

**Minutes of the Regular Chapter Meeting  
Epsilon Kappa of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
April 9, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Epsilon Kappa Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was held on April 9, 2016, at the home of Elizabeth Newell.

Jewelry donated by members was for sale before and after the meeting. Proceeds from jewelry sales benefits the chapter SEE project. President Earin Martin called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

The meeting began with the initiation of six new members: Evelyn Bollinger, Juana (Janie) Melendez Farias, Rosemary Torres, Lillian Villafuerte, Tracey McGuire Wilson, and Tamara Wood.

Epsilon Kappa's 2016-2018 officers were installed to begin their term on July 1, 2016. In the ceremony, each 2014-2016 officer "passed the torch" to the corresponding incoming 2016-2018 officer with the exception of parliamentarian, Marilyn Gregory, who had obligations as state president. The 2016-2018 officers are: President Pam Kelly, 1st Vice President Kathy Mihalik, 2nd Vice President Cheryl Lane, Secretary Norma Jost, Treasurer Marcia Kirkland, and Parliamentarian Evelyn Barron.

Members then joined hands for the DKG song to welcome the new initiates and to congratulate the incoming officers, then enjoyed refreshments during the second half of the meeting, focused on celebrations.

Deb Acevedo-Tamminga presented Epsilon Kappa's Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award to Eleann Rodriguez, a second grade teacher at Wooldridge Elementary. Eleann received a certificate and \$100.

Earin presented a 25-year membership certificate and pin to Leyla Cohlmi and a 50-year membership certificate and pin to Jo Watts.

Members with perfect attendance at chapter meetings from April 2015 through March 2016 were recognized and included Deb Acevedo-Tamminga, Marilyn Gregory, Pam Kelly, Earin Martin, Kathy Mihalik, and Elizabeth Newell.

Marcia Kirkland presented custom-designed certificates of appreciation to all the mentors of the SEE Project – Janet Bernard, Jeanette Abrajan, Deb Acevedo-Tamminga, Glenda Bell, Hilda Diaz, Bernadine Eaton, Forrest Hancock, Norma Jost, Pam Kelly, Earin Martin, Elizabeth Newell, Eva Ornelas, Kim Thonhoff, Debbie Sansom, Mary Louise Poolman, and Kate Starkes. Mentors not in attendance were also recognized.

Pam Kelly, Membership Chair, reviewed individual achievements and recognitions for chapter members. Members were provided with a brochure, created by Kathy Mihalik, outlining these achievements. These recognitions included:

- Sandi Causey was elected corresponding secretary of the Texas State Organization 2015-2017.
- Jeanette Abrajan was awarded a grant from Next Generation Digital Classroom Trailblazer in Round Rock ISD. The grant provides computers for Jeanette's classroom next year.
- Marilyn Gregory was elected president of the Texas State Organization 2015-2017.

- Earin Martin developed a *Federal Grant Policies and Procedures Manual* template for Texas school districts under contract with Region 10 ESC; at least 4 other ESCs purchased it for their districts, so approximately 1/4 of the districts in Texas are using it.
- Kathy Mihalik received her teaching certification in Aqua Kyrie Yoga in June 2015.
- Elizabeth Newell received the 2015 Alpha State's Golden Rose Award at the Celebration Luncheon at the June 2015 convention in San Antonio.
- Marcia Kirkland and the SEE Committee (and ghost-writer Evelyn Barron) wrote and received a \$6,000 grant from the DKG Educational Foundation to support the chapter SEE project.

Earin individually thanked each of the outgoing officers and presented each with a card and gift: Janet Bernard, Hilda Diaz, Kristen Lowrie, Marcia Kirkland, Marilyn Gregory (not present), and Bernadine Eaton. Committee chairs Deb Acevedo-Tamminga (Excellence in Education chair), Charlotte Bown (Arrangements chair; not present), Mary Louise Poolman (Membership chair for 2014-2015), Pam Kelly (Membership chair for 2015-2016), Martha Dolman (Scholarship chair), and Debbie Sansom (Finance committee chair) were also thanked and received a card and gift from Earin.

Earin also thanked Diane Sidoroff (not in attendance) for her continued work in producing Epsilon Kappa's professional newsletter, *The Reporter*, and Kathleen Mihalik for serving as webmaster and designing and maintaining a professional chapter website. Diane and Kathy were each presented with a custom-designed certificate.

Earin presented the Epsilon Kappa Chapter Achievement Award for 2016 to Deb Acevedo-Tamminga for providing outstanding leadership and participation for the chapter and state organization throughout the years.

The brag basket was passed. Proceeds benefited the chapter SEE project.

Earin thanked the hostesses and Elizabeth Newell for hosting the meeting at her home and reminded members about TSO Convention and Area 7 workshop. There were no other announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Kristen Lowrie  
Epsilon Kappa Secretary  
2014-2016 Biennium