iota-2	Increasing Teacher Retention	\$500
Mu Upsilon-2	DNA at their Fingertips	\$1240

(Complete descriptions are available at www.astef.org.)

* First recipient of the ASTEF Founding Directors Project Stipend



Action required to preserve chapter archives

Chapters need to preserve their past. Members can journey through their yearbooks, minutes, newsletters and membership information to gather important information needed for their chapter history.

Chapters store their materials in many places within the chapter. Since archival material is best preserved when stored in a climate-controlled environment, the committee recommends that chapters make sure that the chapter history for each year or biennium is recorded either in an outline or a summary every seven years. The material may then be gathered and given to a TSO Archives Committee Member.

A member of the TSO Archives Committee will take these documents to the Texas Woman's University Blagg-Huey Library for storage in the DKG Section of the Woman's Area. Chapters may contact an archives committee member if help is needed.



Chapter boxes stored at TWU in a climate-controlled room.



DKG Symbols: STEM Style

M.J. Tykoski, Nu Gamma

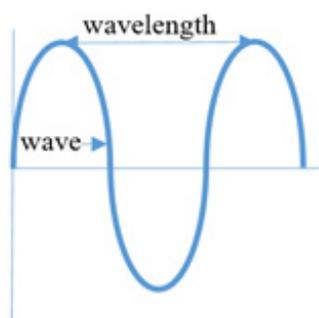
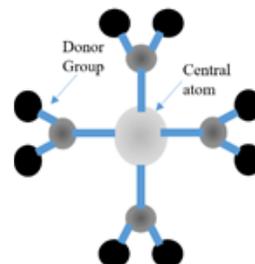
When I first started my Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) journey five years ago, it was hard hearing the Greek letters “ $\Delta\text{K}\Gamma$ ” and associating them with an Honorary Professional Educational Society. As a Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) teacher, when I hear Greek letters my mind immediately jumps to the quantitative values that the Greek letter stands for in various formulae and calculations. Now though, I’ve come to realize that there are amazing connections between those science concepts and what DKG stands for.

In science, Delta (Δ) stands for “change.” For example, the change in temperature during the day is portrayed as ΔT (T = temperature). To calculate this, we take the final temperature of the day, subtract the initial temperature, and this yields ΔT . We can have Δ for other calculations too, like a Δv for a change in velocity or a Δa for a change in acceleration.

How does this apply to our organization? We are going through a period of change in education and our group. We are bringing in new members to our Society, and technology is creeping into our meetings. Schools have changed leaps and bounds just in the past few years. Covid changed our classrooms forever. Education and our organization are changing as we push through the first quarter of the 21st century.

Kappa (K) is a value in chemistry. The K value is related to denticity. Denticity is the number of groups that attach to a central atom. If there is a central atom that has four groups attached to it, the K value is four.

In our organization, we are all involved with education. The teacher is the central atom. Then, there are all the different roles that a teacher plays... counselor, tech support, test writer and budget guru, just to name a few. Those roles are like the groups attached to the central atom. In other words, a teacher’s Kappa value is very high because of the different roles we play every day!



Lastly, we have Gamma (Γ). Gamma rays are part of the electromagnetic spectrum. The electromagnetic spectrum consists of all the different types of light in the universe, including light we can’t see with our eyes. What differentiates one type of light from another is the wavelength. The wavelength is the distance from one crest of a wave to the next. The shorter the wavelength, the higher the energy of light. Gamma rays have the shortest wavelength and the highest energy in the spectrum. Gamma ray energy is so high that even a few seconds of exposure to it is fatal to humans.

Gamma rays are high energy, and anyone who has been a teacher knows that teachers must have a lot of energy to keep up with this profession. Teachers are full of high energy as we work with our students and our Society.

When all of these are put together, Delta Kappa Gamma ($\Delta\text{K}\Gamma$) means we are changing (Δ) our organization, while playing many roles (K), and doing it with high energy (Γ). This means, even when looking at DKG from a STEM perspective, it still reflects the founding principles of our Society.

ASTE F announces 2021-2023 officers in Denton

The ASTEF Annual Meeting was held during the 2021 TSO Convention in Denton. At that meeting, newly elected officers were announced. They include:

Dr. Rosemary Morrow, Alpha (Austin-7), president; **Janie Wigley**, Gamma Eta (Allen-12), vice president advancement; **Nelle Gentry**, Alpha Gamma (Cleburne-10), vice president finance/administration; **Debbi Ball**, Gamma Eta (Spur-12), vice president marketing/public relations; **Janet Helmcamp**, Alpha Gamma (Cleburne-10), vice president programs/projects; **Risa McCann**, Mu Pi (Kingwood-18), secretary.



Dr. Rosemary Morrow
President



Janie Wigley
VP Advancement

Also, during the meeting seven new ASTEF Directors were elected to the Board for 2021-2027. These include **Pat Bumpus**, Omicron (Dickenson-3); **Joanne Davis** Beta Zeta, (Fredericksburg-6); **Connie Hernandez** Mu Kappa, (El Paso-15); **Trudy Matus** Mu Upsilon, (Lumberton-2); **Dr. Lisa Rogers** Tau, (Waco-8); **Deborah Shidemantle** Iota Lambda, (Texarkana-17); **Suzanne Stidom** Iota Lambda, (Arlington-10).



ASTE F honors founding directors

ASTE F Founding Directors **Jean Webb**, **Evelyn Barron**, **Lee Bourg**, **Sandi Causey**, **Dr. Vicki Davis**, **Ruth Hull** and **Betty Vines** were honored at the Denton Convention with the naming of the Founding Directors Project Stipend to be given each year. The first Founding Directors Project Stipend was awarded to Alpha Chapter, Area 7, for their project “ESL and ELL Strategies for Student Success.” The project will provide future teachers with strategies to prepare to take the English as a Second Language Supplemental TExES certification exam.



Nelle Gentry
VP Finance/
Administration



Debbi Ball
VP Marketing/
Public Relations



Janet Helmcamp
VP Programs/
Projects



Risa McCann
Secretary



Alpha (Austin-7) received the first stipend named for ASTEF Founding Directors

Founding Directors

Top row:
Betty Vines
Dr. Vicki Davis
Sandi Causey
Evelyn Barron

Bottom row right:
Ruth Hull

Not pictured:
Lee Bourg
Jean Webb (deceased)

Alpha Chapter
representatives
Bottom row
left: Laura Ewing
middle: Mary Kevorkian



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 April 1, 2021 and August 15, 2021. 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.dkgtexas.org under Committees - Necrology.

Marilyn Van Way, Gamma-3, Houston
 Billie Yvonne Ashburn, Psi-9, Houston
 Dixie L. Tucker, Alpha Phi-4, Shiner
 Joyce Davis Clark, Delta Lambda-4, Galveston
 Mabel Marie Stringer, Delta Xi-11, Dimmitt
 Maurine Elise Atwood, Epsilon Kappa-7, Oklahoma City
 Aida Cordero Dyer, Epsilon Psi-3, Crosby
 Carol Ann Hensley, Theta Lambda-18, Missouri City
 Doris Givens, Theta Mu-14, Marlin
 Virginia Lee Wofford, Iota Epsilon-18, Spring
 Susan Mead Geddes, Iota Omega-9, Plano
 Margaret Hunter, Kappa Pi-1, Brownsboro
 Claudia Murphy, Lambda Iota-7, Austin
 Shirley Renfrow, Lambda Sigma-4, Missouri City

Included in the 2021, Volume 87-4 of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin* (Collegial Exchange):

- **Dr. Theresa R. Kauffman**, Alpha Gamma (Joshua-10), article “The Inspiration of Sir Ken Robinson: A Paradigm Shift Worth Considering for Schools”

Marylin Nease, Delta Omicron (Dallas-9) has works displayed in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts:

- “I Don’t Get Upset About Anything”
- “One Season to Another”

ASTEF Weekender

The next ASTEF Weekender will be in Tyler, in Northeast Texas, on April 22-24, 2022. Weekender participants will explore historic parts of Tyler, celebrate the beautiful scenery, and learn about the “Rose Capital of America,” also called the “Rose Capital of the World.” The Weekender will begin on Friday

evening with a welcome dinner and reception and continue with exploration of the city on Saturday.

Member News

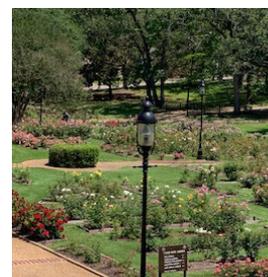


Dr. Barbara ten Brink, Alpha (Austin-7), had her new children’s book *Miss Claus and Her Bunnies* released on Amazon.

Dr. Lorena Zertuche, Zeta Tau (Spring Branch-18), will serve as the 2021-2022 Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA) President.

Included in the 2021, Volume 87-3 of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin* (Journal):

- **Dr. Sonja Ezell**, Nu Delta (Plano-9), article “Literacy Learning Communities: Meeting the Needs of All Learners”
- **Dr. Susan Szabo**, Beta Lambda (Commerce-17), article “Examining the Relationship between Reading and Writing Student Expectations as Tested on STARR in Grades 4 and 7”
- **Dr. Deborah J. Williams**, Nu Delta (Frisco-9), article “Steen Library: Birthplace of an Undergraduate Research Collaboration”



Rose Garden in August
 Photo: cityoftyler.org

The Weekender will conclude after lunch on Sunday. More information and registration can be found at www.astef.org. Deadline for registration is March 19, 2022. Participation is limited to 50.



Miranda Lambert rose in full bloom in August
 Photo: cityoftyler.org



Fifty-year members recognized in Denton

Fifteen members of the Texas State Organization chose to be honored at a reception and recognized at the Celebration Brunch in Denton for their 50 or more years of membership in DKG. They were presented a red rose and certificate by members of the TSO Membership Committee.



Gail Bumpus 51



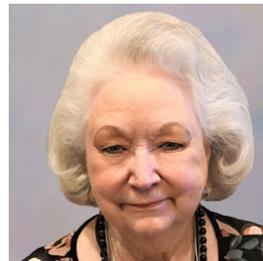
Sharon Daugherty 54



Bobbie Duncan 53



Myrle Duncan 50



Billie Ebersol 52



Elva Garcia 55



Jacquetta Graves 55



Carol Horton 50



Bradley Sue Howell 51



Ruth Hull 61



Mary Kevorkian 59



Judy Norris 52



Wanda Spoonmore 57



Mary Ann Waldon 58



Pat Wicker 50

Leadership Seminar Class of 2021

Top: Lisa Rogers, Ulana Ratley, Kaylyn Anderson, Terry Dreibelbis, Lezli Collins, Debbie Neighbors, Ja'Neen Jones, Mary-Ethelyn Bosarge, Melissa Mathews, Anna Bergstrom

Middle: Jeri Larrison-Hall, Twylah Beaty, Anisha Razo, BJ Taylor, Anita Callaway, Janie Stone, Monica Fortenberry, Liz Garrett

Bottom: Denese Wolff-Hilliard, Debbie Shidemantle, Norma Jost, Brenda Lozano, Hilda Diaz, Naomi Molina de Wood, Whitney Jones

Texas State Organization 2021 Leadership Seminar



Committees encourage members to be involved



Membership

A gardener accesses the environment, makes plans, prepares for what is and can be, plants seeds, weeds out the negative, nourishes regularly, follows up routinely and never takes anything for granted. Gardeners do not expect roses without genuine care of their production.

Similarly, a chapter needs to realize that keeping member relationships strong is a process. Members must invest the time at each meeting getting to know, understand and appreciate each other. The membership webpage on www.dkgtxas.org has many articles that offer ways to encourage members with relationship-building activities.



Women in the Arts

Women in the Arts continues to present fun and informative sessions on the Zoom platform. Attendees have created paintings, drawings, felt flowers, seasonal decorations, decoupage, wind chimes, and many other items. The Women in the Arts Committee invites women to join the sessions by emailing a request to brenda122446@gmail.com. Even members who do not consider themselves “crafty” can have fun and learn much in these sessions. Dates and supply lists are emailed at least one or two weeks in advance. All sessions are recorded and can be accessed later by going to the WIA committee webpage and selecting STAR. Many participants post photos of their creations on the STAR Facebook page. Members who have the know-how to direct the completion of an art or craft project are encouraged to teach a Zoom session.



Mary Griffin's session on drinking straw flowers

WIA has scheduled The Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat at Camp Allen on the Martin Luther King weekend of January 14-16, 2022. Attendees spend the time creating, visiting and laughing. There is currently a waiting list; however, many on this list have been able to attend in the past. Organizers have posted information and an application on the WIA webpage.



Personal & Professional Enrichment

Chapters are always thinking of ways to increase membership. One way to accomplish this is to plan programs that can be easily adapted for Continuing Professional Education or CPE credits at chapter meetings. Talented educators or presenters within the chapter or local community can deliver an informative, engaging session as a program for CPE credit. The networking possibilities are endless.

The Personal & Professional Enrichment Committee has an application for CPE credit on the Personal & Professional Enrichment Committee webpage on the TSO website.

Whether for CPE credit, special interest, or Society Business, the PPE committee encourages members to begin thinking about presenting a workshop at the TSO Convention in Lubbock in June of 2022. Lisa Yates, Lisa_Yates_DKG@outlook.com, has additional information.

Committees from page 12



Research

Chapters are always looking for programs that members will enjoy. The research committee suggests going to a local cemetery and searching for past DKG members, visiting the local hall of records at city hall looking for buildings named for DKG members or browsing the local library to find books written by DKG members. Members can check the research committee webpage to determine if those members are on current lists. Names may be added to these list by submitting them on forms available on the webpage.



Technology

The Denton Convention used technology to connect to others. For example, Cyndy Moore, DKG International Member-at-Large, presented virtually through Zoom during the opening and two breakout sessions. During the convention, Moore's home country of Canada was not allowing citizens to travel outside of the country unless it was determined to be essential travel. Using technology to include Moore added to the success of the convention. Her contributions were felt and appreciated even from a distance.

As leadership starts a new biennium, TSO can anticipate more opportunities to utilize technology. The technology committee is ready to support chapters with innovative ways to collaborate.



Cindy Moore via Zoom

Finally, as members begin the 2021-2022 school year, they may want to visit www.controlaltachieve.com. An educator is the author of this website. He provides free Google Suite support resources through it. Chapters that use Google Suite products may find this site helpful.



Nominations

Now is the time for chapters to start identifying chapter leaders for 2022-2024. To ensure the continuation of leadership, the chapter nomination committee will find it beneficial to begin working at least six months before elections on building a full slate of officers. The committee can examine chapter rules to determine what officers the chapter uses, the duties of each position, the deadline to present a slate of officers to the chapter and how to conduct the election.

The nominations committee may work with all chapter members to select likely candidates and begin to mentor them. All members can encourage and educate the candidates in understanding the roles they will be accepting.

TSO Nominations Chair Kerry James, aphi68@aol.com, is available to answer member questions anytime during the year.

TSO Achievement Award Committee recognizes members

Each year the Achievement Awards Committee solicits nomination forms, then selects and recognizes members who have rendered outstanding service to Texas State Organization. Two awards, the State Achievement Award and the Golden Rose Award can be given depending on the contributions made by the nominee.

The Golden Rose Award is designated for those members who have given years of service at the state level through workshop participation, committee work and attendance at Delta Kappa Gamma conventions. The 2021 recipients of the Golden Rose Award include **Lavonne Dennis**, Mu Tau-1; **Jacquetta Graves**, Gamma Epsilon-16; and **Susan G. Smith**, Mu Epsilon-16.



Lavonne Dennis



Jocquetta Graves



Susan Smith

The Texas State Achievement Award is given to a member who has served as a chapter president and completed two or more leadership roles at the state level. The roles would include state officer, state committee chair or co-chair, area coordinator, chair or co-chair of a state convention, as well as ASTEF president, vice president or director. Additionally, the member should have been a workshop leader and have good attendance at area, state, regional and international meetings. The 2021 TSO Achievement Award recipients are **Kelly Broadus**, Iota Pi-10; **Betty Hill**, Alpha Iota-4; **Kerry James**, Alpha Pi-17; **Janie Maldonado**, Alpha-7; **Bonnie Moore**, Eta Delta-3; **Janice Sutton**, Mu Tau-1; and **Janie Wigley**, Gamma Eta-12.



Kelly Broadus



Betty Hill



Kerry James



Janie Maldonado



Bonnie Moore



Janice Sutton



Janie Wigley

Chapters interested in nominating a member for one of these awards are encouraged to read the information and nomination form at www.dkgtexas.org > Committees > Achievement Awards. Because the forms ask for specific information, chapters will find it helpful to start early collecting the necessary material. The final form will be submitted electronically to the Achievement Awards Committee chair, Judy Mezick, at j.mezick@verizon.net. It is due by February 1, 2022.

Contributions make Alpha State Educational Foundation strong

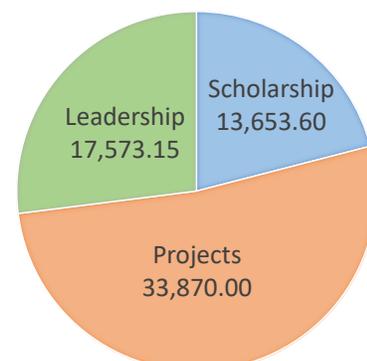
ASTEF applauds DKG TSO members for their contributions during 2020-2021, a challenging time. Contributions continued to make the Foundation strong, and ASTEF appreciates all donations and participation in fundraising activities.

Total giving to each fund included:

- Scholarship: \$13,653.60
- Projects: \$33,870.00
- Leadership: \$17,573.15

These numbers are unaudited and show member giving from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

CONTRIBUTIONS 2020-2021



ASTEFL Directors busy during Denton Convention

ASTEFL was involved in many exciting events during the convention that included awarding Project Stipends, presenting an ASTEF breakout session, hosting the ASTEF Ticketed Event and the Online Auction, and providing the Kendra Scott Pop-Up Store. In addition, the Decade Donor Project leading up to the TSO Convention and other fundraising activities were also successful.

The ASTEF Ticketed Event had an Olympic flair. Johnny Quinn, former Olympic bobsledder and professional football player, spoke to 320 retired and active teachers to share his message on adversity and triumph.



Johnny Quinn



Ashley Zorn

ASTEFL recognized Kendra Scott as the Advocate for Education. Ashley Zorn, Regional Marketing and Philanthropic Manager for North Texas, accepted the award on behalf of Kendra Scott. Following the ticketed event, Ashley Zorn and her team set up a Kendra Scott Pop-Up Store in the exhibit hall, with 20% of the proceeds going to ASTEF.

ASTEFL thanks and appreciates all who participated in ASTEF activities for 2020-2021. The generosity of members makes possible Scholarships, Leadership Seminars, Programs, Aspiring Educator Awards and Project Stipends that impact Texas students and educators in the multiple Texas communities served by DKG members. A gift to ASTEF is a gift that keeps on giving.



ASTEFL awards fourteen Aspiring Educator grants

ASTEFL awards the Aspiring Educator grants to the following women to assist them in completing a degree in education and/or Texas teacher certification. The applicant must not be a member of DKG and must be sponsored by a DKG member in Texas.

\$1,000 Grants

Kelly Bezio (10).....	Western Governor's University, Salt Lake City, Utah
Taylor Coleman (10).....	Texas Tech University, Lubbock
Sarah Douglass (10).....	Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth
Elizabeth Foster (12).....	West Texas A & M University, Canyon
Hanna Hall (18).....	University of North Texas, Denton
Nicole Hoppes (10).....	Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth
BaLeigh Pugh (12).....	Texas Tech University, Lubbock

\$500 Grants

Madison Bolling (10).....	Dallas Baptist University, Dallas
Molli Dickerson (1).....	Texas A & M University, College Station
Catherine Jeffers (1).....	Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches
Charis Jordan (2).....	LeTourneau University, Longview
Faith Sirmons (17).....	Texas A & M University, Texarkana
Nicole Trigo (5).....	Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi
Ashlyn Williams (10).....	Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth



INTERNATIONAL

People are social and need face-to-face relationships

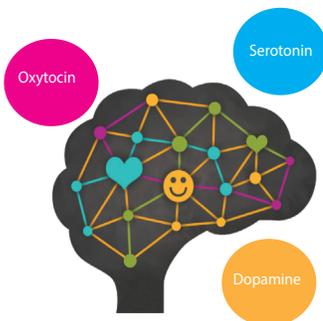
The soft and artistic opening of Dr. Eva-Marie Kangro's presentation in San Antonio was filled with music and the art of ballet. The mood was one of calmness. She later revealed that music and ballet were her passions growing up. When she dances and plays music as an adult, she continually experiences the same feelings of beauty and sharing she had as a child. She remembers the people around her, those who encouraged and supported her passions. She understands the power of connections.

Dr. Kangro is a practicing psychologist in Estonia and has spent years examining human behavior. She recalled the uncertainty of 2020 when the pandemic caused widespread stress among people. Those who survived and succeeded despite the unpredictability of the time had the strength to adapt rather than fight or confront. They did it by creating social connections, staying connected and offering support to others.

Many people believed that technology was the answer to staying connected because people could see each other on a computer screen. However, in reality, it had almost the opposite effect. According to Dr. Kangro, the screen disconnected people from nature, from themselves and from others. An internet connection was not enough to fulfill people's social needs. Whether an extrovert or an introvert, all people need to be cared for, valued and supported by other people in face-to-face relationships.

She further explained that social isolation is one of the strongest predictors of depression. People need the human connection, the frequency of confiding in others, visits with family and friends, and social circles. The influence of social relationships on the risk of death is comparable with smoking and alcohol consumption. It exceeds the risk of physical inactivity.

The brain produces certain chemicals that play a role in experiencing happiness. For example, dopamine makes a person feel pleasure and motivation. This neurotransmitter can be activated by a compliment, a human touch and shared social activities such as dancing, music and eating. Serotonin creates a feeling of satisfaction or importance. This chemical may be activated by positive self-talk, physical activity or laughing. Finally, Oxytocin gives a person feelings of empathy, openness and trust. These feelings come through physical closeness, hugs, social gatherings, giving and receiving compliments, as well as music and dancing.



Think About

- *What was an achievement or joy in your life that has happened thanks to other people?*
- *Who has helped you reach a dream?*
- *Whom would you would like to thank?*
- *When did you last ask someone how they were doing (and mean it?)*
- *When did you last give a sincere compliment?*
- *When did you last laugh from the heart? Who was with you?*

Dr. Kangro says people are social creatures. When conditions are uncertain, humans carry out their natural need for closeness and trust by creating social circles with friendships that make them feel more relaxed and happy. They build these friendships moment by moment. The moments might occur when holding a partner's hands, sitting side by side with a loved one or listening to a colleague sharing a concern. There are no guidelines — just small periods of time individuals feel valued and trusted with each other.