



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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**Theta Alpha Chapter
Meeting Dates
2013 - 2014**

**August 17, 2013
September 21, 2013
October 19, 2013
November 16, 2013
December 21, 2013
January 18, 2014
February 15, 2014
March 15, 2014
April 26, 2014
May 17, 2014**



Message from the President



Our DKG sisters are like diamonds, precious and rare, masterpieces of nature. "...no friendship can cross the path of our destiny without leaving some mark on it forever." (Francois Mocuriac) As I recall the many friends that I have made since I've joined Theta Alpha/DKG, I realize that I am reaping bouquets of happiness from the lovely, vibrant, intelligent women educators who have crossed my path. Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, DKG's founder, is truly the bright and shining educational leader whose values and goals we, as outstanding DKG women educators, need to emulate and reflect. Let us be a reflection of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton!

"Reflections of Delta Kappa Gamma" is the theme for the Dallas County Coordinating Council's Spring Luncheon Saturday, April 5, 2014. (Please see the related article about the details.) At the luncheon two of our lovely, vibrant, intelligent members, Barbara McIntosh and Dianna Stouffer, will be recognized and honored for their 25 faithful years in Delta Kappa Gamma. For the entertainment the soft, gentle, melodious tones of a harp will flow through the Brookhaven Country Club as our own Leslie Valentincic, (Corresponding Secretary) shares her talent with the members of the DCCC. Kristi John (and Co.) will help coordinate the graphics, typing, and printing of the luncheon program. Theta Alpha's members will shine at the DCCC Spring Luncheon!!

Be sure to purchase your Spring Luncheon tickets (\$25.00 per person) at the Theta Alpha February 15, 2014 meeting. We want to support our sisters who are participating and who are being honored at the luncheon! Also, Theta Alpha members

don't want to miss hearing Alpha State President, Nancy Newton, charm and inform the luncheon attendees! Saturday, April 5 will be a day well-spent as we surround ourselves with our "precious and rare" DKG sisters and friends!

Theta Alpha is so very proud of its new slate of elected 2014-2016 Biennium officers: Dianne McCorcle, President; Catie King and Leslie Valentincic, First Vice Presidents; Ruth Kaun, Second Vice President; Kendall Hasse, Recording Secretary; Kristi John, Corresponding Secretary!! What a wonderful team Theta Alpha has to guide its members through a new biennium! Remember, that the members are the foundation of the chapter. Without an active membership participation, the chapter will not thrive. As strong and endearing members, let us uplift, support, and cheer our new officers as they engage the members on their journey for the next two years! "I'll lift you and you lift me, and we'll both ascend together." John Greenleaf Whittier

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" George Eliot. What joy we experience when we plant seeds in others gardens and our lives fill with brilliant blossoms! That is exactly what we witness whenever we participate in our annual project! This year on March 15, 2014 we will be partnering with Family Gateway, a shelter that gives aid and comfort to homeless families. The theme is "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG" with a focus on the Native American culture. In order to complete our list of activities, please be sure to bring to the February 15 meeting your final ideas for the "campfires." We'll be finalizing

An Honorary Professional Society of Key Women Educators

February Meeting Details

Our big project for this school year has been changed and instead of partnering with Captain Hope, we will partner with Family Gateway. Due to scheduling conflicts with Family Gateway, our project has been moved to March 15, 2014. Our theme is still "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG" with a special focus on Native Americans. Our activities will be gathered around "campfires." Also, at this month's meeting bring your donation of children's books and we can work on putting the book plates on them.

Date: Saturday, February 15, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m. (Come at 9:50 a.m. for refreshments and chatting.)

Location: Johns Elementary School
1900 Sherry Street, Arlington, TX

Inspiration: Ruth Kaun

Program: "Riding the Happy Trails with DKG" planning workshop

Book Talk: Anita & Debra Rangel
Nominations for Achievement Award

Hostesses: Alpha Family (Catie King, Janet Roark, Ann Wyatt, Cathen Jones, Minithia Nelson, Babs Arnswald)

Please be prepared to nominate a member for the Theta Alpha Achievement Award at this month's meeting. Also, I hope you have been searching for prospective new members and hopefully we can schedule initiation in May.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our monthly meeting!

Dianne McCorcle,
Program of Work

Birthdays

February

6 - Betty Morgan
6 - Erica Campos

March

3-Babs Arnswald
5-Ann Wyatt
7-Kendall Hasse
12-Janet Roark
14-Anita Rangel



President's Message (Continued)

activities, venue, the food, and other necessary details. Please remember to bring the books which you have been collecting. Theta Alpha is rewarded more and more each year as the members bring smiles to the faces of these homeless families. Please be sure to plan to participate in this most rewarding project; we need a generous membership participation!

It is still not too late to recruit new members! Bringing prospective members to our February and March "project" meetings would give them a snapshot of what Theta Alpha is really all about. Serving others who are in dire need and giving of ourselves to bring the needy peace and comfort are important purposes for Theta Alpha/DKG. We need to let others see us in action! Also, the prospective members can witness how passionate we are for the betterment of education for those who are experiencing poverty. They will be able to witness firsthand how Theta Alpha members' lives have been enriched by friendships with the professional women educators of our Society. As Beverly Helms, 2012-2014 DKG International President, states, "So today, use your power of one to reach out and touch someone, and let's move (Theta Alpha and) DKG forward!" Let's all make a concerted effort to bring a prospective member with us Saturday, February 15, 2014! (We'll put them to work, as there is much to be done!)

In closing, I want to remind you to place on your calendar the 85th TSO Convention to be held in Lubbock at the Lubbock Civic Center, June 19-21, 2014. What a jolly good time Theta Alpha members always have at these conventions! There are many informative and helpful workshops for new officers and for members. Watch for more details about the TSO Convention in the Spring Lone Star News.

The International Convention is in Indianapolis, Indiana July 28-August 1, 2014. The election process will be considered at the International Convention this year, 2014. Please check your Winter Lone Star News for more details about the proposed amendments.

February is February Foundation Focus Month for ASTEF. We will highlight ASTEF at our February meeting! Come and check out ASTEF! Will see all of you at the February 15 meeting!

Peace and blessings to all,

Beverly Hagood,
Theta Alpha President

From Your A.C.

Dear Area 9,

February and March are traditionally the months in which new officers are elected and members are asked to chair and serve on committees. As you are selecting your role in the next chapter biennium, I want to share some open-ended thoughts for you to complete; they might help you choose a place for those super skills I have observed during chapter visits (and you thought I wasn't paying attention.)

I want my chapter to be a place where.....

The kind of chapter to which I would like to belong would.....

In order to accomplish this I (we) need to
When I leave this chapter I want to be remembered for.....

DKG Question: What is under the Global Awareness umbrella?

Membership idea: What committee will you chair/serve next year?

Happy Valentine's Day,
Michelle Grandinetti
Area 9 Coordinator
mrgrand@mindspring.com

Membership

As I was reviewing the surveys I collected about what membership looks in our chapter and why we have remained a member of DKG, a theme began to take shape. Almost everyone chose that one of the reasons they remained a member was because of fellowship and networking with key women educators. The camaraderie and relationships formed within Theta Alpha and Delta Kappa Gamma is amazing and so hard to describe to prospective members! I wish there was a way to capture the support given to fellow women educators throughout their careers mixed in with a dash of the friendships that form along the way. If you have someone who you think will appreciate Delta Kappa Gamma and all it has to offer, please bring them to one of the remaining meetings this year! It's not too late to initiate!

Leslie Valentincic
Corresponding Secretary

CTAUN: New York

Attending the CTAUN conference on January 31 at United Nations Headquarters in New York was an enlightening experience for me. Going through security reminded me of where I was and that important business that affected all the nations of our world was taking place in the very building I was entering. Pretty amazing!

The theme for the conference was "Promoting Peace Through Education". It began with a video entitled "Determined to Save Generations from the Scourge of War". It focused on the trillions of dollars spent on war instead of education. The video set the tone for the rest of the day. Speakers spoke about "Threats to Peace" in the morning and "Practical Strategies for Peace Education" in the afternoon. During the break we attended an info fair and visited the visitors center of the UN. The closing of the conference was led by Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul and Mary. He currently is the Founder and President of Operation Respect. He shared stories and songs in which all 466 of us sang along with. As we sang "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" tears were streaming down my face and the faces of hundreds of others. Over 50 years ago when the song was popular our generation was determined to change the world. Our generation protested the Vietnam war, and thought that peace and love would make the world a better place. It was sad to me that we have not accomplished that goal or done nearly enough. It is only through educating our children, our students, and even our grandchildren that peace will be realized.

Leaving the conference I realized that I am more determined than ever to spread the word about CTAUN and the connection with DKG. This is an amazing partnership that every day is working to make our world better.

Patti Belknap
Parlementarian/TSO Representative to CTAUN



Connie Rensink and Patti Belknap outside of the United Nations.

Spring Luncheon

"Spring" for the DCCC Spring Luncheon Tickets Marilyn Bishop and Mary Myers will be collecting the money for the DCCC Spring Luncheon tickets at the February 15, 2014 meeting. All ticket money (\$25.00 per person) needs to be received by the DCCC treasurer, Dora Alvarez, on or before March 20, 2014. Remember, since Theta Alpha has its annual project March 15, 2014, our treasurers will not be able to collect ticket money on that date. Please plan to purchase your tickets at the February meeting. If you plan to mail Mary Myers your ticket money, please make sure that she receives your check by March 13, 2014. Anyone with special needs (wheelchair, walker, assistant attending) as well as dietary restrictions needs to let Marilyn or Mary know so that she can note it on the form that is sent to the DCCC treasurer.

DCCC Spring Luncheon Theme -
"Reflections of Delta Kappa Gamma"

Speaker - Nancy Newton, Alpha State President

Date - Saturday, April 5, 2014

Time - 10:30 a.m.

Location - Brookhaven Country Club
3333 Golfing Green Drive
Farmers Branch, TX 75234
Mapsco 13L

Telephone - 972-243-6151

Cost of tickets - \$25.00 per person

Leslie Valentincic consented to play her soothing music on her celestial harp for the entertainment. How wonderfully relaxing that will be! A warm thank you to Theta Alpha's Leslie for sharing her fine talent with the members of the chapters in the DCCC.

Theta Alpha's responsibility for the Spring Luncheon is to design and print the program for the luncheon. Kristi John will provide their expertise to tackle the task. Theta Alpha is blessed and proud to have such talented members who can contribute their expertise to help assure that the Spring Luncheon is a very special event. Theta Alpha always says, "Yes!"

Super January's "Souper Bowl"

One of the "hot topics" world-wide, nationally, and locally is our fight against poverty. As individuals we cannot put an end to poverty, but we cannot afford to ignore it. We cannot "put our heads in the sand" about the dilemma of poverty that haunts "1 in 4 of Dallas' residents who are struggling to make ends meet. Dallas ranks Number 4 on the poverty scale..." (Dallas Morning News, February 5, 2014). Thanks to Kathy Nichols for presenting a session on "Poverty Awareness" to the Theta Alpha members. Kathy reminded the members that studies show that there is a correlation between education and poverty. "Women teachers to the calling..." That is what DKG strives to do: to educate the children of the world so that the Society can play a major role in helping to eradicate the monster called "poverty!"

After the program Donna Lucas brought a spark of lightheartedness to the members with her humorous book talk. Thanks to the conscientious work of Baudelia Luna, Nominations Committee Chairman, and the members of the Nominations Committee Baudelia presented Theta Alpha with the 2014-2016 Biennium slate of courageous and dedicated women who so willingly accepted for the next two years the roles of leadership for Theta Alpha Chapter.

Theta Alpha appreciated the "hospitality" that Hattie Hammer showed the chapter at her most comfortable church. After the meeting all of the members warmed their tummies with the refreshment committee's delectable soups for the "Souper Bowl." Leslie Valentincic, chairman, Patti Belknap, Michelle Grandinetti, Ruth Kaun, and Betty Morgan served on the refreshment committee.

Thank you to all of the members who attended the January, 2014 meeting! We couldn't have a meeting without all of our wonderful members!

Important Upcoming Dates:

Field Trip: Devout Dallas (Rosemary Rumbley)
April 15, 2014 at 6:30pm
1st Presbyterian Church, Dallas



Delta Kappa Gamma Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes January 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the Theta Alpha chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was called to order at 10:20am by Beverly Haygood, President. The recording secretary, Kristi John, was present and recorded the minutes. Inspiration was also given by Beverly Hagood.

Beverly Hagood welcomed 19 members and one guest, Natalie Williams, an Assistant Principal at Arlington High School. Members reported on others who were unable to attend. The November minutes were approved as printed and will be filed.

Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, was present and reported there is a quorum. Dianne McCorcle reported to the chapter about the change of date and venue for the Chapters project. She also asked members to bring books to the February meeting to give to children during our project. Dianne reported the new date of March 15, 2014 for the project. She also asked members to be thinking about what type of activities they would like to provide for the children that attend. The venue is still to be determined. Dianne also reported that the deadline for the Cora McFarland Scholarship is March 1st, 2014.

Baudelia Luna, Nominations committee Chairman, announced the new officers for Theta Alpha for the 2014-2016 Biennium. They are as follows: Dianne McCorcle, President. Leslie Valentincic and Catie King will share the responsibilities of First Vice President. Ruth Kahn will hold the position of Second Vice President. Kendall Hasse will become the new Recording Secretary and Kristi John will become the new Corresponding Secretary. Susie Branch motioned for the Chapter to accept the new officers, and Patti Belknap seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members present in agreement of the new officers.

Members were then presented an informative program on "Poverty Awareness," presented by Kathy Nichols. This program encouraged members to continue to work and contribute toward this worthy cause. Kathy shared several book titles: "Lessons from Nelson Mandela," "Poverty" by Ruby Paine, "The Glass Castle," and read "Joseph Had a Little Overcoat." The program was followed by a book talk presented by Donna Lucas on "Takedown Twenty" by Janet Evonovich. Patti Belknap, Parliamentarian and TSO Representative to

the UN, reported that she would be going to New York to attend the National CTAUN Convention at the end of January, 2014.

Thanks were given to the refreshments committee for the "Souper Bowl" lunch, and for Hattie Hammer for arranging for the Chapter to meet at her church.

The meeting adjourned with singing the DKG song at 12:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristi John, Recording Secretary

Bouquets of Roses to Theta Alpha's 2014-2016 Officers!!

President:	Dianne McCorcle
First Vice Presidents:	Catie King and Leslie Valentincic
2nd Vice President:	Ruth Kaun
Recording Secretary:	Kendall Hasse
Corres. Secretary:	Kristi John

These DKG/Theta Alpha sisters said a resounding "Yes!" to leading Theta Alpha for the 2014-2016 biennium. Theta Alpha has faith and trust in their ability to lead and is very proud to welcome this new slate of officers!

Remember, our leaders need faithful, dedicated members to round out a healthy chapter. Without the support of Theta Alpha's aspiring members, the chapter will have a difficult time thriving. Each DKG member, also, is a leader who "generate(s) a spark of possibility for each other." (Sandra Smith Bull, TSO LDCO Chairman) Officers, Theta Alpha members pledge to uplift and support you throughout your biennium!! Thank you for saying, "Yes!"



Left to Right:
Kendall Hasse,
Dianne McCorcle,
Catie King,
Kristi John,
Leslie Valentincic,
and Ruth Kahn.