

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:** The Heart of the Society is its Members

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

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## President's Message

### *Reflections and Lessons Learned*

It is with a sense of relief yet sadness as I write my final President's Message for Epsilon Kappa's *Reporter*. I have learned an incredible amount about Delta Kappa Gamma, the Texas State Organization, and Epsilon Kappa during my term as chapter president. And I owe that new sense of knowledge, pride, and sisterhood to each of you.

As I reflect back on the beginning of my term as chapter president, my very first seemingly impossible challenge was to recruit a chairman for each of the major committees for the 2014-2016 biennium. Bernadine Eaton, my predecessor, was invaluable in identifying and recruiting strong, capable members to serve as chair of some of those key committees. Some amazing women stepped up to the plate to chair those committees, and I thank each and every one of them from the bottom of my heart for coming together to provide outstanding meeting locations, refreshments, programs, projects, membership initiatives, and communications and publications, including the chapter newsletter, the website, and the yearbook.

As I began the task of writing my very *first President's Message*, I remember how difficult it seemed and how challenging it was for me to come up with my initial message. As I struggled at thinking that I had to write in the same manner as "those who had gone before me," I finally decided just to "write from the heart" and not try to follow anyone else's style or subject matter. And that was all it took. Granted, some "themes" have come to me easier than others, but for the most part, once I latched onto a "theme" for an issue, my heart took hold, and the words, for the most part, flowed more easily.

As I was preparing to lead my very *first meeting* as chapter president in September 2014, I was worried about giving the right "first impression" and thinking I had to "copy" someone else's style or mannerisms. But, knowing that would be almost impossible for me to do comfortably, I decided very quickly that I had to be "me" in

leading meetings and in carrying out all of the other duties associated with being chapter president. I knew I had my own personality, my own mannerisms, my own methodology, and my own style of communication, leadership, and interpersonal interactions. And I also know myself well enough to know that if I don't try to put up any pretenses and "be like someone else," I usually do OK. So I took a deep breath, conducted the meeting in my own fashion, and found myself very relaxed and having a great time. Leading the meetings was a piece of cake from then on. What that tells me is that any of you can lead – just lead in your own style, manner, methodology, and personality. If you can just do that, it will be a natural fit for you and you will be great at it!

It especially came to light during my presidency that every chapter member holds creative and unique talents; many kinds of expertise on multiple levels; unusual, joyful, and some painful life experiences; and a very special place in my heart. I am hoping that we can continue to tap some of those talents; share some of that expertise; and benefit from those life experiences. I think the bond that is created among us when these things are shared is what makes our chapter so special.

I learned during this biennium that many different members contribute to the success of the chapter in many different ways, and that is also one of the things that makes our chapter special. It takes a configuration of activities happening simultaneously behind the scenes to have a successful meeting. Members contribute to the success of the chapter by attending meetings; securing meeting rooms and locations; providing refreshments and setting up the meeting room; and designing, developing, and/or presenting a program, including identifying, contacting, and solidifying guest speakers. Members contribute by designing and implementing a project; providing name badges and maintaining attendance records; providing music and other activities at meetings; cleaning up after meetings; planning,

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## President's Message Continued

coordinating, and facilitating new member orientation and initiation; and taking photos of members and speakers in action.

Members contribute by calling other members to remind them of meetings and other important news and by writing and submitting articles for the chapter newsletter and posting news, articles, and photos to the chapter website. Members contribute by attending committee meetings, chairing a committee, taking minutes at chapter meetings and composing them; collecting dues, writing checks, and maintaining the chapter's financial records and membership records; and keeping members informed about the Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation, TSO activities, and international activities. As you can see, the list could go on and on about the many ways members contribute to the success of the chapter. Each of these roles is just as important as the other. My sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the members who contributed in all of these roles and in others I might have failed to mention.

Pam Kelly will assume her official duties as president of Epsilon Kappa beginning July 1. She is enthusiastic and full of great ideas, and I am confident she will continue to lead the chapter through many successes. You also have a fantastic leadership team with Kathy Mihalik as your First Vice President and Cheryl Lane as your Second Vice President, not to mention some new committee chairs ready to inspire and motivate.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in me. It has been an honor to serve you and a blessing to know you. You have inspired me, motivated me, encouraged me, and supported me in uncountable ways, and I am a better "DKG Woman" because of you.

Earin Martin

## A Personal Message from Your TSO President

As of May 12, **sixteen** Epsilon Kappa members have registered to attend the TSO Convention in Frisco. With convention approaching, we are busy preparing for between 900 and 1,000 members to attend. Epsilon Kappa members participating in convention events or helping with activities include:

Sandi Causey, Corresponding Secretary, will work with registration, help with Leadership Development for Chapter Presidents, present a workshop for chapter secretaries, and present a tribute at the Saturday night Banquet.

Deb Acevedo-Tamminga, TSO Music Chair, will be involved with all the TSO Choir rehearsals, present a music workshop, sing the "Star Spangled Banner" at the ballgame, and lead the choir at the Necrology Service, Chartering of Nu Delta, Birthday Luncheon and Banquet.

Norma Jost and Bernadine Eaton will be singing in the TSO Choir along with Deb.

Pam Kelly will be attending the Leadership Development for Chapter Presidents.

Jo Watts will be honored at the Birthday Luncheon for 50 years of service to Delta Kappa Gamma.

Dr. Earin Martin is our voting delegate for Epsilon Kappa and will help with the Scholarship workshop, present the ASTEF budget at the ASTEF Annual Meeting, and help with the ASTEF tables.

Evelyn Barron will be attending the ASTEF board meeting and will help with the workshops and ASTEF tables.

Marcia Kirkland will be our official chapter photographer.

Charlotte Brown is Marilyn's gofer to help where needed and is preparing the Annie Board for display.

I will be everywhere as state president... including LDCP, in charge of Opening Session including the Smooth Brew barbershop quartet entertainment, helping with the Chartering of Nu Delta, talking at the Birthday Luncheon, giving a workshop, throwing out the first pitch at the ballpark, in charge of the Business Session and helping with the Banquet.

Hope you can attend and enjoy this special event. What a great representation from Epsilon Kappa! See you in Frisco.

Marilyn Gregory

## ASTEFL at TSO Convention

### Fundraisers

- Newly-designed ASTEF pins – purchase one or many for only \$3.00 each
- Treasure boxes – pay \$20; receive a surprise gift worth far more
- Silent auction – bid on vacation packages, home décor items, and other exciting offerings

### Project Displays (Epsilon Kappa's SEE Project will be represented)

### ASTEFL Annual Meeting – on Saturday morning immediately after TSO Business Meeting

- Reports on ASTEF activities – scholarship, leadership, projects, travel, giving
- Awarding of 2016-2017 project stipends

### Breakout Sessions – all scheduled on Saturday afternoon

- ASTEFL – Five Years Later*
- The ABCs of ASTEF Applications*
- Come Travel with Us – Become an ASTEF Traveler*



Read your convention program book carefully. Don't miss these and many more ASTEF-related activities at the TSO Convention in June

Submitted by Evelyn Barron

## Visit Historic Galveston

### *ASTEFL Travelers' First Weekender*

*October 7-9, 2016*

#### Trip includes:

- 2 nights – double accommodations –at Gaido's Seaside Hotel
- Transportation within Galveston
- All admission fees
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- 1 presentation
- Donation to ASTEF
- And some surprises along the way



Moody Mansion

**Total Price: \$235 per person**

For more details and schedule of events, go to the ASTEF website – [www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org) – or contact Dr. Barbara Derrick, ASTEF Vice-President of Advancement, at [advancement@astef.org](mailto:advancement@astef.org).

**Registration opens June 1.**

A \$100 deposit will hold your spot; balance due by September 1, 2016.

Submitted by Evelyn Barron

## Meeting Highlights

April was the month for initiation, installation, recognition, and celebration. A total of 38 members and guests were in attendance. If you missed it, you missed a great meeting!

**Initiation:** Six new members were excited to be initiated into Epsilon Kappa. Please welcome them with open arms.

**Evelyn Bollinger**, Educational Diagnostician, Director of Assessment, Odyssey School

**Juana (Janie) Melendez Farias**, Dual Language Elementary Teacher, Round Rock ISD

**Rosemary Torres**, UT Coordinator / Lecturer, UT—Austin

**Lilian Villafuerte**, Dual Language Elementary Teacher, Austin ISD

**Tracey McGuire Wilson**, Senior Program Manager, McCombs School of Business

**Tamara Wood**, Administrative Assistant, UT-Dell Medical School

**Officer Installation:** Epsilon Kappa's 2016-2018 officers were installed to take the helm beginning July 1. It was a meaningful ceremony in which, with the exception of the Parliamentarian, each 2014-2016 officer "passed the torch" to the corresponding incoming 2016-2018 officer. Marilyn Gregory, our 2014-2016 Parliamentarian, was unable to be with us because she was participating in one of her obligations as state president at the TSO Finance Committee meeting in Dallas, but we certainly forgive her for that.

President – Pam Kelly

Secretary – Norma Jost

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Kathy Mihalik

Treasurer – Marcia Kirkland

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Cheryl Lane

Parliamentarian – Evelyn Barron

**Outstanding First-Year Teacher:** Eleann Rodriguez, second grade teacher at Wooldridge Elementary in Austin ISD, was the recipient of the Epsilon Kappa Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award for 2015-2016. Only one Austin area teacher is selected each year by Epsilon Kappa for this special honor.

Eleann was selected for the award because she is an enthusiastic and dedicated educator who consistently strives to make learning fun for her students. She exceeds expectations in keeping her students active and successful, and she is skilled at providing constructive feedback and reinforcing desired behavior. She is a credit and asset to the teaching profession.

Eleann's principal, Sheri Mull, paid her the highest compliment in stating that she is an outstanding teacher, and that it is difficult to believe this is only her first year of teaching. Not only does she have excellent classroom management, but her instruction is intentional every moment of the day. Eleann's love for her students shows in everything she does.

Eleann received a certificate and \$100.

**25 and 50-Year Member Awards:** Epsilon Kappa member Leyla Cohlmi received her 25-year member certificate and pin, and Jo Watts received her 50-year certificate and pin. Jo is among those distinguished members who have served DKG and Epsilon Kappa well for 50 years or more:

2009 - Marie Scheel (now deceased)

2010 - Julia Mellenbruch

2011 - Margaret Wallace

2012 - Anita Brewer Howard

2014 - Maurine Atwood

## Meeting Highlights Continued

2014 - Helen Forbes

2014 - Gene Nelson Jones

2014 - Dr. Phyllis Richards

**Perfect Attendance:** The following members achieved perfect attendance at chapter meetings from April 2015 through March 2016. This is not easy to do given the busy schedules of these ladies:

Deb Acevedo-Tamminga

Earin Martin

Marilyn Gregory

Kathy Mihalik

Pam Kelly

Elizabeth Newell

**Individual Awards, Achievements, and Recognitions:** While we recognize that there are most likely other achievements that deserve recognition, these are the ones that we knew about so they could be individually recognized at the meeting:

**Sandi Causey** was elected corresponding secretary of the Texas State Organization 2015-2017.

**Jeanette Abrajan** was awarded a grant from Next Generation Digital Classroom Trailblazer in Round Rock ISD. The grant provides computers for Jeanette's classroom next year!

**Marilyn Gregory** was elected president of the Texas State Organization 2015-2017.

**Earin Martin** developed a *Federal Grant Policies and Procedures Manual* template for Texas school districts under contract with Region 10 ESC; at least 4 other ESCs purchased it for their districts, so approximately 1/4 of the districts in Texas are using it.

**Kathy Mihalik** received her teaching certification in Aqua Kyrie Yoga in June 2015.

**Elizabeth Newell** received the 2015 Alpha State's Golden Rose Award at the Celebration Luncheon at the June 2015 convention in San Antonio.

**Marcia Kirkland and the SEE Committee** (and ghost-writer Evelyn Barron) wrote and received a \$6,000 grant from the DKG Educational Foundation to support the chapter SEE project.

**Chapter Achievement Award:** Earin presented the coveted 2016 Epsilon Kappa Chapter Achievement Award to Deb Acevedo-Tamminga. Deb was initiated in 1989 and has served in several capacities, including First Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and chapter President in 2000-2002. She has also served as chair of the chapter Music Committee as long as we can remember, always selecting and providing captivating music for all meetings and occasions. Since serving as chapter president in 2000-2002, Deb has been attending state convention to participate in the state choir and has assisted with area workshops, including conducting presentations on music. She is currently serving as chair of the TSO State Music Committee for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Deb served as chair of the Educational Excellence committee in 2014-2016 and has provided exceptional leadership in providing programs and projects of exceptional quality to attract and retain members. With a special emphasis on the programs/projects nominated for the Annie Award, she worked diligently to develop fun, informative, interactive programs and personally assisted in coordinating the corresponding charitable projects.

Deb previously spearheaded a chapter project, Books for Jamaica, and personally delivered library books to a school there and helped set up and organize their library. She has continued to visit the library several times over the years and continues to bring back news and photos to the chapter.

Deb is a pillar of Epsilon Kappa in that she attends meetings regularly, provides stability and support for the chapter president to provide meaningful music at meetings, and contributes great ideas for

## Meeting Highlights Continued

programs and projects that will attract and retain members. Deb is dedicated to the profession of education as evidenced through her career in teaching elementary school music and working with Texas Teachers as a field supervisor to observe, evaluate, and mentor first-year teachers. Continually demonstrating exemplary leadership skills and abilities, Deb is always well-prepared and extremely organized so that programs and activities move smoothly, and she willingly shares her expertise. Making an effort to always include everyone in all activities at every level, Deb has opened her home to chapter meetings and committee meetings many times and always maintains a professional demeanor worthy of a professional educator and of DKG.

Please join me in congratulating Deb Acevedo-Tamminga for this significant and coveted achievement. She is certainly deserving of it.

**2014-2016 Officers and Committee Chairs:** Earin personally thanked each of the officers and committee chairs that supported her and the chapter during her biennium, presenting each with a note card and small gift of appreciation. Without their dedication and support, the chapter would not have enjoyed the informative programs, engaging projects, and camaraderie that it has enjoyed during this biennium.

First Vice-President, Janet Bernard

Second Vice-President, Hilda Diaz

Secretary, Kristen Lowrie

Treasurer and Chair of SEE Committee, Marcia Kirkland

Parliamentarian and Chair of Archives Committee, Marilyn Gregory

Immediate Past President, Chair of Communications and Publicity Committee, assist with initiation and installation ceremonies, assist with writing several columns for each Epsilon Kappa newsletter, Bernadine Eaton

Chair of Educational Excellence Committee and Music Chair, Deb Acevedo-Tamminga

Arrangements Chair, Charlotte Brown

Chair of Membership Committee (2014-2015), Mary Louise Poolman

Chair of Membership Committee (2015-2016), Pam Kelly

Chair of Scholarship/World Fellowship Committee, Martha Dolman

Chair of Finance Committee, Debbie Sansom

**Newsletter Editor:** Earin presented a special certificate to **Diane Sidoroff** (not present) in appreciation for the continued development of an outstanding newsletter for Epsilon Kappa. We just received notice that Epsilon Kappa once again achieved the **Five Star Newsletter Award** for 2015-2016.

**Webmaster:** Earin presented a special certificate to **Kathy Mihalik** in appreciation for the development and continued maintenance of an outstanding website for Epsilon Kappa.

Both the newsletter and the chapter website help Epsilon Kappa project a positive, professional image while keeping members informed and up to date on the latest happenings. Please join me in congratulating these two ladies for their significant, ongoing contribution to the chapter and to Delta Kappa Gamma. They make all of us proud to be in Epsilon Kappa.

My, oh my! How fortunate I feel to be in the presence of all of these amazing women in our very own Epsilon Kappa chapter! You inspire me, you engage me, you uplift me, you energize me!

Earin Martin



Deb Acevedo-Tamminga received the coveted Epsilon Kappa Chapter Achievement Award for 2016

## Richards Leadership Grants Awarded

The **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** is pleased to announce four recipients of this year's Phyllis Richards Leadership Grants to attend the TSO Convention in Frisco in June. Richards Grants provide financial support for chapter members wishing to attend DKG leadership events.

**Norma Jost** joined Epsilon Kappa Chapter in the fall of 2015 and soon became involved as a mentor in the chapter's SEE Project. A retired mathematics educator, she is the owner of Jost Educational Consulting. Norma will serve as chapter secretary for the 2016-2018 biennium.



**Pam Kelly** was initiated into DKG in 2005 in Houston and transferred to Epsilon Kappa in 2008. She is a special education diagnostician and consultant who currently works for ESPED as an implementation coordinator and trainer. Pam will serve as the 2016-2018 Epsilon Kappa Chapter President.



**Mary Tracy-Harney** was initiated into Epsilon Kappa in October 2015. She works at Forest Trail Elementary School in Eanes ISD as a Campus Support Specialist in K-5 math and reading.

**Tracey McGuire Wilson** joined Epsilon Kappa Chapter this spring. She is Senior Program Manager, Texas Executive Education, McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin.



Richards Leadership Grants are made possible because of a generous donation from our chapter's own Dr. Phyllis Richards. The **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** administers the program. In keeping with Phyllis' desire to support the development of leadership in Epsilon Kappa Chapter, three of this year's recipients will be attending their first state DKG convention. Congratulations to all of our grant recipients!



Submitted by Evelyn Barron

# Membership Review

A sincere and warm thank you to the entire 2014-2016 Membership Committee: Diane Dolezel, Bernadine Eaton, Charlotte May, Mary Louise Poolman, Kate Starkes, Kim Thonhoff, Debra Wissman and Jo Watts.

Each of you made a special contribution to the committee that helped everyone. You made a difference! Sixty-five percent of our Active members attended at least one meeting this year, with most attending several. We added 10 new initiates and only one member dropped. Sixteen guests attended meetings throughout the year. We got to know each other better at Lunch Bunch and Food and Fun evenings.

## **Summer Brunch**

Summer brings yet another opportunity to socialize with **Summer Brunch**. The **Summer Brunch** location is always **Central Market on N. Lamar on Tuesdays at 10 am—June 14, July 12, or August 9**. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend these casual summer get-togethers and stay connected with your Epsilon Kappa sisters. Everyone should have a story to tell about their summer vacation, and we would love to hear it!

## **Lunch Bunch**

**SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR FALL LUNCH BUNCH:**

September 13—Jack Allens' Restaurant, 3600 N. Capital of Texas – Hwy 360

October 22—Catfish Parlour, 4705 E. Ben White Blvd.

November 8—Brick Oven, 10710 Research Blvd (North Hills Town Center- 183N)

Kudos to Mary Louise Poolman and Jo Watts for selecting the locations north and south to give everyone a chance to come as they are able.

## **Book Lovers Unite!**

**Book Lovers Unite** is taking a summer break but will continue again in the fall.

Book Lovers is always looking for those interested in joining their lively conversations about the book they are reading. This spring they are reading *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt. Jonathan Haidt is a social psychologist and he draws on his 25 years of groundbreaking research into moral psychology to show how moral judgments arise not from reason but from gut feelings. Join them for more provocative discussion on this book, by putting this book on your summer reading list! Book Lovers will be reflecting on its ideas during the fall, with its treasure trove of intriguing ways of organizing how people react to political agendas --- very timely, to shed light on our present political issues.

Janet Bernard has agreed to chair the 2016-2018 Membership Committee with the support of Earin Martin, Kim Thonhoff, Jo Watts, Kate Starkes, Mary Louise Poolman, Charlotte Brown, Evelyn Bollinger and Martha Dolman.

Pam Kelly, 2014-2016 Membership Chair



## JUNE 2016

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		

- **June 14**, Summer Brunch 10:00 a.m., Central Market North Lamar
- **June 23-25**, TSO Convention Frisco, TX
- **July 5-9**, International Convention Nashville, TN
- **July 12**, Summer Brunch 10:00 a.m., Central Market North Lamar

## JULY 2016

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	22	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Plan to Attend the Area 7 Workshop!

**Saturday, August 27, 2016**

8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Marble Falls High School  
2101 Mustang Drive, Marble Falls

Featuring: Training for the 2016-2018 chapter officers and committee chairmen, plus other interesting sessions on topics such as “Opportunities for Money Grants from the International Educational Foundation,” “The Delta Kappa Gamma Song Revealed,” “Recipes & Avoiding Fatty Acids,” “Googize Your Chapter,” “Bokashi Composting,” “Road Scholar” and many more.

Epsilon Kappa is responsible for coordinating the ASTEF raffle. Volunteers are needed to help collect and set up the raffle items and sell ASTEF raffle tickets at the workshop. Breakout session facilitators to introduce the session speaker and pass out evaluation forms are also needed. **Please let Earin know if you plan to attend and if you are able to assist with the ASTEF raffle and/or facilitate a breakout session.**

**All newly-elected 2016-2018 chapter officers and committee chairs are strongly encouraged to attend so you can participate in the training offered just for you.**

To register, send your check ASAP for \$12 made payable to Epsilon Kappa to Marcia Kirkland, Epsilon Kappa Treasurer. Please let Marcia know now that you will be attending and that your check is on the way. There will be no refunds, but substitutions will be allowed. Registration at the door will be \$15.

Once we know who is planning to attend, we can work out some car-pooling arrangements.



## Epsilon Kappa Chapter The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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

## Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, July 22. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at [diane.sidoroff@gmail.com](mailto:diane.sidoroff@gmail.com) or to Pam Kelly at [pammkelly@gmail.com](mailto:pammkelly@gmail.com).

During this year, members may be asked to submit articles about their reflections of meetings or other DKG activities. We want to involve as many people as possible to highlight the diversity of our chapter. Also, let us know about your Life Milestones, whether you have attended a meeting or not. News is always appreciated.

Please contact Marcia Kirkland if you wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter, though we are trying to “go green” and send most by e-mail. Thanks, Marcia, for your help with communications!

## Let's Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in June and July:

Lisa Robertson	06-01	Cara Cowan Hamlin	06-30
Nancy Alaniz	06-05	Colleen Arnold	07-01
Judy Wallace	06-06	Dr Earin Martin	07-06
Linda Shaw Holt	06-10	Judy P Rice	07-11
Charlotte Brown	06-13	Mary Ortiz-Boland	07-13
Ashley White	06-15	Carmen Ferrer-McCluskey	07-15
Anita Brewer Howard	06-17	Marion Coffee-Carney	07-16
Margaret Wallace	06-18	Diane Sidoroff	07-19
Kathy Dixon	06-24	Stephanie Israel	07-22
Kim Thonhoff	06-24	Diane Dolezel	07-25



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**