



# Lone Star News



*Texas State Organization*  
*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*  
*Volume 78, Issue 3* *Spring 2025*

## Dr. Stacey Arnold nominee for president for Texas State Organization



**Dr. Stacey Arnold**



**Janet Helmcamp**



**Lynda Anderson**



**Mellie Smithwick**



**Janie Wigley**

The TSO Nominations Committee will present the slate of officers at the June convention to lead the next biennium, 2025 - 2027. They are President, **Dr. Stacey Arnold**, Kappa Lambda - Area 7; 1st Vice President **Janet Helmcamp**, Alpha Gamma, Area 10; 2nd Vice President, **Lynda Anderson**, Zeta Gamma, Area 1; Recording Secretary **Mellie Smithwick**, Beta Pi Chapter, Area 5; and Corresponding Secretary **Janie Wigley**, Gamma Beta Chapter, Area 9.

Stacey has been a DKG member for 37 years. She has served TSO as Recording Secretary and is currently as 2nd Vice President. She believes that all members of DKG possess leadership qualities, and she is a servant leader responsible for empowering others to build their leadership skills. She plans to work with the TSO leadership and members to strengthen relationships, build capacity, and exemplify the Purposes. She believes she is responsible for listening to members and applying “big picture” thinking when working with a team to dream, plan, and carry out improvement plans.

Janet has been a DKG member for 21 years. Janet is currently serving as ASTEF President. She believes that leadership is about empowering members to excel and reach their full potential. She is energetic and invested in TSO virtual training, online resources, and informational meetings. Her leadership is grounded in collaboration, communication, and organizing, and she is committed to identifying and developing the next generation of TSO leaders to continue to build a strong foundation for DKG’s future success.

Lynda’s 43-year commitment to DKG is evident in her dedicated service on many TSO committees. Lynda is currently as Recording Secretary. She has three personal strengths: attention to detail, organization, and listening, which all aid in problem-solving. Lynda desires to inspire and empower young women educators and help TSO evolve to meet the needs of current members while attracting new members.

See nominees page 3

### *Mission Statement:*

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

2023 - 2025 TSO Theme:  
*SOAR to new heights*



Bonnie Moore  
Texas State President  
2023 - 2025

*Seek new members and opportunities*  
*Open your heart, mind, and attitude*  
*Act to serve and share*  
*Reach to renew, respond, and relate*

## What's Left and What's Next??

The 2023-2025 biennium has flown by so quickly and we have enjoyed every minute of it. TSO got new officers, a new Lone Star News Editor and so many programs and projects have been accomplished. Celebratory events have been held, members honored and memorialized and new members have been inducted. TSO and her members have been busy.

What's left for this biennium is for members to register and attend the Denton Convention, June 24-26, 2025. We have important business to take care of and there will be almost 100 breakout sessions for you to learn and grow. Wendy Gates Corbett, our speaker in Waco 2018, is returning to move us forward. Candi Martin, DKG International First Vice President will join us to share what's next for DKG. You also need to attend your chapter meetings and events. Invite prospective members to join you at your meetings and share the love and joy of DKG with them. Help the new women build relationships so they will want to join and stay.

What's next for TSO is the election of our state officers for 2025 - 2027. For you to say yes if you are asked to serve on a state committee. For members to continue reaching out to fellow chapter members and encouraging them to attend meetings and events. Inviting potential members to join your chapter. Participate actively in the programs and projects that TSO, your Region and your chapter are doing. Plan to attend the next TSO Regional Conference on Saturday, June 20, 2026 coming to a location near you. These are just a few of the things that are on TSO's "What's Next" list. Jump in and be a part of all of it.

And lastly, continue to Seek, Open, Act and Reflect. There is so much more we can do if we will just SOAR!

*Bonnie Moore*

### 2023 - 2025 TSO Contacts



**President - Bonnie Moore**

Eta Delta (3)  
bonnie2325tsopres@gmail.com  
281-686-4760

**1st Vice President - Jeanette Rhyan**

Theta Chi (10)  
1STVPTSO@gmail.com

**2nd Vice President - Dr. Stacey Arnold**

Kappa Lambda (7)  
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**Recording Secretary - Lynda Anderson**

Zeta Gamma (1)  
RecSecTSO@gmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary - Judy Mezick**

Kappa Gamma (7)  
CoorSecTSO@gmail.com

**Parliamentarian - Mellie Smithwick**

Beta Pi (5)  
ParlimTSO@gmail.com

**Immediate Past President - Shalan Inmon**

Alpha Sigma (12)  
shalaninmon@gmail.com

**ASTEF President - Janet Helmcamp**

Alpha Gamma (10)  
astefpresident23.25@gmail.com

**Executive Secretary - Leesa Cole**

Delta Omicron (9)  
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**Editor/Photographer - Connie Hernandez**

Mu Kappa (15)  
lonestarnewstx@gmail.com

**Webmaster - Debbi Ball**

Gamma Eta (12)  
dkgtexas@gmail.com

## 95th TSO Convention offers many experiences

Convention Chair - Lezli Collins, Co-Chairs - Terri Stretcher and Mandy Story as well as countless volunteers are putting the finishing touches to make convention a memorable experience for all attendees. The convention logo honors nearby Air Force Bases in Areas 10 and 16. Candi Martin, DKG International First Vice President will be our International Representative. Exceptional speakers Wendy Gates Corbett and Dave Lieber are sure to provide an informative and enlightening experience. From outstanding breakout session, trainings to fellowship and networking with fellow members, convention is the place to be. Most importantly the highlight will be the installation of our new Texas State Organization Leadership.



Candi Martin  
International  
First Vice President

## The TSO Nominations Committee continued.....

As a Registered Parliamentarian and current TSO Parliamentarian, Mellie's training will serve TSO as an excellent Recording Secretary with the understanding that meeting agendas, minutes, and parliamentary procedure all overlap. She is organized and dedicated to implementing and promoting TSO's strategic plan of action

As a Coordinator for Area 12 and later in Area 9, Janie prioritized communication in the chapters in those Areas. Her experiences have refined her ability in collaboration and the necessity for clear, consistent communication. Her dedication to timely emails will help with seamless information dissemination. Janie currently serves as ASTEF Secretary.

## Nominating Committee presents nominees for 2025-2027 elected committees

The Texas State Organization Nominating Committee presented the following names for the Nominations and the Finance Committees:

### NOMINATIONS:

Judy Evans, Chair, Area 12

Dede Drexler, Area 3

Barbara Coon, Area 3

Mary Griffin, Area 5

Betty Hill, Area 4

Charlotte Nyman, Area 17

Janice Sutton, Area 1

Lisa Yates, Area 8

### FINANCE:

Ellen Laughlin, Area 3

Sharon Mc Dougle, Area 12

Debbie McGee, Area 18

If the amendment passes:

Pamela Phillips, Area 10



**95th TSO Convention 2025**  
**Tuesday, June 24 - Thursday, June 26, 2025**  
**Denton, Texas**  
**Embassy Suites & Convention Center**

**More hotels available open for Convention**



**Deadlines to Remember**

**April 1, 2025**

- Contributions to ELC & ASTEF due for recognition in convention program
- Members in Print & Media Recognition Nominations

**April 15, 2025**

- 2025 Convention Program information

**May 1, 2025**

- All reports for 2025 Convention Program information
- Cornetet Application
- Five Star Newsletter

**May 1, 2025**

- 2025 Convention Registration

**June 30, 2025**

- Dues to Chapter Treasurer
- Fiscal Year Ends / Last Day for Biennium



**Hilton Garden Inn**

3110 Colorado Blvd. Denton  
about 10 minutes from the  
Embassy Suites.

The rate is \$139 + \$8 for  
breakfast (\$147) and a 2% fee.  
Click on the link below to make  
your reservations.

[Hilton Garden Inn](#)

**Group Code is 92N**



**Hampton Inn and Suites**

1513 Centre Place Drive

Group Name:

Delta Kappa Gamma

Rate Code : DKG

[Booking link](#)

**Information about visiting TSO Archives**

Our TSO Archives in the TWU Library's Women's Collection will be available for visits during the Denton Convention on June 23, 24, and 25 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. You will be responsible for your own transportation to and from the Library location on the TWU campus. For more information, download the [Archives News to Know](#) document.

To facilitate staffing and spacing, individuals and/or chapters who desire to visit the TSO Collection should complete the information at this link: [Visit to Archives Registration](#)

**Convention Registration:**

The Convention Registration (fillable) Form is available on the TSO website under the Events/Convention section.

<https://www.dkgtexas.org/2025-convention-denton.html>

The print and mail-in version is located in this edition of the *Lone Star News* on page 6.



Texas State Organization Headquarters Building

**Texas Organization Headquarters Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 797787, Dallas, TX 75379-7787

**Physical Address:** 6220 Campbell Road Suite 204,  
Dallas, TX 75248

Phone: Office 972-930-9945 / Fax 972.447.0471



# Convention at a Glance

## Monday, June 23

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

TSO Executive Committee Mtg.  
Vendor Set Up  
Registration Open

## Tuesday, June 24

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Vendor Set Up/ Visual Arts Displays/ Displays/  
ASTEFL Events/Set up for all needs

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration Open

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Vendors Open

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Chorus Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

AC Training

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Committee Chairs

12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Box Lunches Available

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Presidents' Training

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Treasurers' Training

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Chorus Rehearsal

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

First Timer's Session

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Flag Rehearsal

5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Leadership Seminar Reunion

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Opening Session and Keynote

## Wednesday, June 25

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration Open

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

ASTEFL Business Mtg.

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Vendors Open

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Recognition of 50+ year members

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Birthday Luncheon

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

ASTEFL Ticketed Event

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Vendors Open

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

5:00 p.m.

Necrology Practice and Set Up

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Vendors Take Down

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Chorus Rehearsal

State Personnel Dinner \*All State Leaders Invited

## Thursday, June 26

7:45 a.m. - 8:10 a.m.

Chorus Rehearsal

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Necrology Service

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

TSO Business Meeting

\*All State Leaders Required Attendance

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Box Lunches Available

12:20 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Outgoing & Incoming ACs

12:20 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Outgoing & Incoming Comm. Chairs

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Chorus Rehearsal

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Installation Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception

6:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Founders' Banquet and Installation of Officers

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Texas State Organization Convention  
Denton, June 24-26, 2025**

All members must register. Please use one form per member. Only one form is necessary for a member with a guest. To avoid late fee, registration must be postmarked on or before May 15th. No meals may be ordered after June 1st. Address registration questions to Terrie Cardwell at 713-208-4923 or [tcardwell003@comcast.net](mailto:tcardwell003@comcast.net). Mail completed form to Terrie Cardwell, 2738 Fontana Dr., Houston, TX 77043 or email to [tcardwell003@comcast.net](mailto:tcardwell003@comcast.net) if submitting electronically. Please type or print clearly.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Title Last First Middle Initial Badge Name

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address or PO Box

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address (for a receipt) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs—Check all that apply. For special situations, email or phone Terrie Cardwell.  
 Diabetic     Vegetarian     Gluten-free     Limited Mobility     Hearing/Visually Impaired

**Please check all that apply.**  
 2024-2026 Chapter President     1st State Convention Attendee     Member for 50 or 50+ Years

**Indicate number of tickets you need for each function.** Cost includes tax, service charge and facility fee.

**Registration Fee: (Check one that applies.)** **Cost    Number    Amount**

2024-2026 Chapter President or  Chapter Representative attending LDCCP    \$ 0    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

All other member registration — postmarked on or before May 15    \$ 50    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Late Registration: postmarked after May 15    \$ 75    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 (No charge for chapter president or chapter representative)

Guest's name for Guest Badge \_\_\_\_\_    \$ 5    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Leadership Social (Tues, June 24) Year attended LS \_\_\_\_\_    \$ 35    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Box Lunch (Tues, June 24) Sandwiches:  Veggie  Turkey  Ham    \$ 25    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

State Personnel Dinner (Wed, June 25) by invitation only    \$ 46    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

ASTEFL Event (Wed, June 25) tax deductible (\*Non-refundable donation)    \$ 25    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday Lunch (Wed, June 25)    \$ 46    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Box Lunch (Thurs, June 26) Sandwiches:  Veggie  Turkey  Ham    \$ 25    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Presidents & Founders Banquet (Thurs, June 26)    \$ 49    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Continuing Professional Education Credit (CPE)    \$ 20    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Chorus Music—Chorus Participants Only    \$ 20    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Part:  Soprano I     Soprano II     Alto    Interested in playing  prelude     postlude

Contribution to ASTEF tax-deductible (\*Non-refundable donation)..... \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** .....

CHECK (Payable to Texas State Organization Convention Fund) OR  MasterCard     VISA

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date ----- 3-digit Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Cancellation requests must be made in writing to Terrie Cardwell, 2738 Fontana Dr., Houston, TX 77043, and postmarked by May 23rd. There is a \$15 cancellation processing fee; no refunds after May 23, 2025. By your attendance at this event, you grant permission to be filmed, videotaped, audio taped, or photographed by any means, and you grant full use of your likeness, voice, and words without compensation.*

## Women in the Arts hosts visual arts display

TSO members are invited to be a part of the Women in the Arts visual arts exhibit at the 95th State Convention in Denton. The exhibit is an opportunity for Texas members to display their best and most creative endeavors.

Application deadline is April 15, 2025. Art will be on exhibit only and not for sale. The artist will be responsible for preparing her art for display, setting up and taking down. The artist should bring an easel, if needed, since only tables will be provided at the convention. The artist will be able to set up at 9 a.m. Thursday. If you are interested in sharing your art at the convention, please complete the following information <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/>



Does your chapter need to make money for a chapter project, grant-in-aid or scholarship fund? Come one, come all! This is the time to take advantage of a chapter fundraiser. Space is available for your chapter to sell merchandise during the TSO Denton Convention on June 24 and 25, 2025. Start planning now. Email [cindy.neander@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.neander@gmail.com) for an application or for more information.

Can you help? Vendors and exhibitors are needed for the TSO Convention in Denton. The convention center has plenty of space available to have a variety of vendors and/or exhibitors displaying or selling merchandise. If you have personal contact(s) with a vendor(s), please let them know about our Convention. For more information or for an application email [cindy.neander@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.neander@gmail.com).



### **Lone Star News**

Members are encouraged to submit information to be used in the **Lone Star News** to [Connie Hernandez](mailto:Connie.Hernandez@lonestarnewstx@gmail.com) [\*\*lonestarnewstx@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:lonestarnewstx@gmail.com)

Fall edition goes out Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

- Deadline for submissions August 1<sup>st</sup>

Winter edition goes out Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>

- Deadline for submissions Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

Spring edition goes out April 10<sup>th</sup>

- Deadline for submissions March 1<sup>st</sup>

Summer edition goes out June 10<sup>th</sup>

- Deadline for submissions May 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Information Sources**

**DKG Texas Website**  
[www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org)

**DKG Texas on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/tso.deltakappagamma](http://www.facebook.com/tso.deltakappagamma)

**ASTEF Website**  
[www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org)

**ASTEF on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/astef.org/](http://www.facebook.com/astef.org/)

**International**  
[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

**\*\*\*Clipart in Lone Star News newsletter by pixabay.com and freepik.com**

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# Members get ready to SOAR to Denton Convention



## UNIFYING PROJECT

Dear Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters,

My name is Teresa Howard, and I am honored to serve as the chair for the **Unifying Project** at this year's convention in Denton, TX, representing Lambda Rho Chapter, Area 16. This year, we will focus on collecting funds for the **TSO Emergency Fund**, an initiative that has been a lifeline for many members since its inception in 1948. This fund provides crucial assistance to members who have suffered major losses due to natural disasters, offering a grant of \$500 to help with immediate needs during difficult times.

As someone who was affected by a tornado in 2022, this fund is very important. Two of our schools were hit, with children in them, and over 80 families either lost their homes or experienced significant damage. I was inside the elementary school when the EF3 tornado hit our school, and I lost my home all in a matter of 3 minutes. The assistance from the TSO Emergency Fund was invaluable, providing my family with some respite as we began the process of rebuilding our lives and dealing with the aftermath.

At the convention, we will have a table set up for contributions, and a special collection will take place during the Birthday Luncheon. We are looking for members willing to share a quick video of how the TSO Emergency Fund has helped them. The clips will be collected together and shown at this year's convention. If you want to share your experience, please email me your video at [tlhoward56@gmail.com](mailto:tlhoward56@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's state convention and greatly appreciate all you do for our organization and one another!

Warm regards,

Teresa Howard Chair - Unifying Project  
Lambda Rho Chapter, Area 16,



## MEMBERSHIP

### Are you still pondering attending the 95<sup>th</sup> Texas State Organization Convention?

As the Membership Chair, let me encourage you to register for the upcoming convention if you haven't already. You may still wonder why I should attend the 95<sup>th</sup> Texas State Organization Convention (TSO) on June 24-26, 2025. Attending the Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) state convention in Denton is an exciting and joyful experience that brings members together for learning, connection, and inspiration. From the moment DKG sisters start to arrive, there is an undeniable energy in the air—an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm as educators reunite with old friends and eagerly welcome new members into the fold.

This year's convention continues to offer many personal and professional growth opportunities. Engaging keynote speakers, dynamic workshops, and thought-provoking discussions provide valuable insights that empower members to enhance their skills and leadership abilities. Whether learning about innovative membership opportunities, teaching strategies, educational advocacy, or personal development, attendees leave with fresh ideas and renewed passion for their profession.

Beyond professional enrichment, the true joy of the TSO State Convention lies in the camaraderie and sisterhood shared among members. Networking with like-minded women equally passionate about education fosters a deep sense of belonging. Laughter over meals, heartfelt conversations, and moments of celebration - such as recognizing outstanding achievements and the formal recognition of our new president and her officers and committees - create lasting memories.

Meaningful ceremonies and traditions reinforce DKG's values, further enriching the experience. The unity and purpose felt throughout the event inspire members to return to their chapters with renewed dedication and enthusiasm.

A DKG state convention is more than just an event—a rejuvenating and empowering experience that reminds members why they joined this incredible society. The excitement, learning, and friendships formed make it an unforgettable highlight of the year.





Chapter Treasurers and/or a representative from your chapter are to attend the annual training this year at the TSO Convention in Denton on Tuesday, June 24, 1:00 - 3:00p.m. This session is designed to enhance each chapter treasurer's skills as your chapter's treasurer based on the 2023-25 Biennium goals.

- S**eek new members and opportunities: Learn and/or relearn the tools available for chapter treasurers
- O**pen your heart, mind and attitude: What changes make an efficient and effective chapter treasurer?
- A**ct to serve and share: Share financial reports and financial review with the chapter.
- R**each to renew, respond, and relate: Meet & connect with other chapter treasurers.

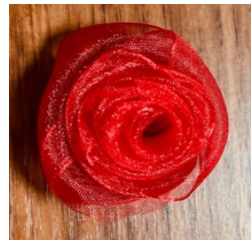
**Top 10 Questions to be addressed in this session:**

1. Who are you going to call? Meet the members of the TSO Finance Committee and TSO staff.
2. Who can serve as a chapter treasurer?
3. When do I complete and return the Treasurer's Annual Report (Form 15) and why is this needed?
4. How and when do I file the IRS 990-N? What happens if I miss the deadline?
5. How often should I share financial reports with my chapter?
6. How often should the finances of my chapter be reviewed by the chapter's finance committee and/or executive board?
7. Who signs chapter checks?
8. When and where do I send contributions from our chapter?
9. How do I update member information and status on the Chapter Connect?
10. What resources are available on the DKG International and TSO websites for chapter treasurers?

Whether you are in your first year as a chapter treasurer or are a seasoned chapter treasurer, please attend this session. You never know what you might learn (or be glad you haven't forgotten) about being your chapter's treasurer.

**DKG Visionary Network designed for interests of member**

The DKG Visionary Networks are groups of members with like interests that meet virtually at a scheduled time. Topics can be anything and are classified as professional or personal enrichment. A DKG member can submit a proposal and if selected, the topic is added to a list on the DJG website ([dkg.org](http://dkg.org)) for members to register to be part of that group.



An initial Zoom meeting with the facilitator and those members that are registered is held, and they decide on meeting details such as purpose, meeting days and times, norms and content format. The second meeting starts the group sessions. With members engaged in these virtual groups of like interests, they learn from each other, build relationships, meet members from other chapters, states and countries, and become more committed to DKG. Connections help to retain members.

The current Visionary Network virtual groups are:

- \*Conversational Spanish
- \*Simple Crafts
- \*Challenges in Special Education
- \*The Art of Zentangle
- \*Family Caregivers
- \*Wellness for Leaders
- \*Handling Change Along Our Life Journey

On April 1, 2025, the list of new Visionary Network virtual groups will be posted on [dkg.org](http://dkg.org), and members can register. Groups are added periodically on different topics, so check the website or submit a proposal for a topic of interest. There will be a workshop session about the DKG Visionary Networks at the Denton State Convention. \*\*\**(The rose was made in the Simple Crafts visionary group.)*



# ASTEF



**Mystery Mania** is coming in June 2025 to the TSO Convention in Denton.

Mystery Mania is a very popular fundraiser where the member buys a chance for \$10 and picks a number from the board that correlates with a card, not knowing the value. The cards range in value from \$10 to \$100, so everyone will be a winner. In the past, we collected over 200 cards and sold them out in the first four hours on the first morning. We want to invite everyone to play, but we also want everyone to have the opportunity to donate a gift card to the game to support ASTEF. If you want to donate a gift card so we can stay longer and play, **please send it before May 31 to Kimbra Bishop, 888 Alexander Rd., Olney, TX 76374.**

*See you at the Convention at the Mystery Mania booth.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

**ASTEF TICKETED EVENT**

*Dave Lieber*  
"Watchdog"  
columnist/humorist

Purchase \$25 ticket on Denton registration form

**JUNE 25**  
WEDNESDAY | 2:20PM- 4PM

TSO Convention 2025  
See you there!

JOIN US FOR OUR CELEBRATION OF PAST FEATS AND THOSE TO COME!

**ASTEF'S**  
*15th Birthday Bash*

BREAKOUT SESSION  
WATCH FOR DETAILS COMING SOON  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025

| TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| 24      | 25        | 26       |



## Advocate for Education



We are looking for a woman who is an *Outstanding Advocate for Education in or around Area 16* whom we can honor and celebrate at the 95th TSO Convention in Denton. Please consider nominating someone one. **Nominations are due April 19, 2025.** For the application and more information, go to the **Forms** page at [www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org)



ASTEF is asking for chapters, members, groups of members, groups of chapters, groups of officers, any and every one to provide gift baskets for the TSO Convention Silent Auction. The minimum value of the basket is to be \$25. The baskets will be auctioned off during the convention starting Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The highest bidder will claim the baskets on Wednesday afternoon, June 25, 2025, between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m..

**NEW this year: "Claim NOW"** meaning baskets may be purchased on the spot for \$100. ASTEF accepts cash, check, PayPal, or credit card (fees apply).

Baskets can be centered around a theme. The contents should be in a self-contained basket or bag that is wrapped and closed so they won't spill out during transport or display. The basket contents must be sealed if they contain wine or spirits.

Please fill out this **Google Form** if you intend to provide a basket. By June 1, 2025, Dr. Lisa Rogers must receive a photo of the basket and a list of its contents via email at [coordinatorarea8@gmail.com](mailto:coordinatorarea8@gmail.com).

*For more information or to donate, please contact either Dr. Lisa Rogers at [coordinatorarea8@gmail.com](mailto:coordinatorarea8@gmail.com) or Risa McCann at [risamccann@gmail.com](mailto:risamccann@gmail.com)*

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## Chapter websites must have DKG certification to remain on TSO website



TSO chapter members should check the TSO website to see if their chapter websites have met the required certification requirements set by International. State websites cannot promote any chapter website that does not display the October 2024-October 2026 certification seal on the home page. TSO chapters meeting these requirements are listed on the TSO website at <https://www.dkgtexas.org/chapter-websites.html>. All chapter websites that do not have the current certification seal have been removed from the TSO website.

**NOTE:** Only chapter websites listed on the TSO website will be recognized in the 2025 Convention program.

This does not mean that your chapter website is not viewable; it just means that TSO is not allowed to list it on the state website. But you can still go through the process of recertifying your website by following these steps:

1. Log in to your account on the International site at [dkg.org](http://dkg.org).
2. Click on the Resources link, then the Webmaster link.
3. There are two links under Reference Documents to read.
  - a. Standards Guidelines for Compliance Checklist- a PDF file that lists all information required on the chapter website.
  - b. Website/Social Media Page Disclaimer Statement must be displayed on the chapter home page.
4. Click the “Fill out our Form 72” link (green button). Instructions show a date requirement of August 1 through October 31 of even-numbered years. However, you may still submit the form to recertify the chapter website.
5. Once the form is complete, submit it. International Headquarters will email a confirmation of receipt.
6. As soon as the committee has reviewed the chapter website, the submitting party will receive an email with the committee’s decision. If approved, the email will contain the certification seal as a attachment.
7. Place the seal on the chapter website home page.
8. **Contact Debbi Ball, TSO Webmaster, that the chapter website has been recertified. Be sure to include the chapter URL. Once received by Debbi Ball, the chapter website will be relisted on the TSO site, linked to the chapter website.**

To have the chapter website recognized in the 2025 Convention Program, recertification and contacting Debbi Ball must be completed before April 1, 2025. The international committee takes time to complete the process, so please do not wait. If you have any questions, contact Debbi Ball at [dkgtexas@gmail.com](mailto:dkgtexas@gmail.com).



## Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat (STAR) assists Alvin ISD

Each year, those who attend the Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat (STAR) participate in a service project. These 100 women have supported many worthy causes. This year, a special request was received from one of the participants, Darlene Albin. Alvin ISD, where Darlene teaches, had a school destroyed by a horrific tornado over the Winter Break. Teachers and students from Walt Disney Elementary found themselves “homeless” and with nothing left but broken and unusable items. As one described, “It looks like a bomb went off.” Teachers lost their personal and school-issued items, from technology to decorations. Darlene brought the idea of STAR collecting school supplies, especially gift cards, so teachers could use them to purchase what they needed. Participants met the request with vigor. They loaded their cars and shopping bags and headed to STAR. An incredible outpouring of school supplies, ranging from folders, pens, sticky notes, and paper, overfilled the tables set out for donations. Shopping bags were stuffed with gift cards and totaled \$940. The staff at Walt Disney wishes to thank all of those who participated.



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## LEADERSHIP

### Leadership Seminar Committee trains new members for leadership

The TSO Leadership Seminar is an intensive leadership training experience held during a weekend in February in the second year of every biennium. Up to thirty participants are selected from Texas State Organization (TSO) member applications. The seminar provides professional and personal growth opportunities that benefit the members and the Society.

The 2025 Leadership Seminar was held February 7 - 9, 2025, at the Embassy Suites in Denton, Texas. This year's event welcomed 30 dedicated members from across the state, bringing the total number of participants to 506 since its inception in 1993.

With the theme "Lead to New Heights," the seminar focused on strengthening leadership capabilities through dynamic and interactive sessions. Topics included:

- Dynamic Introductions
- StrengthsFinder Review & Application
- Finding Your Leadership Fit with Ikigai
- Stepping Up & Skilling Up
- Goal Setting & Time Management
- Communication & Collaboration
- Team Building
- Emotional Intelligence
- Leading with Vision

This remarkable group of leaders, now known as the 2025 Leadership SOARING Sisters, embraced the opportunity to grow, connect, and inspire one another. Both participants and the Leadership Seminar Committee found immense value in this shared experience, leaving the weekend with renewed motivation and strengthened leadership skills.

They eagerly anticipate reconnecting at the Leadership Seminar Reunion at the Denton TSO Convention this June. Until then, they celebrate these extraordinary leaders' achievements and future impact as they lead to new heights!



**TSO Leadership Seminar Class of 2025**

Front row: Miriam Honig, Luanne Choppy, Anabel Guerra, Cindy Gordon, Dr. Adele Murphy, Miriam Crellin, Lynda Jackson, Tracie Shelburne, Linda Holt, Joanna Robertson, Andy Garcia, Roni Jo Frazier, Dr. Tricia Times, Kimberly Lybarger, Myrna Burkes

Back row: Heather Adair, Ashley Crane, Cheryl Boyland, Dawn Broadway, Dr. Charlotte Conner, Hillary Terry, Katie Delamarter, Dr. Cindy Kates, Kelli Powell, Paula Reed, Ashley Davis, Cindy Gordon, Elizabeth Kelly, Shari Sullivan, Amy Bice





## NECROLOGY

### Remembrance of TSO members

TSO mourns the passing and celebrates the lives of those cherished members of the Society whose deaths have been reported to the Texas Necrology Chair Dianne McCorcle. They are reported by their chapter and place of residence at the time of death using Form 6, Report of the Death of a Member, found at [www.dkgtxas.org](http://www.dkgtxas.org) under Committees - Necrology.

- Jo Ellen Denton, Theta Theta, Area 10 Bedford
- Linda E. Grotz, Beta Zeta, Area 6 Pearland
- Dee Cramer, Mu Kappa, Area 15 El Paso
- Ora Lee Leeth, Gamma Zeta, Area 10 Stephenville
- Brenda H. Paulk, Eta Delta, Area 3 Houston
- Helen Elizabeth Hampton, Alpha Upsilon, Area 17 Rockwall
- Clara Carolyn Hooker, Delta Gamma, Area 1 Tenaha



Spiritually, white roses symbolize purity, innocence, and new beginnings, often representing spiritual love, peace, and a connection to the divine.



### EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE Educational Excellence Committee supports new GIRLS Fund

Members will soon be reading more about this new **GIRLS Fund** program.

**GIRLS** stands for **G**irls **I**nitiative to **R**evitalize **L**earning and **S**uccess.

GIRLS replaces the previous program, Schools for Africa. This program will focus on giving middle and high school girls the skills to empower them for the future. One goal of the program is to help the girls become digitally literate.

The GIRLS program stresses the 3 A's:

- Awareness – telling girls technology is here to help them
- Access – bring internet access to everyone
- Adoption – getting girls to accept technology and that changes will happen over time.

You can check the **UNCIEF** website for more information and ways to donate to this cause. More information will be in the Spring Collegial Exchange.



### CEREMONIES

#### Founders Ceremony honors DKG beginnings

As we approach May 11<sup>th</sup>, it is time to celebrate our Founders by paying tribute to them in some way at the chapter level.

The chapter ceremonies committee should plan a tribute to Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and the 11 other Founders during the meeting closest to May 11<sup>th</sup>, our founding date.

This tribute can take many forms. It can be historical, light-hearted, or just about anything you feel shows honor to them, and thanks for creating this wonderful Society.

Ideas can be found on the Ceremonies webpage of the [dkg.texas.org](http://dkg.texas.org) website.

The international website, [dkg.org](http://dkg.org), also has wonderful information you might wish to share. Most of it can be found in the four volumes of **Our Heritage**. Be sure to sign in and go to publications to see this information.



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## COLLEGIAL FELLOWSHIP = GAINING AND RETAINING MEMBERS

Marylin Nease, Delta Omicron, Area 9



Ever ask yourself, “Why am I in DKG?”

Me? I’m in because of “the genuine spiritual fellowship” I feel with my fellow women educators. I joined DKG in 1983. Once in my early years, I considered dropping out. Why? I wasn’t feeling the fellowship. I remember sitting toward the back of a school auditorium, looking around at other DKG members, and thinking I didn’t feel a part of it all.

Yes, DKG informs members, for instance, about education legislation, effective teaching, scholarships, and local and world needs for women and children and ways to contribute time and money. However, without being in DKG, we all have access to news, teaching strategies, and service projects. So, why join or stay?

**While I appreciate the other aspects of DKG, I stay because of fellowship.** No one understands a woman educator like another woman educator. In our active teaching years, every educator needs a mentor or is mentoring, or plays both roles on any given day. However, we often don’t have time during a school day to enjoy fellowship with a colleague—even when we need it most. This absence of collegial time/fellowship is one of the factors causing teachers to leave our profession in their first few years of teaching!

**One way to incorporate fellowship and support for each other is in DKG.** Last school year, a fellow chapter member began leading us in icebreakers in the early part of each meeting. The point was to schedule a bit of time at each meeting to talk and listen to each other, and with any luck, have some fun. *Radical!* A few months later, she had surgery and asked me to sub for her with the icebreakers. Early on, I listened in private to grumbling from two icebreaker nonfans. *Happens, no matter the topic. Right?* We talked and listened, and in time we moved from negative to positive, and I gained solid ideas to try.

**Here’s what’s working in our chapter.** We typically have 30 women attending, plus or minus a few. Ahead of time I created index cards with a member’s name at the top of each. During fellowship time before a meeting starts, I watch members and guests arriving and match up pairs of people on my cards, trying as much as possible to put two people together who don’t already know each other, meaning, for example, they might not know the other’s name, might not have taught in the same school, might have a difference in age, or might be a newer member and longtime member. I write the names of that month’s pair on the ongoing index cards. Once I have the members paired, I wait for my time on the meeting agenda. I call the paired names and urge them to find a place away from others so they can talk and hear each other. I also ask one person in each pair to pick up the icebreaker-directions slip. **Here’s an example:**

*February 10, 2025, Icebreaker:*

You and your partner will have two minutes to talk and listen to each other.

Take turns talking and listening instead of monopolizing the conversation.

Prompt: “If you could have one superpower, what would it be?” Or, you can just talk and listen to each other without using the prompt. Your choice.

Use your smart phone to take a close-up with your friend you now know better. Email or text me your selfie for our next newsletter’s icebreaker page. (*my cell #, my email address*) If neither of you has a phone with you, ask someone finished and near you to take your photo and send it to me.

At the end we’ll have one minute for voluntary sharing with the whole group.

**So, how’s it working?** I love watching the engagement and smiles while the pairs talk. I love the smiles in the selfies the pairs send me for a fun collage page in our next newsletter. I love hearing what volunteers share with the whole group. *Superpower examples: “Eat whatever and whenever, and still be healthy!” “House cleaning in a snap!” “Snap my fingers and be transposed to another place, i.e., where my sisters live, or the beach!”* And, I love it when members send me a prompt or volunteer to lead the activity next month!

Consider icebreakers. Using five minutes of a chapter’s meeting time for an easy, quick, fun icebreaker can help every chapter build fellowship—and through that fellowship, gain and retain members!

*Gold*



*Piece*



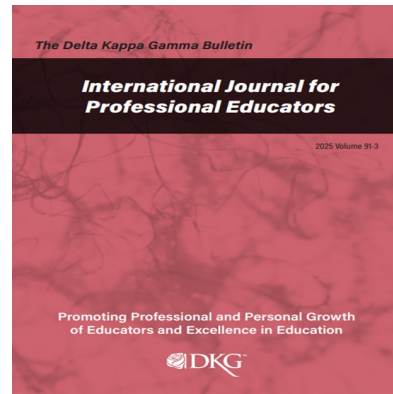
*Top of Bluebonnet*  
Marilyn Gregory



*Down to Earth*  
Vicki Davis



*Camouflaged*  
Janie Wigley



## The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin (Vol 91-3) features TSO members

Several members were selected for inclusion of their articles in *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin International Journal for Professional Educators 2025 • Volume 91-3*

Dr. Robin H. Lock: “Perceptions of In-Service Elementary Teachers Regarding Social-Emotional Learning in Preservice Preparation Programs”

Dr. Amber J. Godwin: “Mindful Teacher Educators: A Case Study Using a Self-Study Approach to Improve Awareness”

Dr. Gencie Houy, Dr. Karen Alexander, Dr. Cindy Miller: “A Deeper Look at Adulting 101: Correlation of Participant Education Level to Self-Confidence in Life Skills”

## The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin

<https://publication.dkg.org/Journal/91-3/>

## DKG Art Gallery displays Texan’s work

These wonderful TSO members will be featured in the Spring 2025 DKG Art Gallery. Visit [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) to view their work.

### Photography:

Dr. Vicki Tagert Davis - 'Petunia Climbs' and 'On a Rock'

Charlotte Nyman - 'Stairway to Heaven' and 'Great Day for Fishing'

Susan Stackfelth - 'Pink Sky' and 'Lovely Lake'

Janie Wigley - 'Rockin' Tuba Player' and 'Single Beauty'

### Acrylic Painting:

Dawna Walsh - 'Spring Flower Bursts of Color'

### Pen and Ink:

Ulana Ratley - 'First Car and Home'

### Watercolor:

Ulana Ratley - 'Mimosa Flowers'

### Essay:

Marylin Nease - 'Of Rock Collecting, Teaching, and Gardening'

### Poetry:

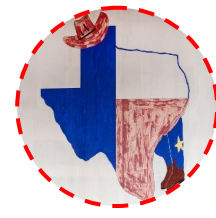
Beverly Kelly - 'Sister to Sister'

### Short Story:

Jeanette Rhyan - 'Adventure of Selling Cream'



***TSO's Chapter Highlights***  
***Talented Spectacular Outstanding***



**February Heart Health Month**

Alpha Nu, Area 5, members received Hands-On CPR and Heimlich Maneuver training at their chapter meeting under the direction of Alejandra Pena, RN, Nursing Director at Laredo ISD. Members engaged in hands-on practice and learned the correct positions for both techniques on mannequins. All members received their CPR Certification. Congratulations!



First row, left to right: Dr. Lina de la Garza, Cynthia Haynes Ramirez. Second row, Ana Cristina Martínez, Alma Hernandez, Raj Chekuri, Alejandra Pena (Instructor), Frances Wawroski, Dr. Rosa María Vida Third row: Maggie Martínez, Dr. Erika Guerrero, Anna María Mendiola, Dr. Ari González, Ana Flores, Ampara Gutiérrez, Mónica Calles, Rosalinda González, Dr. Lola Norris, Vivian García, Nicole Romanos

**What's In The Name?**

Here are some ingenious names to the chapter newsletters!!!

- Epsilon Nuz – Epsilon Nu, Area 10
- Kappa Gamma Klues, Area 7
- Epsilon Rho Review, Area 3
- Theta Nu Texas, Area 1
- The Mu Tauker, Area 1
- Beta Buzz - Beta Phi, Area 10
- The Rose Review Alpha Xi, Area 7
- Alpha Iota Informer, Area 4
- Zeta Zips, Area 8
- Epsilon Phi Epistle, Area 5



Birthdays are an opportunity to reflect on the people and events that contributed to the growth and development of Lambda chapter, Area 8.



**Celebrating 95 years strong!**

Dr. Stacey Arnold, Bonnie Moore, Priscilla Hawks, Courtney Mitchell, Judy West, Marilyn Bird, Janet Kowalkowski, Connie Whitesell, Nella Spurlin, Jane Waldron, Ann Mahan, Jennifer Davis.



The 2025 DKG International Conference in New Orleans is just around the corner! **July 31 – August 2, 2025**. Members may register now and book hotel rooms to experience exciting speakers, and insightful sessions.

[https://www.dkg.org/DKGSI/Events/2025\\_Conference\\_NOLA/2025\\_International\\_Conference.aspx](https://www.dkg.org/DKGSI/Events/2025_Conference_NOLA/2025_International_Conference.aspx)



## DKG International seeking leaders for elected positions

An invitation to Delta Kappa Gamma highlights a woman’s leadership potential. Now, it's time for each member to consider expanding that leadership to the DKG International level by applying for an elected position or encouraging another member to do so.

The International Nominating Committee (INC) will begin accepting applications in the summer of 2025, with the deadline for submission set for September 15, 2025. DKG members have the opportunity to help the organization progress into #SecondCenturyDKG. Strong leadership is essential for the organization’s growth. The International Standing Rules (ISR) 8.103 outlines the qualifications and recommendations for applicants for each position. These qualifications are the only criteria the INC will consider when evaluating applications. Members are encouraged to assess their interests and skills in relation to the qualifications detailed in ISR 8.103.

### Commonly assumed misconceptions

Applicants do not *need to* have. . .

- Earned a doctorate
- Attended Leadership Management Seminar (Ignite)
- Attended a given number of international conferences/conventions
- Held a certain number of specific state positions
- Been a member for a minimum number of years

The duties and responsibilities of the elected INC members are detailed in the *Constitution* Article VIII Section B.8.b.

INC members MAY NOT...

- Recruit applicants
- Assist applicants in any way with the application process
- Discuss an application with anyone other than another INC member
- Support or advocate for a nominee in any manner

The International Nominating Committee will post guidelines and applications on the DKG website in May 2025. The International Nominating Committee will also present at two Inside International sessions to review the application process.

Members may mark their calendars for one or both sessions:

- ~ Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. Central Time
- ~ Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Central Time

### *Vision Statement*

*Leading Women Educators  
 Impacting Education Worldwide*



### International Headquarters

12710 Research Blvd Ste 230  
 Austin, Texas 78759  
 Austin telephone: 512.478.5748  
[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

**MEMBERS:** Send address changes to your chapter treasurer or go to [www.dkg.org/MyDKG](http://www.dkg.org/MyDKG) to make any changes in your information.