



Theta Alpha Chatter

Expand the Vision: Educate, Inspire, Encourage

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide



Message from the President



**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.**

**Chapter President:
Beverly Hagood
rhagood@swbell.net**

**Editor:
Kristi John
Corps-wife@msn.com**

**Correspondence sent to:
Leslie Valentincic
lvalentincic@gmail.com**

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

**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**

"Memories are the treasures in our minds..." Anonymous

As I was updating Theta Alpha's archives by writing about Theta Alpha's accomplishments for the 2012-2014 Biennium, I was truly amazed and thrilled at our chapter's numerous attainments! The archives serve as memoirs of "footprints" of those who have blazed the trail for future Theta Alpha members. From the pages of our archives the lives of past and present members leap forth to relate the joys, successes, and remembrances of our chapter's genesis and journeys. Such treasured gems of the past the 2012-2014 Biennium has afforded posterity!

The commencement of the second half of the 2012-2014 Biennium began with a surprise luncheon to honor our Patti Belknap who received the prestigious State Achievement Award at the 84th TSO Convention in Austin. Theta Alpha was blessed to have Kendall Hasse reinstate her membership in DKG, and new members May Shen and Nicole Rutledge to join Theta Alpha Chapter. Barbara McIntosh and Dianna Stouffer were honored at the DCCC Spring Luncheon for their 25-year-membership in DKG. Kendall Hasse was recognized for receiving a Cora McFarland Scholarship at the DCCC Luncheon.

It is an honor for Theta Alpha to have our Michelle Grandinetti serving as Area IX Coordinator. To show our appreciation for Michelle Theta Alpha

donated \$228.00 (the result of the "Purse Auction") in her name to DKG's International Project, Schools for Africa.

Theta Alpha's meetings which represented "hot topics" on peace, homelessness, and poverty, all expanded the members' knowledge about local and international concerns (Purpose #7). Members enlightened and encouraged Theta Alpha with Book Talks on current best-sellers. Projects included offering five \$100.00 stipends for Theta Alpha's/International's mentoring projects THAT/SEE and offering the Julia Crawford Grant-in-Aid for \$500.00 to a co-ed majoring in education. Providing enrichment activities for children who reside at the Family Gateway Center, a shelter for homeless families; donating Hygiene Boxes to Captain Hope's Kids (an umbrella for shelters for homeless families); and collecting over 200 books to donate to Family Gateway encompassed the other Theta Alpha projects.

So far this year, Theta Alpha has received the Annie Award, the Yearbook Early Bird Award, and the Five Star Newsletter Award. The list of accomplishments could not be complete without recognizing the outstanding contributions that this year's members have made. Their active participation in all facets of the chapter's life has contributed not only to the chapter but also to the community. WOW!! What a year 2013-2014 has been; what a way to complete the biennium!!

An Honorary Professional Society of Key Women Educators

President's Message (Cont'd)

In conclusion of the 2012-2014 Biennium Saturday, May 17, 2014 Theta Alpha will celebrate Founders Day with a program presented by Catie King, Second Vice President, and will install Theta Alpha's new officers for the 2014-2016 Biennium. Jan Gentry, Achievement Award Chairman, will present an exemplary member with the prestigious Theta Alpha Achievement Award, and Barbara McIntosh and Dianna Stouffer will be recognized for their 25 years of membership in DKG by receiving their 25-year pins. Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, will present the Attendance Awards and will recognize a retiring member. What a celebration we shall have at the May meeting!

To help with this joyous celebration we need all Theta Alpha members in attendance! Your attendance is anxiously anticipated, and all of us are looking forward to greeting one another!

Well, it's count down for the 85th TSO Convention to be held in Lubbock June 18-21, 2014...only five and a half weeks away! It's not too late to register and to make hotel reservations for an exciting and endearing time with your DKG Sisters. All of the registration information is in the Spring Lone Star News and on the alphastate.org website. There will be workshops galore to meet every need and interest. (Patti Belknap, TSO CTAUN Liaison, will present a workshop on CTAUN.) Come and join the gaiety, camaraderie, and learning that will abound non-stop for four days! Our association and unity with one another expands and grows stronger with each fantastic convention! You don't want to miss out on any of the exciting programs!

Let's not forget about the International Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana July 28-August 1, 2014. Presently, Theta Alpha has five members who plan to attend!

Please be sure to bring your \$12.00 registration fee for the Area IX Workshop to be held at Plano Senior High School in Plano, TX September 20, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Patti Belknap, Workshop Registrar, will be collecting the fee. There will be valuable sessions a-plenty; you won't be wanting for any enrichment and enlightenment! Michelle Grandinetti, Area IX Coordinator will advise Theta

Alpha on when she needs the members' assistance in preparing for the Area IX Workshop- we're at her beck and call!

Remember that Theta Alpha Chapter is filled with strong and courageous women, just as our original founders were. Annie Webb Blanton's examples resonant throughout this superb Society for outstanding women teachers. Remembering Annie Webb Blanton, keeping focused on the Seven Purposes that she and the original founders set forth, and remaining committed to DKG are the keys to the strength of this great Society.

If one person in the Society can make a difference, just think what an impact the entire Society working together can make toward the betterment of this world!

Until Saturday, May 17,
Blessings to all,
Bev Hagood- Theta Alpha President

May Meeting Details

It is time for us to gather for our final meeting of the 2012-2014 biennium. We will remember our original DKG founders and our two honorary founders at our Founders' Day Celebration. Also, Theta Alpha will recognize and honor the Achievement Award recipient and awards will be handed out. Installation of officers will also take place.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2014 at White Rock Hills Public Library. The library is located at 9150 Ferguson Road, Dallas, Texas 75228. The inspiration will be given by Baudelia Luna. The Eta family will be the hostess for this meeting. The Eta family led by Kristi John include Becky Folmar, Linda Robards, Cecilia Gomez-Horridge, and Kendall Hasse.

All members are encouraged to attend and to please welcome our new initiates: Nicole Rutledge, and May Shen.

Dianne McCorcle
Program of Work

Upcoming Events For TSO and Theta Alpha

Texas State Events

85th Texas State Convention

Lubbock Convention Center
Lubbock, TX
June 19-21, 2014

86th Texas State Convention

Grand Hyatt San Antonio
San Antonio, TX
June 24-27, 2015

Regional/International Events

2014 International Convention

JW Marriott Indianapolis
Indianapolis, Indiana
July 28-August 1, 2014

Southwest Regional Conference

Wichita, Kansas
July, 2015

2016 International Convention

Gaylord Opryland Resort and
Convention Center
Nashville Tennessee
July 5-9, 2016

Theta Alpha Chapter Events

Theta Alpha May meeting

White Rock Hills Dallas Public Library
9150 Ferguson Road, Dallas TX
May 17, 2014 (Founders Day) 10:00
a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Area IX Events

Area IX Workshop

2200 Independence Pkwy
Plano, TX
September 20, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Recap: April

Theta Alpha's April meeting was one of celebration and recognition for the chapter members!! With an attendance of 20 members Theta Alpha welcomed into the chapter May Chen and Nicole Rutledge with their initiation at the beginning of the meeting. These two young ladies are truly wonderful additions to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and to Theta Alpha Chapter. WELCOME, MAY AND NICOLE! You are two lovely roses that Theta Alpha is very delighted and proud to add to its garden of outstanding women educators!

Another important aspect of the April meeting was the finalization of Theta Alpha's new Chapter Rules. Many, many kudos to Patti Belknap, Parliamentarian, and Ann Wyatt, Yearbook Editor, who so tenaciously drafted the required new Chapter Rules for Theta Alpha to discuss and then to approve. Patti and Ann spent many arduous hours in preparation of the proposed Rules. The members' discussion was lively and perceptive as various items in the proposed Chapter Rules were fine-tuned. As a result of the very deft and in-depth discussion, the chapter voted unanimously to accept the finalized Chapter Rules. Again, Theta Alpha is grateful to Patti and Ann for preparing the proposed Chapter Rules for the members to consider at the April meeting!! (Patti sent the accepted Theta Alpha Chapter Rules to TSO for its final approval of Theta Alpha's Chapter Rules.)

Dianne McCorcle, First Vice President, reported on the outstanding Family Gateway Project in which 23 members and volunteers engaged on March 15, 2014. Members commented on how well-behaved and grateful the children were as they participated in the various enriching western/Native American activities the members had so thoroughly prepared for the children and their families. Theta Alpha received the Annie Award this year for this community service project that touched the lives of children and their families who presently are in a temporary homeless situation. Theta Alpha was so grateful that its members could contribute to the community by making a meaningful difference in the Family Gateway children's lives.

Dianne McCorcle also reported on the Rose-Mary Rumbley presentation which was sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Women on April 22, 2014. This extra activity for Theta Alpha included a delicious meal and an inspiring and humorous talk about Mrs. Rumbley's research on the first churches of Dallas. She incorporated some very interestingly obscure and little-known facts about the history of Texas. All in all the event was very enjoyable for those Theta Alpha members who were able to attend.

From Your A.C.

Web Master Ruth Kaun reminded all members about the upcoming 85th TSO Convention to be held in Lubbock June 19-21, 2014. She informed the members that they could find the convention details either in the Spring Lone Star News or on the Alpha State website. Ruth also informed the members to check the Alpha State website for a document that is a list of (mainly) mobile apps which have been recommended to the state by members as being very useful for educators.

The April program, "Celebrating Theta Alpha," was led by Catie King, Second Vice President. Theta Alpha's genesis, April 2, 1966, was celebrated with a ceremony remembering its charter members, the singing of the "Birthday Song," and the consuming of a most delicious birthday cake which was provided by Baudelia Luna! All past Theta Alpha presidents were recognized, and those who were in attendance received a red rose. Happy Birthday, Theta Alpha!!

Thank you to Donna Lucas, Music Committee member, who led the music for the meeting and to Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, who treated the members to the Door Prize drawings. Also, the members were grateful to the Refreshment Committee (Mary Myers, Chairman, Donna Lucas, Anita Rangel, Debra Rangel, Linda Robards, Marsha Pool, and Baudelia Luna) for sustaining them throughout the meeting!

In conclusion to the April meeting, Donna Lucas led the members in "The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Song."

Legislative News

If you voted in the Primary Election, please be sure to vote in the runoff if you have one taking place in your district! Texas election law requires that you vote in the same party runoff as the party primary you voted in for the Primary Election.

Early voting for the Primary Runoff Election begins May 19 and ends May 23. Please put this on your schedule if there is a primary runoff in your district! Primary Runoff Election Day is MAY 27.

Please feel free to use the valuable Teach the Vote resource from the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) to review candidates' responses to important questions about education and TRS.

Hattie Hammer

I have a friend who is a vice principal in Virginia. They have had many bad weather days this year so her school year will not end until June 26. I asked if she plans to decorate for Fourth of July! Probably there will be fireworks celebrating the release of the students to their parents, finally. Fortunately our school year will end much sooner. Even members no longer in the classroom can feel the collective sigh of relief as another year closes.

Another year is closing for your chapter also. June 30 will mark the end of one biennium and the beginning of another. For most of the chapters the gavel will pass to a new set of officers. (Do I hear fireworks?!) They will be working over the summer so that your chapter will be off to a great start in August/September.

It is hard for me to believe that the first year of my biennium as your AC has also passed. Time really does fly when you are having fun. As my final message to you for the year I want to express my gratitude for the many, many kindnesses I have experienced. You are truly a wonderful group of people and I have learned so much from you.

I wish all of you a very restful, fun, and refreshing summer. I look forward to working with you next year. Hopefully, I will get to see many of you in Lubbock and/or Indianapolis.

And ladies, a very Happy Mother's Day to all of you who have cared for another human being and nourished them with love. May you always receive that same blessing.

Take care of you,

Michelle Grandinetti
Area 9 Coordinator
mrgrand@mindspring.com



May Shen and
Nicole
Rutledge, new
initiates.

"PASSING THE GAVEL": Reflective "Ramblings" of a Retiring President

As the 2012-14 Biennium comes to an end for both chapter presidents and the International President, Beverly Helms, I want to echo some of the sentiments that have been the foundations of Beverly Helms' presidency. She has stressed throughout her biennium the importance of being the one who makes the difference in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Making a difference in the lives of our DKG chapters is what will bond the members as they support the continuance and the growth of the Society.

Beverly Helms espoused that "love, support, nurturing, and mentoring of members in our DKG chapters have everything to do with our future as an organization. If each member in your chapter reached out and touched another, it could make all the difference in the world." I so agree with Beverly's admonishment; you never know when your "reaching out" to a member could mean the world to her.

Savoring the opportunities that DKG affords us as members, nurturing friendships with our chapter's members through active participation in the meetings, fostering relationships with other chapters' members by attending area workshops and DKG conventions, and mentoring and supporting our sisters so that they will be allowed to shine will encourage us to grow to "love" what DKG can mean to each of us as members.

How can we as dedicated DKG members strengthen the Society? By being a voice of education, by speaking out to the community to let people know who we are and how DKG can make a difference in the lives of children, students, families, and teachers. Making a difference isn't about being a great hero, but about the small daily differences we can make. It is simply about leaving an area a little tidier when we depart than what it was when we arrived.

It is very sad and a great mistake for us to do nothing because we believe that we can do very little. True, each of us is only one, but each of us need not let what we can't do interfere with what we can do. Reaching out to early-career educators is one way that each DKG member can give of herself. Mentoring, empowering, encouraging, inspiring, and helping to keep the young educator's enthusiasm bursting and

the brightness in her eyes shining: these are ways that experienced DKG members can make lasting, nurturing differences in our communities and how the Society can be a voice of education.

As I "pass the gavel" to a wonderful new team of leaders, throughout the 2014-2016 Biennium may we as inspiring Theta Alpha members pledge to continuously support these new officers, making a difference through our time, talents, and leadership.

Thank you, Theta Alpha members, for your constant participation in, loyalty to, and dedication to the Seven Purposes of DKG during the 2012-2014 Biennium. During these past two years it has been an honor and a joy serving Theta Alpha Chapter. All of you and DKG will always hold very special places in my heart. Thank you for allowing me to be your president!

"Pleasure is the flower that passes; remembrance the lasting perfume," (Jean de Boufflers) the "lasting perfume" permeating the Theta Alpha garden. As I revel in this beautiful, fragrant garden, I can smile because all of you made "it" happen!

Peace and blessings to all,

Bev Hagood - 2012-2014 Theta Alpha President

Request from International President, Beverly Helms

In the May/June 2014 DKG News Beverly Helms, 2012-2014 International President, requested that all DKG members help her co-author her last article as international president! She is requesting that all DKG members send to her their responses to the question, "What is one thing you believe will make the most difference in our organization to maintain our viability into the 22nd century?"

Please email your responses to societyexec@dkg.org. Beverly Helms' last article will include our Sharing of Your Vision - to Strengthen Our Society. I hope that each of us Theta Alpha members will take a few minutes out of our busy days to send Beverly Helms our responses. Let us make a difference by responding! Thank you for taking the time!

Bev Hagood- Theta Alpha President



Delta Kappa Gamma Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes April 26, 2014

The regular meeting of the Theta Alpha chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was called to order at 10:30am by Beverly Hagood, President. The recording secretary, Kristi John, was present and recorded the minutes. The inspiration was given by Patti Belknap, Parliamentarian.

Beverly Hagood welcomed 20 members and two initiates. Members gave updates on those who were unable to attend. Members then observed a moment of silence for the students and teachers lost in the ferry boat accident in Seoul, South Korea. Patti Belknap requested corrections to the minutes from the March meeting. The minutes stand approved as corrected and will be filed. Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, read acceptance letters from May Shen and Nicole Rutledge, current initiates. Initiation followed with the induction of two new members, Nicole Rutledge and May Shen.

Dianne McCorcle, First Vice President, updated the membership on the past member project. Ruth Kahn, Webmaster, gave an update on the upcoming convention for the state and region. Ruth Kahn also discussed the breakout sessions and reported they are available on the website now for sign-ups. Patti Belknap reported about the area workshop on September 20th, 2014 at Plano Senior High School. Ann Wyatt reported that we won the Early Bird Award for our Chapter Yearbook and Kristi John, Recording Secretary, reported that the Chapter won the Five Star Award for our Chapter newsletter. Beverly Hagood reported about the DDCC Spring Luncheon and the contributions of the Chapter. Jan Gentry then discussed the Chapter Achievement award nominations. The nominees are Sandra King, Patti Belknap and Kristi John.

Patti Belknap and Ann Wyatt, Yearbook Chairman, then discussed the changes to the Chapter bylaws. Members discussed changes, and then a motion was made by Patti Belknap to approve the corrections and changes to the Theta Alpha Chapter rules. Debra Rangel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members in agreement.

The program for the month, "Celebrating Theta Alpha," was presented by Catie King, Second Vice President. Member celebrated the charter members by singing the "Birthday Song" and sharing cake provided

by Baudelia Luna, Past President. Leslie Valentincic drew names for door prizes.

Members concluded the meeting by thanking the hostesses: Mary Myers, Chairman, Donna Lucas, Anita Rangel, Debra Rangel, Linda Robards, Marsha Pool, and Baudelia Luna. Members then gathered and sang the DKG song. The meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristi John, Recording Secretary



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!

Birthdays

May

2 - Mary Myers
5 - Barbara McIntosh
13 - Beverly Hagood
24 - Baudelia Luna

June

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

