

# Theta Alpha Chatter

*Expand the Vision: Educate, Inspire, Encourage*

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

**The Delta Kappa  
Gamma  
Society  
International**

**Texas State  
Organization**

**Theta Alpha Chapter  
Chapter 193  
Area IX  
Dallas County**

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

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**Chapter Website:  
dkgthetaalpha.weebly.com**

**Theta Alpha Chapter  
Meeting Dates  
2014 - 2015**

August 16, 2014  
September 20, 2014  
October 18, 2014  
November 15, 2014  
December 13, 2014  
January 17, 2015  
February 21, 2015  
March 21, 2015  
April 18, 2015  
May 16, 2015



## Message from the President



Another school year is just around the corner and where has the summer gone?! It seems just yesterday that we were sending our students home with their final report cards. Now it is time once again to start our 2014-2015 Theta Alpha chapter meetings. Our August meeting will be held August 16, 2014 at Highland Park Cafeteria at 10:00 a.m. Our First Vice Presidents, Catie King and Leslie Valentinicic, have planned an exciting program and your attendance is very important.

In May we had our Founders' Day Celebration and awarded our achievement award to Kristi John. Congratulations to Kristi John once again. Also, the following officers were installed: President—Dianne McCorcle, First Vice Presidents---Catie King and Leslie Valentinicic, Second Vice President—Ruth Kaun, Recording Secretary—Kendall Hasse, and Corresponding Secretary—Kristi John.

In June, there were 10 of us that traveled to Lubbock to attend the 85th TSO Convention. Theta Alpha received both the Annie and PACE awards. We had a great time (even though I was inundated with "everything you need to know about being a chapter president") visiting

and sharing stories with our DKG sisters.

July brought the DKG international convention and 6 of us (Patti Belknap, Carolyn Johnson, Susie Branch, Baudelia Luna, Michelle Grandinetti and I) traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana. New international officers were installed with Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid from Pennsylvania as President and Beth Schieber from Oklahoma as Southwest Regional Director. It was an eye opening experience to see our society conduct its business.

September will bring our Area IX workshop and several of us have signed up to attend. If you still need to sign up, please be sure to bring your \$12.00 registration fee to our next meeting. The Area IX Workshop will be held at Plano Senior High School in Plano, Texas September 20, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Patti Belknap, Workshop Registrar, will be collecting your fee. There will be plenty of valuable sessions to attend that day.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our August meeting.

Dianne McCorcle,  
President

*An Honorary Professional Society  
of Key Women Educators*

## August Meeting Details

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! I look forward to hearing about what everyone did over the last couple of months when we get together August 16th for our first meeting. At this meeting we will be discussing the budget and plans for the year. There will also be a brief book talk and a "technology moment."

In addition, we would like for members with classroom materials they are willing to donate to "new" teachers (those new to teaching, new to grade level, and/or new to a teaching field) to bring those items to our meeting. Please also invite anyone you know that is a "new teacher" to come shop through our materials. This activity will give an excellent opportunity for us to show those teachers who we are and some of what we do. Inviting them doesn't necessarily mean they will become members, but it does mean we are getting the message out there that Theta Alpha Chapter wants to help support new teachers. Remember "new teachers" aren't just those who recently graduated, some have moved to a different grade level, a new subject area, or a new school. School supply sales are probably a good place to find teachers (stocking up on pencils, crayons, and notebook paper for the classroom if they are like me).

I hope to see you there!

Catie King,  
Co-First Vice President

**Meeting date:** August 16, 2014

**Meeting time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Location:**  
Highland Park Cafeteria  
1200 N Buckner Blvd  
Dallas, Tx 75218

**What to bring:** Classroom materials to donate (NOTE: if what you brought isn't taken, you will need to take it back home with you because we do not have a place to store it); Guests (the donations will not go anywhere if we don't invite new teachers)



### Area IX Workshop- Something for Everyone!

Mark your calendars for the Area IX Workshop!

The workshop will be held September 20, 2014  
at Plano Senior High School in Plano, TX.

The workshop will be from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.;  
registration is \$12.00.

There will be important sessions for the new biennium officers as well as sessions to inspire and engage supporting members. You will be surrounded with enthusiasm and that good ol' DKG spirit that will gear you up for an exciting fresh biennium.

Don't miss out on this nourishing workshop that will feed the DKG soul!

PRIZES!      FUN!      FOOD!      FRIENDS!

## Tech Moment

On the member survey last spring there were several requests for technology or help with technology. This year we will try to incorporate a 5-10 minute "technology moment" into almost all of our meetings. In order to keep within the 5-10 minute time frame, there will be a place to ask questions on the website ([www.dkgthetaalpha.weebly.com](http://www.dkgthetaalpha.weebly.com)) that I will answer. I will also include in the newsletter a brief summary of the previous month's discussion, answers to questions I received from the website, and tell the topic for the upcoming meeting. The topics for August will be Facebook and LinkedIn.

Catie King,  
Co-First Vice President

## Reflections on International Convention

The International Convention held in Indianapolis was once again a reminder to me of what an International Society we are. The opening session began with the presentation of the 17 country flags and the DKG flag. Many were carried by members in their countries traditional dress as the anthems were played in the background. Truly a sight to see.

Our Texas delegation held 64 members, and I can't begin to tell you how proud I was to be one of six representing Theta Alpha! It speaks so highly of our commitment to our Society. Those in attendance with me included Susie Branch, Carolyn Johnson, Baudelia Luna, Michelle Grandinetti, and our new President, Dianne McCorcle.

A Bluebonnet Breakfast was held for Texas members and their guests. While enjoying breakfast we honored Corlea Plowman for her service to DKG. A "Top 10 List" of things Corlea can do now that she is retired was very humorous and well received.

We had fabulous speakers who encouraged us and gave us food for thought. We enjoyed hearing Reiko Sumi from Japan sing with a voice that moved many to tears. Because we are part of the Southwest Region we were actually lucky enough to hear her at the SW breakfast as well.

Since this was a Constitution year we voted on many proposed amendments. I was asked to be a page on two different days as we took standing votes that had to be counted. It was interesting to sit with other states and see how they felt about the issues. Our Society is "forward moving ever" as we voted to adopt new measures.

International Conventions allows a member to participate in the direction they would like to see our organization go. It allows an opportunity to attend workshops given by members from around our world. But most importantly it allows fellowship with our sisters from all 17 member countries.

The next International convention is in Nashville, on July 5-9, 2016. Mark your calendars and plan to attend with me. You'll be glad you did!

Patti Belknap

**SAVE THE DATE**



**CTAUN CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**

**North American University**

**3203 N Sam Houston Pkwy W**

**Houston, Texas 77038**

## Birthdays

### June

4 - Kathy Nichols  
9 - Minthia Nelson  
12 - Marsha Pool  
16 - Anita Longshore  
16 - Leslie Valentincic

### July

15 - Nicole Rutledge

### August

16 - Carolyn Johnson



# Theta Alpha - 85th TSO Convention Update

## GREETINGS!

The fearless ten from Theta Alpha arrived back safely (thanks to God) from red and gold country (Lubbock) the weekend of June 22, 2014! It was a marvelous TSO 85th Convention with a total of 849 DKG members and guests attending. (It would have been even better if all of our Theta Alpha Sisters could have shared the fun and flair with those who did get to attend!)

## HIGHLIGHTS:

There were many exceptional highlights at the TSO Convention: TSO President Nancy Newton's charming humor and well-organized ability to conduct the convention's business helped to keep the convention flowing smoothly. Our International Second Vice President, Lyn Babb Schmid, Ed.D. graced convention with several outstanding presentations. (Her favorite saying was "Whenever you make a mistake, throw up your hands and say, 'How fascinating!'")

The Celebration of Life and Remembrance was impressive and inspirational with Theta Alpha's Leslie Valentincic contributing lovely, gentle background harp music for the ceremony. (Grace Brandenburg from Kappa Upsilon was among those remembered.) Our own Patti Belknap, Catie King, and Michelle Grandinetti presented in sessions, and Carolyn Johnson shared her musical talent during the Birthday Luncheon. Susie Branch faithfully preformed her duties at the "Annie's Attic" booth which was sponsored by the Headquarters Committee.

Let us not fail to mention that our new Theta Alpha President for the 2014-2016 Biennium, Dianne McCorcle, was inundated for at least five straight hours with "Everything You Need to Know About Being a DKG Chapter President...and Much, MUCH More!" as she participated in the Leadership Training for Chapter Presidents (LTCP). Wow, Theta Alpha- What a bright and shining star!!

## MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Theta Alpha members who attended the TSO Convention were as follows: Patti Belknap, TSO CTAUN Representative to the United Nations and

LOSP State Committee Member; Michelle Grandinetti, Area IX Coordinator; Susie Branch, Headquarters Committee Member; Beverly Hagood, Theta Alpha 2012-2014 President; Kendall Hasse, Theta Alpha 2014-2016 Recording Secretary; Carolyn Johnson, Fifty-Plus Year Member; Catie King, Theta Alpha 2014-2016 Co-First-Vice President; Baudelia Luna, Theta Alpha's Immediate Past President; Dianne McCorcle, Theta Alpha 2014-2016 President; and Leslie Valentincic, Theta Alpha 2014-2016 Co-First-Vice President.

## THETA ALPHA'S HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS:

The following honors and recognitions were awarded to Theta Alpha Chapter at the 85th TSO Convention, 2014:

- \* Kendall Hasse- Recipient of the Maetha Griffin Weatherby Educational Travel Scholarship. Kendall will be attending the Great Leaders Summit in Silver Springs, Maryland in July.
- \* Communications Award 2014- Five Star Newsletter
- \* Exemplary Yearbook and Early Bird Award
- \* Annie Award for Outstanding Programs- "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG- Enriching the Lives of Homeless Children"
- \* TSO Certified Chapter Website
- \* Membership Award
- \* Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund- Contributing Chapter
- \* ASTEF Individual Contributors (Three Theta Alpha Members- One Bronze Level and Two Friends Level )
- \* ASTEF Chapter Donations to Scholarships- Double Honors and Honors for 10 or More Years
- \* ASTEF Chapter Donations to Leadership- Trailblazers
- \* ASTEF Chapter Donations to Projects- Projects Builders
- \* PACE Award!!

What an incredibly luminous chapter we have with such dedicated, energetic members!! None of these honors and recognitions would have been possible without the diligent work from all of Theta Alpha's talented members!! Kudos and bouquets of roses to all of our insightful members!!

I know that you are as inspired and as enthusiastic as I am about beginning a fresh biennium with our fantastic team of new officers. It has been an



## Delta Kappa Gamma Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes May 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the Theta Alpha chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was called to order at 10:40am by Beverly Hagood, President. The recording secretary, Kristi John, was present and recorded the minutes.

Beverly Hagood welcomed 17 members. Members gave updates on those who were unable to attend. Catie King then conducted the installation of new officers for the 2014-2016 biennium: President, Dianne McCorcle; First Vice Presidents, Catie King and Leslie Valentincic; Second Vice President, Ruth Kaun; Recording Secretary, Kendall Hasse; and Corresponding Secretary, Kristi John. Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, read recognition of a member retiring from education, Michelle Grandinetti, Area IX coordinator, who has been in education for 31 years.

Jan Gentry announced this year's Chapter Achievement Award. Kristi John was recognized for her outstanding contributions to Theta Alpha. The chapter then recognized Barbara McIntosh and Dianna Stouffer for their 25 year memberships in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Barbara gave a beautiful speech on special memories from her past 25 years as a member.

Beverly Hagood then reported on the upcoming conventions and announced the unifying project as helping the Genie Farley Home in Lubbock, Texas. She also congratulated the chapter on the "Excellence Award" won for the yearbook, and the "Five Star Award" for the chapter newsletter. Patti Belknap, Parliamentarian, announced that the updated chapter rules have been approved. Michelle Grandinetti reported on the upcoming Area Workshop, discussed Stillwell Retirement home and asked members to contribute toward a good cause. Dianne McCorcle reported on the upcoming biennium, and asked member to sign up for committees. Beverly Hagood then passed the gavel to the incoming President, Dianne McCorcle. Patti Belknap announced that the executive board made a contribution to ASTEF in Beverly's name. Catie King, Second Vice President, then began the program for the month, "Recognizing and Celebrating the DKG Founders."

The meeting adjourned with singing of the DKG song at 12:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristi John, Recording Secretary

### Convention Update (Cont.)

honor and a privilege serving as Theta Alpha's 2012-2014 President. Now with all of us "tending the garden" together our chapter will continue to be an inspiration to others and will continue to blaze more (happy) trails in DKG! Working together we will joyously labor for others in our community and in our world, mentoring new teachers and making significant contributions in the lives of countless children.

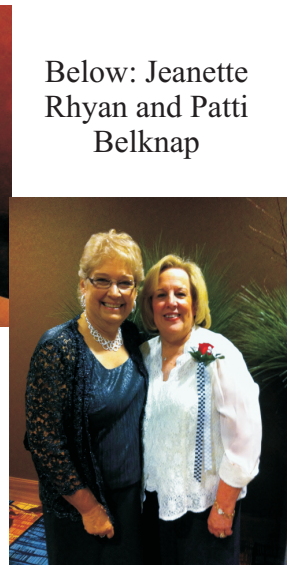
Theta Alpha's love and dedication for the incredible Society that DKG is will continue to grow and to blossom as we "join hands" to work for the benefits of women teachers, of disenfranchised women, and of all children locally, nationally, and globally.

Peace and blessings to all as we begin the 2014-2016 Biennium,

Bev Hagood,  
Theta Alpha 2012-2014 President



Above: (Top) Dianne McCorcle, Michelle Grandinetti, Baudelia Luna.  
(Bottom) Carolyn Johnson and Susie Branch



Below: Jeanette Rhyan and Patti Belknap

### Legislative News

Be sure you are registered to vote and encourage all your friends especially newly qualified voters to register for the fall election. Watch carefully for the news articles about the various candidates and be sure to attend any events that they are speaking at to understand their views. Write them -- call them and ask questions.

Hattie Hammer,  
Legislative Chair