



# Theta Alpha Chatter

An Honorary Professional Society of Key Women Educators

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.

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Chapter Website:  
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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

"The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book." - Anonymous As many of our members return to the classrooms, let those of us who are retired remember them in our daily thoughts as they continue to enlighten and strengthen the lives of our future leaders. They are Expanding the Vision for their students by Educating, Inspiring, and Encouraging.

As teachers face a new year, let us search our hearts to find the time to mentor the early-career teachers in schools that are in our areas! Just to offer to read a book to the class; to laminate waiting items; to cut out needed bulletin board figures; or to lend a helping hand in various other ways would be a warm welcome to the new recruits. Those of us who are retired can "teach from the heart" as well! We can Expand the Vision by Inspiring and Encouraging!

Helping early-career teachers not only encourages them in the profession, but also affords us, as DKG members, the opportunity to acquaint these teachers with the high ideals of and the numerous qualities about Delta Kappa Gamma. As members of Theta Alpha, we can encourage the early-career teachers to apply for a T.H.A.T. (Teachers Helping Another Teacher) certificate which our chapter offers as part of our mentoring project. Applications will be available at the September meeting (See Dianne McCorcle.). Again, let us ALL be the best teachers that we can be and "teach from the heart"!

October will be a grand meeting for Theta Alpha because we will be initiating at least one new member...or maybe more? Are we making a concerted effort to try to recruit new or dropped members? As International says, "You can fight the dragons of membership...with courage if you just remember you are not alone."

As we face the challenges of growing chapter membership, remember that we have an amazing group of women who are here to help us- our treasurers, Marilyn Bishop and Mary Myers; our membership chairman, Leslie Valentincic; our secretary, Kristi John- all can remind us about members who need to be contacted. Perhaps these "missing members" have forgotten to send in their dues, or their circumstances may have changed. Perhaps they just need some TLC at the time! Whatever the reason may be for our "missing members," all of us can help to sustain our membership by making a few phone calls to let them know that they are missed and are needed! At the September meeting we will be introduced to "Annie Calling" (a TSO plan) which will help our chapter track (and, hopefully, return) the "missing members."

If you have someone in mind for membership, please ask our membership chairman, Leslie Valentincic, for an application at the September meeting. Better yet, invite that prospective new member to our September meeting so that she can see what DKG is all about and see what wonderful camaraderie Theta Alpha has! (I'm working on a prospective new member who I had overlooked until I saw her at the grocery store!)

Our September meeting is Saturday, September 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Renner Frankford Public Library, 6400 Frankford Road, Dallas, Texas. Come early (9:50 a.m.) to enjoy the delectable refreshments and to chat for a while. Our program will recognize the International Day of Peace with the presentation of information about Committee for Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN). CTAUN exists to provide opportunities for educators and concerned citizens to learn, understand, and

**(President's Message Continued)**

*Expand the Vision: Educate, Inspire, Encourage*

appreciate the work of the UN, and to incorporate global awareness into curricula and school activities at all levels. Theta Alpha's CTAUN representative is Patti Belknap who will present the information.

As an extension of the CTAUN program, Michelle Grandinetti will present information about the Global Awareness Committee (formally World Fellowship).

International Literacy Day was September 9, but literacy celebrations are extended throughout the month of September. Catie King will help Theta Alpha celebrate by presenting a Book Talk. (The title is a surprise!) For the Book Exchange with our fellow sisters, each of us is to bring two books which we recommend for pleasurable reading.

I can hardly wait to attend September's meeting which sounds both stimulating and fun! (Don't forget, Leslie always has those door prizes waiting to give away!) As always, you can come late or leave early if the need arises...just please come! Theta Alpha needs YOU!!

Peace and blessings,  
Bev Hagood, Theta Alpha President



## Global Partnerships

The Committee for Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN) exists to provide opportunities for educators and concerned citizens to learn, understand and appreciate the work of the UN, and to incorporate global awareness into curricula and school activities at all levels.

This one day workshop will be filled with information that will educate, inspire, and encourage you to learn about global issues, sustainability, and global partnerships in an increasingly interconnected world. Come learn how you, your students, your chapter, and your community can become involved.

CTAUN DFW - Saturday, November 2, 2013, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Southern Methodist University, Dallas

The school year has begun and we should be starting new routines and getting settled. If you were unable to attend the August meeting, you missed the slide show of our sisters having a great time at the Austin convention. We also met for lunch after the meeting at Cretia's to celebrate Patti Belknap's state achievement award. In September we will be meeting in far North Dallas at Renner Frankford Branch Library. Car pooling might be a good idea! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our meeting.

PS. Please save the date: Our holiday gathering will be December 7, 2013 at Lavendou Restaurant and details will be forthcoming.

### September 21, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Renner Frankford Branch Library  
(Dallas Public Library)  
6400 Frankford Road  
Dallas, Texas 75252

Inspiration: Patti Belknap  
Agenda: Patti Belknap will present information on CTAUN & the International Day of Peace

Book Talk: Catie King  
Activity: Book Exchange. Members, please bring a book for us to exchange.

Hostesses: Gamma Family

Dianne McCorcle  
Program of Work



To my Theta Alpha Sisters,

Being awarded the Alpha State Achievement Award in Austin this summer was truly a highlight in my life. Having so many of you there to share the event made it even more memorable. But the lovely surprise you had for me at our last meeting really put it all over the top!

The roses, the balloon, and the surprise luncheon at Cretias was such an honor. I am blessed to be a part of such an incredible chapter. As my balloon said, "Theta Alpha, **YOU ROCK!**"

Love,  
Patti



## Delta Kappa Gamma Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes August 17, 2013

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 given by Sandra King read from a book "Settle In: A Quiet Moment with God."

Beverly Haygood welcomed 20 members. Members reported on others who were unable to attend. The May minutes were approved as printed and will be filed.

Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, reported on membership for the chapter and reported we had a quorum. Treasurer, Marilyn Bishop, presented the chapter's budget for the year. The chapter's ending balance as of June 30th, 2013 was \$2,421.22. Patti Belknap, Parliamentarian, made a motion to approve the budget for the year, and was seconded by Susie Branch. The motion for the budget passed unanimously with all 20 members voting to accept the budget. Mary Myers, Co-Treasurer, then reported on the Dues for the year. Dianne McCorcle, First Vice President, presented the Theta Alpha chapter's programs and projects for the year and gave dates for the meetings. Dianne also discussed a project for Kindness Week in March, 2014.

Committee leaders then reported on their committees. Dianne McCorcle, reported on the Scholarships, Grant-in-Aid and the T.H.A.T. program. Members were encouraged to help new teachers. Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, encouraged others to bring guests. Kristi John, Recording Secretary, reported on the progress of the newsletter and asked for submissions by the fifth of each month. All members we also asked to update their yearbook information for Ann Wyatt.

Members then enjoyed a slide show presentation of pictures from both the State Convention in Austin, Texas and the Southwest Regional Convention in Branson, Missouri. The Chapter then congratulated Patti Belknap for the Alpha State Achievement Award she was given in Austin, Texas.

Leslie Valentincic then called numbers for door prizes and the meeting adjourned with the singing of the DKG song at approximately 12:30pm, led by Mary Ann Shupe and Babs Arnswald.

Kristi John, Recording Secretary

## Membership

If you weren't at the August meeting, we had a great turnout and gave away 10 door prizes to some lucky members! Thank you to everyone who brought items! It has been a lot of fun seeing what people bring in and what people pick! My students have already noticed the HUGE eraser Kathy Nichols brought in...and I can't wait to buy some of the pens that Janet Roark donated at the last meeting! They are in my Amazon cart as we speak! But, enough about door prizes, what do we do to attract new members or reinstate former ones?

I received an email sent by Cathy Criner, Alpha State Membership Chair, which proposed a plan to reinstate members who have left the Society within the last five years. In a nutshell, the plan suggests that after a list has been compiled of women who have left, volunteers reach by phone to connect with them. In a DKG survey conducted two years ago, 70% of those who had dropped out said they would definitely consider returning if they were asked. The goal is to reconnect with past members while reinstating them as a member!

Leslie Valentincic  
Corresponding Secretary



(Right: Theta Alpha at Cretia's for Patti's celebration)

## Dues

Dues for Theta Alpha members will be \$100 if paid during the month of September or \$110 if paid in the month of October. Please send your check to Mary Myers, 302 Oakwood, Duncanville, TX, 75137 or pay at the September meeting.

Mary Myers, Treasurer

## News Buds

Don't forget to send good news, bad news, happy news, sad news, or just any news that needs to be shared between newsletters to Michelle Grandinetti at [mrgrand@mindspring.com](mailto:mrgrand@mindspring.com).

# From Your A.C.

It is back to school time and regardless of how long I have taught I still have fun cruising the aisles at stores looking at all the cool “stuff” for kids to brighten up their books, back packs, and even lockers. And even with all the “stuff” I already have I still end up with something new and fun. As you are opening another year in your chapter I know that your committees have planned new and fun activities, projects, and programs that will enlighten, inform, and entertain. I urge each of you to support the efforts of your chapter by contributing those skills and talents that you possess. Each of you is loaded with a bunch of “cool stuff”. Remember what you learned in Kindergarten: share.

Questions of the month: What are the governing documents for DKG International?  
Does each state have its own Constitution?

Membership Idea: Have copies of the “You and Us” brochure or your chapter brochure on hand to give to that individual you know would be perfect for your chapter.

Have a wonderful September,  
Michelle Grandinetti  
Area 9 Coordinator  
mrgrand@mindspring.com

## RECAP: AUGUST MEETING

With 20 members at the August 17, 2013 meeting Theta Alpha had a quorum to conduct its business meeting. The budget, the agenda for the year's programs, and the Theta Alpha projects for the year all passed unanimously, thanks to the stupendous work by our treasurers, Marilyn Bishop and Mary Myers, and our Program of Work Chairman, Dianne McCorcle. The venues for the Christmas Tea and Theta Alpha's major project still are in the workings.

Thank you to Mary Ann Shupe and to Susie Branch for leading Theta Alpha in some foot-stomping songs! Following the singing, the members were treated to a reminiscent slide show of the 84th TSO Convention in Austin which was excellently prepared by Catie King. Leslie Valentincic, Patti Belknap, and Kristi John (who incorporated the music) made sure that all of the technology was in place for the presentation. The presentation captured Patti Belknap receiving the TSO Achievement Award! What a wonderful surprise and honor for Patti and Theta Alpha!! Theta Alpha honored Patti for receiving the deserving award by presenting her with a dozen red roses. Following the meeting, Theta Alpha had a luncheon at Cretia's in Patti's honor.

Mary Ann Shupe informed Theta Alpha that she and Robert, her husband, were having to move to Oklahoma in order to be close to her ailing mother. Of course, Mary Ann will be sorely missed, but will forever remain our Theta Alpha/Delta Kappa Gamma sister! We will miss you very much, Mary Ann! Mary Ann is eligible to receive her 25-year pin and certificate this September. Both will be mailed to her.

Theta Alpha thanks Jan Gentry (and her mom) for acquiring the use of her church for the August meeting and for overseeing all of the arrangements.

Many thanks to the Theta Alpha Board (Patti Belknap, Kristi John, Catie King, Baudelia Luna, Michelle Grandinetti, Marilyn Bishop, Mary Myers, Leslie Valentincic, and Bev Hagood) for the reviving refreshments.

In closing, Mary Ann Shupe led Theta Alpha in the "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song."

## Birthdays

### September

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



### October

- 20 - Michelle Grandinetti
- 23 - Patti Belknap





## International Day of Peace - September 21

Please consider activities within the classroom and beyond to celebrate this year's International Day of Peace. The theme chosen for this year's observance is "Education for Peace" and will focus on fostering global citizenship through education. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world. This day is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

Some resources to help you plan events in your classroom are: "Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World", a newsletter published by the DKG Connecticut state organization.

"The Hague Appeal for Peace" ([haguepeace.org](http://haguepeace.org)) this website provides "Peace Lessons from Around the World"

"The National Peace Academy" ([nationalpeaceacademy.us](http://nationalpeaceacademy.us)) contains information about workshops and educational materials for different levels.

You will find out more about this important day at our next meeting.

Patti Belknap  
DKGTexas Liaison to CTAUN  
Info -Fair Chair CTAUN-DFW



(Right: Beverly Hagood and Susie Branch at Theta Alpha's August meeting.)

### Important Upcoming Dates:

\*International Day of Peace- September 21, 2013

\*International Literacy Celebration- Entire month of September

\*Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE)- October 12, 2013 2nd Annual Conference, Texas State University- San Marcos Campus in Round Rock, Texas - [www.texasreaders.org](http://www.texasreaders.org)

## Legislation

(Information taken from Reading Today- Legislation and Policy, June/July 2013, pp. 22-23)

### Federal:

At this time Congress is working on rewriting several bills, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Higher Education Act, as well as several others, touching early childhood, adult education and other measures.

Looking at how much money will be sent to schools for this upcoming year, there is a 5.2% cut in funds for education programs. The sequestration includes Title I, IDEA, Impact Aid, and others. There have been reports of Head Start programs being cut back.

According to Richard Long in Reading Today this is not the first or last of the cuts at the federal level for education. For the September 2014 school year the House is proposing a cut of 18.6%. The Senate is also trying to set a level this year, but higher than the House level.

### State:

In several states there is an increased push for more specific testing of young children. The testing would help determine which children need intervention at an early age. Other states legislators are trying to change how schools of education prepare new teachers by requiring specific courses or ideas to be covered. In other states in order to determine which interventions need to be implemented, early assessments are being evaluated to look at how well students have mastered the early stages of reading. Even though the new CCSS (Common Core State Standards) does not affect Texas' educational system, it is interesting to know that several states are rolling back the adoption of the Standards or the assessment by a year due to uncertainties in the implementation of the CCSS.



Right: Marilyn Bishop, Badelia Luna and Cathy Nichols at Cretia's.

Please be sure to download The Lone Star on [alphastatetexas.org](http://alphastatetexas.org) for important updates from the 84th TSO Convention. Theta Alpha stays informed!!



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**  
Texas State Organization

The Theta Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Society International, an honor organization of women educators, would like to help provide needed resources for your classroom. As a new educator we realize that often time's school districts do not provide all the extras you would like to provide for your students.

Please take the time to fill out the enclosed application and let us know what you would do with a \$100.00 grant for educational supplies. We will award this grant at our Theta Alpha Chapter meeting on Saturday, October 19, 2013.

You may mail or email the application to:

Dianne McCorcle  
504 Wendy Lane  
Desoto, Texas 75115  
[mmccorcle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmccorcle@sbcglobal.net)

**Please respond by October 1, 2013**



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**  
Texas State Organization

Application For New Teacher Grant-in-Aid

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School and District: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of years you have taught: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Attach a 1-page explanation of what you would do if you were given a \$100.00 gift card to \_\_\_\_\_.

(Please include where you would like the gift card to be purchased)