



Lone Star News

Texas State Organization

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Volume 79, Issue 2

Winter 2025



Texans receive International Nominations



International President Nominees: Connie Rensink

Connie is passionately dedicated to building a vibrant DKG with innovative programs and meaningful connections. She was inducted in 2006. In 2012, she graduated from the Leadership Management Seminar. Connie has served International as First Vice President, DKGIEF Director, Member at Large, and on numerous committees.

Serving six years on the Administrative Board, she helped shape the strategic plan and helped launch the DKG Visionary Network. Connie has coordinated leadership presentations. Connie received the Texas State Achievement Award in 2018. She is bilingual in Spanish and a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. “My vision is bold yet attainable: a DKG where leadership is cultivated at every level, every member feels a sense of belonging, and our programs and connections together spark lasting impact.” On a personal note: *“Through my membership in DKG, I have been fortunate to grow both personally and professionally, guided by an extraordinary network of women who have supported, challenged, and inspired me. From my Theta Chi sisters to DKG members around the world, I deeply value the relationships that have shaped my journey. Working alongside so many talented and dedicated women has been one of the most meaningful parts of my DKG experience, and it continually shows me the power we have when we support one another. As I look toward serving in a greater leadership capacity. I hope to help shape the future of our organization and share the magic of DKG with other women educators.”* ~ Connie Rensink

Also nominated is Candace (Candi) Martin Arkansas.

Candace (Candi) Martin says that DKG has impacted her life in countless wonderful ways, and her membership has been a life-changing gift.



Southwest Regional Director Nominee: Patricia (Patti) Belknap



Patti Belknap, currently the 2024-2026 Membership and Expansion Chair, has shared her talents on six International Committees. A past Texas State President, she enjoys mentoring and training state leaders. In 2013, she was honored with the Alpha State Achievement Award. Patti's heart is in connecting with members, and she is known for leading with genuine passion and purpose.

Aspire to create positive change through collaboration, service, and leadership opportunities.

Cultivate growth of members and chapters.

Thrive together by fostering a sense of belonging and celebrating success.

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Mission Statement:

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



“Dare to Dream: ACT”



Dr. Stacey Arnold
Texas State President
2025—2027

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As Texas State Organization looks ahead to the future, the call to Dare to Dream resonates more strongly than ever. International has invited every state organization to envision what is possible—and to take bold, intentional steps toward growth with the Centennial Membership Challenge. This initiative encourages each state organization to imagine a thriving, expanding membership as the Society approaches its 100th anniversary in 2029. With that challenge in mind, Texas is being asked to dream big, act with purpose, and contribute to a vibrant next century of impact.

What do we have to do to meet the challenge? We must increase our state membership by 100 members by May 1, 2029. State organizations that meet the challenge will receive the designation of Centennial State Organization and will be celebrated at the 2029 International Conference in Austin. On October 15th, TSO membership was 5,179, meaning that TSO needs to be at 5,279 members on May 1, 2029. Sounds easy, right?

Texas State Organization has seen an incremental decrease in membership for quite some time. For example, from October 2024 to October 2025, membership decreased by 246 members. Losses are going to occur for several reasons, so to meet the challenge, chapters will have to induct a member for each loss and add a few more. There are currently 200 chapters in Texas. If every chapter maintained its current membership number and added one member, TSO would exceed the challenge.

I have every confidence that Texas will be recognized as a Centennial State Organization in 2029!

Stacey

2025 - 2027
TSO Leadership



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www.pinterest.com

NEWS TO KNOW FROM TSO HQ

Leesa Cole, TSO Executive Administrator

The International Bylaws Revision Committee has been hard at work.

-- Sign in to the International website, The Preliminary Draft, accompanying PowerPoint presentation, and the link for submitting suggestions and comments are available on the DKG website under *Events, International Convention, Colorado*.

— Members are encouraged to review these materials and share their feedback with the Revision Task Force, which will use input to develop the final draft. The final draft will be presented for consideration and voting at the 2026 International Convention.

<https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/2026Convention>

Chapter treasurers wear many hats and have multiple deadlines to meet. Congratulate your treasurer for completing these tasks:

- Dues paid to TSO and International for 2025-26 membership
- Annual Treasurer's Report (Form 15) filed with TSO
***Chapters awarded 117 scholarships at \$24,857 to members and 249 grants at \$120,224 to non-members in 2024-25
- Annual IRS required filing (990n ePostcard) submitted
***which enables the chapter to continue as a non-profit organization
- Member contact information in the Dues Portal updated

Now your treasurer needs to:

- Clean up the deceased members in the Dues Portal by researching a date of death and submitting a Form 18A to International
*** the membership committee can help!
- Enter new members in the Dues Portal as soon as they pay dues for 2025-26
- Watch the Dues Portal pricing very carefully during Jan. & Feb.
*** ½ dues apply to new members only
*** the Dues Portal does not always calculate the ½ pricing correctly
*** contact International if the pricing is not correct BEFORE submitting the order
*** Active @ ½ = \$20 to International & \$10 to TSO
- Contact TSO HQ with questions about ½ dues before entering members and completing orders
- Attend (via zoom) the 1/10/26 Treasurer's Talk with the International Finance Committee

Thank you chapter treasurers for your time, expertise and dedication to this crucial position for the chapters.



DEADLINES

- Jan 19 • Survey to Pres, Treasurer, State Leaders & ASTEF
- Feb 1 • TSO Achiev. Award/ Golden Rose
• Int'l Scholarship App.
• TSO Honorary Member App.
- Feb 15 • Int'l Art Gallery submissions
• Regional Conf. Breakout Sessions
- Feb 27 • All Members Updated in Dues Portal
- March 1 • Lone Star News submissions
• ASTEF Aspiring Educator Grant
- March 15 • Chapter Officers to TSO HQ
- April 1 • Contributions for Recognition (ELC & ASTEF)
- ASTEF Chapter Project Stipend Application
- April 20 • Annual Report 1
- May 1 • Five Star Newsletter
• Int'l Cornet App.
• Lone Star News submissions
- May 11 • State Leader's Expenses
- May 15 • Chapter Officer Form 110 to Int'l & TSO



TEXAS ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERS
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Texas State Organization Regional Conferences
Saturday, June 20, 2026



The Eula Lee Carter
Memorial Fund

Region	Areas	Venue Name/Address
Northeast	1, 9, 17	Greenville High School 3515 Lions Lair Rd. Greenville, Texas 75402
Southeast	2, 3, 18	Cleveland High School 1600 E Houston Street Cleveland, TX 77327
South Coastal Bend	4, 5	Wm Adams Middle School (WAMS) 901 E 3rd St Alice, TX 78332
Central	6, 7, 8	Texas A&M University Central Texas 1001 Leadership Pl Killeen, TX 76549
North Central	10, 16	Decatur Church of Christ 2601 FM-51 Decatur, TX 76234
Northwest	11, 12	Polk Street Methodist Church 1401 S Polk Street Amarillo, TX 79101
Southwest	13, 14, 15	Westminster Presbyterian Church 4901 Maple Ave Odessa, TX 79762

Hola!

The following is a little history of this committee, one of the longest-named ones: The Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund Committee—for brevity’s sake, here called TELCMFC and named in honor of Miss Carter. Miss Carter was initiated into DKG in October of 1929 by Dr. Annie Webb Blanton. She served on many committees at the chapter, state, national, and later international levels. Instrumental in organizing more than 200 chapters in the United States and Mexico, she was known as *The Texas Skipper*. She was always excited to bring women into DKG. While serving on the State Personnel Committee, Miss Carter was selected to go to Mexico to search for qualified women teachers and to organize the first DKG chapter there, Alpha, in Mexico City, Distrito Federal. Following her death on December 7, 1981, a memorial fund in her honor was proposed to better our sisters in Latin American countries of the Southwest Region.



Your contributions to TELCMF help earn money that can be awarded to those sisters. As always, donors and recipients are recognized in each State Convention’s souvenir booklets in odd-numbered years. Contribution forms may be found on the DKG Texas website, in The Eula Lee Memorial Fund Committee page. www.dkgtexas.org/e-l-carter-fund-committee.html



Lone Star News

Members are encouraged to submit information to be used in the ***Lone Star News*** to Connie Hernandez lonestarnewstx@gmail.com

Fall edition goes out Sept. 10th

- Deadline for submissions August 1st

Winter edition goes out Jan. 10th

- Deadline for submissions Dec. 1st

Spring edition goes out April 10th

- Deadline for submissions March 1st

Summer edition goes out June 10th

- Deadline for submissions May 1st

***Clipart in Lone Star News newsletter by Pixabay.com, Freepik.com and Shutterstock



The Essential Role of Treasurers in Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Within Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, each officer plays a vital role in advancing its mission to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and to strengthen collective impact. Among these roles, the work of the **chapter treasurer** stands out as one of the most essential—and often one of the most quietly influential.

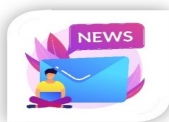
Treasurers ensure the financial health and stability of chapters. Through careful budgeting, accurate record-keeping, and timely reporting, they help maintain the integrity and transparency that this Society values. Their diligence allows chapters to confidently support scholarships, grants, leadership training, and community projects that uplift women educators and students.

Beyond managing funds, treasurers serve as key communicators. They provide members with clear financial information, help guide decision-making, and ensure chapter leaders have the resources needed to carry out meaningful programs. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but without their organization and dedication, many chapter’s initiatives simply would not be possible.

As members continue their work to empower educators and strengthen communities, we extend our gratitude is extended to the treasurers who give their time, attention, and expertise to keep this Society thriving. Their stewardship ensures that Delta Kappa Gamma remains strong, sustainable, and ready to support women for generations to come.

Thanks to all the TSO chapter treasurers for all they do.

Communications and Publicity



What is the purpose behind having a Chapter Newsletter?

Newsletters are vital to all chapters and their members. The purpose of a newsletter is to inform, educate, connect, celebrate, publicize, and engage members. Newsletters bridge the gap between all levels of the Society. Newsletters should be the “place to go” for all key information

DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that like-minded people like to gather with other like-minded people. People prefer to be around people who share common interests. No one likes to attend a meeting with strangers. Newsletters are one way to provide a means for people to connect.

The chapter newsletter can help members connect in various ways: through sharing accomplishments of members and important people in their lives; listing birthdays; encouraging members to share “good news”; creating games where members try to guess the Mystery Member; sharing travel stories; making book recommendations through book reviews; and holding contests.

One should keep in mind that the goal is for members to connect to other members who share the same likes and similar interests as well as to learn more about each other. Connecting is one way to grow a chapter. Some outcomes can be increased attendance, greater involvement, member retention, and promotion of “genuine spiritual fellowship.”

In the future, ideas and suggestions for each purpose/reason to have a newsletter will be shared in multiple places. Consider these ideas and how they may be used. The Communications and Publicity Committee welcomes chapter ideas and would love to share them. Submissions may be sent to communicationsptso@gmail.com and should include sender’s names, chapter and area.

Personal and Professional Enrichment

The 2025–26 year got off to a strong start, with chapters offering CPE-certified sessions to their members and other educators. The first session of the school year was hosted by Epsilon Sigma, a chapter located in Hitchcock, Texas, between Galveston and Houston. On October 4th, the organizers presented a workshop titled “**Foldable Fun for All Grades.**” Dr. Barbara Derrick and Dr. Cindy Kates led the session, demonstrating how foldables can support student learning across all grade levels.

Next, Kappa Theta in North Texas hosted its own professional learning opportunity in Lewisville. On November 3rd, the chapter offered a session titled “**Navigating Artificial Intelligence.**” Jonas Greene, Director of Digital Learning for Lewisville ISD, explained how artificial intelligence influences and supports education. He also highlighted specific AI tools for the classroom and instructional settings, emphasizing ethical and responsible use.



“Foldable Fun for All Grades”

The Personal and Professional Enrichment Committee and the State President commend these chapters for their contributions to educators' professional growth. As chapters across the Texas State Organization continue to offer CPE-certified opportunities, they demonstrate a clear and immediate impact on the educational community.

TSO can provide professional credit for learning. Chapters or individuals interested in offering CPE-certified sessions can visit the Personal and Professional Enrichment Committee’s webpage to learn more about the process: <https://www.dkgtxas.org/personal-and-professional-enrichment-committee.html>. Additional questions may be directed to Tracy Shea, PPE Committee Chair, at tshea@c-isd.com. Together, Texas educators can continue learning—and certify it!

Scholarships



TSO awards scholarships to members in five areas:

Mini-grants, Life-Long Learner, 3, 6, 9-hour, Graduate Study, Doctoral Study, and Maetha Weatherby Educational Travel.

Applications, guidelines, and scoring criteria can be found at <https://www.dkgtxas.org/scholarship-committee.html>

All applications are due March 1, 2026.

Achievement Awards



It is that time of year again when chapters examine their membership to determine which leaders in the Texas State Organization are eligible for the Texas State Achievement or Golden Rose Award. The Achievement Award Committee is looking for those members who over the years have been involved at all levels of the organization and who have made significant contributions to Delta Kappa Gamma. Those making nominations should visit the state website. The qualifications and the nomination outline for both awards are listed there.

All applications are due February 1, 2026.

<https://www.dkgtxas.org/achievement-awards-committee.html>

Membership



The Membership Challenge Has Been Made — No Pressure!

The Centennial Membership Campaign is officially underway! DKG International has challenged state organizations to grow by 100 members by May 2029. TSO President Stacey Arnold has enthusiastically accepted this challenge and is encouraging all Texas chapters to join together to earn this distinction. Connie Rensink, TSO Membership Chair, along with the entire TSO Membership Committee, is committed to helping the Society grow, earning the prestigious Centennial State Organization title, and being recognized in the Centennial Celebration Program.

While many chapters traditionally induct new members at the start of the school year or in the spring, remember that new members can join or rejoin DKG at any time. One of the most effective and heartwarming ways to boost engagement year-round is through [Annie Calling](#). This simple, friendly outreach invites former members back into the Society through genuine connection. All it takes is a phone call and a listening ear. [Annie's Discussion Map](#), located in the toolkit on the Membership page of dkgtexas.org, provides helpful talking points for common concerns, emphasizes how much former members are missed, and offers thoughtful strategies to make their return smooth and meaningful—always with a spirit of welcome and no pressure. Questions about reinstating a member in the portal, may be emailed to tsomembership@gmail.com for assistance.

Think about the special moments chapter celebrates each year—homecoming, holiday gatherings, anniversaries, or Founder's Day. These events provide the perfect opportunity to reach out and invite former members to reconnect with familiar friends and chapter traditions.

Gamma Nu, Area 3, experienced the power of Annie Calling firsthand. A few years ago, the chapter reached out to former members to let them know they were missed. Several chose to return—including a former principal who had stepped away due to school demands and family responsibilities. After retiring, she found she had time to participate once again. Not only did she rejoin, but she later served as 1st vice-president, then president, leading two successful bienniums and receiving the Chapter Achievement Award. Today, she remains an active and valued leader.

Stories like hers serve as a reminder that reconnecting doesn't just strengthen membership—it reinforces sisterhood. Every call, every invitation, and every act of encouragement make a difference.

If each member does her part, TSO will proudly stand together at the Centennial Celebration in 2029 to accept this well-earned recognition. Yes, members are growing DKG—joyfully, intentionally, and continually with no pressure!



*The arrival of New Year 2026
brings fresh opportunities,
new goals, and the promise of
brighter days.*

Dare to Dream!

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 Dr. Cindy Kates. 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 under Committees - Necrology.

Brenda Kay Owen, Lambda Gamma - 18, Katy
Ann Hirschfelt, Alpha Beta - 13, San Angelo
Moselle Alden Ford, Zeta Delta - 11, Amarillo
Patricia Raney, Beta Tau - 6, San Antonio
Vaudene Pruitt, Alpha Omicron - 10, Mineral Wells
Mary Montez McNaughten, Delta Gamma -1, Lufkin
Martha Frances Johnson Morgan Loisey, Epsilon Sigma - 3, Hitchcock/Texas City
Dr. Linda Neeley, Alpha Gamma - 10, Alvarado
Rita Mae Cockrell Drabek, Lambda Sigma - 4, Sugarland
Eleanor Meyer Scott, Theta Zeta - 3, League City
Mary Eade Bett, Lambda Apha - 18, Houston
Dr. Geraldine Langford Haggard, Iota Omega - 9, Plano
Shirley Kochman, Delta Omicron - 9, Dallas
Elaine Krause, Lambda Omicron - 8, Hillsboro
Labera Faye Creel, Alpha Chi - 7, Kingsland
Mary Ruth Ann McClellan Ferris, Kappa Theta - 16, Lewisville



As the organization welcomes a new year filled with hope and renewal, the Necrology Committee encourages all DKG members to continue to Dare to Dream. This turning of the calendar invites members to cherish their connections, honor their history, reflect on the bonds they hold dear, and remember those who have touched their lives and continue to inspire them.

The committee expresses gratitude to every chapter for their ongoing diligence in keeping Member Information Sheets up to date and in completing Form 6. Thoughtful memorials—whether a Rose Ceremony, shared memories, or quiet tributes—help keep each member’s light shining into the new year.

A gentle reminder: when reporting a member’s passing, chapters are asked to include her full name as well as her preferred name or nickname. Listing her preferred name on Form 6 ensures she will be remembered exactly as she wished in Lone Star News and during the Celebration of Life and Remembrance Service at the Texas State Convention.

The committee also encourages every member to complete the Jewelry Dispensation Form so that her symbols of service may continue their story in the way she chooses.

At the state level, the Necrology Committee continues to support all members by assisting chapters with their requests, recording Form 6’s, sending condolence cards, and lovingly maintaining the Book of Memories. As the organization looks ahead to the TSO Convention 2027, the committee is preparing for the Celebration of Life and Remembrance Service Ceremony, honoring each sister with dignity, devotion, and gratitude. It remains a cherished time to reflect on the lives, contributions, and lasting bonds of members—moments that remind all of the strength, love, and connection they share.

Gold Piece



Connie Rensink, Theta Chi, Area 10
TSO Membership Committee Chair,
DKG International Leadership Development Chair

Reimagination

How many lives have you lived? My husband and I celebrated our 31st anniversary this year. We were talking the other day about how we have lived through different eras in our marriage. The early days with our young son. A couple of decades when he and my son raced motorcycles. Seven years when his handicapped mom lived with us. The lifetimes of four different dogs. Our empty nest. Our children growing up and having children of their own.

And that got me thinking about the different lives I've personally lived. Elementary school, middle school, and high School – then college – having a child – getting married - 4 different careers – Joining DKG - a master's degree – a post graduate certificate – travel to a foreign country - a major move to part time in New York City – and then back to full time in Texas - and now I'm at the beginning of another phase in life. Semi-retirement - Caring for elderly parents, enjoying time with my husband and my grandchildren - traveling a little – and focusing even more on DKG.

By now you may wonder what my memory lane musings have to do with reimagination and DKG. I believe that thinking about our many lives can help us examine our organization and practices and find our way to creating the next phase of life for DKG. We don't have to give up the wonderful times we have already lived – and we get to build our future on our experiences and knowledge.

Here are some things to think about to help you get started.

- What has worked for you in your DKG journey or in your chapter? What is one thing you are proud of that you want to be sure will be continued?

I'm proud of the way my chapter members take care of each other – sending cards, making phone calls, giving a ride, being good friends.

- What is something that has been a problem? What needs to be changed or removed?

I learned as a young chapter president that doing everything myself left others out. While I was trying to make life easier for my members, I wasn't giving them a chance to be engaged or to feel needed. And I wasn't honoring their abilities. Since then, I've learned to ask members what they want to do and to encourage them to share their strengths.

Imagination is the action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts. Reimagination is building on what we know and making it even better.

Now that we have some ideas of what we want to keep and what we may want to change, let's review our purposes and what they might look like in 2026.

I'm asking you reimagine what the purposes mean in today's world. Dream and be creative – no idea is too large or too small - what would you try if you were absolutely positive it would be successful?

Continued p.10

Gold Piece (continued)

TO UNITE women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship - What are some new ways we can bring women educators together and offer opportunities for fellowship? Does this need to be in person?

TO HONOR women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education - What does honor look like today, and what does it look like in different cultures? How can we communicate the honor of DKG?

TO ADVANCE the professional interest and position of women in education - How can DKG support women educators in their careers? How do we support new educators to keep them from leaving?

TO STIMULATE the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in relevant programs of action - How do we help them grow?

Could the mental health for teachers initiative from the US Forum be a springboard for mentoring and support in your chapter or state?

TO INITIATE, ENDORSE, and SUPPORT desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators – Advocacy has proven to make a difference. How do we keep that momentum going?

TO ENDOW scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators. - How can we encourage young women to join the teaching profession?

TO INFORM the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively to support a sustainable society. What are the best formats for informing members?

What do you still need to learn? Are there information or resources you need to gather to flush out an idea you have discussed? Are there volunteer positions in DKG that would give you the opportunity to gain experience and make an impact in an area you are interested in? Where can you gain that information and experience?

Lean on your network. Who do you know that has the experience, skills, or connections to help make some of your ideas a reality? Who can help you find the resources or information you need to move forward? Who do you need to meet to do what you want to do?

Now it's time to make a plan and take action. What are you excited about? Which idea is going to make the most impact on your chapter or state? If your idea is a big one, what is one small action you can take to get it started?

And finally, we repeat the cycle – I'm going to tell you one more life story. The day I turned 50, my brother called and asked, "Are you OK?" My answer to him was this: "These days people are living to 100, so I figure I've got another half of my life yet to live, and I get to do it knowing everything I've already learned! I think I'm pretty good!"

When we remember that we have the ability to learn from our experience, examine our Purposes or our why with the fresh lens of reimagination, figure out what we still need to learn, lean into our network, and then make a plan and take action, we can anticipate a bright future with unlimited possibilities.

HOW WILL YOU REIMAGINE DKG?

ASTEFL Dream BIG & ACT

ASTEFL Happenings---

ASTEFL has been very busy! The directors hope everyone has visited the website and quickly discovered a dynamic space filled with fresh resources, engaging stories, and inspiring opportunities. One of the new features is the latest article, entitled "Lady Secret Sister." This is a compelling new feature that immediately captures attention with a sense of intrigue and warmth. The article invites visitors to explore meaningful and comical narratives about ASTEF happenings. The website also introduces a newly released brochure that showcases its offerings in a visually appealing and easy-to-navigate format. Visitors can browse the brochure online or print it for offline reading. This flexibility ensures that users can engage with the material in whichever way suits them best. Beyond its informational resources, the site opens doors to real opportunities. The newly updated brochure is located under the **Resources** tab.

The organization's commitment to support educational growth is reflected in two meaningful opportunities now available to current and future educators: the Project Stipend Grant and the Aspiring Educator Grant. Each initiative serves a distinct purpose, yet both share a common goal: uplifting individuals dedicated to improving learning experiences across communities. The Project Stipend is designed to fund creative, impactful ideas that benefit Texas teachers and students. The Aspiring Educator Grant supports individuals preparing to begin their teaching careers. This grant recognizes future educators who show promise, dedication, and heartfelt commitment to shaping the next generation. Together, these opportunities reflect a strong investment in the future of education by backing inventive projects and supporting rising educators.

ASTEFL directors extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported the Fall Fundraiser. Each contribution made a meaningful difference, helping fund educational initiatives and future opportunities for the project, leadership, and scholarship funds.

The fundraiser stands as a reminder of what a community can achieve when it comes together with purpose and care.

Thank you for being a committed member of both TSO & ASTEF.

A HUGE THANK YOU!!!

ASTEFL would like to formally express its deep appreciation to the membership for their continued support of the fall fundraiser.

A total of **\$8,695.87** was raised, with:

- \$1,527.59 to the Scholarship fund,
- \$4,732.21 to the Leadership fund,
- \$2,436.07 to the Project fund.

Through generous contributions and steadfast commitment, members played an indispensable role in ensuring the fundraiser's success and advancing ASTEF's mission.

THANKS TO ALL!

Information Sources

DKG Texas Website

www.dkgtxas.org

DKG Texas on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/tso.deltakappagamma>

ASTEFL Website

www.astef.org

ASTEFL on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/astef.org>

International

www.dkg.org

Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

ASTEF

2026 ASTEF Chapter Project Stipend Applications online



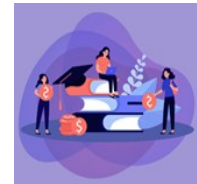
ASTEF is seeking Texas chapters that want to seize the opportunity to create exciting learning opportunities for students and educators this school year. All chapters are encouraged to preview the New 2026 Project Stipend Application as well as the 2025-26 Project Stipend Application Guidelines at www.astef.org/forms. Look for creative avenues for active participation with members and support projects for children of all ages in your community. Large or small, the committee will consider all amounts submitted with the application. Think outside the box and design a project that benefits Texas educators and students.

Applications are due April 1, 2026.



2026 Aspiring Educator

The purpose of the Aspiring Educator Grant is to further the education of a woman who wants to become a teacher. This grant allows her to further her education with the assistance of a grant towards her college costs. This candidate is eligible if she is not a member of DKG, is pursuing a bachelor's degree, AND/OR is a Texas teacher alternative certified desiring a teacher certificate. The applicant **MUST** be sponsored by a TSO member. This year, grant dollars have been increased due to the generosity of DKG members, and all approved applicants will enjoy those increases. The grant guidelines and application can be accessed at www.astef.org/forms.



Applications are due March 1, 2026.

Member Recognitions Around the State



Left side of photo: Holli Harris, Rita Pope,
Trina Perkins (red dress)

Back row: Laura Weiss, Brenda Sweet,
Betty Matthews.

Right side of photo: Dr. Carolyn Underwood,
Linda Moyer, Carol Anne Johnson, Kathy James,
Linda Puster.

Back row: Judi Carvajal, Pat Norton, Jill Moore, Liz
Garrett, Lillian Hughes, Carol Lowe, Ann Dover.

PERKINS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Princeton ISD opened a new school in August 2025 to honor **Trina Perkins, Area 9 Coordinator** and member of **Gamma Beta** chapter. She taught Kindergarten for 40 years before retiring in May 2024 at Princeton Elementary School, which was renamed Lacy Elementary School when the community began to grow, and new elementary schools were added to the district. Perkins Early Childhood Center has 15 Pre-K classrooms and a day care center for district teachers. On October 19, 2025, the school was dedicated, with numerous DKG sisters present to help celebrate. Also present were Danny Perkins, daughter Ashley Edwards, son-in-law Jacob Edwards, and grandson Samuel.

Member Recognitions Around the State



Dr. Carole Walker from **Beta Lambda, Area 17**, was named Professor Emeritus at East Texas A&M University. A reception was held in her honor. Celebrating with Dr. Walker are Paula Massey, Beta Lambda President and Tracy Stewart, chapter treasurer.



Lisa Yates, **Lambda Omicron, Area 8**, was named the top foreign language teacher in the state by the Texas Foreign Language Association (TFLA). This is one of two awards she recently earned. Lisa teaches at Copperas Cove High School.

The TFLA 'Teacher of the Year' award is one of the most prestigious honors for world language educators in Texas, according to Copperas Cove ISD. The award honors a teacher who demonstrates excellence in language & cultural instruction and advocacy for learning world language. Lisa also earned the TFLA's Excellence in Teaching award for her work in teaching world language. Lisa now goes on to represent Texas as its nominee for the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching's Teacher of the Year award.



Special Member Moment

JoAnn Brooks, TSO PSP, attended a meeting about Delta Kappa Gamma Collegiate Memberships and enjoyed a visit with **TSO Past State President Bonnie Moore**, who continues to improve.

Valerie Remschel, Beta Zeta, Area 6, was featured on a live demo for Pampered Chef on Tuesday, December 2nd and viewed across the entire US and Canada. She's demonstrating frothing hot chocolate and adding a marshmallow during the segment on the Pampered Chef show.





DKG Art Gallery displays Texan’s work

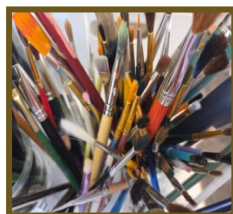
The following TSO members were featured in the Fall 2025 DKG Art Gallery. Visit www.dkg.org to view their work.



“Blue Dome Churches”



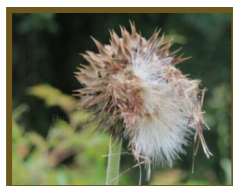
“Ancient 15th Century Artifacts”



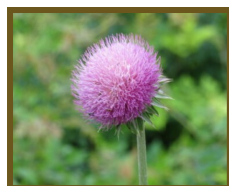
“Brushing Up”



“Feeding Time”



“Glorius Beauty”



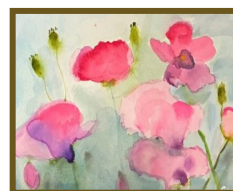
“Thistled”



“Hay Barn”



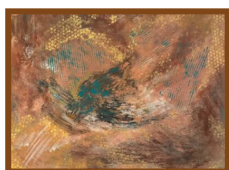
“Pump Jacks”



“Pretty Pink Poppies”



“Fields of Red Poppies”



“Abstract Energy”

Photography:

Lori Villarreal (Nu Gamma) - “Brushing Up”

Charlotte Nyman (Alpha Pi) - “Blue Dome Churches” and “Ancient 15th Century Artifacts”

Janie Wigley (Gamma Beta) - “Glorius Beaty” and “Thistled”

Connie Hernandez (Mu Kappa) - “Feeding Time”

Acrylic Painting:

Dawna Walsh (Delta Omicron) - “Abstract Energy”

Susan Gordon (Zeta Omicron) - “Fields of Red Poppies”

Watercolor:

Ulana Ratley (Kappa Delta) - “Hay Barn” and “Pump Jacks”

Susan Gordon (Zeta Omicron) - “Pretty Pink Poppies”

Drawings:

Dawna Walsh (Delta Omicron) - “Growing in Wisdom”

Crafts:

Monica Johnson-Parkhill (Mu Epsilon) - “Literary Urgings”

Sculpture:

Lisa Yates (Lambda Omicron) - “Spring Floral Delight”

Essay:

Marylin Nease (Delta Omicron) - “Balanced-Busyness” and “In Sickness and In Health”

Short Story:

Jeanette Rhyan (Theta Chi) - “Play Ball”

Marta Finlay (Delta Omicron) - “A Special Bond”



“Literary Urgings”

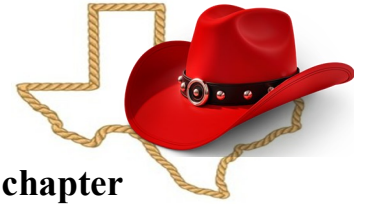


“Growing in Wisdom”



“Spring Floral Delight”

TSO Chapter Round-Up



Members spreading cheer, love, knowledge and kindness in their chapter

Theta Phi, Area 17, members spent time “ringing bells” for the Salvation Army.



Denise Kornegay and Misty Bethell



Sabrina Rosson, Tammy King and Leslie Moodle



Iota Rho, Area 2, Members spent time writing kindness notes and posted them on the walls and lockers at Central Middle School for National Kindness Day.



ALWAYS *be a*
little
Kinder
necessary



Beta Iota, Area 15 went on a field trip to Marathon Field for Dia De Los Muertos. They took a tour of the Marathon graveyard and then enjoyed the beautiful, tranquil waters of Gage Gardens. Ellen Buchhorn and Vicki Maline are sitting in the sweetheart chair in the Gardens enjoying the peace and quiet.



♥ Lambda Xi, Area 13 ♥

Love and Care Water Report

Members donated \$35 to buy and deliver bottled water to Love and Care Ministries. Members filled two shopping carts with cases of bottled water.

Upon delivery, seven packs (280 bottles) of greatly needed water were delivered.

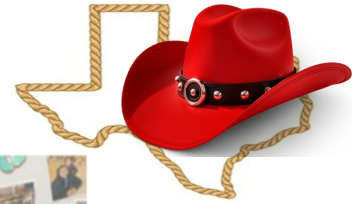
The organization was very thankful!

Mu Epsilon, Area 16,

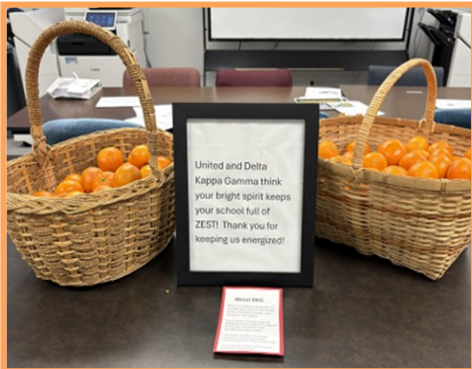
had a very creative program at their meeting. Members painted their own door mat.



TSO Chapter Round-Up



Members of Epsilon Kappa, Area 7, gathered assorted snacks for the teachers at various elementary schools in Austin ISD. Marcia Kirkland and Bernadine Eaton delivered to the schools. Grace Esquivel, principal at Padron Elementary, happily accepted the holiday gifts.



Members of **Theta Epsilon, Area 12,** has been spreading monthly good cheer with goodies to their adopted schools. The goodie for the month was mandarin oranges because their “bright spirits” keep the school full of ZEST!

Iota Omega, Area 9, members celebrated their Fabulous 50th Birthday!
1975 - 2025



Epsilon Rho, Area 3, gathered items from their food pantry donations for their Veterans’ Day Service Project. Jennifer and Pandora delivered the items to the DeGeorge Hotel, which is a Historic Landmark in downtown Houston that has been transformed into a veteran housing facility.



Iota Omega Chapter (Area 9, Plano) celebrated its "50 and Fabulous" birthday September (1975-2025).

**A Note from Beverly Hall-Maughan,
International President at DKG**

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Leadership at Your Fingertips

Looking for fingertip access to leadership related information? Let your fingers do the walking at the Leadership Discovery Centre on the DKG website (dkg.org → sign in → Leadership Discovery Centre). The site is filled with valuable resources prepared by DKG members—articles, essays, PowerPoints, and videos—as well as materials from external sources, including recommended books, TED Talks, leadership organizations, and consultants/speakers.

Not only can the Centre serve you, but you can also contribute by submitting materials, suggesting or requesting new content, and recommending books or media.

Because strong leadership is essential to the success of any organization, the Centre is designed to:

- Promote leadership and support the professional development of leadership skills
- Encourage access to training opportunities within DKG
- Inspire members from ALL countries to share and contribute

Building or strengthening leadership skills - for yourself and your members—is just a click away. So, exercise those fingers: explore the site, grow your skills, and make a difference for yourself, your chapter, your state organization, and for DKG.

International Headquarters

12710 Research Blvd Ste 230
Austin, Texas 78759
Austin telephone: 512.478.5748
www.dkg.org

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

DKG™ Leadership Links

- Feb. 1 International Scholarship Applications Due
- Feb. 1 Educators Book Award Submissions Due
- Feb. 3 Inside International @ 5:30 PM Central with Non-Dues Revenue
- Feb. 10 Inside Connections (Membership & Expansion) @ 12:30 PM Central
- Feb. 11 U.S. Forum Webinar *Preparing Your Testimonies* @ 6 PM Central
- Feb. 15 Submissions for Art Gallery at International Convention
- Feb. 19 Inside Leadership @ 12:30 PM Central
- Feb. 25 U.S. Forum Webinar @ 6 PM Central
- Feb. 26 Inside Impact (EEC) @ 5:30 PM Central - CTAUN
- March 1 DKGIEF Educational Project Award Applications Due
- March 1 International Achievement Award Nominations Due
- March 1 *Bulletin: Journal* Submissions Due
- March 1 Applications to serve on International Committees Due
- March 3 Inside International @ 12:30 PM Central
- March 8-11 U.S. Forum National Legislative Seminar in Old Town Alexandria
- March 10 Inside Connections (Membership & Expansion) @ 5:30 PM
- March 19 Inside Leadership (Leadership Development) @ 5:30 PM Central
- March 19 Booking deadline for Cultural Treasurers of Japan Tour



More information on International website:

www.dkg.org

See videos: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqsKf5cYj->

Vision Statement

*Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide*





Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All



Join us for the 2026 International Convention at the stunning Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora, Colorado, U.S.A., from June 30 to July 4, 2026. This historic event will not only mark the 250th anniversary of the United States, but also bring together key women educators from around the globe to celebrate professional growth, leadership, and the shared mission of advancing excellence in education. Click on the link for more information.

[2026 Colorado International Convention](#)

DKGIEF & You: Donations Make a Difference



Giving to educate the world! Donations offer opportunities for a member, chapter, state organization, or non-member patron to support the work of the Society through charitable activities and the professional development of educators. Donors can support the funds managed by the Foundation with one-time donations, monthly donations, transferring stock, planned giving through a member's estate, and donating the annual required minimum distribution (RMD) from employer-sponsored retirement plans. A past recipient of any of the nine funds may choose to "repay-in-kind" by contributing to any one of the nine funds.

Discover details about the various ways to donate on the [Ways to Contribute](#) DKGIEF webpage.

https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/DKGS/Resourcess/Officer_Resourcess/Membership-Resourcess.aspx?hkey=b3e6bffd-fcfa-482d-bb02-13166277e4d9



TECH CORNER: THE MEMBER

TOOLKIT Recently, the membership resources located on DKG.org were redesigned into the *Member Toolkit*. Here, members can find information on key topics, such as:

- Attracting new members using the ***Onboarding & Recruitment*** tools
- Visualizing the DKG journey with ***The Member Journey Map***
- Retaining members with the ***Retention Plan***
- Starting a collegiate chapter
- Hosting hybrid meetings using the ***Hybrid Meeting Toolkit***
- Reinstating former members with the ***Reinstatement Plan***
- ***Unlocking Your Potential***, with the newly designed DKG brochure
- Recruiting key women educators using the ***DKGSI Target Audience Analysis***
- Getting new members up to speed using the ***New Member Dashboard***

The Membership & Expansion Committee developed these tools to help members get the most updated, comprehensive information on being a member, celebrating membership, and recruiting fellow key women educators. Each tool represents a foundational area of growth to set members up for success within the organization. Chapter and state organization leaders will find these tools particularly helpful for recruiting and retaining members within their local organization.

Log on to **DKG.org > Resources > Membership** to access the newly redesigned Member Toolkit.

DKG's Centennial, log onto **DKG.org > Events > Centennial Celebration**.