

Lone Star News

Official Publication of the Texas State Organization



Vol 69, No. 2 The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International ~ Key Women Educators Winter 2015

Frisco welcomes TSO Convention

Marylin Nease, Convention Publicist

Past TSO conventions have been in well-known cities: Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Las Colinas, Lubbock, McAllen, San Antonio and Waco. New for the 2016 State Convention is Frisco—a one-of-a-kind city.

What makes Frisco unique?

A quick, incomplete answer is growth. Frisco is one of the fastest growing cities in America. Rapid growth can overwhelm a city, but Frisco's leaders have created a vibrant, people-centered community.

How? Decades of comprehensive city planning!

The vision of Frisco's leaders is evident in what residents and visitors see and experience. Planners make powerful choices like preserving elements of nature—a creek, a stand of trees, a valley—and using them as focal points in parks. These showcased elements become invitations to enter, walk, sit, and enjoy. Erecting human-scale buildings with distinctive architectural features, rather than huge, blank-walled buildings, is another people-friendly choice. Pedestrian-accessible buildings in mixed-use areas designed for living, shopping, and working coax people into social interaction. Frisco's streetscapes typically have see-through, wrought-iron fences or no fences at all—instead of stockade fences or brick walls that enclose yards and neighborhoods, separating people; the open, landscaped sidewalks and streets encourage walking and biking, and vehicular traffic is lighter and slower. Many venues are multi-purpose. For example, The Ford Center at the Star, the Dallas Cowboys new headquarters, serves both the Dallas Cowboys and Frisco ISD.



Frisco Square



In short, Frisco is different from any past TSO convention city. In one-of-a-kind Frisco, TSO members can “Experience the HEART!” at the 87th State Convention, June 23-25, 2016.

Heartline to our communities: TSO Unifying Project

Two agencies will be recipients of the donations by TSO members for the state unifying project. Supplies requested are crayons, pencils, pens, wide-ruled notebook paper, fleece blankets and teddy bears.



East Texas CASA serves abused and neglected children in Gregg, Rusk and Upshur Counties.



Hope Supply Company meets the critical needs of homeless children (0-18 years) across North Texas.

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The Heart of the Society is its Members



Marilyn Gregory
Texas State President
2015-2017



The first goal for the biennium is: *“Health: to encourage members to practice healthy lifestyles which promote healthier chapters.”*

Each member benefits from a healthy body and mind! And each chapter benefits from healthy members. Incredible things are happening inside our bodies to keep them balanced and working, and incredible things are also happening within our chapters to help us reach our goals.

In a single day, a heart pumps about 2,000 gallons of blood and most individuals take approximately 17,000 breaths without even thinking about the process. In a single day as Texas State President, I receive messages from many members. They tell me about activities that promote the wellbeing of their chapters! Chapter members are planning programs and developing health-related projects! Many deliver pertinent information on conditioning the body and some discuss positive practices that recognize and build team success. That encourages me! Furthermore, your input helps me balance my role in DKG and my personal life. Thank you.

With the fast pace of living and being active in the three levels of DKG, I often find it easier and faster to eat fast foods, despite their not being nutritionally good for my body. I have learned that a diet packed with lean proteins, fiber-rich fruits and vegetables, and healthy fats helps my body feel fuller on fewer calories and helps keep my weight in check. I also find that my family and chapter friends recognize my dilemma and tempt me with good nutrition! At chapter meetings I have noted that many of you offer wholesome foods as refreshments.

I encourage you to promote your personal health with regular check ups and prescribed procedures including mammograms and colonoscopies. Quality time spent sleeping, exercising and meditating helps me meet the demands of being TSO President with its joys, stresses and more hours spent at the computer. I applaud your success in chapter planning, communicating with members, setting specific goals so members are involved, productive and teaming. I encourage you to celebrate your personal and chapter healthy lifestyles this biennium and beyond. It's a good habit.

Betty's Buzz

Betty Vines
Executive Secretary/Treasurer



Meetings! Meetings! And more meetings! A new biennium is off to a good start. Fall has certainly arrived. Dues and fees from chapters are arriving daily. Those “early bird” treasurers whose dues were in our mail box by October 31 include Tau, Alpha Alpha, Alpha Nu, Beta Theta, Beta Rho, Gamma Beta, Gamma Chi, Delta Pi, Epsilon Lambda, Epsilon Chi, Eta Eta, Eta Sigma, Eta Rho, Zeta Alpha, Zeta Theta, Zeta Phi, Zeta Mu, Theta Lambda, Theta Nu, Iota Epsilon, Iota Theta, Iota Rho, Iota Upsilon, Kappa Iota, Lambda Eta, Lambda Lambda, Lambda Rho and Lambda Chi.



Have you contacted former members to reinstate? It is never too late. A call from a chapter member letting them know that you care about them often encourages them to return to your chapter. There is no reinstatement charge and forms are found on the International website.

Have you identified outstanding teachers and invited them to join your chapter? Treasurers are aware that the initiation fee is \$10. The chapter keeps \$5 and sends \$5 to State to be shared with International. Completing the Initiate Form is also important because it provides the information for TSO and DKG to send communications such as the newsletters and bulletins. This form is also on the DKG International website.

Have you moved and are looking for a new chapter? The office staff is very willing to help you find a new chapter if you have moved. Finding a new chapter can be as easy as making one phone call or sending one email to headquarters. We will tell you whom to contact or we will have a member of a chapter contact you. Relocating to a new city or state is not a reason to give up your DKG membership. Instead, consider it as an opportunity to make new friends and an avenue to quickly get acquainted in your new location. You may also go directly to the international website and complete a transfer form. A chapter in your new location will welcome you to its group.

You are always welcome to call or come to the Texas Headquarters. We are open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Special arrangements may be made to come at other times.

At-A-Glance Deadlines

Feb 1	Int'l scholarship application Int'l Cornetet indiv prof dev Necrology Report Form 2 Chapter President's reports State biennial reports Nominations for St Achievement & Golden Rose LSN deadline
14	ASTE F Day of Giving
16	Convention breakout proposals
19-21	STARR retreat
Mar 1	State Annual reports to Int'l Biennial reports to Int'l Convention reports State Scholarship & mini grant applications
15	Budget adjustments Chapter officer names
30	Bylaws and State Rules changes

Committees

March 5	Achievement Award Comm
19-20	Scholarship Committee
31	Personnel Comm

Highlights

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Embassy Suites reservations open

87th TSO Convention June 23-25, 2016



Embassy Suites by Hilton

The Embassy Suites is an example of a multi-purpose complex in Frisco. It offers a complimentary, made-to-order breakfast, manager's reception in the evenings, full-range fitness center, spa, indoor pool and free shuttle service within three miles. It is conveniently attached to the convention center. Dr Pepper Ballpark, the site of Friday night's special event, is across the street from the convention hotel. (See below for DKG Night at the Ballpark.)

Register now at

http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DALFSES-DKG-20160621/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Points to remember in making reservations:

- The group code for registering online is **DKG**
- May 31, 2016, is the deadline for the special rates of \$135 plus taxes (king suite) and \$145 plus taxes (double suite), as well as the deadline for TSO to meet the guaranteed block. Rates are good for up to four people per room.
- Members should reserve only the number of rooms needed. Names must be listed for all persons staying in the reserved rooms. Guests will be allowed to make only one reservation per guest name.

If the Embassy Suites by Hilton becomes filled, an additional hotel will be added. Watch the TSO website for new hotel information.

Join the lineup now for Delta Kappa Gamma Night at the Ballpark

Get ready for fun and fellowship Friday night, June 24, at Dr Pepper Ballpark, right across the street from the convention hotel. It's the Frisco RoughRiders vs. the Corpus Christi Hooks. Cheer on TSO President Marilyn Gregory as she throws out the first pitch, and applaud TSO Music Chair Deb Acevedo-Tamminga as she sings the national anthem. Enjoy a menu of all you can eat and all you can drink. Bring your family and friends. Children will have access to the McAfee playground and State Fair Way with games. Top off the evening watching a fireworks display. All for only \$39.



Order tickets by February 1 to enter door-prize drawing.

Print Name _____ Email _____

Cell Phone _____ Chapter _____

Number of tickets @ \$39 _____

Make checks payable to **Alpha State Texas Convention Fund**

Cost: adult or child/\$39; 2 & under/free

Mail reservation form and check to Tish Mulkey, 2312 Northcrest Dr., Plano, TX 75075.

Choir adds heartfelt moments to events

Deb Acevedo-Tamminga, Music Chair

The 2015-2017 TSO Music Committee has the wonderful task of providing musical experiences for the TSO Convention. The committee is composed of educators with musical, artistic, dramatic, organizational and computer skills. They are selecting music with unison, two- and three-parts to add special heartfelt moments for the choir to sing at the Birthday Luncheon, Necrology Service and Founders Banquet. Registration for those wishing to sing in the choir will be included on the general registration form in the spring edition of the *Lone Star News*. Two CEU credits can be earned for participating in the choir.



The music committee is looking for instrumentalists to furnish music for the Frisco convention. Anyone who plays an instrument and would like to share her talent by playing a prelude or postlude for a convention function should make sure her name is sent to Deb Acevedo-Tamminga, debatamm03@gmail.com, by February 29 in order to be included in the convention program.

ASTEF organizes day of giving on February 14, 2016



ASTEF will be celebrating Valentine's Day in 2016 with a challenge. This coming year, we challenge members to share their love by making a donation to ASTEF on the ASTEF Giving Day, February 14, 2016. This may be done at www.astef.org or by mail with an ASTEF contribution form. Donations will be used to promote Scholarships, Leadership and Projects, including Aspiring Educator Awards.

Please share your ideas for helping to support the ASTEF Giving Day with marketing@astef.org. With your submission, permission is given to publish your ideas on www.astef.org, Constant Contact or in the *Lone Star News*.



Chapters encouraged to update chapter history

Deborah Thomas, Archives Chair

The State Archives Committee is encouraging chapters to update their chapter history at the end of each biennium. A simple chapter history can be written by pulling information from the Chapter President's Annual Report or a more elaborate history can be written covering a biennium.

Examples of what a chapter history might look like are on the TSO website. Examples and a checklist guide are under the Archives Committee's link.



Every chapter who turns in their chapter history will receive a certificate from the State Archives Committee. Remember the State Archives Committee is always willing to help in any way. Email the chairman at djtix72@live.com for help writing a chapter history or to have access to past chapter history files.



Time to pick Annie program

Chris Morrison, Program & Service Projects Chair

It is time for chapters to pick one of the engaging programs that members have enjoyed to submit for the state "Annie" award. TSO gives "Annies" for outstanding programs every year. Is there a service project linked with the program? That's even better! Find the application on the Programs & Service Projects page of the state website. Chapters should look there for helpful information for filling out the application and many program and service project ideas.

Applications for an "Annie" must be emailed by April 1 to Chris Morrison, Program & Service Projects Committee Chair, at SraChris48@gmail.com. The form is interactive and members will type directly onto the form, save it and attach it to an email to submit. Only email entries will be accepted.

Committee seeking presenters for Frisco Convention

Dr. Stephanie Cockrell Doyen, Personal & Professional Enrichment Chair

The Personal & Professional Enrichment Committee is seeking members to offer breakout sessions during the 87th Texas State Organization convention in Frisco, Texas, in June. Breakout sessions are approximately one hour in length and are either for Continuing Professional Education, Personal Development Interests or Society Business. Anyone interested in presenting a program should go to the website for more details: <http://www.dkgtexas.org/personal-and-professional-enrichment-committee.html> The proposal deadline is February 16, 2016.

LDCP a must attend event for chapter presidents



Brainstorming became the key element filling the Leadership Development for Chapter Presidents Committee's recent meeting. The 13 members studied a survey of current presidents and their training likes and dislikes.

Instead of one big training session for all presidents, the committee is planning a special breakout session for chapter presidents who may have served in the position previously. While the first time incoming 2016-2018 chapter presidents are discussing their duties, the experienced chapter presidents will have a review of some items, discussion about what's new in the last few years and a Q & A session.

Truth and Myth presentations, small group discussions, testimonials and other techniques will help make the training event on the opening day of state convention in Frisco memorable. Marilyn Gregory, TSO president, says, "This is an important element for our chapters to succeed in the coming biennium. Not only have we identified the most important items for chapter presidents to know when they start, we are providing the calendar, mentors and guidelines as additional resources for all presidents."

"This is a must attend for incoming chapter presidents," Chair Corlea Plowman emphasizes. "We will help them have a terrific, successful biennium and their convention registration is paid."

Global Awareness is everyone's responsibility

Connie Rensink, Global Awareness Chair

The 2016 CTAUN Conference being held in January, 2016, at UN headquarters will focus on “Stewardship for a Sustainable World: Education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” Everyone is invited to join educators, students and NGO representatives in a day-long conference with UN delegates and experts to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals and why they are important to everyone. (ctaun.org)



These goals are the world's to-do-list; they were created by a working group of over 100 countries that listened to consultation sessions including 8,429,844 individual voices sharing what they want in the world. Over 70,000 were from the U.S. (<http://data.myworld2015.org>). Because



of the many stakeholders that contributed to their development, they touch everyone. These goals weren't designed to help one group of people. They were crafted, tweaked, revised and revised again. They are based on the premise that it will take partnerships between people, governments, companies and philanthropy to make it work.

Hugh Evans, founder of the Global Poverty Project, summarized, “This is a shared vision for People and the Planet for the future.”

There is something for everyone in the Global Goals. (See graphic above.) The most powerful messages at the Social Good Summit were those who said, “I'm about Goal 4,” or “Goal 16 is a foundation for Goal 5” or “Goal 13 has to happen for the rest of the goals to even exist.” What speaks to you? When something touches you, take time to learn more and figure out your part.

That's how we start. Sharing the message, spreading the spark, finding like-minded friends, building new partnerships, and doing our part. TOGETHER we begin. And together we can do this.

ASTEF offers opportunities for members and non-members

Individuals, chapters, coordinating councils or areas that need help funding a project that benefits Texas students or Texas education should apply for an ASTEF 2016-2017 project stipend to be awarded at the Frisco Convention in June, 2016. The application and guidelines are on the ASTEF website under programs, <http://www.astef.org/projects.html>. The application form should be sent to projects@astef.org by April 1.

Non-member women who are taking college classes to attain teacher certification are eligible to apply for the ASTEF Aspiring Educator Award. Guidelines and the application form may be downloaded from the ASTEF website and should be mailed before March 1.



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 August 1, 2015, and October 31, 2015. They are reported by their chapter and place of residence at time of death using Form 6, Report of the Death of a Member found at www.dkgtexas.org under Committees, Necrology.

Doris Jean Ross, Phi-1, New Summerfield
Mary Jane McNamara, Alpha Eta-1, Tyler
Mattie Thelma Rosser Terry, Gamma Chi-2, Lake Jackson
Lucille Henderson Rochs, Beta Zeta-6, Fredericksburg
Roberta Alta Hartung, Alpha-7, Austin
Blanca Varela, Theta Iota-15, El Paso
Lillian Joyce Williamson, Alpha Zeta-17, Marshall
Irene Parker Davis, Alpha Upsilon-17, Sulphur Springs

Member
News



Dana Tarter, Zeta Omega (Houston-3), and her Senior Games volleyball team won a bronze medal in the Gold division of the National Senior Games in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dr. Alda Benavides, Epsilon Upsilon (La Joya-5), was the Region One ESC Superintendent of the Year.

Angela Harper, Iota Rho (Port Neches-2), will be hosting other librarians to see how she runs her library after the Port Arthur library supervisor named hers as “the best library of the district, the flagship of all libraries.”

Camille Cavazos, Lambda Eta (Harlington-5), was awarded the \$2,000 Voya Unsung Heroes Grant for her innovative teaching program. She will use the money to focus on the study of biomes or habitats.

Nicki Shon, Delta Psi (Corpus Christi-5), earned her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Sadie Woodard, Kappa Alpha (Houston-18), had Woodard Elementary named in her honor by Cy-Fair ISD.

Pam Phillips, Alpha Epsilon (Saginaw-10), was honored by the Texas Foreign Language Association as the 2015 Texas German Teacher of the Year.

Barbara Heinen, Beta Zeta (Fredericksburg-6), was honored by the Fredericksburg Rotary Club with the Hans Hannemann Community Service Award.

Dr. Susan Szabo, Beta Lambda (Greenville-17), has her article “Missing in Action: Good Citizenship and Good Learning” included in Volume 82-1 online issue of *The International Journal for Professional Educators*.

Dolores McClatchey, Alpha Alpha (Midlothian-9), had the Dolores McClatchey Elementary School named after her by the Midlothian ISD.

Tracy Baker and **Joanna Runkies**, Theta Epsilon (Levelland-12), were featured in the Levelland & Hockley County News-Press for their dramatic lesson on those who died on 9/11.

Carol Reposo, Beta (San Antonio-6), was chosen by the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library as a recipient of the Arts & Letters Awards 2015.

Debra Malone, Alpha (Round Rock-7), has her article “Culture: A Potential Challenge for Parental Involvement in Schools” included in Volume 82-1 online issue of *The International Journal for Professional Educators*.

Joanne Davis, Beta Zeta (Fredericksburg-6), is nominee for member of the Int’l Nominations Committee for the Southwest Region.

Members From Page 8

arts & humanities

Five Texas members will have works displayed in the Arts and Humanities Fall Gallery.

Glenda Lopez Beall, Alpha Iota (Boling-4), has two poems, “Teacher’s 23rd Psalm” and “Bubbles-For my Class.”

Janye B. Brainard, Kappa (El Paso-15), has two poems, “Something Wonderful” and “Traverse.”

Marylin J. Nease, Delta Omicron (Dallas-9) has two poems, “Along Rock Creek” and “Blankets of Love.”

Ulana L. Ratley, Kappa Delta (Bedford-10), has two photographs, “Thirsty Cat” and “Golden Glowing Trees.”

Kathryn Wright, Xi (Austin-7), has three photographs, “Sunrise at Gulf Shores,” “Zebra” and “Church in Sedona, AZ.”

Collegial Exchange: opportunities for expression



The first issue of the new DKG publication, *Collegial Exchange*, will arrive in members’ mailboxes at the end of November.

The *Exchange* focuses on practical tips for the classroom and for DKG; on sharing viewpoints on educational and DKG topics; and on providing a place for creative expression.

The next deadline is December 15, 2015, and submissions should be sent to bulletin@dkg.org

Attention chapter presidents

All chapter biennial reports, except the necrology report, have been combined into one report. Chapter presidents will complete a single report with input from their chapters. The report will combine Membership, programs and projects of the Educational Excellence Committee, World Fellowship, Scholarship and Finance.

The forms will be available on an online survey and submitted electronically. Chapter presidents will receive an email from Marilyn Gregory, State President, with the link to the survey.

The deadline for submission of the biennial report is February 1, 2016.



Google Docs

Members reflect on Leadership Seminar



Elena Ivanova
Theta-2

I was constantly pushed to reconsider my habitual working practices and reinvent myself. I am convinced that if our members practice teamwork like we did at the seminar, they will learn new things about each other and will be more interested in doing projects together.



Viola C. Vela
Mu Sigma-3

Collaborating with others during our activities indicated how varied our minds were, but compromising to deliver a great presentation was always the result. Leadership is not always leading, but trusting others to guide you along the way. What a terrific weekend!



Sherri Davenport
Iota Epsilon-18

I hope people can see the confidence I have gained over this weekend. The etiquette tips, elevator/laser speeches, technology tips, and the “lean in” philosophy all had an impact on me. I can’t wait to go back to my chapter and share some of the key ideas with them. I hope they will “lean in” and learn!

ASTEF is proud of having provided funding to support this impactful event.



Nominations open for state awards

Dr. Barbara Baethe, Achievement Awards Chair

The TSO Achievement Awards Committee is pleased to announce that it is that time of year to be thinking of deserving members to recommend for one of the two state awards: The Golden Rose Award and the State Achievement Award. Details for these awards and nomination forms are located on the Achievement Award Committee's webpage. Chapters or Executive Boards need to be thinking about deserving individuals to recommend. The process is simple; recommendations should follow the outline as presented on the forms for each award.



Recommendations must include the completed appropriate form, a letter of endorsement by the chapter Executive Board and a digital photo of the nominee. These required documents need to be emailed to Achievement Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Barbara Baethe (dr.baethe@earthlink.net) by February 1, 2016. The results are to be kept secret until the awards are given at the TSO Convention in June.

The Achievement Awards Committee encourages chapters to honor and recognize members for their achievements and contributions at the chapter level. Some chapters in Texas give one chapter achievement award modeled after the state and international awards, while other chapters report honoring members at each meeting for individual accomplishments and contributions. If your chapter would like more information about the chapter recognitions, contact a member of the State Achievement Awards Committee.

Stocking Stuffers

Looking for a special gift or stocking stuffer? The rose-stamped wallet given as a souvenir at the 2015 State Convention in San Antonio is just the right size and quality. Made of genuine leather, it is constructed with a zipper pocket, an attached keychain and a snap closure. The wallet has an embedded Radio Frequency Identifier (RFID) signal blocker. Your new credit cards have an RFID chip on them. The RFID prevents the signals from being read at a distance, thus keeping your valuable information secure.



\$15 + shipping



Quantity	
Shipping & Handling	
1 to 2	\$3.00
3 to 4	\$4.00
5 to 6	\$6.00
7 to 8	\$8.00
9 to 12	\$12.00

Send check for wallet(s) and proper shipping to:
 Betty Vines
 P.O. Box 797787, Dallas, TX 75379-7787
 For more information contact:
alphasttx@sbcglobal.net or 972.930.9945



Members found in non-traditional roles

Cooke Johnson, TSO 2nd Vice President

Do you remember when you were asked if you would like to become a member of Delta Kappa Gamma? Were you excited? Overwhelmed? Maybe wondered what was in store once you said yes? Believe it or not, there are many women educators across our state who are just waiting for the opportunity to be asked to join our society. There are women out there who are also wondering, “When will I be asked to visit a chapter? Why has no one approached me for membership?”

Today, members have many opportunities to reach out and ask that very important question, “Have you heard of Delta Kappa Gamma?” Many are accustomed to seeking public school classroom teachers; however, there are other professional educators, many in non-traditional roles, who are worthy of membership.

International Standing Rules (2014) state that “teaching” ... shall be interpreted to include one-to-one as well as group instruction (3.12) and “employed” ... shall mean currently hired by an employer and/or paid a salary or fee for specific educational services. (3.11)

Where can we look for new members? The possibilities are limitless. Listed are some of the venues:

- Registered nurses who present educational programs
- Educational administrators
- College or trade school instructors
- Adjunct professors
- Private tutors
- Private or charter school teachers
- Instructional aides/paraprofessionals
- Librarians instructing in the public library
- Pre-school and nursery school teachers
- Zoo, museum, art gallery, historic home educators
- Docents

The TSO biennium is “The Heart of the Society is its Members.” Let us begin to share the goodness of our Society! Who will YOU ask to visit YOUR chapter?



**Frisco
Rough Riders**

DKG Night at the Ballpark • Friday, June 24, 2016

Vendors sought for Frisco convention

Chapters should consider being a vendor at the Frisco convention to fund plans for their scholarships, projects or chapter events. DKG members are shoppers, and they love to take home treasures. The number of vendors is limited. Chapters receive a discounted rate for their tables. To be a vendor, contact Mary Claire Welch, 2016 Frisco Convention Co-Chair, at marycwelch@sbcglobal.net for an application.

Do you know a business that would like to advertise in the Frisco 2016 Convention Program or be a commercial vendor? Advertisements and vendor participation at convention help to increase TSO’s non-dues revenue and to inform others about Delta Kappa Gamma. Please send all names and addresses to Mary Claire Welch, 2016 Frisco Convention Co-Chair, at marycwelch@sbcglobal.net, and she will contact them.



Wanted: Good Citizens

Dr. Susan Szabo, Beta Lambda

This Gold Piece started because of my article in the *The International Journal for Professional Educators* entitled "Missing in Action: Good Citizenship and Good Learning." In this article, I expressed the idea that many students lack civic knowledge and hope in the American system of government.

This is not surprising with the "teach to the test" approach to teaching and learning we have had for several decades. We have no civic knowledge because social study ideas are not being widely taught. I don't know whether this is on purpose or just a by-product of the accountability age. I do know it is dangerous for the future of our country when the U.S. has the lowest number of people voting in any type of election. Do our children not know that one of the rights of citizenship is the right to vote? Have they no concern, pride or loyalty to their country?

Being a good citizen requires action. We must show courtesy and respect for the rights of others. We must stand up with a moral courage and be trustworthy and honest. We must believe in and promote justice, truth and our responsibility for the common good. Parents and teachers displaying these traits model to children what is important. When they see adults respect others, show good sportsmanship, assume responsibilities and demonstrate self-control, children grow-up thinking these characteristics are important. More importantly, when these ideas are put into practice we have less bullying, teasing and even road rage incidences.

When we demonstrate good citizenship characteristics, we show our children that working together to come up with solutions is possible. For most of us, being a good citizen means working together to improve life in our local community. Exercising our right-to-vote allows us to elect leaders who will listen to our ideas about the health and well-being of our communities and our country.

Good citizenship is about turning what we've learned into action to make our community and world a better place. The good news is there are many great resources to help people of all ages learn more about the importance of being a good citizen and activities that promote good citizenship ideas.

- First, Texas has provided several resources in the form of social studies TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) which should be examined in alignment from K-12 and Texas College and Career Readiness Standards that explain civic ideas and their essentiality in democratic societies.
- Second, many websites have ideas that help students learn about the importance of civic engagement, contributions of past and present leaders and our rights and responsibilities in a democratic society. Some examples are **icivics.org** and **<http://www.cccoe.net/govern>**.
- Third, a variety of children's literature books tell the story of important American landmarks, past and present leaders who exhibit good citizen traits, the rights and responsibilities of good citizens and ideas to promote the awesomeness of America.

Everyone is encouraged to research and to share information and books so that we will continue to have a great nation, a great state and great communities. Everyone must use their knowledge, listen to different points-of-view and work together to keep America great.

DKG-Girl Scout Patch program drawing attention

Nita Scott, DKG International Membership Services Administrator

Projects strengthen chapters when all members join together with one focus and support the project. When those projects involve partnerships with other organizations in the community, they provide a way for the chapter to also promote the Society, empower women and develop the future leaders of tomorrow.

One such project, which has caught the attention of members attending recent conferences and conventions, is the DKG-Girl Scout Patch program. A council patch (it is not a badge, but a council patch) specific to the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, it is available for order through the council for any chapters outside the local San Antonio area that want to implement the project.



The curriculum for this council patch allows girls to work with chapter members to develop leadership skills while exploring careers, developing an awareness of community, education and government, and investigating the history of both the Girl Scouts and DKG. The curriculum includes a variety of activities with a graduated number required for each level. For example, fewer and easier activities are required at the Brownie level while a greater number of more challenging activities are required for Ambassadors.

The project requires a commitment by both the chapter and the troop, so it is crucial that the chapter work through the local Girl Scout council in order to ensure that a meaningful and productive collaboration is developed between the council, the troop leaders and chapter members.

Once the chapter has discussed the possibility and is ready to commit the time, effort and resources necessary to ensure success for the girls and the project, please contact Nita Scott at DKG International Headquarters for information about how to connect with the local Girl Scout council to find a potential troop. A sample curriculum, developed in collaboration with the SW Texas Girl Scout council, can be used as a guide for developing appropriate activities and projects. In TSO, chapters may apply for funding for these and other projects through ASTEF, which provided a grant to Zeta Beta Chapter for the original project in San Antonio.

For more specific information, ordering information and a sample curriculum, please contact Nita Scott, DKG membership services administrator, at nitas@dkg.org.

Treasure boxes coming to Frisco



ASTEF's fundraising project for the Frisco convention is Treasure Boxes. Chapters, areas, individuals and businesses are asked to make a donation of \$25 or more to fund the boxes.

During the convention, attendees will have the opportunity to pay \$20 and randomly choose a wrapped box containing a gift of \$25 or more. The proceeds will go towards ASTEF projects and the Aspiring Educator program.

Money and gift cards may be mailed to Dr. Barbara Derrick, 4214 Bolton Ave., Santa Fe, TX 77510. Members may also donate during convention registration in Frisco. Members planning to donate at the

convention should email Barbara, BLSDerrick@aol.com, so that there are enough boxes to handle all of the treasures.

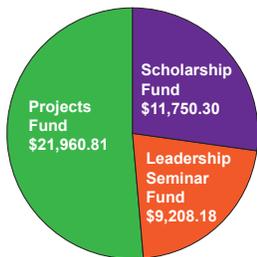




ASTEF 2014-2015 finances reviewed

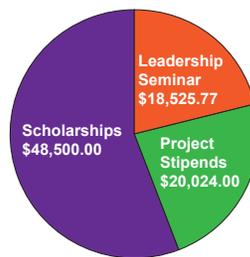
The ASTEF Board of Directors extends a thank you to members for contributing or donating to ASTEF. The generous contributions to ASTEF helped fund the following for Texas DKG members as selected by the TSO Scholarship Committee: four doctoral scholarships, seven \$1,500 graduate scholarships, one \$1,000 graduate scholarship, ten mini grants, thirteen adult education scholarships, two Weatherby Educational Travel scholarships and six Aspiring Educator grants. Additional scholarships were awarded from funds held by the University of Texas. ASTEF also funded the Texas State Organization Leadership Seminar for thirty Texas DKG members and awarded project stipends to thirteen Texas DKG chapters to support their educational projects.

Contributions to ASTEF for 2014-2015



Contributions in 2014-2015 totaled \$42,919.29 (unaudited)

ASTEF Grants and Assistance Funded in 2014-2015



Money awarded in 2014-2015 was \$87,049.77 (unaudited)

Members welcome to TSO Headquarters

Jeanette Rhyan, Headquarters Chair

The Texas State Organization Headquarters is a busy place. Many state committees as well as chapters hold special meetings at Headquarters. New forms for using the Headquarters Building are available on the website. Tours are also available upon request. When was the last time you were at Headquarters? For a variety of reasons, you may not be able to personally tour this beautiful building with its many archival items or maybe you wish to re-visit state headquarters. Regardless, early next year, a new and updated virtual tour will be available on the website. Consider sharing the virtual tour of the Headquarters Building with your members. Remember that Betty Vines, Leesa Cole, and Cheryl Crawford are only a phone call or email away and ready to help you.



TSO Headquarters, Dallas Texas

Additional yearbooks needed for 2015-2016

Natalie Eustace, Yearbook Chair



Congratulations to the 144 Texas chapters who met the November 1 deadline to achieve Early Bird status for their yearbooks. Many of these yearbooks met exemplary qualifications. In continuing to change

by moving into the electronic age of communication, 50 chapters submitted their yearbooks via email.

Chapters who have not yet submitted yearbooks have until December 1 to receive on-time status. These may be sent via U.S. Mail or by email.



ASTEF/Road Scholar trip to Savannah a success

Savannah with ASTEF and Road Scholar was “Too Marvelous for Words” to quote the great Johnny Mercer, songwriter and one of the focuses of the program.

Savannah is a “walking” city and the group DID walk (and trolley), as they explored historic homes, sacred spaces, scenic squares, monuments and restaurants. Food all week was exceptional, including that cooked by the group at Chef Darin’s school. From an historical reenactment by General Orglethorpe to two private musical performances, the programs were incredible.



Tish Mulkey and Carol Horton assist Chef Darin during cooking class.

The next time ASTEF sponsors a trip, plan to be a part of the group.



ASTEF Travelers organizing a weekender

Over the past four years, ASTEF Travelers have cruised to the Bahamas and to Alaska. They have also participated in Road Scholar programs tailored just for them in Williamsburg and this year in Savannah. Each of these trips has been a week in length. Many have expressed that they would love to be an ASTEF Traveler but just can’t get away for a week.

Listening to these suggestions, ASTEF is proud to announce that planning has started for the First Annual ASTEF Weekender to be held in October 2016 in Historic Galveston. DKG members from the area will be organizing a high energy event that will begin on Friday evening and conclude on Sunday at noon.



Galveston historic district. Courtesy Galveston Convention & Visitors Bureau.

This special weekender will showcase one of the oldest cities in Texas. Activities will focus on the history of Galveston from her beginnings, including the rich history of Pirate Jean Laffite, to the effects of the 1900 Storm and how this storm changed Galveston’s future forever, to her place in today’s economy with a busy cruise terminal and large tourist business.

Cost for the weekend will include admission to all attractions, performances, meals, transportation, and hotel accommodations. The weekender is being planned by DKG members for DKG members and their family and friends.

Interested travelers need to log on to **www.astef.org**

and sign up to receive emails concerning the First Annual ASTEF Weekender to Historic Galveston and other foundation news.



Experience the HEART in Frisco 2016

Beta Omega helps in Van relief effort

Betty Wilson, President Beta Omega

Two days after an Ef-3 tornado struck the small east Texas town of Van on May 10, 2015, Beta Omega Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, held its monthly meeting in Canton. Members were shocked and concerned by the devastation of the storm.

J. E. Rhodes Elementary School was so badly damaged the building had to be razed. Adjacent Van Intermediate School also suffered significant damage. The roof of the cafeteria servicing pre-K, kindergarten and first grade students was peeled back exposing the interior to the elements. A gaping hole in the intermediate school gym, significant water damage and instability of the structure were major factors in its destruction. Buses were damaged, and fences and playground equipment were destroyed. "The place looked like a war zone," said one observer.



Van ISD after the tornado. Courtesy Van ISD.

What could Beta Omega do to help teachers and students in the recovery process? Chapter members voted to help replace teaching supplies and materials. At the suggestion of then Area I Coordinator Belinda Lowrance, Beta Omega enlisted the help of other Area I chapters. State President Nancy Newton received word of the chapter's plans and immediately emailed every chapter president in the state to ask for their assistance.

"Almost overnight checks began arriving in my mailbox. The response was absolutely overwhelming," said Betty Wilson, chapter president. "Everyone was so kind and generous. Other teachers wanted to help Van teachers replace materials and supplies that had been lost or damaged in the storm. It was a very humbling experience. To date, we have presented a total of \$6,165.00 in donations to Van ISD for the elementary and intermediate teachers."

Beta Omega did not stop there. Chapter members voted to assist J. E. Rhodes Elementary and Van Intermediate School teachers as an ongoing project for the 2015-2016 school year. Several members met in August to make a bulletin board with a map of the state pinpointing locations of chapters and members who donated funds to the recovery effort. The bulletin board titled "Delta Kappa Gamma—Teachers Helping Teachers Helping Kids" is displayed at Little Vandal Village temporarily located on the Van Middle School campus. Several members volunteered to work at Little Vandal Village to help teachers prepare for Meet the Teacher Night before school started. They also took refreshments to both schools to be placed in the teachers' lounges.



Members who worked on map are Cindy Rakestraw, Patience McGuffey and Betty Wilson. Not pictured are Jackie Ragland and Donna Gunter. Photos courtesy of Amy Robertson and Madeline Wiggings, Van High School journalism students.

Don Dunn, Superintendent of Van ISD, was invited to the October meeting to update the chapter on progress being made in the recovery process. Mr. Dunn reported a good start to the school year. The district's goal of

repairing targeted buildings, installing new roofs and replacing air conditioning units and broken windows was completed before school began. Pre-K through first grade were placed in the newly repaired intermediate school, and second and third grade classrooms were grouped in portable buildings called Little Vandal Village in front of the new Van Intermediate School until construction on the new J. E. Rhodes Elementary is completed. All of this was accomplished by August 17.



Little Vandal Village

Don Dunn's infectious optimism exemplifies the positive attitude demonstrated by school personnel and the people of Van as they strive to rebuild.