

Minutes of the Regular Chapter Meeting
Epsilon Kappa of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
September 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Epsilon Kappa Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was held on September 12, 2016, at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI).

President Pam Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Marilyn Gregory, Epsilon Kappa member, and TSO's state president, reflected on her first year as TSO President. She has been VERY busy implementing her state theme, *The Heart of the Society is its Members*. The next state convention is in Houston 6/22-6/24/17.

Guest speaker Carol Rose, Area 7 Coordinator, was delighted to share there were 151 attendees at the Area 7 Conference in Marble Fall. She shared her Vision for the 16 Chapters in Area 7:

- Each Chapter increase/maintain membership
- Be a service to the community
- Participate at all levels at the state by attending state convention; applying for the Annie and/or PACE Awards, and participating on a state committee
- Apply for a State ASTEF Grant
- All Chapters active in planning/participating in the International Conference in Austin in July 2018
- Share our talents to help mentor other Chapters
- Apply for the Leadership Seminar February (deadline is October 15, 2016)

Pam Kelly shared her Epsilon Kappa Theme and Goals. Her biennium Chapter goals are:

1. Support educators in Austin and around the world which we are doing with SEE (Support for Early-Career Educators) and Schools for Africa projects.
2. Recruit and retain early career educators – we have wonderful young members and we need to work on keeping them interested and learn from each other.
3. Provide fun and engaging professional growth in our meetings and activities
4. Promote ongoing information about scholarships and grant opportunities to do fun and informative things
5. Embrace technology—from digital immigrant to digital native

Pam's theme, *Forward with Heart*, hooked on to Marilyn's HEART theme through:

H – Health in keeping all members healthy.

E – Education means educating our members about the importance of our membership (4 new prospects and 1 transfer that will be with us in October). More importantly, impact our community with our projects and grow our name recognition!

A – Achievement means achieving our chapter goals and acknowledging and recognizing all member achievements.

R – Reflection on our heritage in terms of honoring our 90+ members at the October meeting, our founders and Austin schools named after many of DKG members, the wall at this meeting place honoring Dr. Natalie Barraga as we advance our society and move it into today.

T – Teamwork is the most important one to Pam. We know we are all stretched but if everyone does something then no one is left out. It helps us be united and it helps us get things done.

Teamwork strengthens our society and helps us get to know each other better.

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Hilda Diaz's daughter, Jessica, who attends many of our meetings, had a special announcement. Her school, Village Elementary in Georgetown is raising money to buy new computers, library books, and PE equipment. She passed around an order form.

Norma Jost, Secretary and choral substitute for Deb Acevedo-Tamminga, led the group in a rousing HEART song.

The minutes from the March 7, 2016, and April 9, 2016, chapter meetings were approved as printed.

Marcia Kirkland, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Balance currently is \$2832.18 since July 1st. Earin Martin, immediate past president and Finance Committee member, presented the Finance Committee Report and the proposed chapter budget for 2016-2017. Marcia Kirkland presented the budget and then moved that the chapter adopt the budget. The motion passed.

Review of 2016-2017 Chapter Projects, Brag Basket Proceeds: While we use our brag basket proceeds to fund our Schools for Africa and SEE projects, Pam researched if we could do more physically like making or doing something. The answer was no but we can continue to support projects with money. At this time, the September-October funds will go to SEE and November-December funds will support Schools for Africa. In January, the Executive Board will review what projects will be supported by spring funds. We are looking forward to our November program, which Jo Watts is helping to organize. It is about the new refuge we may decide to help.

Fund-Raising activities will continue with the fun jewelry sale, thanks to Bernadine and Marcia, and we are looking at having a one-minute auction in December. Let Pam know if you have any other ideas for fund raising.

Pam brainstormed how we can increase our outreach by adopting a Title 1 school that doesn't have a strong PTO. Ideas like cookies, homemade pies, a ream of paper, a cup of hot chocolate deliveries to classrooms, an uplifting poem/quote, were all discussed as ways to support a needy school. Please send ideas to Pam or Cara Hamlin.

Bernadine Eaton, Membership Committee member, presented the Membership Committee Report and member news. We have 4 new initiates for our October meeting:

Yvette Cardenas--Assistant Principal at Pillow Elementary (AISD)

Ely Rodriguez--Bilingual 2nd grade teacher (AISD)

Luisa Hernandez--Assistant Principal (AISD)

Graciela Esquivel--Elementary Assistant Principal (AISD)

She discussed the Book Lovers group, led by her and Sandi Causey and that Jo Watts will let us know more about Lunch Bunch.

Evelyn Barron, past president of ASTEF and Chapter Parliamentarian, reminded members about the ASTEF piggy banks a couple of years ago that have been replaced by red Cash Clutches. They are also selling beautiful ASTEF pins for \$3. These donations support ASTEF project stipends of which our Chapter has been a beneficiary. She reminded members that they are also encouraged to contribute to the Epsilon Kappa Foundation you can make a donation at the same time that you pay your dues, which are 501(c)3 tax-deductible organizations.

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Evelyn discussed proposed amendments to the Epsilon Kappa Chapter Rules including transacting Chapter business like voting by postal or electronic mail. The motion passed and they will be voted on at the October meeting.

Marcia gave out a couple of SEE Mentor awards from last spring.

The Brag Basket was passed and proceeds will benefit SEE.

Adjourn 7:25 pm

Norma Jost
Secretary, 2016-2018 Biennium