

# 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:** You are the key

**Chapter Theme:** Women Educators and Learners... inspire, create and empower

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*The Delta Kappa  
Gamma Society  
International*

*Epsilon Kappa  
Chapter #130*

*Alpha State  
Austin, TX  
Area 7*

*Editor  
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## President's Message

Who would've known that after leaving school for spring break, one hundred and fifty-one days ago, we were saying goodbye to our normal school days? Within very little time, school districts across the United States redefined education and in a matter of weeks transformed in-person education to a modality that no one even imagined possible. For the past 151 days, teachers have been forced to learn new platforms, new technology, new ways to interact online with their students. Most importantly, they have worked hard to continue to build relationships with kids and their families, not just as a source of knowledge, but also as a support system. We are at a stage where having a short term goal seems almost impossible because of the uncertainty of our current COVID-19 pandemic situation.

We hit pause on our busy daily schedules. At first, it was amazing to have some extra time to complete projects I hadn't had time to get to, and time to rest. However, I was so wrong! Yes, I was able to get some home-related things done, but my office hours just doubled! I will wake up to text messages as early as seven in the morning and will still be responding to texts and emails as late as 10:00 PM! Teachers needed to have lessons ready, and part of my job was to support them; along with them, I was learning new platforms, apps, and different ways to reach out to students to finish the school year. Long hours passed until we felt we knew what we were doing.

I've always known that teachers are resilient, but during these past months, I just confirmed it. We didn't have a choice but to grab the bull by the horns and take charge. What we didn't know was that we were creating new and different ways to educate our children! We had no choice but to adapt to our new normal and continue learning, teaching, living. We were facing a "probletnuity," *an opportunity that arises when a problem has to be solved. The opportunity may give rise to benefits that are unrelated to the problem being solved.*

What benefits? you may be thinking:

- Parents understanding the daunting task that teachers face every day.
- Students understanding how much they actually miss school and being able to interact with teachers and peers.
- Teachers attending webinars of all kinds, without complaining about having to attend yet another workshop.
- International conventions that turned into virtual events with large numbers of participants because the physical boundaries were removed.

Probletnuity, I love the concept, love the idea...and that's what I want to think about starting this biennium with all of you. I want to think about this whole pandemic as an opportunity for us to swim these uncharted waters together, look at new ways to approach situations

*Continued on page 2*

## President's Message continued

that could take us farther in our journey of supporting education. I want us to use this opportunity to push ourselves to learn and try new things — without fear of the unknown — and come out of this pandemic with a new superpower, a new perspective of what we are able to accomplish when we get rid of the boundaries and obstacles confronting us. Let's use this propletunity to become a better version of ourselves and take our chapter to a whole new level.

—Hilda Diaz

### Chapter Officers for 2020-2022



President,  
Hilda Diaz



First Vice-President,  
Norma Jost



Second Vice-President,  
Gracie Esquivel



Secretary,  
Debra Wissman



Parliamentarian,  
Evelyn Barron



Treasurer,  
Marcia Kirkland



Past President,  
Kathy Mihalik

### Committee Chairs for 2020-2022

**Educational Excellence:** Luisa Hernandez

**Scholarship/World Fellowship:** Earin Martin

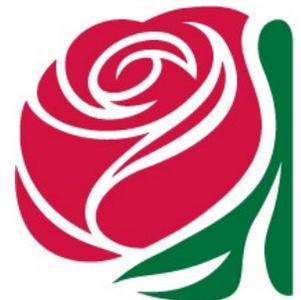
**Archives:** Marilyn Gregory

**Communications and Publicity:** Kathy Mihalik

**Finance:** Debbie Sansom

**Membership:** Bernadine Eaton

**Nominations:** Earin Martin, Debbie Sansom, and Kathy Mihalik



# Highlights of DKG 2020 Virtual Convention

## Great news!

The Delta Kappa Gamma International 2020 Virtual Convention programming is posted online for viewing by members not able to attend the virtual event. Just go to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). Login to see the various presentations and the incoming 2020-2022 officers.

It was exciting to chat with and see women educators around the world on July 7-10, 2020. Our members were able to participate virtually and leave with new ideas and information to strengthen and improve education and our chapters. The new international president is Becky Sadowski. Make sure you watch her vision for DKG for the next biennium.

Author Evelyn Barron was interviewed about *Our Heritage Volume IV*. She described her approach to documenting the DKG time frame from 2008 to 2018. Many hours of research, compiling, verification, and writing of this volume took time and dedication from our friend Evelyn. We congratulate her for this accomplishment! The book is now published on the DKG website as a flipbook. A limited number of printed copies are also available for purchase on the website.

Congratulations to the new administrative board and a BIG thank-you to the outgoing administrative board including 2018-2020 Southwest Regional Director Marilyn Gregory. These creative women navigated these changing times and brought us this 2020 Virtual DKG event! Marilyn Gregory is now chair of the International Non-dues Revenue Committee 2020-2022.

Congratulations to Sandi Causey, new DKG International Educators Foundation Director for the term of 2020-2026. The new foundation replaces the now merged DKG Supporting Corporation and DKG Educational Foundation. More information is on the DKG website. [https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Elected Officers 2020 2022.aspx](https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/ElectedOfficers20202022.aspx)

Deb Acevedo-Tamminga had great plans working with the Fine Arts Committee for this 2020 event in Philadelphia. Although, we were not able to enjoy the music and art in person, we want her to know how proud and blessed we are to enjoy her creative talents.

— Kathy Mihalik



Sandi Causey



Evelyn Barron



Marilyn Gregory



Deb Acevedo-Tamminga

## Congratulations!

Ashley Glidewell was married in June this year. Here are some pictures from this beautiful wedding. We send her all our best wishes for happiness and a beautiful life with her husband.

Ashley is a 2nd grade teacher at Wooldridge Elementary in Austin I.S.D.



Congratulations to Ely Rodriguez-Villafane! She has a new home! We know Ely will enjoy her home and wish her well as she settles in.

Ely is at Whitestone Elementary in Leander I.S.D. She is a bilingual special education teacher.



## Congratulations and Thanks!

Our longtime editor Diane Sidoroff is handing over her 5 Star newsletter to another editor. We thank her for many years of service to the chapter's news.

## Members in the News



Marcia Kirkland, First Lady Dawn Ige, and Evelyn Barron

“My friend Evelyn Barron and I spent six months, from May through October 2017, touring all 50 State Capitols. We had our picture taken in front of

each building, holding up a license plate (paper replica) and the number denoting the order in which we visited each one,” writes Marcia Kirkland. “We made three month-long driving trips - western states, central states and eastern states- and flew to Alaska and Hawaii. One highlight of the six months was pictures taken with the Hawaii governor, David Ige, and another with his wife, First Lady Dawn Ige. Hawaii was our 12th State Capitol visited, after our 11-state western driving tour.

Check out the article on memorable travel stories... Evelyn and Marcia are #5

<https://www.austin360.com/photogallery/TX/20200716/ENTERTAINMENTLIFE/>

## Membership Spotlight: Kathy Dixon

My name is Kathy Dixon, and I have been a member of Epsilon Kappa for 25 years. I taught school for 33 years, the last 25 years as a kindergarten teacher in Round Rock ISD. I am married to Sam Dixon, former State Director for School Bus Transportation at TEA; we both retired in 2003. We have two sons and four grandchildren, ages 10-22. Since my retirement, I have taught preschool at my church, subbed at RRISD, and been a nanny for four different families. Presently, I am a nanny for an 11-month-old little boy. I love children, especially babies!

I want to thank Jo Watts for inviting me to be a chapter member in 1995. As I think back, I cannot help remembering the wonderful ladies that have passed on to Glory, who were amazing mentors to me and to other members in the chapter — members such as Dr. Inez Jeffery, Dr. Natalie Barraga, Dr. Isabel Wheeler, Hazel Wright, Margaret Wallace, Vi Marie Taylor, and DeEtta Sayers. The following ladies who are still members were also mentors to me: Maurine Atwood, Julia Meltenbruch, Elizabeth Newell, Charlene Zimmermann, Dr. Phyllis Richards, and, of course, Jo Watts.

I remember having our August meetings in Vi Marie Taylor's home. Then, Charlene Zimmermann took over having the meetings in her home. At our spring meetings, where we would recognize member accomplishments and install new officers, we would meet in Elizabeth Newell's home. I have special memories of having meetings in all of the above homes.

Being chapter president (2004-2006) is still a great honor for me. I learned a great deal about our chapter and its members during those two years. I also enjoyed getting to know the members of Area 7, attending several state conventions and one Southwest Regional Conference. Recently, I have enjoyed being a part of our chapter's SEE Project.

Words of Wisdom for the newer members: "The more you put into the chapter, the more you get out of it."

Years ago, there was a Delta Kappa Gamma motto, "Never say 'No' in Delta Kappa Gamma!" I tried very hard for 25 years to follow that motto!

I'm looking forward to the next 25 years in Epsilon Kappa!

—Kathy Dixon

# Upcoming Meetings

## Upcoming Events

### August 29, 2020 — Area 7 Virtual Event

#### **Key Into DKG with 2020+ Vision**, and **Zoom Ahead**

The concern about safety over the still present coronavirus pushed the decision to hold our Area 7 workshop on a Zoom format. Thanks to TSO Parliamentarian Connie Rensick for facilitating this opportunity!

### General Session

Chapter members may attend a **general session from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.** on Saturday, August 29th on a Zoom link to be sent to members that send their email address to Kathy Mihalik [kmihalik@airmail.net](mailto:kmihalik@airmail.net). The General Session will have greetings, inspiration, recognition, announcements, information, and a necrology remembrance – altogether the closest we can come to a sisterhood celebration!

—Kathy Mihalik

## September Meeting

### Thursday, September 10, 2020, 6:00 pm – Virtually through Zoom

Program: Zoom walkthrough and “name story” activity.

Speakers: Gracie Esquivel and Luisa Hernandez

Don't miss our Thursday, September 10th meeting! We will go virtual and get acquainted with the different Zoom capabilities. We will engage in an activity called “name story. In this activity, we will share the name that we go by in our lives and any history or story the name has. Then, we will go over our agenda and hear a message from our new Epsilon Kappa Chapter president.

#### Resources:

**Zoom Tutorial web-site:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M>

#### Zoom Toolkit

[https://www.dkgtexas.org/uploads/4/2/8/3/42835841/ldcp\\_zoom\\_toolkit.pdf](https://www.dkgtexas.org/uploads/4/2/8/3/42835841/ldcp_zoom_toolkit.pdf)

## October Meeting

### Thursday, October 8, 2020, 6:00 pm – Virtually through Zoom

Program: “Women” celebration on women suffrage and women's right to vote 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Inductions, Birthday celebrations and Remembrance.

Speaker: Patti Belknap. current Texas State President.

Thursday, October 8th, we will have the unique opportunity to hear from our Patti Belknap, current Texas State President. We will hear some inspirational words and celebrate with her women suffrage and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote. We will also honor members that we've lost, and celebrate birthdays.

## Upcoming Epsilon Kappa Chapter Programs 2020—2021

Note: The first meetings of this new biennium will be on Zoom.  
We will keep you posted on future meetings.  
Thanks to our members for being flexible in the next few months.

**Thursday, September 10, 2020, 6:00 pm** – Zoom meeting  
Program: Zoom tutorial and "Name Story"  
Speakers: Gracie Esquivel and Luisa Hernandez

**Thursday, October 8, 2020, 6:00 pm** – Zoom meeting  
Program: "Women" – celebration of women's suffrage and the 100th anniversary of the right to vote. Inductions, birthday celebrations and remembrance  
Speaker: Patti Belknap. current TSO State President

**Thursday, November 12, 2020 6:00 pm** – Zoom meeting  
Program: Notices and wondering (Math strategies)  
Presenter: Hilda Diaz

**Saturday, December 12, 2020, 10:00 am** – Home of Pam Kelly  
Charity: Silent Auction  
Program: Christmas traditions brunch, Christmas carols and sharing

**Saturday, February 6, 2021, 11:00 am** – Saltgrass Restaurant  
Program: Capturing Kids Hearts (SEL)  
Speaker: Michelle Brooks

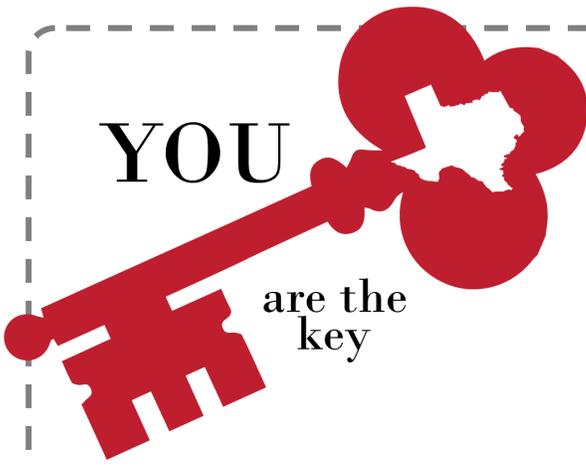
**Saturday, March 6, 2021, 10:00 am** – Huston-Tillotson University  
Program: Touring Huston-Tillotson and visiting with students in the educator preparation program

**Thursday, April 8, 2021, 6:00 pm** – TBD  
Program: Induction, Awards, etc.  
Speaker: Sandi Causey

**Saturday, May 1, 2021** – Chez Zee Party Room  
Founder's Day Celebration

**Mark  
Your  
Calendar**





## Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, November 13th. You can send your submissions by email to Kathy Mihalik at [kmihalik@airmail.net](mailto: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**

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

## Looking for New Members

As a new school year begins, Epsilon Kappa wishes to invite new members to our chapter. We hope to identify potential new members, invite them to an orientation session, and induct them into membership at our October meeting at Society Headquarters. Please let Bernadine Eaton, Membership Committee chair, know about any potential members. It is always nice to have several new members, since that makes it more fun for them. ANYONE can invite a new member, so look around at school, church, community and tell women educators about DKG!!

## Let's Celebrate!

### August...

- 2.....Maurine Atwood
- 5.....Marielo Morales
- 8.....Forrest Hancock
- 12....Carolyn Wilson
- 17...Jennifer Samaniego
- 18....Carole Deuser
- 28....Debbie Sansom

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in:

### September...

- 4.....Julia Mellenbruch 104 years old!
- 8.....Terrie Bovinich
- 22....Ashley Glidewell
- 24....Helen Forbes
- 25....Eva Ornelas
- 29....Alana Lilie

