



# 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 Autumn*

There are signs all around us of this lovely harvest season, the pumpkins, the scarecrows, the fair, the cooler weather, and pretty soon the ghost and goblins at our door. Many of us are already gearing up for the major holidays that are just around the corner (where has the time gone). But before all that we need to gather together on October 11, 2014 and welcome some very important guests at our monthly meeting. TSO President Nancy Newton will be our featured speaker that day. We will also welcome our sisters from Kappa Upsilon, Lambda Theta, and Mu Omicron. So please plan to join us on the second Saturday of this month at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4729 South Carrier Parkway, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052.

The Area IX workshop was held last month and Theta Alpha had at least 15 members present. Michelle Grandinetti organized a grand workshop. Thank you to all members that assisted Michelle with this endeavor in any way. A very special guest, Nydia McCorcle, closed out the workshop by singing the DKG song. (She did an excellent job, if I do say so myself!)

Looking to the future, our yearly auction is almost here (November 15th) and I know you are busy baking, crocheting, knitting, etc. items for this event. Please bring a friend to our wonderful auction.

See you soon,

Dianne McCorcle,  
President

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*An Honorary Professional Society  
of Key Women Educators*

# October Meeting Details

Hello Everyone!

I hope everyone has had a great beginning to their school year or resuming their normal schedules from their summer vacations! It's hard to imagine that six weeks has already flown by, but the October Theta Alpha meeting is just around the corner! Please come and welcome President Nancy Newton to our fabulous Theta Alpha meeting in which is will present on the Delta Kappa Gamma song, using her wonderful wit and humor! In addition to inviting our wonderful President to our meeting, we also invited Kappa Upsilon, Lambda Theta, and Mu Omicron chapters as well! Lets show them how much fun we have in Theta Alpha!

The book talk will be given by Hattie Hammer, who also provided the meeting space (Thank You, Hattie!) and the Tech Moment will be given about "the cloud" which includes SugarSync, Dropbox, etc). So bring your questions and we will do our best to answer them!

I hope to see you there!

Leslie Valentincic  
Co-First Vice President

Meeting Date: **October 11, 2014**

Meeting Location: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
4729 S. Carrier Parkway

# Dues!

Don't forget your dues! In October they will be \$110. Send them to:

Mary Myers  
302 Oakwood  
Duncanville, TX 75137



Left: Nydia McCorcle (daughter of Dianne McCorcle) singing the DKG song to close Area 9 Worskshop.

Right: Dianne McCorcle, Theta Alpha President with daughter Nydia.



Left: Carolyn Johnson playing music to close the Area 9 Workshop in September.

# Yearbook

Ladies, if you have any address, phone, or email address changes for the yearbook, please send them to [annw045@gmail.com](mailto:annw045@gmail.com) by October 20th.

Ann Wyatt,  
Yearbook Chairman

# Upcoming Events:

86th Texas State Convention  
Grand Hyatt San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas  
June 24 - 27, 2015

Southwest Regional Conference  
Wichita, Kansas  
July, 2015

## From Your A.C.



Dear Area 9,

Ok, so where do I begin say thank-you? With the multitude of people who fed, facilitated, registered, arranged, hosted, treasured, presented, entertained, inspired, and assisted in a multitude of capacities? Or the creators of the name tags, the favors, the signs, the programs, the slide show/music, and the decorations? Or that group of “vase” gals who filled in wherever and whenever. The list of individuals and chapters that helped organize and present our workshop is very long.

And then you, the 200 participants who attended the workshop. How do I begin to show my appreciation to you for being there to learn about your organization?

How much newsletter space do I have? Well, let me begin with thank-you. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you. I am most grateful. Let me end with you are the best.

Michelle Grandinetti,  
Area 9 Coordinator



PS You dance well also.



Left: Susie Branch, Carolyn Johnson, Jan Gentry, and Kathy Nichols attending the Area 9 Workshop.



Right: Sandra King and May Shen at the Area 9 Workshop.

## Legislative News

This month I am sharing some news from TRTA Legislative Chair concerning TRS-Care. I believe that all of us need to be aware of the situation whether actively teaching or retired.

If you are not aware of the situation, here is some of the information shared at a recent Senate Finance Committee meeting. There is an impending \$1 billion TRS-Care budget shortfall. If nothing is done during the coming legislative session to resolve this funding issue, TRS-Care participants could see astronomical premium increases as high as 130 percent.

Here are some things that he suggested we do this fall:

1. Talk to our legislators! In 2015, we need the legislators to prevent the impending shortfall of TRS-Care by increasing the allotment. Be sure to share with them how TRS-Care impacts you!!
2. Communicate with your fellow TRTA members and get them involved in the fight!
3. Reach out to retirees who are not members. The stronger we are as an organization, the better the outcome will be for all of those affected by the TRS-Care crisis.
4. Engage with active educators in your area. The changes made to the retiree health insurance program in 2015 will impact them too!

Hattie M. Hammer,  
Legislative Committee

## Birthdays

### September

- 12 - Virginia Long
- 22 - Ruth Kaun
- 27 - Catie King
- 30 - Sandra King

### October

- 20 - Michelle Grandinetti
- 23 - Patti Belknap



(clipart from Corel Draw x3)

## Points To Ponder...

October 1 marked the first day of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Even though the existence of domestic violence is ever present in our minds and in the media wave, in October, as educated, concerned women, we can make quality time to focus more profoundly on those who have experienced or who are experiencing some form of abuse (be it physical, verbal, or mental) at the hands of an intimate partner or a spouse.

During the month of October as discerning, caring women let us mourn those who have lost their lives to physical abuse, celebrate those who have successfully broken the bonds of the abuse and have survived, and connect to one another as we labor together to help end the abuse of all peoples in our world.

Domestic violence/abuse thrives on silence. As strong, courageous DKG women let us take a vocal, visible stand to help obliterate this insidious cancer that has too long been a hidden disease in our culture as well as in other cultures throughout our world.

What can we do to help eradicate abuse? We can help to end it by sharing with our families and friends that we don't tolerate verbal or physical abuse of others. We can help to end it by supporting programs or shelters that promote safety and refuge to hundreds who seek to break the bonds of repeated abuse. We can help to end abuse by consistently striving to ensure that our communities hold the abusers accountable for their misdeeds.

DKG is grateful for people in our communities such as Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlins who has made a special effort to focus on holding abusers accountable. We commend him for taking a stand for all peoples. As "staunch, courageous" DKG women may we always be mindful of our sisters throughout our world who face abusive situations on a daily basis.

"Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family." (www.domesticviolencestatistics.org)

During the month of October, Theta Alpha remembers its sisters who have undergone or who are undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Our love and concern are continuously with these brave, positive sisters.

Theta Alpha also remembers those sisters who for numerous months so courageously fought the battle with breast cancer as well as other cancers. They are with us in spirit and are forever in our hearts.

The American Cancer Society offers several recommendations for early breast cancer detection in women without breast symptoms. They are as follows:

\*Women age 40 and older should have a mammogram every year. Mammograms should be continued regardless of a woman's age as long as she is in good health.

\*Women in their 20s and 30s should have a clinical breast exam (CBE) as part of a periodic (regular) health exam by a health professional preferably every three years. Starting at age 40, women should have a CBE by a health professional every year.

\*Breast self-exam (BSE) is an option for women starting in their 20s. Women should be told about the benefits and limitations of BSE. Women should report any breast changes to their health professional right away.

(www.cancer.org/cancer/breastcancer)

Remember that early detection of any cancer is paramount whenever treating the disease.

FYI: Colors for ribbons or clothing that show "cancer awareness:" (1) pink, breast cancer; (2) orange, kidney cancer; (3) purple, all cancers.

Beverly Hagood,  
Research Committee Chairman

**SAVE THE DATE**



**CTAUN CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**

**North American University**

**3203 N Sam Houston Pkwy W**

**Houston, Texas 77038**

# THETA ALPHA HOSTESSES

FOR 2014-2015

**\*\*October** – **KENDALL HASSE**, Hattie Hammer, Beverly Hagood, Patti Belknap, Ann Wyatt, and Joan Huntley

**November** – **BABS ARNSWALD**, Becky Folmar, Anita Rangel, Debra Rangel, Kendall Hasse, Michelle Fernandez, Donna Lucas, Michelle Grandinetti, Dianna Stouffer, and Kristi John

**\*\*December** – **BAUDELIA LUNA**, Ruth Kaun, Barbara McIntosh, Donna Lucas, Minithia Nelson, Anita Rangel, Sandra King, Leslie Valentincic, Marsha Pool, and Jan Gentry

**January** – **PATTI BELKNAP**, Kristi John, Diane McCorcle, Erica Campos, Dianna Stouffer, Leslie Valentincic, Nicole Rutledge, and Cathen Jones

**February** – **LINDA ROBARDS**, Mary Myers, Kathy Nichols, Ann Wyatt, Baudelia Luna, and Aurora Torres

**March** – **MARILYN BISHOP**, Carolyn Johnson, Sandra King, Minithia Nelson, Michelle Grandinetti, and Susie Branch

**April** – **JANET ROARK**, Hattie Hammer, Catie King, Virginia Long, Ruth Kaun, Jan Gentry, and Babs Arnswald

**May** – **BEVERLY HAGOOD**, Leslie Valentincic, Catie King, Claudia McBride, Erica Campos, Diana McCorkle, and May Shen

**\*\* Each Theta Alpha member will provide a dish of food for the October and December meetings.**

**The first member listed for each month will plan a menu and notify her group.**