



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 9
Dallas County

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

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Theta Alpha Chapter
Meeting Dates
2014 - 2015

August 16, 2014
September 20, 2014
October 11, 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

In preparing the Chapter Presidents Annual Report, I had to reflect on what does my chapter do that makes you most proud of it and its members. So many images came to mind of what makes me so proud of Theta Alpha, especially last month's program on poverty. That big stack of blankets that were made by you all and given to Mission Arlington immediately came to mind. Most of our projects have had an immediate impact on our communities and have rallied us together as a family. I believe our chapter mentors and nurtures us in our profession and into roles of leadership. Let me thank all of you that was able to participate on the Mission Arlington project and made it such a success. Thank you to the ladies of Johns Elementary for allowing us to hold our meeting in your school and to our hostess: Patti Belknap, Kristi John, Dianna Stouffer, Leslie Valentincic, Nichole Rutledge, and Cathen Jones.

"Hats Off to DKG" is the theme for the annual Dallas County Coordinating Council Spring Luncheon which will be held Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the Lakewood Country Club, 1912 Abrams, Dallas, Texas 75214. The tickets will be \$25.00 and please plan to purchase your Spring Luncheon ticket at our February 21st meeting.

Leslie Valentincic and Catie King have planned a wonderful program on macular degeneration and low vision awareness for our February meeting. If you have any old eye glasses that you can bring to donate, please bring them. We will collect them and take them to Wal-Mart, who has a collection box available. The meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2015 at Arcadia Park Branch Library at 10:00 a.m. The library is located at 1302 N. Justin Ave. Dallas, Texas 75211. Our inspiration will be brought by Jan Gentry and our hostesses are Linda Robards, Mary Myers, Kathy Nichols, Ann Wyatt, and Baudelia Luna.

In closing, I want to remind you to please mark the date of our Texas State Convention which will be held in San Antonio, June 25-27, 2015. Also another date that needs to be circled on your calendar is Southwest Regional Conference, which will be July 22-25, 2015 in Wichita, Kansas.

For this valentine month, let me leave you with the words of Therese de Lisieux-- "Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing."

Peace,
Dianne McCorcle,
Theta Alpha President

An Honorary Professional Society
of Key Women Educators

February Meeting Details

Happy February everyone! Our next meeting will be February 21st at Arcadia Park Library. It will be a morning full of information. I will present information about vision loss in honor of Macular Degeneration and Low Vision Awareness Month; Kristi has some information about membership for us; and we will have a collection for the Delta Kappa Gamma International project "Schools for Africa." There will be some simulators for people to try on to get an idea what some visual disabilities might be like, some of the devices and technology used to help people who have vision loss to look at, and we would like to make a donation of old eye glasses.

Our technology moment will be on Instagram, and there will be a brief book talk from Donna Lucas. Jan Gentry will provide us with an inspiration.

The hostesses for February are: Linda Robards, Mary Myers, Kathy Nichols, Ann Wyatt, Baudelia Luna, and Aurora Torres. I look forward to seeing everyone, so I hope you will come, learn, and have an enjoyable time at this month's meeting.

Date: February 21, 2015
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Arcadia Park Library
1302 N. Justin Ave
Dallas, Tx 75211

What to bring: Guests, old eye glasses, and monetary donation for Schools for Africa

Catie King,
Co-First Vice President

Birthdays

January

1 - Cathen Jones
11 - Joan Huntley

February

6 - Betty Morgan



(clipart from Corel Draw x3)

From Your A.C.

How are SMART phones and chapter programs connected? Time's up. Have you ever attended a meeting (not DKG), watched a TV program, read an article, or just sat contemplating a topic and thought to yourself, "That would make a great program"? Then, when you get to the chapter survey for future program ideas, you can't remember? Well, whip out that SMART phone, and record that idea. When you get to the planning meeting, you will be SMART!

And speaking of programs, have you made reservations for the TSO convention in San Antonio? It will be sweet to see you there. (I just had to get Valentine's Day in somewhere.)

Have a very sweet February,
Michelle Grandinetti
Area 9 Coordinator
mrgrand@mindspring.com



graphics-Microsoft

Calling All Past Convention Totes

Do you have an extra DKG Convention Tote in your closet, just sitting there feeling all neglected and useless? Well wake that tote up, dust it off and let it know that she is needed in San Antonio this summer. This year the convention committee has taken pity on the retired totes of past DKG conventions. All returning convention attendees are being asked to bring and use their favorite totes of the past. But that leaves the new convention goers without a tote. The committee is collecting retired totes that are no longer being used. These totes will be brought back to their former glory, filled with information and love for the new convention attendees. Bring your tote to the February 21st meeting, at the Red Hot & Blue BBQ restaurant at Walnut Hill and 75. Our Area IX Coordinator, Michelle Grandinetti, will be present to collect them and ensure they find a home with the committee.

Pam Ponnors,
Delta Pi
(Printing with permission)



Points to Ponder

Human Trafficking

May we in both the Jewish and Christian traditions pray that God will defend the causes of children, women, and men who are caught in the horrific web of human trafficking and will "crush the oppressors" (Ps. 72:4), using each of us as His ambassadors in the fight for the right of every individual to live with dignity and to live free from fear and want.

This year marks the 152nd anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, but our society is presently haunted by a modern-day form of slavery: human trafficking. In the Fall 2014 issue of the Lone Star News the Texas State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International shared alarmingly heartbreaking statistics indicating that the "border with Mexico is North America's number one supply site for young children used in sex and labor trafficking." That includes our own Texas!

Human trafficking takes the forms of recruiting, harboring, transporting or obtaining of people to be exploited in agriculture, restaurants, construction, domestic work, marriage, or prostitution. Persons are trafficked across national borders as well as within their countries of origin.

Human trafficking goes beyond the violation of human rights- the right to liberty and human dignity and the right not to be held in slavery. Traffickers prey on those who are poor, homeless, runaways, unemployed or who face discrimination. If trafficked as children, trafficked victims often have no schooling.

Some trafficked children are victims of incest and childhood rape. Many run away from home trying to shed the shame of childhood abuse. Childhood rape is the "boot camp" to prostitution. "Pimps" play on a runaway girl's vulnerability- the need for food, a place to stay, and someone who says that she will be "cared for." Usually drugs are introduced to victims to "help" them become more compliant with the situation.

How can we as DKG sisters be ambassadors in this fight for the right of every individual to live with dignity and to live free from fear and want? First of all, being aware that this brutal industry of human trafficking that is perpetuated by the wallet does exist. As unbelievable and as horrific as it may sound, it does exist!!

Next, speaking out for a change in community

attitude that will not only adopt strategies to apprehend the perpetrators and to punish them but will also put into place humane strategies to focus equally on the victim. Strategies that will empower the victim to speak out without being doubly victimized or stigmatized are essential to the dignity and well-being of the victim.

To help our legislators begin to see a need for changes in unjust systems that encourage human trafficking we need to make them aware of the importance of addressing the root causes that perpetuate human rights abuses like human trafficking. Root causes such as growing poverty, unemployment, low wages, and gender inequalities perpetuate trafficking and make women and girls especially vulnerable.

Then we can pray...pray for those who are trafficked in the United States and globally, for the families of those trafficked, and, yes, even for the traffickers (as difficult as that might be). We can pray for ordinary people like you and me who unwittingly propagate the destructiveness of human trafficking because of our lifestyle choices, consumption, and lack of awareness. We can pray that God will bless all of His people with peace and with a promise for a just and better future free of slavery.

Peace and blessings,
Bev Hagood, Research Chairman

Legislative News

Information on the various bills being proposed by the Congress re Teacher Retirement and Social Security benefits will be coming out later this month when the bills are formally presented.

In Texas Legislative session, one area to be aware of is the situation with public pre-kindergarten as the educational foundation for opportunity which is being advocated for by conservative and business leaders across the state. Governor Abbott is committed to increasing pre-K quality. Currently Texas has no required standards for pre-K and very little data on the quality of the states pre-K programs.

Hattie M. Hammer,
Legislative Committee



Delta Kappa Gamma
Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes
May 18, 2013

The regular meeting of the Theta Alpha chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was called to order at 10:00 am by Dianne McCorcle, President. 25 members and three guests were in attendance at John's Elementary in Arlington, Tx.

Corrected minutes were approved. Marilyn Bishop presented the Treasurers' Report of \$5,760.

Kristi John stated we reached a quorum. She introduced the John's Elementary principal, Tammy Rogers, who is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma in an Arlington chapter and the vice principal, Laurie Mosley.

Leslie Valentincic introduced the speaker, Tillie Burgen, of Mission Arlington. Members worked on the project throughout the meeting and after – making blankets for Mission Arlington. Tillie talked about what Mission Arlington does: make every life better that they meet. They have 60 after school programs because children go home to empty houses without adults/parents. She asked us, “How can we affect change? Come out to Mission Arlington and give time. Get out there on the front lines.”

We donated 31 blankets, coats, scarves, and children's books to Mission Arlington.

Sandra King gave us stats on illiteracy – for example, 70% of inmates in jails read below a 4th grade level. 1 in 4 children never learn how to read. Hattie Hammer discussed poverty and legislation. Kathy Nichols shared more about poverty. Michelle Grandinetti spoke about how Southwest Regional needs presenters. The convention is in Wichita, Kansas in July 22-25 in coordination with the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Wichita. She also gave us a quiz on poverty and we talked about race and ethnicity which led to a quality discussion.

For committee reports on membership and correspondence, Kristi John received the note

from Latrice Todd with an acceptance to join our chapter. No news from scholarships; March 1 deadline for Cora McFarland. Catie shared a book talk and members shared there are opportunities to help volunteer at Dallas ISD's Cowboy Camp over Spring Break in March, even volunteering for just one day.

Donna Lucas read the Inspiration to us from Reader's Digest. Our next meeting will be at Acardia Park in February. The meeting was adjourned by singing the DKG song at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kendall Hasse,
DKG Society International

Hearts for Africa

At the Austin convention in 2013, TSO voted to create the Global Awareness Committee. The purpose of the committee is to “explore and provide opportunities for our members to be involved in projects and programs related to global issues and topics.” The committee promotes the DKG/UN connection. It encourages participation in CTAUN, Women's Leadership Conferences, teacher exchange partnerships, teaching in other countries, and e-pals with member countries. The committee also includes the World Fellowship Committee which provides grants to women from non-member countries to study in the United States and Canada.

The committee also encourages chapters to support International DKG initiatives and projects, such as the Schools for Africa project, which is a DKG partnership with UNICEF to provide educational opportunities for children in Africa who are victims of natural disasters and internal conflicts. At the January meeting, I introduced the term “safety net.” Schools for Africa definitely falls in the category of a safety net for these children.

At the February meeting, we will exchange a “Hearts for Africa” donation to Schools for Africa in exchange for a sweet treat. Unlike children in the United States, many children in Africa are not part of a school system that provides for their on campus needs; they rely on the generosity of organizations like DKG. I hope you will be there in February to open your hearts for Africa.