



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

Happy New Year!!

I sincerely hope everyone had a very blessed Holiday Season and plenty of quality family time. Even with all the shopping, cooking, baking, cleaning stress of the holidays, it is totally worth it to visit and share the holidays with friends and family. Now it is time to face a new year and all that it brings. There are always all the New Year's resolutions that we are determined to achieve and conquer. Please resolve to attend our Theta Alpha meetings on a regular basis and to be more involved in our Society's business. Maybe this year you can resolve to attend our state convention in Austin, Texas or our regional convention in Wichita, Kansas.

Our January meeting will be at Johns Elementary on January 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. John Elementary is located at 1900 Sherry in Arlington. Our speaker will be Tillie Burgen from Mission Arlington, who will speak on poverty in the local area. At this meeting we will also work on our project by making fleece blankets to donate to Mission Arlington. All members are asked to bring new or gently used coats, sweaters, caps, gloves, etc. plus a children's book to donate also. Since it is Poverty Awareness month, several members will also be sharing information on literacy, legislation, etc. Donna Lucas will bring our inspiration and our hostesses will be Patti Belknap, Kristi John, Dianne McCorcle, Dianna Stouffer, Leslie Valentincic, Cathen Jones, and Nicole Rutledge.

I want to thank Baudelia Luna for opening her home to us and hosting our wonderful Christmas Tea. Thank you to Ruth Kaun for coordinating all the hostesses that provided the wonderful food, including Baudelia's son, Marco and his wonderful sandwiches. The hostesses that provided all the goodies were Barbara McIntosh, Donna Lucas, Minthia Nelson, Anita Rangel, Sandra King, Leslie Valentincic, Marsha Pool, Dianne McCorcle, and Jan Gentry. Thank you also to anyone else that brought goodies to share.

Dianne McCorcle,
President

An Honorary Professional Society
of Key Women Educators

From Your A.C.

Dear Area 9,

As I read your newsletters, I am grateful that I was somehow guided to surround myself with individuals who are about the business of improving the world by helping others and modeling admirable generosity and understanding. Having access to your newsletters has deepened my perspective on the depth and breadth of our Society, which the collective work of its members has achieved.

So my wish for each of you is very simple: May your 2015 be resplendent with good health, rest, prosperity, and abundant joy and fun. May it be the best year ever! Happy New Year, Area 9!

Michelle Grandinetti
Area 9 Coordinator
mrgrand@mindspring.com



Left: Catie King modeling a scarf at the November Auction.



Right: Ann Wyatt displaying her beautiful ornament at the December Tea.

January Meeting Details

The January meeting is approaching quickly, and I get more excited with every day that passes! Since this meeting is our Annie project for the year, please try and attend if possible...leave early, come late, but please try and come!

We will start the meeting out with fellowship while tying the pre-cut blankets we took with us at our November meeting. Sandra will open our meeting with an inspiration. Michelle will connect Global Awareness to poverty, and that's just the beginning! Kathy, Hattie, and Michelle all have special information regarding poverty that they will share with us. Catie will be giving a book talk as well! Tillie Burgin will speak about how the needs of children have changed over the years from when she was an educator until now. Tillie Burgin began Mission Arlington in 1986 and continues to touch lives of children, adults, and citizens in the community. Come and listen to her speak on how poverty affects children and their families.

I hope to see you there!

Leslie Valentincic
Co-First Vice President

Meeting Date: January 17, 2014

Meeting Location: Johns Elementary School
1900 Sherry Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM

What to Bring: Any completed No-Sew blankets and pre-cut No-Sew blankets, scarves, gloves, and coats that you collected over the last couple of months. Please bring children's books to donate to Mission Arlington as well.

Points to Ponder

(Some of the information that the following article imparts is republished with the consent of The Texas Tribune, Dec. 3, 2013. "Report: Child Poverty Increases in Texas" by Corrie MacLaggen, The Texas Tribune. texastribune.org)

Poverty rears its ugly head throughout our world. We are continually bombarded each day in the media with the disheartening facts that the gap between the fortunate and the less fortunate continues to increase. Despite Texas' improving economy, child poverty continues to increase which places Texas among the nine worst states for children living in poverty. Although poverty is not destiny, it can make it difficult for a child to have a strong beginning in life.

Knowledge and education can be important allies against poverty. As a teacher of children who lived with meager essentials, I am very well aware of and adamant about the dire importance of ensuring that all students participate in curriculum and instruction that is based upon teaching for meaning. This means making concerted efforts to ensure that students affected by poverty are represented when providing rigorous academic opportunities for all students. Education will be their success.

Finally, involving parents, recruiting community organizations, involving educational organizations such as Delta Kappa Gamma, and enlisting the help of religious institutions can aid in closing the achievement gap that in many cases may be the result of living in poverty. These groups working in concert with educational institutions is paramount if children living in poverty are to experience brighter lives.

Let us not forget that these children with whom our world is blessed, the future of our nations, are our responsibilities: to have and to hold, to educate to the fullest of their potentials, to ensure that those who presently live in poverty will in the future live a life full of hope, success, blessings, and peace.

Let us, as DKG Sisters, open our arms to embrace the tired and the poor that they may know that they, too, can be a viable part of our world.

Bev Hagood
Research Committee Chairman

Legislative News

Legislative Session #84 Begins January 13, 2015

As the new session begins, we need to continue to let our voices be heard by the legislators. We need to continue to make sure they understand that we believe in the defined benefit plan that promises retirees a monthly annuity for life! We also need to be sure that they are aware of the need for affordable health care is vital for both currently employed educators and for retirees.

As educators we need to be an organized and powerful voice for all public educators. As educators we dedicate our lives to education and to Texas school children and we need to be able to reap the benefits of our hard work. So keep writing those letters and calling your legislators and let them know your thoughts.

Hattie M. Hammer,
Legislative Committee

Birthdays

December

10 - Marilyn Bishop
15 - Debra Rangel

January

1 - Cathen Jones
11 - Joan Huntley



(clipart from Corel Draw x3)