

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:** 85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life

**State Theme:** Expand the Vision: Educate—Inspire—Encourage

**Chapter Theme:** Expanding Our World – Exploring the Possibilities

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## President's Message

### Meeting the Many Needs of Homeless Children

One of our chapter projects this year has been focused on homeless children. Our chapter program on March 2 will address education for homeless children. So I thought it appropriate to provide some background information on the statistics and needs of homeless children in Texas and throughout the nation.

First, some astonishing and heart-wrenching facts:

Number of homeless students in the U.S. (2012-2013) = 1,258,182

Number of homeless students in Texas (2013-2014) = 111,996

Number of homeless students in Travis County by District (2013-2014) = 3,968

Total enrollment in Travis County All Students (2013-2014) = 158,047

Total enrollment in Austin ISD (2013-2014) = 85,014

Number of homeless students enrolled in Austin ISD (2013-2014) = 2,490

The figures for the state of Texas and for Travis County are very low, according to the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), who believes they might be about half of the actual numbers. This is partially because of the following reasons: schools are sometimes reluctant to identify the students; the students don't want to be identified; homeless parents and caregivers of homeless children and youth are fearful that Child Protective Services (CPS) might

remove the children; staff who are responsible for identifying the students tend to turn over rapidly or don't get adequate training on identification. Schools don't want to identify the students for a number of reasons, including: stigma attached to having "those" students in their district; costs of transportation to the school of origin; and perceived extra work attached to having homeless students in their district.

It goes without saying that these numbers change almost daily and it is almost impossible to know precisely the number, as these are only the *documented* homeless children. The number of homeless preschool children is especially challenging to calculate because the U.S. Department of Education does not officially collect those figures. Sadly, the homeless student population (in the U.S.) has seen a 58% increase since the beginning of the recession in 2008.

"Homelessness" is defined in federal statute as "the lack of a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence." As you might guess, homeless children face serious educational problems, primarily poor school attendance and poor academic performance. But they also face many other educational challenges, including depression, low self-esteem, lack of sleep and nutrition, and feelings of shame and embarrassment.

According to <http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/>, Texas currently ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in terms of its homeless children across four domains: the number of homeless children; their well-being; their risk for child homelessness; and state-level planning and policy efforts. Texas currently ranks 26 in terms of the number of homeless children, with more than 190,000 homeless children statewide according to this particular source.

## President's Message Continued

Homeless children and youth who participate in athletics and sports face additional challenges. *Sports Illustrated* magazine featured an article and accompanying video on homeless student participation in athletics. We were asked to share this article and video with coaches, administrators, teachers, counselors – everyone in our school districts and communities, to raise awareness of the needs of homeless student athletes and to generate a call to action to help them and all homeless students. You can access the video and article at <http://www.si.com/longform/homeless/>.

See the “Eye on Educational Excellence” column in this month’s newsletter for more information about the March 2 meeting where Barbara Wand James, Director of THEO, will be our guest speaker. Hope to see you there!

Earin Martin

## Highlights of December Epsilon Kappa Meeting

The December 2014 Epsilon Kappa chapter meeting was held in the beautiful home of chapter member Charlotte Hanna.

Dr. Claudia Knowles presented interesting and unusual traditions of the winter festivals held in each of the first eight DKG countries. Members of the Educational Excellence committee gathered the information for the presentation. Deb Acevedo-Tamminga provided cultural music to accompany the presentation from each country, and the hostesses provided food to represent each country and festival. We learned about some really unique and charming holiday customs and traditions of those countries, and for a bit, felt like we were at Epcot in Disney World. Here are some interesting highlights, presented in the order the country joined DKG.

Canada (1952): Le Carnaval du Bonhomme is a celebration of snow and ice in Quebec City. The mascot is a snowman. Norway (1970): The Festival of Lights celebrates the start of the Christmas season with gifts brought by the Neisse (Santa's small helpers). Sweden (1972): On Santa Lucia Day, the children dress in white and wear lighted wreaths on their heads. It is a day of hope and light during the darkest time of the year. Mexico (1974): During the festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe, pilgrims seek help and guidance from this patron saint of Mexico and Concheros dance at a furious pace. Finland (1975): A flag display and fireworks celebrate the 1917 independence from Russia. Two candles in a window of each home invite friendly troops for food and shelter. Guatemala (1975): During the Burning of the Devil Celebration, waste is burned to cleanse the houses for Holy Week and the Virgin's triumph over evil. Iceland (1975): New Year's Eve fireworks are displayed over the Reykjavik harbor. The Yukelads leave gifts for good children. Netherlands (1976): Sinterklaus arrives from Spain and rides through the streets in a bishop's robe on a white horse. Children put out shoes and are rewarded with gifts and treats.

The winter festivals and holiday traditions of the remaining eight countries will be featured at the December 2015 meeting.

Earin Martin provided an overview of the DKG international project, Schools for Africa. Brag basket proceeds from September through December 2014 benefitted Schools for Africa and additional individual donations were invited. The Chapter sent a total of \$113 to the Schools for Africa Project, not counting additional individual donations.

Dr. Joan Burnham was honored with her 25-year member pin and certificate, and Gene Nelson Jones was honored with her 50-year member pin and certificate. Both awards were earned as of last April 2014.

Marilyn Gregory bestowed upon each member in attendance a lovely hand-made crystal angel pin in honor of her mother, which is a tradition of Marilyn's.



Gene Nelson Jones receives her 50-year pin

## Dual Language Helps Prepare Students for College, Career, and Life

Dual Language is a form of bilingual education in which students are taught literacy and content in two languages. The majority of Dual Language programs in the United States teach in English and Spanish, but there are programs that use Arabic, French and Mandarin, among others.

Austin ISD (AISD) has stated the following as their Mission: "Dual Language students will develop a high academic and linguistic proficiency in two languages by participating in a rigorous academic program that enhances the development of bilingualism, biculturalism, and biliteracy so that students will graduate ready for college, career, and life in a globally competitive economy." Schools in AISD have adopted the *Gomez and Gomez Dual Language Program*. As support for teachers, the AISD bilingual department has also put together a group of people ~ teachers taken from the classroom because of their effective understanding and fidelity when implementing the program ~ who visit, model, and evaluate other teachers in schools where the program is being implemented.

So why so much attention to Dual Language now? It's not a new concept. Why is it a trend now? Schools are working on college and career readiness, so Biliteracy is one of the most important goals for schools and parents. For some parents, the idea of having their kids learn two languages starting in elementary is a good future plan for better careers.

I believe the secret to successful Biliteracy instruction has a lot to do with the staff, that is, the Bilingual teachers working with the kids and how well they a) know the language and b) use a variety of teaching strategies. Teachers in a Dual Language classroom need a good understanding of the culture and language itself. I've come across teachers with a very limited English and/or Spanish knowledge, and the result is a program that spends more time in one language than the other, not following the suggested percentages that the program recommends.

Another common problem is teachers switching from one language to the other, so students don't really learn both languages; they just pay closer attention to the language that they know. So how are schools fixing these situations? Some teachers are team teaching ~ strong English teachers teaming up with strong Spanish teachers ~ and this way students get the best of both.

Dual Language is a very effective program when the right teaching strategies are used during class. Teachers can attend professional development to learn strategies that will help students. A great lesson must include a variety of activities that address all learning styles to provide the language learners with plenty of opportunities of acquiring the content, starting with visuals, and supported with Total Physical Response to associate words with movements, games, reading, and then a reflection piece where the students talk and write about what they have learned.

Yes, Dual Language requires the teacher to invest more time preparing lessons, but the results are that students have ownership of their learning, they internalize the content, and they are able to apply it further on.

By Hilda Diaz

## Kudos/Life Milestones

The State Nominations Committee met this last weekend (Jan. 17-18) and selected our own **Marilyn Gregory** for Texas State President and **Sandi Causey** for Texas State Corresponding Secretary. They will be voted on at the Business Session on Saturday, June 27 at State Convention. Then if approved, they will be installed before the Presidents Banquet. State Convention will be in San Antonio at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on the River Walk from June 25-27, 2015. Hope many members can attend and support Marilyn and Sandi.

Colleen Arnold's second daughter, Isabel Claire, was born December 22. Thanks to Pam Kelly for sharing her adorable picture.



## Membership Review

As part of your “elevator speech” when talking with potential members, remember to include why DKG was founded. The Society brings together women educators from all facets of the educational profession to serve and strengthen their needs. After becoming a member, individuals may apply for a variety of scholarships or grants at the chapter, state, or international levels. The seminars, workshops, and retreats held in every region and at international conventions bring in outstanding speakers and cover all vital professional topics. In addition, all levels of the Society support a myriad of projects: Schools for Africa in conjunction with UNICEF and the SEE project at the international level, local shelters, literacy efforts and libraries’ needs, future teachers, and new teachers. If you have participated in any aspect of these offerings, your enthusiasm will be evident. Let the prospective member know how much can be gained from joining the worldwide fellowship of outstanding educators.

## You Can Count on Us!

We'll always be there: Lunch Bunch will always meet on the second Tuesday of EVERY month, summers included, unless otherwise specified. Next indulgence in food, fellowship, and fun will be Tuesday, February 10, at Mandola's at the Triangle (4700 West Guadalupe). Notifying Mary Louise Poolman is always appreciated so that there are enough seats when you arrive. But we can always guarantee a warm welcome and a pleasant time together, so invite a friend (member or not).

## Book Lovers Unite

Our next reading adventure will be *Boy, Snow, Bird* by Helen Oyeyeme. The New York Times review called it an “enchanting horror story”. Boy Novak is a white woman who marries a widower with a daughter named Snow. They have a child, Bird, who is obviously “colored”. From there the story twists the themes from the Snow White fairy tale to explore race, ethnicity, identity, and gender.

Our first discussion will be Saturday, February 28 from 4:00–6:00 at Mary Louise Poolman's home at 7012 Windrift Way.

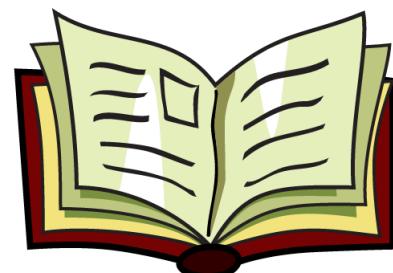


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## EYE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Join us on Saturday, February 7, 2015, for a luncheon at Johnny Carino's Restaurant (11:00 a.m., 5601 Brodie Lane, Sunset Valley) to hear State Representative Larry Gonzales address three issues related to education:

1. Access to affordable health care through TRS-Care for retirees

The Fourth Quarter of the 2014 *Voice* bulletin by Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) reports, "As of November 2014, there is a \$730 million budget shortfall projection..." for the more than 240,000 retired educators who rely on TRS Care for access to affordable health care. "If the Legislature does nothing or chooses not to provide additional funding, there will be only one alternative: double retiree premiums or cut health care benefits by \$730 million."

2. Fixing public school financing

Funds removed two sessions back need to be returned to the education system. Schools are struggling more each year to function on budgets due to past cuts. Educators are often struggling to provide even basic materials and supplies to help their students succeed and master skills. It's time for the Legislature to restore funding.

3. Testing

Teachers and students are overburdened with testing days, causing interference with quality teaching and learning time.

Mr. Gonzales is a Representative for Texas House District 52 in Williamson County, which includes Round Rock, Hutto, Taylor and parts of Georgetown. Before being elected, he worked nine regular legislative sessions as senior staff for members of the Texas House, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. Larry was recognized as the Texas Retired Teacher Association Best of Texas Legislature "Honorable Mention," as well as many other awards. His wife, Marie, is a DKG member in another chapter and is employed by Round Rock ISD as Vice-Principal of Special Education and Ninth Grade at McNeil High School.

February is also "Foundation Focus Month." Our own Martha Dolman, chair of the Scholarship/World Fellowship Committee, will inform us about the variety of DKG scholarships and grants available to members.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00. If you have not already done so, please mail a check made payable to Epsilon Kappa to Marcia Kirkland, Treasurer, 12314 West Cow Path, Austin, 78727-5752, or email Marcia at [FLhollandhaven@aol.com](mailto:FLhollandhaven@aol.com) to let her know you'll be coming and will pay her at the luncheon.

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On March 2, we will meet at St. George's Episcopal Church (6:00 p.m., 4301 North IH-35), to hear guest speaker Barbara Wand James, Director of the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), tell us about education for homeless students in Texas. The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, originally authorized in 1987, was reauthorized and amended in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), signed by the President

*Continued on next page*

## Food for Thought

### Food for Thought

#### Chocolate Bark

Recipe contributed by Kim Thonhoff.

These are absolutely addictive!

Preheat oven at 350 degrees.

1 sleeve of saltine crackers

1 cup butter

1/2 cup brown sugar

1 12-oz bag of chocolate chips

Optional ...chopped pecans or other nuts of choice

Parchment Paper



Image from Creative Commons

Line a 9x13 shallow baking pan with parchment paper including sides of pan. Lay saltine crackers flat on the parchment paper with sides touching and salty side up. Melt, mix and cook butter with brown sugar in saucepan, stirring for 3 minutes. Pour butter/ brown sugar mixture over the crackers using spatula to cover each cracker. Bake crackers with mixture over them in oven preheated to 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Remove pan of cooked crackers from oven. Spread the chocolate chips over crackers (they will melt quickly) and use spatula to spread melted chocolate evenly over crackers. Sprinkle chopped pecans (or other nuts of choice) over the hot chocolate crackers. Let pan cool. Place pan with chocolate crackers in refrigerator for several hours.

When completely hardened, remove the chocolate crackers. Roll parchment paper and crack the crackers into pieces (chocolate bark) and place on serving dish. Enjoy!

## Eye on Educational Excellence (Continued)

in January 2002. This federal law contains requirements with which all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools must comply, whether or not the school district receives McKinney-Vento grant funds. Congress designed the program to address the challenges that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. The federal statute requires that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth must be identified, enrolled in school and provided transportation to/from school, and provided supplementary services to ensure their success in school.



Image from Creative Commons

Since the September meeting, the chapter has been collecting items for homeless children and youth to be presented to Ms. James at this meeting. If you have not yet brought your items, please bring them to the February meeting. We are requesting that every member bring at least something, as this is one of our primary chapter projects this year. Appropriate items include school supplies, toiletries (travel sizes or those you get in the hotels), backpacks, and gift cards to stores such as Target or WalMart so they can buy clothing. **We especially need more backpacks and gift cards.** The goal is to present Ms. James with a bounty of items for the benefit of those homeless children and youth most in need.

We hope to see you at both of these informative meetings.

## FEBRUARY 2015

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

## Looking Ahead

- February 7—EK Chapter Meeting, Johnny Carino's Restaurant, 5601 Brodie Ln, 11:00 am
- February 14—Valentine's Day
- March 1—Deadline for TSO Scholarship Applications and Mini Grant Applications
- March 2—EK Chapter Meeting, St George's Episcopal Church, 4301 N. I-35, 6:00 pm
- March 8—Daylight Savings Time Begins

## MARCH 2015

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				

## LET US CELEBRATE YOUR AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND RECOGNITIONS!

We want to acknowledge and celebrate your receipt of any significant awards, achievements, and recognitions. Let us know what they are so we can recognize you for your excellent work at the April Epsilon Kappa meeting!

Complete and submit the information via email to Mary Louise Poolman, Chair of the Membership Committee, at [mlpoolman@yahoo.com](mailto:mlpoolman@yahoo.com), or mail it to her at 7012 Windrift Way, Austin, TX 78745. The **deadline** for submittal of this information is **March 15, 2015**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Awards Received May 2014 through March 2015:

Recognitions Received May 2014 through March 2015:

Achievements/Accomplishments May 2014 through March 2015:

## A Collections of Memories—Dr. Natalie Carter Barraga

"I was fortunate to ride with her (Natalie) as Marilyn drove us to many of the meetings. She was always cheerful and appreciative." Charlotte Brown

"Aunt B's great niece and nephew worked at Dobie Middle School with me for many years. They suggested that Aunt B would be a delightful guest speaker for my AVID students – she was absolutely amazing and returned many years to share her life story with them. They were in awe of her, as was I, each time she came to visit!" Christy Barrett

"I have a memory of Natalie telling about going to live in Dallas with her married sister her first year out of high school. Her family did not have the funds to send her to college from Troy, Texas during the Depression. She took advantage of that time to go to the library almost daily to read on her own. She then was able to attend North Texas State University in Denton and work for the head of the Home Economics Department part time. My mother also attended there with the same major at the same time, for her last two years of college." Martha Dolman

"Natalie was always so appreciative of everyone and everything around her. She made you feel important." Linda Holt

"Even three short weeks before her death, Natalie was still regularly attending UT women's basketball games, dressed in burnt orange from head to toe. At the conclusion of each game she would be pushed in her wheelchair toward the exit while the crowd sang *The Eyes of Texas*. As she passed the row where I was standing, she always waved with one hand while showing "Horns Up" with the other." Evelyn Barron

"When I was chapter president and conducting a meeting, I knew that, no matter what I said or how I said it – no matter how much I thought I was "messing up," if I found Natalie in the group, I would get a reassuring smile and an encouraging nod. She always asked me about my career and my family. She always thought I should pursue a doctoral degree and never missed an opportunity to gently push me in that direction. But she never made me feel I disappointed her by not going down that path. Oh, how I will miss her smile." Sandi Causey

"She was an outstanding lady that I definitely enjoyed visiting with in past years." Nancy Newton

"Natalie was one of my most motivating, challenging, powerful, and yes, favorite! professors during my graduate school experience at The University of Texas. Whenever she would talk about some issue or concept regarding visual impairment, my fellow classmates and I would hurry to the library to read more about it. It was a seminar, so not only did we want to know more about that particular topic, we were apprehensive of her probing questions that were sure to come at the next class meeting! I soon found myself not only learning a great deal about teaching children who have visual impairment but also about the nuances and style of how I myself wanted to teach at the university level. I continued to learn from her long after that seminar ended, and I feel that she is part of who I am today. Thank you, Natalie!" Forrest Hancock

"Natalie was a Mom to me. I even had to ask her daughter, Karen, if she would share Natalie with me, and she agreed. We roomed together at DKG state conventions, drove to chapter meetings together and shared many wonderful times together. She was very encouraging and would always say, "You can do that", and I would. She was a wonderful mentor, Mom and friend." Marilyn Gregory



## A Pledge of Recommitment

### "AND TO YOU, THE RED"

Irene Neffendorf, *Lone Star News*, May 1951

From the Area 6 Fall Workshop: This poem was written by a young woman from Fredericksburg and published in the *Lone Star News* in 1951. Her name was Irene Neffendorf and she was president of Beta Zeta in Fredericksburg and went on to lead Epsilon Theta in Comfort. She had many accomplishments both as an educator and as a member of DKG. She is back in Beta Zeta as Irene Spenrath, a reserve member and resides at a local care facility.  
She has been in DKG for 67 years.

It is to you, the farers of our ship of state,  
That we accept and meet the challenge before it is too late...  
To the gold, add the red and our colors so fair.  
We will always be honored if these virtues we bear.  
Courage to work, courage to pray,  
Courage to smile, yes, courage to play!  
Courage to look up in life's difficult day,  
And lend unto others a real light to brighten their way.  
That as teachers, to develop a feeling of loyalty and cooperation...  
In fostering a spirit of devotion in our profession.  
Red embraces the love of mankind, that we show as we give  
Aid to our fellows in their struggle to live.  
Sympathy, too, a real concern, to our high ideals we must show,  
That the true spirit we have may ne'er falter but grow.  
Yes, we and countless teachers untold,  
Accept the challenge of the red and the gold.  
To our master farers, we will ever, true, courageous, kind and loyal be.  
By upholding the beacon light for improving self,  
We will ever bear in mind this ardent plea...  
That as teachers, in our lives we will truly hold  
The highest courage of the red and the loyalty of the gold.

### Please make to yourself the following pledge:

I recommit to our Society with joy,  
I recommit to our Society with eagerness and enthusiasm.  
I recommit to Epsilon Kappa with dedication and commitment.  
I recommit to be the leader others recognized me to be.  
The Society will have real HOPE for the future  
because of my recommitment today.

# The Scoop on Scholarships and Grants

## Super Scholarships and Generous Grants for 2015-2016

Hey there ladies, have I got good news for you? If you are planning to work on a graduate degree, or attend an educators meeting or wish to participate in educational travel, then read on. Our society provides scholarship opportunities at the International, State, and chapter levels. One of our seven DKG purposes is "To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study....."

Up to 30 **international** scholarships are available annually, \$6,000 for a Master's degree and \$10,000 for a Doctorate. Check out the Society Website at <http://www.dkg.org> for details. Click on Committees and go to Scholarship. The application packet is available July 1 and is due by February 1 of each year.

The **Texas State Organization** (TSO) has scholarships available for graduate study, continuing education, and educational travel. View the opportunities on the state website at <http://www.dkgtexas.org/state-scholarships.html> for information on how to apply for a scholarship for 3 hours (\$500 per year), 6 hours (\$1,000 per year), or 9 hours (\$1,500 per year) of graduate/undergraduate coursework toward a degree and/or certification, or for mini-grants of up to \$500 to attend non-DKG conferences or workshops or to conduct research. **Applications for scholarships** for graduate/undergraduate courses are **due March 1** of each year. **Mini-grant applications** are **due November 1** and **March 1** of each year. TSO also has scholarships available for members pursuing a doctorate of up to \$5,000 per member. Applications are **due March 1** of each year.

There are also TSO awards for aspiring educators, designed to aid women, not members of DKG, who aspire to enter the field of education by taking college hours toward certification or a degree in education. Applicants must be recommended by a TSO member. If you know someone who fits this bill and would make a great DKG member in the future, let them know about this opportunity. The application is **due March 1** of each year.

At the **chapter** level, the Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation also supports member leadership development, including travel to DKG conferences. View the application and more information on our chapter website at <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/foundations.html>. Applications are due April 15 of each year.

Epsilon Kappa has several members who have completed graduate degrees with the assistance of the scholarships. Other teachers have attended state meetings for their area or grade level or have traveled as part of programs such as Road Scholar. If that sounds like winning news to you, then check it out. More information will be provided at the February luncheon.

Martha Dolman, Chair, Scholarship/ World Fellowship Committee



Image from Creative Commons

## Year at a Glance

Reserve the following dates on your calendar for chapter meetings and make plans to attend. Locations, programs, and hostesses are listed in the 2014-2015 chapter yearbook.

Saturday, February 7, 2015	11:00 a.m.
Monday, March 2, 2015	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 11, 2015	10:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 2, 2015	TBA
Thursday, September 10, 2015	6:00 p.m.
Monday, October 5, 2015	6:00 p.m.



Image from Creative Commons

**Give yourself the gift of time to attend meetings.** If you are unable to attend every meeting, try to attend at least one meeting in the Fall and at least one in the Spring. You will benefit greatly from the fellowship and personal/professional growth.

## The Shopping Spree Spring Raffle

The Spring Raffle will be held at our April 11, 2015, meeting at the home of Forrest Hancock. The "Shopping Spree" raffle will be for fifteen \$10.00 gift cards at various stores (for a total value of \$150.00), such as Starbucks, Sonic, Whataburger, Hobby Lobby, Michaels, Target, HEB, Teacher Heaven and many more throughout Austin.

We need members to sign up to purchase one of the \$10.00 gift cards and donate to the raffle. A sign-up sheet will be at our February meeting at Carino's. Money donations will also be accepted.

Raffle tickets will be for sale at the March 2 and the April 11 meetings. The raffle drawing will take place at the end of the April 11 meeting. Each ticket can be bought for \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00.



## Let's Celebrate!

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

Glenda Bell	02-12	Mary Claire Tanner	03-09
Mary Louise Poolman	02-18	Kitty Mellenbruch	03-17

Phyllis Richards 03-30



## New Eye on the Web... And Beyond

At the beginning of each new year, there are so many issues that pop up for inspection. So it is with this year, especially with the start of a new Texas legislative session. We must stay as informed as possible to advance our position with those who make policies affecting our profession and the students we serve.

Our Epsilon Kappa website has photos posted in the “More” section, so be sure and check that monthly. At the state level, TSO has a new web address: <http://dkgtexas.org/>. The San Antonio convention site now has registration open for the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The registration for the convention will be up soon. On the international website, the running banner has the deadline for international scholarships posted as February 1. Click there for more information. Also, there is a tribute to Dorothy Johnson, our 18<sup>th</sup> International President. Toward the bottom on the left side is *Get Connected*. That one-page sheet is full of technology tips. There is a list of three freely usable media sites, how to avoid copyright infringement, and a note about Google Form Survey. Also, one website from each region is highlighted. Lambda Omicron from Copperas Cove is listed from the Southwest Region. I checked it out; our own website compares quite well to that one.

Because the Legislature is in session, all of us should pay attention daily to proposals brought before lawmakers. All three local television stations will run segments on each of their news shows. If you miss one, look at their websites to read the report. Another important link to Capital happenings is, of course, the *Austin American Statesman*. Those of us who still receive the print edition can peruse in-depth coverage over our morning coffee. But, for around \$20, anyone can sign up for the digital version. Also available through the Statesman are Facebook and Twitter feeds that capture up-to-the-moment events in the legislative chambers. Issues facing active educators include vouchers, pre-k spending, and how to allocate funds for colleges and universities. For retirees, the concern will be adequate funding for health care. All Texas representatives and senators have website and email links. Be sure to stay informed and give your comments to those public officials.

A random sampling of other news sources shows some interesting developments that are sure to surface here. Boston teachers approved extending the school day. New York City has included more languages in its dual language program. Debates all over the nation continue about Common Core, school finance, and video game-based curriculum. One rather startling report from AP news recounted how Amish students have embraced technology and are quite proficient in tablet use!

Stay connected; our profession faces more exciting challenges every year.

Bernadine Eaton

## Spotlight on Personal Growth

### Road Scholar Travel Program Offers Opportunities for Personal Growth

The **Road Scholar Travel Program** (formerly Elderhostel) provides a variety of opportunities for personal growth through travel. Many DKG members have participated in the diverse tours available through this program. The following description is found on the Road Scholar website ([www.roadscholar.org](http://www.roadscholar.org)):

- "Much more than a tour, a Road Scholar program is a true learning adventure. Whether you join us in Seattle or Santiago, Beijing or Berlin, Road Scholar programs all share four unique attributes:
- Exceptional opportunities for learning and exploration through special behind-the-scenes access to the world's most fascinating treasures, led by our passionate and knowledgeable instructors.
- The shared fellowship of learning and warm camaraderie, whether a solo traveler or with a companion.
- Comfortable accommodations and appetizing meals.
- Excellent value."

A couple of the DKG Alpha State (TSO) scholarships can be used to help fund Road Scholar tours. The **Maetha Griffin Weatherby Educational Travel Scholarship** assists members in educational pursuits by providing matching funds to support travel expenses. The maximum amount available per member is \$1,000, and applicants are responsible for 50% or more of the total expenses. Applicants must have been a member of DKG in Texas for a minimum of 10 years, must be employed in the education profession at the time of application and remain employed in education during the academic year following the application, must have attended at least one Texas State Convention, and must document active participation in DKG activities. The travel must have an educational purpose. The **application is due March 1** of each year and can be accessed at <http://www.dkgtexas.org/state-scholarships.html>.

The **TSO Adult Education Scholarship** also funds Road Scholar, as well as research and attendance at conferences, up to \$500. Applicants must have been a member of DKG in Texas for a minimum of 10 years and must document active participation in DKG activities. The **application is due March 1** of each year and can be accessed at <http://www.dkgtexas.org/state-scholarships.html>.

ASTEF also periodically sponsors Road Scholar trips to specified destinations. Stay abreast of those trips by signing up at <http://www.astef.org/contact-us.html> to receive the ASTEF Update.

Submitted by Claudia Knowles and Earin Martin

## Upcoming Meeting Information

February Meeting—Saturday, February 7, 11:00 am Johnny Carino's Restaurant, 5601 Brodie Lane, Sunset Valley

**Current Legislative Issues Related to Education**—Guest Speaker: Representative Larry Gonzales

March Meeting—Monday, March 2, 6:00 pm  
St. George's Episcopal Church, 4301 North IH—35

**Education for Homeless Students in Texas**—Guest Speaker: Barbara Wand James  
Director, Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO)



## An Educator's Reflection on Our Profession

When my mother passed on January 6, my daughters went through her journals in preparation for the funeral and found a heart-felt prayer. At the funeral, I read this prayer she had written in 1942 at the start of her Texas teaching career during the service. Earin asked me to share it with the chapter. I believe it does embody what we all would like to be able to do during our professional careers.

Bernadine Eaton

*February 22, 1942*

*Bruni, Texas*

### *Prayer of Penitence*

*Father, my life has been so crowded with "things", since coming to this new land and beginning this new work that I have not given enough time and thought to Thee. I have no money to give, and that means I should certainly give most abundantly of my time and energy.*

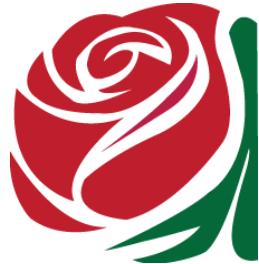
*I suppose though, that just my work with children might be counted as time spent for Thee. Teachers seem to be generally classed in the service-giving occupations. However, when one has to teach sentence structure and the dates of wars, one wonders how that can possibly be of any value in the saving of a child's soul. Children need a mastery of the language and a knowledge of past history, according to educators, but I wonder if we aren't wrong in our methods. We teach the things as if they were ends, not means to an end. It is only when one matures in intellect that he sees any point to the facts taught dogmatically at school.*

*Yet, Father, this is my job, and I must do it as well as possible, trusting that the youngsters will grow up and see its meaning. Meanwhile, I'd be patient and kind and cheerful at all times, so that some of Your eternal goodness may flow from me to these youngsters of mine. I love them so, Father.*

*What I am neglecting is spending time with Thee in prayer and meditation. Please forgive and help me turn again to Thee at all times. I am so used to Thy abiding presence that I neglect to hear You speak. And from Thee, Father, comes "the well-springs of life." I must not let the stream dry up. In Christ's name I pray.*

*Amen.*

*Marjorie Cantrell Mendieta (author)*



## Who Ya' Gonna Call?

1. ...when you don't know someone's name, or when you can't remember what someone looks like?
2. ...when you need a little inspiration or humorous "pick-me-up?"
3. ...when current legislative activity needs our attention?
4. ...when folks are doing amazing things, but no one notices?
5. ...when you'd like to share ideas with others or talk it over?
6. ...when social time during meetings needs some help?
7. ...when approximately half of the membership does not attend any meetings? Not one.

## Answers

1. One or more members could volunteer to take an individual photo of each member and assemble a photo directory on our website or in print.
2. All it takes is willingness to find short inspirational or humorous readings.
3. Current events turn you on; share the latest at meetings/newsletters.
4. Create award certificates to present during meetings.
5. Every program is more meaningful when we have a way to respond or talk things over.
6. Perhaps you could lead some quick, short, and engaging activities at meetings.
7. Phone calls to share tidbits after each meeting might help absent folks feel more connected.

Are you willing to help?

See anything that is your cup of tea?

Would you enjoy making others feel good about themselves?

How about leading a small group discussion?

Willing to help break the ice at meetings?

Just want to do something?



## 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 13. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at diane.sidoroff@gmail.com or to Earin Martin at grantsmanagement101@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!

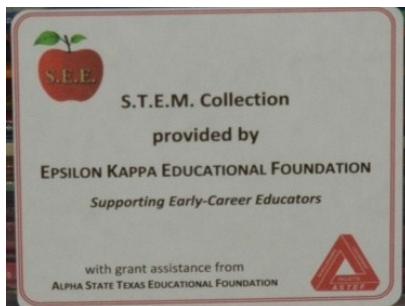
Chapter Website: <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/>



Wooldridge Elementary SEE mentee Bridget Boswell receives her first grade STEM set of books from Epsilon Kappa mentor Jeanette Abrajan



Jesus Rodriguez, second grade SEE mentee at Cook Elementary School, looks at the books in his STEM collection with mentor Bernadine Eaton



STEM book collections ready to distribute to SEE mentees. Book bin label for STEM collections