

The Reporter

*The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International*

*Epsilon Kappa
Chapter #130*

*Texas State
Austin, TX
Area 7*

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: Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow

Chapter Theme: Women Educators ... inspire and be inspired

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 5

APR / MAY 2019

Editor

Diane Sidoroff

diane.sidoroff@gmail.com

President's Message

Take time out for a little fun and self-congratulation. You deserve it!

Just looking at the calendar, I see that the end of the school year is fast approaching. It is almost spring and the season of end of year activities is upon us. The last two months of a school year are the busiest of the entire calendar. I hope each of us will take the time to reflect on why we decided to be educators. I also think it is time to celebrate. Celebrate ourselves, our students, and our chapter. Life should be filled with joyful moments.

Life gets busy for most of us as we juggle responsibilities and spend much of our time nurturing others. But as we heard our speaker from the National Alliance of Mental Health remind us at the March meeting, we need to take care of our mental health as well as our physical health. So, we all deserve to be acknowledged, appreciated and celebrated. Spring seems like the appropriate time to celebrate who we are, to honor ourselves for our efforts and triumphs, and to praise our resilience even during the hardest of times. The April meeting is all about celebrating our members. The 90th Celebration of Founder's Day on May 4th will remind us of our Society's vision and mission. We will also have the honor of celebrating our chapter's "Outstanding Educator Award" recipient. I hope to see you there!

I was inspired recently as I read the newsletter of Janet McClaskey, the current DKG president in Colorado. I am including her reminder for us all to reflect on our founders' vision and celebrate yourself.

Our flower is the red rose, a beautiful creation from nature that reflects beauty of mind and spirit. I love how Annie Webb Blanton saw a rose as the embodiment of "beauty of mind and spirit." Give yourself a little praise for a moment, celebrating the beauty of your mind. Think about the miracle a mind is--that we can think at all. Take another moment to celebrate the beauty of your spirit. The spirit is the life force within us, the force that guides us, and the very nature of an educator is that she gives and loves her students. Consider ways your mind and spirit have enriched your classroom, your school, your life, and our Chapter.

With joy!

Kathy Mihalik



February Meeting Highlights

On Saturday, February 2, we had the honor of getting inspired by Dr. Pierce-Burnette. She talked to us about why empowering each other as women and mentoring students matters. Having benefited from the presence of strong women mentors in her own life and having seen the impacts that mentoring makes, Dr. Pierce-Burnette remembered with us some of the most important women in her life that empower and mentor her. One of these women was her grandmother. She recollected when she went to the meat market and she would ask for extra pieces of the butcher's paper. Her grandmother then wrote multiplication tables and vocabulary words on the paper and placed them around the kitchen for her to study them. Little did Dr. Pierce-Burnette know that this early mentoring experience would lead her to become the president of a university in Austin, Texas, where today she is continuing her grandmother's work as an educator and mentor.

Her enterprising spirit enabled Dr. Burnette to obtain an engineering degree and an excellent position in the corporate world. "My career is split in half," she explained. "During the first half, I was a briefcase-carrying corporate executive, but I always had a passion to do something that required heart and mind. Then I tried working with higher education. A mentor of mine told me that I'd never excel if I didn't have teaching experience, so, much to the dismay of friends and family, I quit my corporate job to teach at a community college."

Many years later she is still immersed in the world of education, a field that she sees providing opportunity for each generation. "My grandmother saw education as the key to opportunity," Dr. Burnette remarked. "As a child, I didn't know that college was optional. I just thought it was the '13th grade.' It was what came after high school."

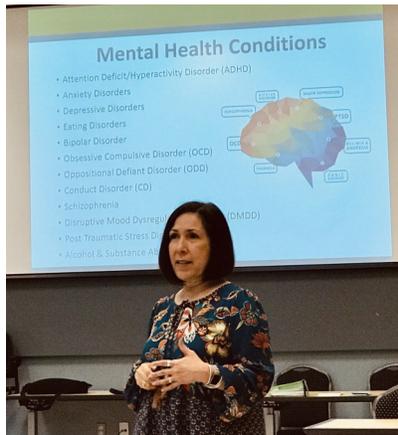
This philosophy underscores Dr. Burnette's passion for the work of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and mentoring organizations. She perceives these organizations as offering opportunities to groups that are often overlooked.

Dr. Burnette encouraged us to continue to help the community as a whole. "Successful students and mentees become happy, productive citizens, and happy citizens are connected to the community and motivated to give back." She also extended an invitation for our chapter to tour and learn what Huston-Tillotson is all about. Stay tuned to a possible meeting and tour at this wonderful University.

Submitted by Luisa Hernandez



March Meeting Highlights



On Saturday March 9, 2019, we had a very informative presentation by Karen Ramus, Executive Director of NAMI Austin, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Her topic: “Let’s Talk - Starting Conversations about Mental Health with Your Teen” sparked many thoughts/memories/questions. She opened with a question of the difference between empathy and sympathy that was succinctly defined in this simple yet humorous video (Brene Brown on Empathy:

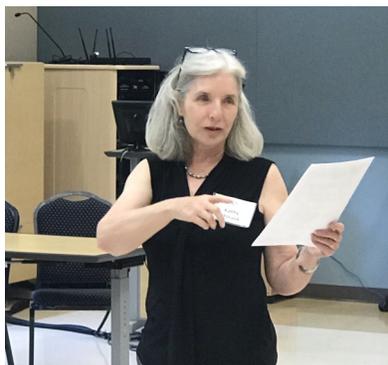
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evwgu369Jw>).

Karen stressed that talking to a friend or family member about mental health doesn’t have to be awkward or intrusive – you’re showing people that you care about their well-being. Her reflections on her own daughter’s struggle - the quiet, perfect, nice one - that almost ended in suicide drove these mental health facts home:

- 1) 1 in 5 Americans experience a mental illness, so it’s common.
- 2) Mental health conditions are brain-based disorders, not personality failings.
- 3) In 90% of suicides, there’s an underlying untreated mental illness at play. The earlier people receive treatment, the less likely they are to face crisis.
- 4) Success rates for mental illness are similar to other health issues. The good news is people can achieve health and wellness!

Too often mental illness in families/friends is embarrassing or shameful. Karen shared many great resources from NAMI, including the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale, to open the door to hope, understanding, and treatment to save our loved ones. Resources and info on their website [Home - NAMI Austin](#).

Submitted by Norma Jost



President Kathy Mihalik leads our chapter meeting



Upcoming Meeting

When: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10:00 am

Where: Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters

Program: Induction, Inspiration, Celebration of Accomplishments and Recognitions, and awarding an Outstanding First Year Teacher.

We are a Society that embraces the ideals of friendship, loyalty, and helpfulness. We are inspired by other women educators and we also inspire future educators.

Program to include:

Induction of a new member, Sue Bires.

Dr. Glenda Ballard, Dean of Education, Saint Edwards University will speak to us about inspiring new educators.

Ashley Glidewell will share how her students used the STEM materials provided by Epsilon Kappa.

Honoring an outstanding first-year teacher.

And finally, we will celebrate! We honor each other's achievements and value each other's scholarship and knowledge. Celebrate others with all that you are and remember to celebrate yourself.

Attending a DKG Conference This Summer?

Our Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation manages the Phyllis Richards Leadership Fund and awards grants to Epsilon Kappa members who attend DKG leadership events. Several events will be held this summer, including the state organization convention and five international conferences:

The Texas State Organization Convention, June 20-22, Arlington, TX

International Conferences:

Arts & Humanities – June 27-29, Asheville, NC

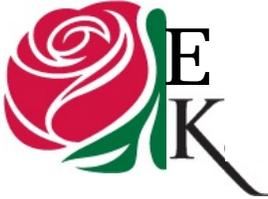
Leadership – July 10-12, Des Moines, IA

Technology – July 17-20, Costa Mesa, CA

Professional Research – July 25-27, Reykjavik, Iceland

Global Awareness – July 30-Aug. 1, Mashantucket, CT

If you are planning to attend any one of these events, you may be able to receive a Richards grant to assist with your expenses. Complete and submit the application form in this newsletter to apply for a grant. Additional information will be sent to members by email and posted on the chapter website (www.epsilonkappatx.com). The application deadline is **April 15**.



**DR. PHYLLIS RICHARDS ENDOWED LEADERSHIP APPLICATION
EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

DKG Activity		Location	
Beginning Date		Ending Date	

First Name		Last Name	
Address			
Phone No.		Email	

Current Educational Position (Subject, Level, Title, Employer):

→ List anticipated costs of participation in this leadership activity, including registration, transportation, lodging, etc. Do not include any expenses that will be reimbursed from other sources.

<u>Expense category</u>	<u>Cost</u>

Grant Amount Requested	
-------------------------------	--

If my request is approved, I understand that 1) I may receive an award for the full amount or only a portion of the amount requested; 2) I must submit verification of participation within fourteen (14) days after completion of the activity; 3) the award will be paid in accordance with Epsilon Kappa Chapter procedures only upon submission of proper documentation. I also understand that the funds are not transferable.

Signature		Date	
------------------	--	-------------	--

→ Submit completed application by email to ekedfound@aol.com or mail to EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, 12314 W. Cow Path, Austin, TX 78727.

→ **Deadline for submission: April 15, 2019**



Join our celebration!

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
90th Anniversary Founders' Day Luncheon
1929 - 2019**

- WHEN:** May 4, 2019
11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- WHERE:** Under the Oaks Cafe – The University of Texas

Joe C. Thompson Conference Center
2405 Robert Dedman Drive
Austin, Texas
- PARKING:** Complimentary in Thompson Conference Center Lot 40

Entrance off Red River -- first driveway south of Dean Keeton
- LUNCHEON:** *Chicken Fajitas* with all the trimmings
(gluten free and vegan)
Delta Kappa Gamma birthday cake
- PROGRAM:** *Honoring the Founders* – Alpha Chapter

Guest Speaker: Jody Conratt
1976-2007 University of Texas Women's Basketball Coach

Outstanding Educator Awards
- COST:** \$25 per person – pay to your chapter treasurer

It's Dues Time Once Again

Traditionally Epsilon Kappa members have paid dues for each school year in October. However, Delta Kappa Gamma operates on a fiscal year beginning on July 1. At the 2018 DKG International Convention held in Austin last summer, members voted to change the timeframe for collecting dues to May/June of each year. Henceforth, we will no longer be collecting dues in the fall (that's the good news!).

Membership dues for the **2019-2020 school year** must be paid by **May 30**. Active dues remain at **\$90**, and members are encouraged to make tax-deductible contributions to the Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation as well. Please complete the dues form below and mail to Marcia Kirkland, or pay at the April meeting at International Headquarters.

Submitted by Marcia Kirkland



	EPSILON KAPPA CHAPTER DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS 2019 - 2020	<input type="checkbox"/> home <input type="checkbox"/> cell
Name _____ Phone _____		
Address _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____		
Email _____		
ACTIVE MEMBER DUES:		\$ _____ 90
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:		
EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (tax deductible) Each member contributing at least \$50 will be recognized as a Sustaining Donor .		
Phyllis Richards Endowed Leadership Fund		\$ _____
Chapter Foundation Projects / SEE Project		\$ _____
Make check payable to EPSILON KAPPA.		Grand Total \$ _____
Mail by May 30 to Marcia Kirkland, 12314 W. Cow Path, Austin, TX 78727 (phone 512.250.2026)		
→ Contribution forms for state and international funds may be found in the Forms section of the respective websites (www.dkgtexas.org and www.dkg.org).		
<small>Photo Release: By submitting your membership dues and by your attendance at chapter meetings and events, you are granting permission to be filmed, videotaped, audio-taped, or photographed by any means at such meetings and events and are granting full use of your likeness, voice, and words, including publication on the world wide web (www) with access through the internet, without compensation.</small>		

Book Lovers



Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White, and Black, in a Young America by Catherine Kerrison was our book club's pick for the spring. We will be meeting on April 7th at Pam Kelly's new home to discuss the book. The extensive research on early American culture reveals the rationale "progressive" minded white males used to justify owning slaves. Even the differences between the oldest and youngest daughter's education have reasons we find baffling. Read this book on your own just to become aware of the societal separation of races in our country's early history.

When we choose another book we will inform everyone through Kathy's updates.

Submitted by Bernadine Eaton

Save the Dates

The DKG 90th Anniversary Founders' Day Luncheon 1929 – 2019

May 4, 2019, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Under the Oaks Cafe – The University of Texas
Joe C. Thompson Conference Center
2405 Robert Dedman Drive, Austin, Texas

TSO Convention in Arlington

June 20 - 22, 2019
Arlington Convention Center
1200 Ballpark Way
Arlington, Texas 76011

DKG International Conference with the theme – Technology

July 17–20, 2019
The Hilton Orange County Hotel
Costa Mesa, California



Tapestry Singers

The Tapestry Singers Spring 2019 Concert, "How to Make an American Quilt" is on Saturday, May 4, 2019, 7:30 pm at Northwest Hills United Methodist Church (7050 Village Center Drive, Austin, Texas 78731). The program includes (timely) songs of hope and spirit - including an amazing 3/31/1776 letter from Abigail Adams to her husband, John Adams, to Remember the Ladies! A beautiful quilt will be raffled off. More information coming soon and discount tickets go on sale March 18 at [Tapestry Singers | Austin Women's Chorus](#)



Please let me know if you have questions! Norma Jost



Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, May 17th. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at diane.sidoroff@gmail.com or to Kathy Mihalik at kmihalik@airmail.net

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!

Epsilon Kappa Chapter The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Diane Sidoroff
901 Creekbend Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660

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

Catching up with Friends!

While in Oklahoma City recently for the Big 12 basketball tournament, Evelyn Barron and Marcia Kirkland spent a morning with long time member Maurine Atwood, who has relocated to OKC to be closer to family. She is doing well!



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

Cindy Gruner	04 - 13	Ashley Nauta	05 - 06
Margie Kincer	04 - 14	Leila Dumas	05 - 07
Charlotte May	04 - 19	Debra Aceves	05 - 20
Kate Garza	04 - 22	Glenda Ballard	05 - 26
Norma Jost	04 - 23	Sherri Greenberg	05 - 27
Marcia Kirkland	04 - 27	Elizabeth Newell	05 - 27

