

The Delta Kappa  
Gamma Society  
International

Epsilon Kappa  
Chapter #130

Alpha State  
Austin, TX  
Area 7

# The Reporter

**International Mission:** Delta Kappa Gamma promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education

**International Theme:** DKG: Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide

**State Theme:** The Heart of the Society is its Members

**Chapter Theme:** Forward With Heart (Health, Education, Achievement, Reflection, Teamwork)

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Feb / Mar 2017

## President's Message

2017- A new year brings new opportunities. Some of us make resolutions; others are just happy for a fresh start. Epsilon Kappa has many things to look forward to. Let's make our first priority to attend the Texas State Organization Convention in Houston from June 22-24, 2017. Make your reservations NOW at the Westin Galleria <http://dkgtexasconvention.weebly.com/> The rooms are a great price at \$139. It is my hope that each of you will consider attending since the banquet will honor Marilyn Gregory, and we want to proudly show our love for her.

Please come - it's an opportunity to learn, spend time together and have fun. Don't wait to book a room. Attending the conference is affordable and will be some of the best money you will ever spend.

ASTEFL's Diva Doin's! will be fantastic at the convention. This is a ticketed event and must be purchased when you register for the convention. Earin Martin, Evelyn Barron, and Sandi Causey are all ASTEF board members, so let's support them and ASTEF in this wonderful Friday morning session of empowerment.

We have so many talented members. Consider presenting a break out session for one hour at the convention. Your proposal is due by Friday, February 17, 2017. See the website [www.dkgtexas.org/personal-and-professional-enrichment-committee.html](http://www.dkgtexas.org/personal-and-professional-enrichment-committee.html)

The Epsilon Kappa Executive Board met this

month to move forward from paper to Facebook and Twitter. How exciting to embrace technology and connect with our younger members in a new way.

Our February luncheon at Saltgrass Steak House will have an informative program on Bullying and allow members to write cards to World Fellowship recipients impacting education worldwide. World Fellowship students work toward a Master's or Ph.D. degree at approved universities in either the United States or Canada. Pick one of the recipients and send a greeting to her!

March brings a special program by one of our own, Jeanette Abraján. Aren't we fortunate to have her share her expertise?

Founders Day Celebration with all of the Austin chapters is May 6—SAVE THE DATE. It will be at Sterling Events Center- 6134 U.S. 290 Frontage Rd. at 11 am.

**Forward with Heart**

--Pam Kelly



## December Meeting Highlights



## Educational Excellence Committee

### December meeting highlights:

Our December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was a roaring success with such an excellent turnout that it was standing room only. The Holiday spirit was in full effect, as we had a spirited time with both our ornament exchange game and our silent auction. Jo Watts and Carolyn Newhouse coordinated our silent auction; we had such a wonderful and fun variety of donated items that we were able to raise \$350 for The Refuge. Some of the bidding on the items got very close; one item was won with a winning bid of a few cents over the previous bid. In addition to hosting our chapter in her beautiful home, Deb Acevedo-Tamminga led us in the entertaining “Left-Right” ornament game, where we learned about and sang several Christmas carols, and laughed along as we tried to listen critically for our ornament-passing signal. Earin Martin shared with us about Schools for Africa and World Fellowship and reminded us about several upcoming scholarship opportunities. We raised \$100 for Schools for Africa with our brag basket.

### February meeting preview:

Please join us for our luncheon at Saltgrass Steak House (try to arrive by 10:45 a.m.) on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Martinez-Prather, the Director of Texas School Safety Center, will be presenting on upcoming legislation, current lobbying, and school safety measures regarding Bullying/Cyberbullying. One of the resolutions passed at the Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention this past summer regarding bullying/cyberbullying was a call to action on behalf of all chapters, states, and members of DKG. Make sure to mail your check to Marcia Kirkland, so you don't miss this opportunity to learn about ways you can help support upcoming legislation.

Saturday, February 4, 2017 - Luncheon at 11:00 am

Location: Saltgrass Steak House - 10614 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759

**Topic: Cyberbullying/Anti-Bullying Legislation**

**Presenter: Kathy Martinez-Prather**

### March meeting preview:

On Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI), Jeanette Abrajan will present on “Integrating and Reflecting on Dual Language – Bilingual Education.” Jeanette’s presentation will immerse us in what it is like to be in a dual language classroom, as well as demonstrate strategies for supporting our bilingual learners. Jeanette is a Dual Language Instructor at Caldwell Heights Elementary in Round Rock ISD.

Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Location: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired - 1100 W. 45th St. Austin, TX 78756 (Barraga Room Outreach Center, Building 605)

**Topic: Integrating and Reflecting on Dual Language – Bilingual Education**

**Presenter: Jeanette Abrajan**

Submitted by Cara Hamlin, EEC Chair

## Epsilon Kappa Spirit

Just a quick update after our December meeting....

- 1) \$100 mailed to UNICEF for Schools for Africa
- 2) \$350 mailed with letter from Epsilon Kappa to The Refuge
- 3) 30 goodie containers delivered to 7 schools!!! Special thanks for donated money, from Debbie S, Marilyn, and Forrest....which allowed us to get plastic containers with colorful lids from the Dollar Store to use for delivery instead of just flat plates....so much easier to handle. Lots of gratefulness to Mary T-H, Luisa, Norma, Elizabeth, Cara and Janet for all of the donated goodies which filled the containers to the brim. Always blessed to have Bernadine help with loading up the containers, Evelyn for making all the labels, and Norma for making the circuit with me to all the schools— so much fun!

Enjoy the pictorial journey..... Smiles, Marcia Kirkland



## ASTE F Updates

### February is ASTEF Giving Month

Donate to ASTEF during the month of February to support scholarships, leadership, or projects. There are two ways to contribute:

- Use the **Donate** button on the website ([www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org)) to send your money directly to Projects.
- Use the contribution form available on the website to make a contribution for Scholarships or Leadership and/or to donate in memory or in honor of someone.

**This year's goal for ASTEF Giving Month is \$15,000.**

### Convention Preview: "Diva Doin's!"

ASTE F is sponsoring a "fabulous, fun-filled make-up, shape-up" session on Friday morning, June 23, during the TSO convention in Houston. Featured presenter will be Houston and Texas designer/stylist Ashley Dunn, who will share fashion tips and tricks while telling of her personal journey and her vision for empowering women of all ages.

The event will also include an interactive stiletto exercise demonstration, a Diva Silent Auction, a designer handbag raffle (with surprise gifts tucked inside), and lots of other fun-filled activities.

**Diva Doin's!** is a ticketed event and an ASTEF fundraiser. Purchase your ticket when you register for the TSO convention. One attendee who registers by May 1 will be randomly chosen to receive a fashion make-over.

Submitted by Evelyn Barron



## Now on Facebook

Epsilon Kappa Chapter is now on Facebook! We have created a closed group, so if you search for us and request to join, one of the administrators will give you membership. You can post on the group's page and adjust your settings to be notified when information is added to the page. We hope this will help with communication among our membership. On Facebook, search for Epsilon Kappa Texas Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. The page has our red and green rose logo. Join and Like our group!



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## TSO State Scholarships Available: Applications are Due March 1

Now is the time to develop your application for a TSO State Scholarship for graduate study; educational travel; professional development, including continuing adult education; or a mini-grant. Scholarship applications are due to the Chair of the TSO Scholarship Committee (Cindy Drumm) on March 1; scholarships are available for active members of DKG for:

- 3, 6, or 9 – credit hours of graduate or undergraduate courses or certification
- 9 hours for doctoral courses or enrollment for dissertation
- Educational travel (Maetha Griffin Weatherby - requires matching funds)
- Life-long Learner (formerly Adult Education) for 3 hours study, Road Scholar (non-ASTE), Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UT Austin, research, non-DKG conferences, or other lifelong learning activity
- Mini-grants for non-traditional professional development such as **non**-DKG conferences, workshops, and research

See the guidelines and application for each of these on the TSO website at <http://www.dkgtxas.org/state-scholarships.html> . Also, the *Quick Guide for DKG Scholarships and Grants* on our chapter website provides some helpful overview information. See the Quick Guide at <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/educationleadership-opportunities.html> .

Aspiring Educator Grants, now administered by ASTEF, are also available for **non**-DKG members to work toward an education degree. The Aspiring Educator Grant applications are due March 1 to Virginia Bowers. See <http://www.astef.org/forms.html> for the guidelines and application. If you know of a promising young woman who is **not** a DKG member and who aspires to be a teacher or who needs teacher certification, be sure to point out this terrific opportunity to her.

Submitted by Earin Martin

## Calling for Nominations for Outstanding First-Year Teacher

It's time to nominate promising, exemplary first-year teachers for the **Epsilon Kappa Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award**. The award will be presented at the April chapter meeting.

The objectives of the Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award are to recognize an exemplary first-year teacher and to address the following Purposes of the Society:

- To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education
- To advance the professional interest and position of women in education

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Enthusiasm and dedication
- Active interest and involvement in professional growth
- Care and concern for students
- Knowledge of subject matter

You can access the nomination form online on our chapter website at <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/documents-and-forms.html>. Nomination forms are due to Cara Hamlin, Chair of the Educational Excellence Committee, no later than **February 15**.

You can mail the completed form to Cara at 1519 Emperor Ct. Round Rock, TX 78664. You can complete the editable PDF form or print it for completion and then scan and send it to Cara via email attachment at [cararcowan@gmail.com](mailto:cararcowan@gmail.com).

So put your thinking caps on and nominate someone in your school or community. Remember, the person can be a first-year teacher who meets the criteria in any field of education.

Submitted by Pam Kelly and Cara Hamlin



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## 2017 Unifying Project

### Child Advocates Needs for DKG – TSO June Convention

**Gift cards to:**

- Target
- Amazon
- Wal-Mart
- Visa/MasterCard
- Amazon
- Office Depot
- Costco/Sam’s

**Younger Children:**

- Children's Books
- Coloring Books and Crayons
- Stuffed Animals
- Action Figures
- Educational Toys
- Educational Games
- Art Sets

**Preteen and Teen Girl:**

- Manicure set, Nail file, nail polish
- Hand cream or lotion, Lip gloss or bath wash
- Decorative t-shirts or Cute socks
- Books, journals, colorful pens
- Small Purse, wallet

**Preteen and Teen Boy:**

- Manicure set
- AXE shaving cream or deodorant
- Comb/Brush
- Decorative t-shirts or Socks
- Books, journals
- Keychain or Wallet



## Lunch Bunch Plans for 2017

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
2/21/2017	11:30 am	Olive Garden	8833 Burnet Rd.
3/21/17	11:30 am	La Madeleine Mueller	1201 Barbara Jordan Blvd., Bldg. 11
4/18/17	11:30 am	County Line on the Lake	5204 FM 2222
9/19/17	11:30 am	Abuelo’s	2901 S. Capital of Texas Hwy.

Call Jo Watts 512-264-3912 if you plan to attend.

## FEBRUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

## MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Looking Ahead

- **February 4, 2017**—11:00 a.m., Luncheon at Saltgrass Steak House, 10614 Research Blvd.

- **March 7, 2017**— 6:00 pm TSVBI

Please put these dates on your calendar if you can get away for lunch. Please call or e-mail Jo Watts if you plan to attend.

- **February 21, 2017**— 11:30 am, Olive Garden, 8833 Burnet Rd

- **March 21, 2017**— 11:30 am, La Madeleine Mueller, 1201 Barbara Jordan Blvd., Bldg 11

Email—[jwatts35@austin.rr.com](mailto:jwatts35@austin.rr.com)

Phone—512-264-3912

Hope to see a large group!



Dear Epsilon Kappa Chapter, DKGSI,

I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$350.00 in support of The Refuge for DMST. We are grateful for your investment in this vital mission, which will help many young survivors of sex trafficking. Please know your generous gift will have a tremendous impact in helping a young girl rebuild her life and create a powerful future for herself and those who come after her.

Sincerely,

Brooke Crowder  
Founder, The Refuge



**Epsilon Kappa Chapter  
The Delta Kappa Gamma  
Society International**

Diane Sidoroff  
901 Creekbend Drive  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

**Newsletter Information**

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, March 17. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at [diane.sidoroff@gmail.com](mailto:diane.sidoroff@gmail.com) or to Pam Kelly at [epsilonkappapres@gmail.com](mailto:epsilonkappapres@gmail.com).

During this year, members may be asked to submit articles about their reflections of meetings or other DKG activities. We want to involve as many people as possible to highlight the diversity of our chapter. Also, let us know about your Life Milestones, whether you have attended a meeting or not. News is always appreciated.

Please contact Marcia Kirkland if you wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter, though we are trying to “go green” and send most by e-mail. Thanks, Marcia, for your help with communications!

Chapter Website: <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/>

## Let's Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in February and March:

Carolyn Newhouse	02-03
Dr Glenda Love Bell	02-12
Ely Rodriguez-Villafañe	02-17
Mary Louise Poolman	02-18
Kitty Mellenbruch	03-17
Lilian Villafuerte-Abregu	03-06
Graciela Esquivel	03-30
Phyllis Richards	03-30

