

**Minutes of the Regular Chapter Meeting
Epsilon Kappa Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
November 7, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Epsilon Kappa Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was held on November 7, 2016, at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Austin, Texas.

Members socialized while having refreshments and while making a variety of musical instruments from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Coordinated by Deb Acevedo-Tamminga and Charlotte Brown, hand-made instruments included drums, sticks, scraping boards, sand blocks, and rattlers made from empty plastic containers, toilet paper tubes, rice, wooden blocks and sandpaper, and wooden dowels decorated with magic markers or various colors of paint. The instruments will be used at the December Epsilon Kappa meeting and other meetings in the future.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Pam Kelly; Pam called on Jo Watts to introduce guest speaker Brooke Crowder, founder of The Refuge. Brooke shared the particular incident that changed her life and presented the “calling” for her to create The Refuge and the holistic approach to provide a place of rest and restoration for child survivors of sex trafficking. Brooke also shared some startling facts about the enormous problem that exists all around us and the extreme lack of comprehensive resources to accommodate school-age girls who have been rescued from sex trafficking in the U.S. Once complete, the 50-acre Refuge Ranch will provide holistic services to address the heart, mind, and spirit for the girls, including a medical clinic and educational services provided by the UT Charter School run on-site. During the question and answer session, the chapter learned that we can help by tutoring the girls, by sharing information about The Refuge with others, and by donating funds.

Pam thanked Brooke for taking the time to share with us. Pam asked if there were any changes to the September 12 and/or the October 3, 2016, meeting minutes, which had been distributed via email and were posted on the chapter website. Earin Martin provided some technical edits to Secretary Norma Jost, and the minutes were approved as written with the technical edits.

Marcia Kirkland provided the Treasurer’s Report and the Membership Update as it pertains to those members who have stated they are not renewing their membership and those members we have not yet heard from.

Pam Kelly reviewed the list of reminders that were on the agenda. Cara Hamlin and Deb Acevedo-Tamminga described some of the activities that are going to occur at the December chapter meeting, including a silent auction as a fundraiser, an ornament exchange using the “Right-Left Game,” and other fun activities to encourage participation. Each member coming to the December meeting was asked to bring a wrapped ornament for the exchange. Members who wish to contribute to the silent auction were asked also to notify Jo Watts if they would like to bring an item for the auction. Marcia Kirkland reviewed the choices that would be available for the meal on February 4, 2017, at the luncheon at the Saltgrass Steakhouse on Research Blvd.

Bernadine Eaton shared that the Book Lovers group had selected *Hidden Figures* as the current book to read. Any member interested in joining the group may contact Bernadine or Sandi Causey.

Pam Kelly congratulated Evelyn Barron for once again developing an award-winning yearbook. The chapter won the Early Bird and Exemplary Yearbook awards for the new 2016-2017

yearbook. Pam also reminded everyone about the deadline for registering for the STAR art retreat, and Marilyn Gregory shared her experiences at past STAR retreats.

Claudia Knowles passed the Brag Basket, benefiting Schools for Africa. Among other “brags,” Tracey McGuire Wilson shared that she is the new International DKG Membership Services Supervisor, so our chapter is once again represented at the international level.

Door prizes were announced, Pam Kelly thanked Norma Jost and the Green Team for providing refreshments and thanked Deb Acevedo-Tamminga and Charlotte Brown for coordinating the activity to make the musical instruments, and Deb led members in singing the last verse of the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Earin Martin
Substitute Secretary