



# Theta Alpha Chatter

Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow!

*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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Chapter Website:  
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Theta Alpha Chapter  
Meeting Dates  
2016 - 2017

August 19, 2017  
September 16, 2017  
October 21, 2017  
November 18, 2017  
December 9, 2017  
January 20, 2018  
February 17, 2018  
March 17, 2018  
April 21, 2018  
May 19, 2018

## Message from the President

As September begins we are praying for those who are trying to return to some semblance of their life. At this time Delta Kappa Gamma is working on some ideas for helping Houston teachers. We have received various emails with ideas for helping those DKG members in need of assistance. I hope you have been receiving them. If you know of anyone in DKG that is in need of the Emergency Fund assistance the link to Form 84 is on the [dkgtexas.org](http://dkgtexas.org) website under Deadlines and Forms page. This is an interactive form and they will need to send it to [jomurphy981@gmail.com](mailto:jomurphy981@gmail.com) or [texaspres.dkg@aol.com](mailto:texaspres.dkg@aol.com). It will be scanned, signed and sent to international. If you are interested in serving on an international committee please reach out to JoAnn Brooks at [joannbrooks@verizon.net](mailto:joannbrooks@verizon.net) to let her know. If you would like to donate \$5.00 for a Texas pin created by Nancy Newton please contact JoAnn for that too. All the proceeds will be used to pay for Texas night at the convention. One more item from state is the offering of the Texas Bell and Charms. Use the code : HARVEY17 and get Free shipping. The offer is good until September 30, 2017 and 25% of the purchase will go to help with Hurricane Harvey victims.

Our Sept. meeting will be held at Hattie's church in Grand Prairie. We will be conducting the remembrance ceremony for Babs and Cathen. Patti and Michelle will present information about their trip to the Southwest Regional conference in Hawaii.

The Greek family in charge of morning refreshments is the Epsilon family. Baudelia is in charge and will be contacting Michelle, Kathy, Allison Nichols and Minthia for help in providing these.

Please remember to bring any forms you have for the new member recruitment plan for Linda and new teacher T.H.A.T applications for Sarah. Please plan to come Sat. September 16 we would enjoy seeing you. If you need transportation call any member close to you, we will gladly come for you.

*Mary Myers,*  
President

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An Honorary Professional Society  
of Key Women Educators

# September Meeting Details

The buzz of a new school year has just begun. We are back to 30 minute lunches, coming up with different ways to say “Be Quiet” over and over again, and “Family Nights” at school. What better time to discuss how to stay healthy and focus on ourselves during this stressful time of year! Rob Jones, a fitness trainer, will come and help us learn ways to stay healthy and keep you moving! Make sure and wear flexible, comfy clothes and tennis shoes! Patti and Michelle will discuss their reflections on their trip to Southwest Regional in Hawaii! And on a more somber note, we will remember our dear Theta Alpha sisters Babs Arnswald, who passed away in June, and Cathen Jones, who recently passed away a few weeks ago. The Inspiration will be given by Beverly! Can’t wait to see you all on the 16th!

I hope to see you there!

Leslie Valentincic  
Co-First Vice President

**Meeting Date:** September 16, 2017

**Location:** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
4729 S. Carrier Parkway  
Grand Prairie, TX 75052

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 AM

**What to Bring:** Wear comfy clothes and shoes!!!

# Book Review

For many years I wondered why some children seem to be immune to the class bully and why some children become victimized by bullies. I noticed that children who have a deep sense of self confidence and security are actually ignored by bullies, while others without that positive sense of self are magnets for bullies. I stumbled upon *Beyond Bullying: Breaking the Cycle of Shame, Bullying, and Violence*, by Jonathan Fast, PhD last year. In the book, he explores the different facets of bullying based on sexuality, gender, race, creed. His premise is that the success of the bully is dependent on the depth of shame individuals have about themselves. He explains how shame affects a person's self- image and weakens the ability to ignore a bully's taunts. Rather or not you agree with his premise he does offer some very good insights into bullying and bullies, both causes and effects.

Michelle Grandinetti

# Birthdays

## August

- 16 - Carolyn Johnson
- 29 - Melissa Hamilton

## September

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

## October

- 17 - Allison Nichols
- 20 - Michelle Grandinetti
- 23 - Patti Belknap



(clipart from Corel Draw x3)

## Did You Know?

This month: What is ASTEF?

At the August meeting someone asked “What is ASTEF”? This is a short explanation. ASTEF = Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation. At one time all states had a Greek name, Texas was Alpha State.

Think of ASTEF as a bank with a board of directors. ASTEF manages three funds: Scholarships, Leadership Seminar, and Projects. Applications for state scholarships are reviewed by the state Scholarship Committee, but the scholarship money is managed by ASTEF. Applications for Leadership Seminar are reviewed by the Leadership Seminar Committee, but the funds for the Seminar are managed by ASTEF.

The most vibrant component of ASTEF is the funding for projects. Chapters can apply for a stipend to fund a chapter project. The project applications are reviewed by members of the ASTEF Board. Last year ASTEF awarded \$34, 552 for projects.

For more information about ASTEF, go to Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation.

**NOW YOU KNOW!!!**

## Dues

It's that time again! We are starting a new year and need to pay our dues! Remember to bring your checkbook to our September meeting. Dues paid in September are only \$100.00 and you can divide it into two payments. If you paid \$45.00 last month, be sure to pay the other half at this meeting.

Dues paid in October = \$110.00

All dues must be paid by October!

Thank you,  
Baudelia Luna - Co-Treasurer

## Legislative News

Thank you to all of you for contacting your legislator during the special session. As you know there were new laws enacted by the 85th Legislature, TRS-Care was given help with their short fall and limited some of the proposed changes, and there were some changes to the TRS Pension Plan, See the August 2017 TRS NEWS Retiree Edition for more details.

We are entering another election season where all members of the House are running for their seats. One half of the Senate will be running for election. Candidates will be announcing their bids for election between now and December 11, 2017. Primary Elections will be held March 6, 2018. General Election is November 6, 2018. Be sure you are registered to VOTE! TRTA Legislative Priorities for the 86th Session are: protect the defined benefit pension, protect state funding for TRS pension plan, and protect TRS-Care.

Hattie Hammer,  
Legislative Chairman

## Theta Alpha Notes

The Arlington Retired School Employees Association along with the Grand Prairie RSEA are hosting Tim Lee on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30pm. The meeting will take place at First Baptist Church, 950 Mayfield Road, Grand Prairie Texas, 75052. Come and hear the person who works so hard for ALL teachers.

Patti Belknap

Did you know that Delta Kappa Gamma has an Emergency Fund? All of our DKG sisters in Southeast Texas who have suffered from devastating flooding and damage to their homes can apply to International and receive \$500.00.

This fund operates on donations from members. If you would like to donate to this please go to the International website at DKG.org. All donations are tax deductible.

Patti Belknap



**Delta Kappa Gamma  
Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes  
August 19, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Theta Alpha Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was called to order at 12:06pm at Spring Creek BBQ in Duncanville, TX. Mary Myers, President welcomed all 24 members in attendance and gave updates on those not in attendance. Sandra King gave the inspiration. Patti Belknap, TSO Second Vice President, announced that our new initiate, Trisha Lofton, has moved to Kansas. Patti will help her find a chapter in her area to transfer her membership. Minutes were approved as written and will be filed.

Marilyn Bishop gave the Treasure's report. She reported that the Theta Alpha Chapter has a current balance of \$193.01. Marilyn also suggested the chapter give a contribution to ASTEF in memory of Barbara "Babs" Arnswald. Patti made the motion to approve the budget. The budget was accepted as presented. Baudelia Luna, co-treasurer also reminded member that dues are to be paid by October and will be \$100 in the month of September, and \$110 in October. If members paid \$45 this month, they will need to pay the other \$45 by September.

Mary announced that Sarah McMurrough would accept the position of Corresponding Secretary. Also announced, during the Executive Board meeting, the board agreed to purchase a subscription or use a free service to send e-birthday cards to members throughout the next year.

Sarah McMurrough, Corresponding Secretary, informed the members present about the THAT Grant for new teachers. During the Executive Board meeting, the board discussed delivering the THAT Grant to the winners at their school and creating goodie bags with our brochure to put in all teacher mailboxes to inform them about DKG. During the meeting, there was discussion about also continuing to invite awardees to the meeting to encourage them to want to join. Sarah explained that teachers must have three or less years of teaching to receive the grant. She asked that applications be returned to her by September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the next meeting. Applications are in the newsletter.

Patti updated members on membership. She gave prospective membership cards to all and requested them to be sent to Linda Robards, Membership Chairman, who was unable to attend due to being in Panama. Michelle Grandinetti and retired members of the Theta Alpha Chapter presented all teachers returning to the classroom

with a gift. Mary gave members a form to order a new badge if needed.

Patti informed reported information about the new TSO President, Jo Murphy. Her theme for the Biennium is "Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow! Baudelia passed out new membership cards to members. Mary shared with members the date of the Spring Luncheon. It will be April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and will cost \$33 per person. Catie King, co-First Vice President, asked for member interested in giving a book review. Those members should write a quick article and add to the newsletter. Leslie Valentincic, co-First Vice President, gave an update on the meeting locations. Sandra explained that because our group is not non-profit, that the rules to use the libraries has changed and that the library is changing to an online booking system. She would give more information as she found out.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30pm with the singing of the DKG song.

Submitted Respectfully,

Kristi John,  
Recording Secretary

## Prospect Card

Do you know an excellent teacher? Please complete this card then bring to the next meeting and give to your membership chairman!

Prospect Card	
Name	
Address	
Email	
Employer	
Position	
Phone	
Sponsor	



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**

The Theta Alpha Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an honor organization of women educators, would like to help provide needed resources for your classroom if you have taught between zero to three years. We invite you to apply for a \$100.00 grant for educational supplies.

Please fill out the enclosed application and let us know how you would use the grant funds. We will award this grant throughout the following school year.

Please email inquiries and your completed application to:

Sarah McMurrough  
smcmurro@aisd.net



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**

**Application For The New Teacher Grant-in Aid**

**I. Personal Information**

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email address:

School name and address:

School District:

Grade (s) taught:

Number of years you have taught:

**II. Attach a one-page explanation of what you would do with the \$100.00 grant.**

Please Complete and bring to our next meeting or mail to Linda Robards.



Member Profile

(Ask each chapter member to complete the profile. Combine results to create a chapter profile using Form 80)

General Member Information:

<p>1. What factors prompted you to accept the invitation to membership in DKG?  <input type="checkbox"/> the honor of membership  <input type="checkbox"/> professional development opportunities  <input type="checkbox"/> leadership development opportunities  <input type="checkbox"/> fellowship and networking with other key women educators  <input type="checkbox"/> scholarship and grant opportunities  <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify _____)</p>	<p>2. What factors encouraged you to remain a member of DKG?  <input type="checkbox"/> the honor of membership  <input type="checkbox"/> professional development opportunities  <input type="checkbox"/> leadership development opportunities  <input type="checkbox"/> fellowship and networking with other key women educators  <input type="checkbox"/> scholarship and grant opportunities  <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify _____)</p>
<p>3. Do/Did you have a Society mentor?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>4. Are you a mentor for another member?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>5. Have you ever recommended someone for membership in the Society?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>6. Have you recommended someone for membership in the last five years?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Section I: Who are Our Members?

<p>7. Membership Status:  <input type="checkbox"/> Active (employed)  <input type="checkbox"/> Active (retired)  <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve  <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary</p>	<p>8. Highest Degree Earned:  <input type="checkbox"/> Associate  <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors  <input type="checkbox"/> Masters  <input type="checkbox"/> Specialist  <input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify _____)</p>
<p>9. Years in Society:  <input type="checkbox"/> 5 years or less  <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 10 years  <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 20 years  <input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 30 years  <input type="checkbox"/> more than 30 years</p>	<p>10. Generational Information*:          (Year of Birth)  <input type="checkbox"/> Born 1981 - 2000 (Generation Y)  <input type="checkbox"/> Born 1965 - 1980 (Generation X)  <input type="checkbox"/> Born 1946 - 1964 (Baby Boomer)  <input type="checkbox"/> Born 1922 - 1945 (Veteran)</p>

<p>11. Ethnic/Cultural Background:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> African-American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Asian-American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic-American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Canadian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Latin American (please specify _____)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> European (please specify _____)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify _____)</p>	<p>12. Years in Education:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 years or less</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 10 years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 15 years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 16 - 20 years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 30 years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> more than 30 years</p>
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**Section II: Experience and Areas of Expertise.**

<p>13. Position (or last held):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrator</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Classroom Teacher</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Counselor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Special Education</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Specialist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private Instructor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Librarian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Resource or Assistant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Music/Art</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sports Instructor/Coach</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> College or University Instructor/Professor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Trainer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify _____)</p>	<p>14. Educational Settings:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K/Elementary</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Junior High/Middle School</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High School</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Central Office/District</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Technical/Two-year degree programs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> College/University</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Medical</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private/one-on-one</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify _____)</p>
<p>15. Sector:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Corporate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify _____)</p>	

\*Zemke, R.; Raines, C.; Filpczak, R. *Generations at Work: Managing the Clash of Veterans, Boomers, Xers, and Nexters in Your Workplace*. New York, NY: American Management Association, 2000.

\*Sladek, S. *The End of Membership As We Know It* Washington, D.C.: ASAE, 2011.