

The Reporter

The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International

Epsilon Kappa
Chapter #130

Texas State
Organization
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: YOU are the key

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

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President's Message

Editor

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In this issue of the *Reporter* you will find articles that address *The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International* purposes to honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.

First is our February Speaker, Dr. Glenda Ballard. As Dean of Education at St. Edwards University, she has served as a leader who thoughtfully developed a strong teacher preparation program for St. Edwards. March is special for our Epsilon Kappa Family. In March we celebrate Women's History Month. Dr. Phyllis Richards will turn 100 years old. What she has done in the service of early education and children's mental health for our community and our nation is incredible. April brings honor to two of our members, Linda Holt and Kathy Dixon. Each was initiated in 1995 for a solid 25 years in *The Delta Kappa Gamma Society*.

Finally, as we continue to honor women who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education, we ask you to submit your nominations for a first-year teacher. Look for articles in this issue for more information on all of these women and the opportunity to honor a new first-year teacher.

DKG is all about celebrating ourselves and one another as outstanding women educators who have contributed significantly to the profession. Celebrate one another as women and as educators, and recognize and honor chapter

members who have served the chapter and DKG with their exceptional talents.

The slate of nominees for officers for the 2020-2022 biennium is complete because some members graciously and generously answered the call to serve. A special thanks to these members for sharing their time and talents. The slate will be announced at the February meeting, voted on at the March meeting, and installed at the April meeting. The term for the new officers begins July 1, 2020. Be thinking about the Epsilon Kappa committees that you would like to join.

YOU are the key!

Unlock the door to cooperative strategic planning through:

Knowledge of the Society's mission, purposes, and traditions

Engagement in purposeful programs and projects to increase member involvement

Yearlong involvement in recruiting, mentoring and leading

Support from officers, mentors, and others to encourage stronger members and chapters

Kathy Mihalik



December Highlights—S.E.E. Project

In our December meeting, our SEE mentee from Walnut Creek, Lisa Richardson, and her teammate Sandy Martinez showed us new technology and how they incorporate this in their classroom.

They showed us:

- How **Osmos** work and what the students are learning with them.
- What are **spheros** and how they can be used in the classroom.
- Different applications to use with the iPad to be able to see places in 3D. Example: **Dreamscape and Dreambox**.



Ms. Richardson also shared with us how the SEE project and our contributions have made an impact on students at Walnut Creek Elementary. The resources that SEE has provided have been used countless times in various campus wide events, initiatives, and programs like science night, gifted and talented programs, daily Istation and science fair projects, just to name a few.

The SEE project has been a valuable resource and support to new teachers. It has allowed them to pursue their interest in technology and give their students access to technology which enriches their learning.

Submitted by Luisa Hernandez

February is Giving Month

Each year ASTEF sets aside the month of February as Foundation Focus Month. Chapters are strongly encouraged to do something to educate and inform about “OUR” Foundation.

A huge part of this effort is Giving Month. In February members are asked to open their hearts by opening their pocketbooks to support the work of the Foundation. Members and friends may make a tax-deductible donation by making a donation using the “**DONATE NOW**” button (located on the **Home** page). <https://www.astef.org/>

Members may designate their gift to Scholarship, Leadership or Projects. If no designation is made, funds will be directed to Projects.

Help us raise the thermometer by sending in your gift today (deadline is February 29). A gift to ASTEF is one that keeps on giving as Scholarship, Leadership and Projects are made possible due to your generous support.

ASTEF MILESTONE APPROACHES ~ SAVE THE DATE!

On Sept. 17, 2020 the Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation (ASTEF) will be celebrating yet another milestone in her brief history...our official beginning. Sept. 17, 2020 will mark the 10th Birthday of “OUR” Foundation.

As we all go to the next TSO Convention in McAllen, be reminded that ASTEF held its first annual meeting of members immediately after the TSO business meeting on Saturday, June 25, 2011, at 2:15 PM, in McAllen. Jean Webb presided. Evelyn Barron and Sandi Causey were on the committee that worked to put together ASTEF. Watch Sandi as she reflects on the formation of ASTEF <https://www.astef.org/10th-anniversary-videos.html>.

TSO State Scholarships Available

Whether you are currently teaching or are enjoying the good life, you are all life-long learners and may have a desire to hone your personal or professional skills. Now is the time to take advantage of some wonderful learning opportunities and develop your application for a TSO State Scholarship. Scholarship applications are due to the Chair of the TSO Scholarship Committee on March 1.

Scholarships are available for active members of DKG for:

- 3, 6, or 9 credit hours of graduate or undergraduate courses; members who are currently teaching may also apply for coursework toward certification in an education area other than a Texas teaching certificate, such as Bilingual or Special Education certification
- 9 hours for doctoral courses or enrollment for dissertation
- Educational travel (Maetha Griffin Weatherby - requires matching funds)
- Life-long Learner (formerly Adult Education) for 3 hours study; Road Scholar (non-ASTEF), Go Ahead Tours, and other structured tours or travel opportunities with **educational components** that would enhance the applicant's personal or professional goals; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UT Austin for adults 50+ (Forum, Lamp, Nova, Quest, Sage); personal and professional enrichment courses; research; non-DKG conferences; workshops; or other lifelong learning activity
- Mini-grants for non-traditional professional development such as **non-DKG** conferences, workshops, and research

See the guidelines and application for each of these on the TSO website at <http://www.dkgtexas.org/state-scholarships.html>. Also, the *Quick Guide for DKG Scholarships and Grants* on our chapter website provides some helpful overview information. See the Quick Guide at <https://www.epsilonkappatx.com/educationleadership-opportunities.html>.

Aspiring Educator Grants, administered by ASTEF, are also available for **non-DKG** members and DKG **Collegiate** members to work toward an undergraduate education degree and Texas teacher certification. These grants may also provide funds for **Alternative Teacher Certification** for women who already have a degree in a field other than education and who desire to become a teacher.

The Aspiring Educator Grant applications are due March 1 to Cindy Neander, ASTEF VP for Programs. See <http://www.astef.org/forms.html> for the guidelines and application. If you know of a promising young woman who aspires to be a teacher or who needs teacher certification, be sure to point out this terrific opportunity to her.

Applications Are Due March 1

Submitted by Earin Martin



Member Spotlight—Linda Holt

All I ever wanted to be growing up was a teacher. I would take papers my teacher was throwing away and go home and play school. I was the first in my family to go to college. My family didn't have the means to pay for my education, so I did. I chose Southwest Texas State because of their outstanding reputation as a school for teachers, and I could also commute from my home in South Austin. I worked many jobs throughout college to help pay tuition. I did retail, tutoring, and was even a check collector. As a check collector, I would call people who wrote bad checks to different businesses and convince them to come in and pay their debt along with a \$15 fee. It was there that I learned the power of being positive. Many of these people were just down on their luck and needed someone to listen. They *almost* always came in to take care of their obligation. As a tutor, I saw firsthand the diverse learning styles of individuals. I was able to design lessons specifically for their learning styles. Retail taught me organization and the power of penny pinching...minimum wage was \$3.75!



I graduated from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State) in December 1988. I worked as a substitute that spring. My first interview for a teaching position was with Marilyn Gregory at Lake Travis Elementary! She believed in me and saw potential. (She still does!) I began my teaching career in 1989. I had the amazing opportunity to work with Marilyn Gregory as my mentor. We taught kindergarten together for many years. I remember sitting around the lunch table and Marilyn would always talk about Delta Kappa Gamma. This was my first introduction to DKG. Through the years Marilyn continued to be my teacher, friend, mentor, guidance counselor...you name it...she was always there for me...and still is! Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to help open two elementary schools in Lake Travis ISD. In 1999, I helped open Bee Cave Elementary and taught kindergarten. At Bee Cave, I had the opportunity to watch my own boys grow and learn. In 2014, I helped open West Cypress Hills. I am still there today. I taught kindergarten for 23 years, and have currently been teaching 2nd grade for the last 4 years.

I met my amazing husband, Chip, and his daughter, Lauren in 1996, and we were married in 1997. We had Haston in 1998. Our twins, Hunter and Harrison, were born in 2001. We love to travel. Our favorite places to go are Colorado and Mexico. I still love to travel with my family, but as they are getting older, it is more difficult to coordinate schedules. Last summer was the first time Chip and I took a trip together, just the 2 of us! We went to Costa Rica. It was AMAZING!



In addition to traveling with Chip, I am incredibly blessed to be a part of his amazing family. Chip has 4 sisters, and one of their traditions is to take a "Girls' Trip" together every summer with their mom. We continue this tradition today. Chip's mom is now 91, and the dynamics of our trips have changed over the years, but it is still an amazing time to get together and enjoy being a family. We cook, play games, and still manage to get in a little shopping.

When I began my teaching career, some of our Delta Kappa Gamma sisters were not even born, and many had already retired. This is one thing that makes Delta Kappa Gamma so extraordinary. We have the unique opportunity to be influenced by so many generations of great women educators! I am excited to see where the next 25 years in DKG takes us all!

National Women's History Month

Women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness in the 1970's. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978.

The week of March 8th, International Women's Day, was chosen as the focal point of the observance. The local Women's History Week activities met with enthusiastic response, and dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week. Over one-hundred community women participated by doing special presentations in classrooms throughout the country and an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries. The finale for the week was a celebratory parade and program held in the center of downtown Santa Rosa, California.

By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women. [2] Every year March is designated Women's History Month by Presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme. The 2020 Women's History Month theme is "**Valiant Women of the Vote.**" The theme honors "the brave women who fought to win suffrage rights for women, and for the women who continue to fight for the voting rights of others." [3]

[2] MacGregor, Molly Murphy. "[History of National Women's History Month](#)". National Women's History Project. Retrieved 2013-10-17.

[3] <https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month>

March is Special for our Epsilon Kappa Chapter

Phyllis Richards will be 100 years old on March 30th.

Dr. Phyllis Richards was a visionary leader and researcher in the field of early childhood education and development and worked vigorously to help establish the Head Start program on a national level. She was called upon by President Lyndon B. Johnson's office to help organize the initiative. Within 4 months they got the program off the ground. Dr. Richards has over 60 years of dedicated service in child development and shaping service delivery to children. Her commitment toward ensuring that all children have access to quality early childhood education and mental health services has created long-term impacts for thousands of children. She served as a faculty member for the University of Texas at Austin's School of Human Ecology, Division of Human Development and Family Sciences for forty years. Dr. Richards' work as board member and officer helped make the National Association for the Education of Young Children a major national voice for young children and their families. [1]



[1] <https://www.austinchildguidance.org/news-events/phyllis-richards-austin-icon-for-children-award.html>

91st Texas State Convention - McAllen June 17-19, 2020

Deep South Texas is gearing up for the 91st Texas State Convention. Volume 5 of the "Convention Keys" is available now to help members begin making plans to attend this wonderful TSO convention. All issues of "Convention Keys" and a link to the 2020 Convention website are available on the TSO website <https://www.dkgtexas.org/>.

Make your hotel reservation now! More hotels are open for McAllen - all within walking distance of the convention center! Make your reservation today for fun and fellowship in 2020! <https://dkgtexas2020convention.weebly.com/hotels.html>

Another method to keep up with this fast-paced convention is to follow on the DKG-Texas State Organization Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/tso.deltakappagamma/>



2020 International Convention

Philadelphia, PA | July 7-11, 2020

Experiencing DKG at the International level will change how you see the Society. Meet people from all over the world. You could meet your new best friend, future business partner, or have a conversation that sparks a real change in your life.

Philadelphia has something for everyone and our hotel is close to it all. Historic sites such as Independence Hall, The Liberty Bell, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art (run the Rocky steps!) are just steps from the hotel. Register now for the convention and reserve your hotel room at the Philadelphia Marriot Downtown. Online registration is recommended.

https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Events/2020_International_convention/Registration_Philadelphia.aspx

<p>Early Bird Ticket Prices:</p> <p>Member: \$180 Collegiate: NA Nonmember: NA</p> <p>New</p> <p>Member Combined Registration - \$325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conference registration - Opening night event ticket - Vision Luncheon <p>* Individual days and events can be purchased as well</p>	<p>Regular Ticket Prices:</p> <p>Member: \$200 Collegiate: \$100 Nonmember: \$250</p> <p>New</p> <p>Member Combined Registration - \$345</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conference registration - Opening night event ticket - Vision Luncheon <p>* Individual days and events can be purchased as well</p>
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Program Educational Excellence— February and March

Saturday, February 1st, 2020, 11:00 am – The Saltgrass Steakhouse

Program: Empowering Women

Speaker: Dr. Ballard. St. Edwards' University Dean of Education.

Please join us on Saturday, February 1st at The Saltgrass Steakhouse at 10614 Research Boulevard, in Austin Texas. We will be inspired by Dr. Glenda Ballard, speaking about the importance of empowering women. Dr. Glenda Ballard brings her 33 years in education to lead the School of Education. Dr. Ballard holds a Doctorate of Education in Adult and Continuing Education from Virginia Tech. A certified Texas teacher, she also has her MS in counseling and K-12 counselor certifications.

Within the School of Education, Dr. Ballard oversees the Departments of Teacher Education, University Studies, Kinesiology, and Master of Arts in Counseling program. Her goal is to learn the culture of St. Edward's and to develop new partnerships with area schools across Central Texas.

Thursday, March 5th, 2020, 6 pm – Ann Lilie's House. 3103 Skylark Dr. Austin, Tx 78757

Program: Cultural relevant pedagogy.

Speakers: Zoila Cardenas (PhD. Student at Texas State and Assistant Principal at Wooten Elementary).

For our Thursday, March 5th meeting, we will be learning about cultural relevant pedagogy. This topic will be presented to us by Zoila Cardenas current doctorate student at Texas State and Assistant Principal at Wooten Elementary. She will take us through this student-centered approach to teaching in which the students' unique cultural strengths are identified and nurtured to promote student achievement and a sense of well-being about the student's cultural place in the world.

Epsilon Kappa Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award

It is the time to identify and honor an outstanding first-year teacher in our community. Please submit your nominations for a first-year teacher who demonstrates enthusiasm, dedication, and knowledge of subject matter. This nominee should possess an active interest in professional growth, as well as a genuine concern for students.

The guidelines and the nominations form for *Outstanding First Year Teacher* are on our website:

nomination form online <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/documents-and-forms.html>



[Documents and Forms](#)
Documents and Forms
deltakappagamma-tx-
epsilonkappa.weebly.com

***Nomination forms are due to Luisa Hernandez, Chair of the Educational Excellence Committee, no later than March 15, 2020.

Email: luisa.hernandez@austinisd.org or

Mail: 2955 Country Rd. 100, Hutto, Texas 78634.

Save the Dates

February 2020

Meeting: Saturday, February 1, 2020 - 11:00 AM

Location: Saltgrass Steakhouse, 10614 Research Blvd Austin, TX 78759

March 2020

Meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2020 - 6:00 PM

Location: Home of Ann Lilie 3103 Skylark Dr. Austin, Tx 78757

April 2020

Meeting: Saturday, April 4, 2020 - 9:30 AM

Location: Delta Kappa Gamma International Headquarters

Future Events

Williamson County Coordinating
Council

Founders' Day luncheon

May 2, 2020

Hutto Lutheran Church

402 Church St, Hutto, TX

91st Texas State Convention

June 17-19, 2020

McAllen Convention Center

Embassy Suites Hotel

McAllen, TX

DKG International Convention

July 7-11, 2020

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown

Philadelphia, PA

DKG Ignite:

Leaders Empowering Leaders

July 19-26, 2020

UT Campus, Austin, TX

Area Workshops Fall 2020

2021 92nd Texas State Convention

June 16-18, 2021

Denton, TX





Epsilon Kappa Chapter The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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

Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, March 20. 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!

Let's Celebrate!

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

Priscilla Sanchez Emamian	02—04	Kitty Mellenbruch	03—17
Glenda Bell	02—12	Gracie Esquivel	03—30
Ely Rodriguez	02—17	Phyllis Richards	03—30

