

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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## President's Message

As this biennium draws to an end, I wish to thank Epsilon Kappa for selecting me as their president. It has been an honor to serve as president for such an accomplished group of women. I was able to attend my first International DKG Convention in Nashville, TN and it is a memory I will not forget. I was also selected to attend the TSO Leadership Seminar in Frisco. I met so many amazing women and learned so much during the seminar. Leadership takes time and commitment but reaps phenomenal rewards.

Please bring new children's storybooks for ages 3-10 years old (pre K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade) to the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the 2018 Unifying Project of the TSO Convention in Waco to contribute to Storybook Christmas. More information is available at [www.storybookchristmas.org](http://www.storybookchristmas.org). This organization was started by Ann Badolati Roznovsky, a recently deceased honorary DKG member from Waco. For those of you going to the TSO Convention in Waco, you can bring books to the convention. However, if you are unable to attend the convention, please support this worthwhile project by bringing books to our meeting.

Our last meeting for the biennium is

special in so many ways. We will be installing our new President Cheryl Lane, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Norma Jost, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Gracie Esquivel, and Secretary Ann Lilie.

We will be honoring Martha Dolman's 25 years of membership and initiate seven new members - Debra Aceves, Terrie Bovinich, Toni Bayerl, Ashley Glidewell, Marielo Morales, Ashley Nauta and Melissa Saldana. We will be presenting our Outstanding First Year Teacher award and awarding the Epsilon Kappa Chapter Achievement Award.

Consider attending the Opening of the DKG International Convention on July 16, even if you are unable to participate the rest of the week, to see first-hand *Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide*. It is a very powerful experience.

Forward with Heart,

Pam Kelly



# Educational Excellence Committee

## Epsilon Kappa Chapter February Meeting

### Luncheon at Saltgrass Steakhouse, Austin, TX.

Members received an informative presentation from guest speaker, Lake Travis ISD Deputy Superintendent Mary Patin, about Districts of Innovation.

Highlights include:

- A district is eligible to become a district of innovation if accountability rating is met standard.
- Becoming a district of innovation gives local control back to the schools.
- This is a good opportunity for districts to be flexible and innovative.
- Steps on becoming a district of innovation and examples of allowable exemptions were shared with members.

Allowable exemptions include but are not limited to:

- 1) Educator Certification
- 2) Teacher Contracts
- 3) First and Last day of school
- 4) Length of School Day
- 5) Class size
- 6) Certain Purchasing and Contract Requirements

Following the presentation, there was time for members to ask questions on the topic. Ms. Patin answered questions and gave examples of how districts are using this flexibility to meet the needs of their staff and community.

### March Meeting Summary

Our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was a very engaging and interesting panel about school choice. Joan Burnham and Claudia Knowles put together an insightful and well-rounded discussion covering versatile topics like school finance, charter schools, and what public schools can learn from charter schools. We were privileged to hear to State Representative Gina Hinojosa; Director of Government Relations for AFT, Eric Hartman; and Principal for REAL Academy, Bardo Montelongo. The speakers shared a variety of viewpoints regarding school choice, as well as driving home the point that we're all in the business of educating students, no matter what type of school we work for. There is a Facebook Live Video of the panel discussion available through our Epsilon Kappa Facebook group (Epsilon Kappa Texas Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma). Click on the event created by Cara Hamlin (School Choice: A Panel Discussion), and you can view the video of the panel.

# Epsilon Kappa February Luncheon



## March Meeting Highlights

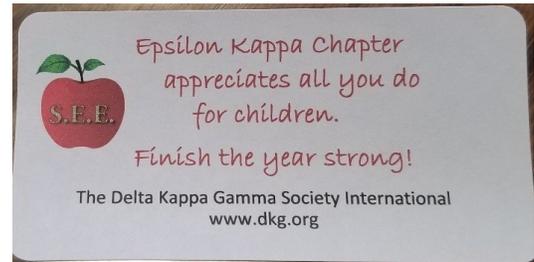


School of Choice Panel (left to right Bardo Montelongo, Eric Hartman, Gina Hinojosa)



# SEE Project

## Cookie Deliveries HUGE Success!!!



Back in January, chapter members provided 42 dozen cookies to fill plastic containers for our 41 SEE mentees. For our BIG delivery -- 600 Ziploc bags filled with homemade cookies and assorted candies -- chapter members made over 180 dozen cookies. Deliveries were made to six elementary schools -- Walnut Creek, Hart, Guerrero Thompson, Cook, Wooldridge, and Blanton.

Several members provided money toward the containers, Ziploc bags, candy (1200 individually wrapped pieces), and labels. Some members even helped with the project both times!



Thanks to chapter members who provided cookies and/or money for this project:

Norma Jost  
Janet Bernard  
Debra Wissman  
Marilyn Gregory  
Pam Kelly  
Hilda Diaz

Kathy Dixon  
Charlotte Hanna  
Kim Thornhoff  
Glenda Ballard  
Mary Harney  
Earin Martin

Debbie Sansom  
Elizabeth Newell  
Bernadine Eaton  
Jo Watts  
Evelyn Barron  
Marcia Kirkland



Also special thanks to Spark Gregory and Bob Newell for their assistance with our project.

Submitted by Marcia Kirkland





THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
PO BOX 1589 · AUSTIN, TX 78767-1589 · 888-762-4648 · 512-478-5748 · FAX 512-478-3961

March 23, 2018

Bernadine Eaton  
11403 February Dr.  
Austin, TX 78753

Dear Bernadine,

Congratulations! Trustees of the Educational Foundation of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International are pleased to inform you that your project "STEM...iPads...and Beyond" has been awarded **\$10,000.00** for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Funds are to be awarded no later than June 30, 2018. Should you not receive your funds by that date, please contact me at [marthas@dkg.org](mailto:marthas@dkg.org) or 512-478-5748 x121.

All applications for funding, the mid-year report and the year-end report are online and interactive and must be submitted electronically as follows:

- The mid-year report will be due by January 3 of the following year.
- For continued funding of your project, a new interactive application must be submitted no later than January 3 of the following year.
- The year-end report is due by May 15 of the following year.
- Interactive forms are available at [www.dkgef.org](http://www.dkgef.org).

**It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the current application form and all reports electronically by the appropriate date.** The Board of Trustees of the Educational Foundation expects you to recognize the contributions of the Foundation when presenting any of your materials and in any publicity of your project.

We wish you continued success in your project endeavors and look forward to reviewing your project reports.

Sincerely,

Georgia Klein, Chair  
Projects Grants  
Educational Foundation

Dorothy E. Sample, Chair  
Projects Grants  
Educational Foundation

## ASTE F Updates

ASTE F's first online auction held during Giving Month (February) was a big success, raising \$4,505 from the auctioned items, plus \$150 in cash donations. Thanks to all who participated in Giving Month. ASTEF raised a total of \$11,376 of the \$15,000 goal for Giving Month. These funds will help provide project stipends to worthy chapters across the state.

The next ASTEF Travelers' Road Scholar Adventure will be to Asheville, North Carolina, November 11-16, 2018. The trip to this fabulous historic area is coordinated by Road Scholar and includes 5 nights lodging, 12 meals, and 12 field trips including a tour of the Biltmore Estate in its holiday splendor, the Vanderbilts, and the Arts. The Asheville trip flyer provides more detail on registration, activities, and cost and is on the ASTEF website at <http://www.astef.org/asheville-trip.html>. Space is limited, so if you've ever wanted to travel to this captivating area for a reasonable price, now is the time.

ASTE F manages the Aspiring Educator Grant program, which provides 3 and 6-hour grants to women in Texas toward the completion of a bachelor's degree in education and/or Texas teacher certification. The deadline for application was March 1, and we received 9 applications. The ASTEF Programs Committee will determine the final funding at the ASTEF Board meeting in April in Dallas.

At the TSO Convention in Waco, ASTEF will award its second annual ASTEF Advocate for Education Award to Jane Bounds, co-founder of Pack of Hope ([www.packofhope.org](http://www.packofhope.org)) in Waco, TX. Watch for an article in the next issue of the *Lone Star News* for more information about Jane and her contribution to ensuring underprivileged children do not go hungry on the weekends. Plan on coming to the ASTEF Annual Meeting immediately following the TSO Business Meeting on Friday, June 15, to see Jane receive her award. The Advocate for Education Award is given to a woman in Texas who is an avid supporter of education by showing her commitment to service and financial contributions to multiple areas of education while not a current educator herself.

When you complete your registration for TSO Convention, be sure to sign up to attend ASTEF's fundraiser "**Building ASTEF Strong**" session on **Friday, June 15**. Your **\$25 ticket** is your **tax-deductible donation** to ASTEF and, of course, helps fund projects that impact education, leadership opportunities, and scholarships. Jimmy Don Holmes, well-known metal artist featured on HGTV's *Fixer Upper*, is the highlighted speaker for this special event. If you've ever attended any of the ASTEF functions, you know they are fun, enlightening, and exhilarating. You don't want to miss this one.

Onward with ASTEF!



Submitted by Earin Martin

## Outstanding First Year Teacher 2018

Our Education Excellence Committee was honored to select Leslie Abbott as the Outstanding First Year Teacher for 2018. Ms. Abbott is a Kindergarten teacher at Barton Creek Elementary. On her nomination form, her principal, Tiffany Phelps commented, "I knew from the second I interviewed Ms. Abbott that she was a teacher that BCE would be lucky to have. Her genuine care for others is something you can't learn from a textbook. It's something that she simply exudes and it's infectious to those around her. I have always said that the difference between a good teacher and a great teacher is that a great teacher has a plan, passion, and purpose. Ms. Abbott has all three. BCE would not be the same without her. I am beyond proud to get the opportunity to watch her grow as a teacher and witness the positive impact she has on her students."



## Tapestry Singers

Please put these important dates on your calendar!

May 12: Tapestry Singers Spring Concert Bright Star

June 11: Tapestry Singers is hosting the FREE Austin Women's Chorus Festival

Tapestry Singers (aka the Austin Women's Chorus) was founded in 1987 by Ruth Huber to provide women in the greater Austin area the opportunity to sing together and explore their vocal abilities, regardless of skill level or experience. We support any woman who loves to sing and work together through rehearsals, vocal workshops, concerts and mutual encouragement to provide every Tapestry member the skills and confidence to successfully perform both as a chorus member and soloist.

We sing all types of choral music, but our main focus is music by, for or about women and music supporting a just and peaceful world. We also support our community by providing entertaining, thought-provoking and inspiring music to listen to. Our chorus is open to all women and does not require an audition to join.

### THE MISSION OF TAPESTRY SINGERS IS:

To encourage all women, regardless of race, color, sexual identity, or vocal confidence to explore their singing abilities, realizing that many of us were initially afraid that we could not sing.

To gain through mutual support the skills that are required to perform confidently and successfully.

To bring the joy and healing that comes with singing.

To sing songs by, for, or about women and songs that offer a vision of a just and peaceful world.

To entertain and inspire a larger community by performing our music.

Our mission is carried out through weekly rehearsals, vocal workshops and by holding periodic concerts. A music selection committee, working several months in advance of each concert, locates appropriate music and, as needed, commissions original arrangements for three- or four-part treble harmony.

### Tapestry Singers Upcoming Event Details:

5/12/18 - BRIGHT STAR Concert; 7:00, St John's United Methodist Church; [2140 Allandale Rd, Austin, TX 78756](http://www.brightstarconcert.com)

At least 2 newly composed songs to be sung for the first time!

Tickets: [www.tapestrysingers.com](http://www.tapestrysingers.com) (available ahead: 20% discount; At the door: Regular \$15; Senior/Student/ Alumnae \$10).

6/11/18 - Austin Women's Chorus Festival! 7:30, at Northwest Hills United Methodist Church;

[7050 Village Center Dr, Austin, TX 78731](http://www.nwhills.org)

FREE concert hosted by Tapestry Singers with 3 other Women's Choruses.

Submitted by Norma Jost

## DKG International Convention

### Attending the 2018 DKG International Convention in Austin?

Your **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** can help.

A **Phyllis Richards Leadership Grant** will cover your registration fee and possibly some convention meals.

Visit our chapter website ([www.epsilonkappatx.com](http://www.epsilonkappatx.com)) or contact [ekedfound@aol.com](mailto:ekedfound@aol.com)

for additional information and an interactive application form.

Applications must be submitted by **April 16, 2018**.



## Book Lovers

Our next conversation will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Bernadine's daughter, which is off Slaughter. To get directions, call 512-632-2573 (Bernadine's cell). *Uncommon Type* by Tom Hanks is the selection to read. It is a collection of 17 short stories each beginning with a picture of an old typewriter. Every one features a typewriter in some way; just a reference or parts where the character is using one. If you know that Tom Hanks has been an actor, director, and scriptwriter, these stories reflect on his experiences. A couple feature space encounters so that will trigger some remembrances of his movie roles. It is quick and easy to read; an enjoyable way to start your spring reading. Come join us.

## Save the Dates

Next Meeting, **Saturday, April 14, 2018** at 10 am at DKG International HQ

TSO Convention in Waco from June 14–16

DKG International Convention in Austin from July 16–20

**Saturday, September 15, 2018** is the “**Building Bridges in Area 7**” Workshop to be held at Patsy Sommer Elementary located at 16200 Avery Ranch Blvd Austin 78717. The first planning meeting was on Tuesday, March 27, using Go to Meeting. Norma Jost cheerfully volunteered to represent Epsilon Kappa. Earin Martin also stepped up to chair the ASTEF Fundraiser for the Area 7 Workshop, but she needs us to help her. The workshop is a training opportunity for new officers and a great way to learn new things for ALL members. Please plan to attend.

## Impacting Education Worldwide

I got to know the organization through Dr. Forrest Hancock. I had the privilege to have her as a mentor in my first and second year (2014-2016) as a Visiting Teacher from Spain at Blanton Elementary School.

Having Forrest twice a week in my classroom was an invaluable support. I observed how diligent and compassionate she was in the way she approached the pupils. I also perceived the joy the kids experienced when she would read stories to them.

Little by little I learned about DKG and its mission, vision and organization through chapters. I attended the two February Luncheons and enjoyed the camaraderie among members. Besides, the passion and activism in the projects having as an underlying principle “education as a transformative drive.”

In May 2017, I was fortunate to get the Lucille Cornetet Award. This award made it possible to do a professional development course in England (UK) about Life Skills for Teachers. This award came to me in the most appropriate moment of my professional life and encouraged me to get ahead in spite of the difficulties. I feel very grateful to the Society!



Now, I am in my position of home teacher for sixth graders in my local school. I also have a project called “Seeds of Knowledge.” This project aims to make READING a joyful activity, able to generate the interrelationship of cognitive and socio-emotional abilities in the students.

I am attending the graduate school as well. I hope to get my Master in Intercultural Education in two years’ time. Having colleagues that never stop learning gives me the feeling I am not alone in my pursuit of knowledge.

I wish you all the best and let’s keep connected and stronger dropping “seeds of knowledge” wherever we are!

Submitted by Lilian Villafuerte

## DKGEF Cornetet Professional Development

**DEADLINE May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Cornetet** Individual Awards for Professional Development are available **to all employed educators**. Monetary awards assist individual educators with their participation in professional development opportunities through approved professional development providers such as colleges, universities, and professional organizations **other than The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**. This includes presentations/attendance at conferences that will contribute significantly to the educator’s own professional development. The application process is competitive and **recipients may receive up to \$2,000**.

Awards will fund participation in:

- Conferences
- National certification
- Seminars
- Online Courses

Awards may fund travel, lodging, meals, substitutes, registration fees, etc. Awards may not be used to reimburse for activities already completed, to pursue a degree program, or to fund an educational project.

To apply go to [www.dkgef.org](http://www.dkgef.org) > Apply > Cornetet Professional Development Individual

Submitted by Pam Kelly

## Epsilon Kappa Officers Elected for New Biennium

Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected on March 8 to serve as our chapter officers for 2018-2020:

President: Cheryl Lane  
1st Vice President: Norma Jost  
2nd Vice President: Gracie Esquivel  
Secretary-Ann Lilie

Nominations Committee: Pam Kelly, Kim Thonhoff, & Debbie Sansom  
Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation Directors: Joan Burnham & Carole Deuser

Please join us in welcoming our 2018-2020 chapter officers and in thanking them for their willingness to serve. We have a great leadership team to look forward to yet another wonderful biennium. Let us all support them in every way possible to help facilitate their success. Officers will be installed at the April 14 meeting.

Submitted by Debbie Sansom

## Opportunities to Participate

Are you a wordsmith-poetic or prosaic?

A musician-vocal or instrumental?

An entertainer-comedic or dramatic?

If so, this may be your chance to shine!

There are brief opportunities during meetings at the International Convention in Austin when entertainment is needed and you might be given the chance to perform for your Sisters. But only if you contact Virginia McChesney, Talent Coordinator, at [vammcech@gmail.com](mailto:vammcech@gmail.com).

Attention Music Makers!

Coming to the International Convention? If so, share your gifts with us! Chorus participants will have readable arrangements, fun rehearsals, practice video links and print selections provided in the spring for individual rehearsal. Contact Sandra Yerby, Choral Director, at [san4au@gmail.com](mailto:san4au@gmail.com).

## Members Staying Connected with The New DKG App!

Check out the redesigned DKG app just launched for all members. This app will completely replace the old one. Just in time for members to stay connected with DKG news, activities, and summer conferences. It will have two parts to it to serve different purposes:



**Part 1: 365-** This part will give members basic information, news, updates, etc. that they would normally go to the website to find, but in a format more accessible than the website on their portable devices. It will be relevant and up to date year-round, and only available to members.

**Part 2: Conventions-** This part will serve as a reference tool to members for DKG conventions and, ultimately, for conferences. It will include maps, schedules, speakers, discussion boards, etc. to help members feel more connected and informed on events, whether they are in attendance or not.

**\*\*Note that the convention side is in the process of being developed and will be launched once International Convention has been fully planned. You will only be accessing the 365 part of the app at this time.**

### Download and Log In Instructions:

The app is free to download and password protected. Once you have accessed the app, you will be prompted to login. **Please use the email that the DKG has on file for you**, then push the **'Email Password'** button. You'll receive an email walking you through how to establish the password of your choosing. Once completed, login to the app with your email address and new password and explore! Navigate using the Menu button (3 horizontal lines) in the upper left corner.

To get the Delta Kappa Gamma 365 mobile app :

- iPhone and iPad users--search "DKG 365" or "Delta Kappa Gamma" on the Apple App Store.
- Android users--search "DKG365" or "Delta Kappa Gamma" on the Google Play Store.
- Blackberry, Windows, laptops--go to this address on your smart phones or computer browsers (omit www): <https://dkg.gatherdigital.com>

Thanks!

We hope you use and enjoy the mobile app!

Submitted by Kathy Mihalik



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

Diane Sidoroff  
901 Creekbend Drive  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Chapter Website: <http://www.epsilonkappatx.com>

**Newsletter Information**

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, May 18. 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!

**Let's Celebrate!**

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in April and May:

|                |       |                   |       |
|----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Cindy Gruner   | 04/13 | Marcia Kirkland   | 04/27 |
| Margie Kincer  | 04/14 | Kristen Lowrie    | 05/07 |
| Barbara Braden | 04/14 | Leila Dumas       | 05/07 |
| Charlotte May  | 04/19 | Dr Glenda Ballard | 05/26 |
| Aggie Jones    | 04/21 | Elizabeth Newell  | 05/27 |
| Kate Garza     | 04/22 | Sherri Greenberg  | 05/27 |
| Norma Jost     | 04/26 |                   |       |

