

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

Volume 59, Issue 2

Oct / Nov 2015

## President's Message

### The Crest, The Pin, and The Rose

I think Fall is my favorite season, when the autumn air feels lighter as if a weight has been lifted from my shoulders and I have a bounce in my step. And as the colors of the trees begin to transform to *red* and then *gold*, it now reminds me of the colors of Delta Kappa Gamma, and it makes me pause to reflect on the gifts we are afforded as members of this special Society. So as we initiate four new members into Epsilon Kappa this Fall, it might be appropriate to reflect on some of the symbols of Delta Kappa Gamma, those emblems that are sometimes forgotten about, at least momentarily, but that represent the very essence of DKG.



Yes, *The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Society* does have a *crest*, officially referred to as a *coat of arms*. DKG's official colors are crimson (*red*) and *gold*. So, it's natural that the coat of arms primarily contains the colors of *red for courage and gold for loyalty to our members and to the ideals of the Society*. The coat of arms consists of a red shield cloaked on both sides by a bay laurel wreath of interlocking branches, which represents *achievement*. (In ancient Greece, the laurel wreath was awarded to the victor.) The flaming lamp of *scholarship* and the open book of *knowledge* are united by a band of Tudor roses, which symbolize the society's ideals of *friendship, loyalty, and helpfulness*.

Immediately above the shield is a torse, or a twisted roll of red and gold fabric, that supports the cup of *knowledge* surrounded by the laurel wreath of *achievement* and represents *leadership*. Finally, the name of the Society, *Delta Kappa Gamma*, in Greek letters, signifies *key women educators* and upholds the crest.

The key pin worn by Delta Kappa Gamma members is a golden ellipse, or oval, with the DKG Greek letters, ΔΚΓ, across the center. Above the Greek letters is a wreath of laurel leaves, which signifies *honor* and symbolizes the *distinction* which those who wear the key have

achieved. Below the letters is a cup which represents *knowledge*. The official symbol of membership, the key is worn in a vertical position over the heart with nothing above it.

The *red rose* is the flower and often most revered symbol of the Society. An ancient symbol of love and beauty, the red rose is a beautiful creation from nature that reflects *beauty of the mind and spirit*. Symbolizing intellectual and spiritual beauty, the red rose is used in all ceremonies and for special occasions.

Three candles, positioned in a triangle at the traditional initiation ceremony, are used to represent *loyalty, cooperation, and the ideals* of the Society. The *candle*, whose flame pierces ignorance and illumines progress, and the open book containing *knowledge and inspiration*, welcome new members to the Society.

Hmmm. So it is an *honor and distinction* to be recognized as a *key woman educator of beautiful mind and spirit* who embodies *courage and loyalty* as she pursues *scholarship and knowledge* while *inspiring* others through *friendship, cooperation, and helpfulness* to *achieve* to the highest levels through continued *leadership*. I think that about sums it up for me. Does it for you?

Did you, when you became a member, and do you continue to accept the *honor and distinction* of being recognized as a *key woman educator*? Do you remain strong, *courageous, and loyal* in your pursuit of *excellence* through continued *scholarship* and never-ending acquisition of *knowledge*, never allowing the light from the eternal *flame* to diminish? Do you not only strive to *achieve* to the highest levels yourself, but to also *cooperate* with your fellow DKG sisters and offer continued *friendship, loyalty, and leadership* to help them *achieve* their dreams? If so, then you are in the right place.

Earin Martin

## Books, Kids, and Hope

There are many ways of reaching our children in improving their lives and educational growth at the same time, and one strategy that happened in July at the Travis County jail is one of them. The jail, through its family support effort, had a one-week day camp for children of incarcerated parents. Through the Restorative Justice Ministry Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, on which I serve, we were able to purchase new hardback books for young children and chapter books for older children for one of the learning centers set up for families. At those centers, parents had a chance to read the book (or chapter) to the child, who then took the book home afterwards. The opportunity for the parents was as important as it was for the children, who were thrilled that one of the center activities focused on their reading and having their children keep the books.

It is amazing to me that "little things mean a lot" in the realm, especially in seemingly small ways that we can help children who are often suffering from parent incarceration. Sadly, they are too often viewed as invisible by the sometimes poorly informed who may not have had a chance to have contact with them and be able to offer unique ways of providing emotional, social, and intellectual support and concern.



By Dr. Joan Burnham

## Shoe Drive for Homeless Students

The chapter wanted to continue the homeless education project in some facet, so this year we are having a Shoe Drive for the homeless students. The homeless students really need new and gently used shoes in all sizes.

We all probably have shoes that we bought and they just turned out to not be comfortable, so after wearing them only once or twice, they have been relegated to the back of the closet. So between now and March, rather than taking your gently used shoes to another charity, please save them and bring them to the March chapter meeting. Remember that sizes would range from 4-year old to very large adult size for tall high school seniors. There could be a very large football player who wears a size 13 or 14 men's athletic shoe. Or a teenage girl might wear a size 7, 8, or even 9 women's shoe.

And of course you can watch for sales and pick up a pair or two of new shoes for any boys or girls, ages 4 to 18 or 19. And remember that the girls could use a pair of nice dressy shoes to wear to the prom just as well as they can use every day shoes.

If the shoes are not still in the box, please keep the pair together either by tying the shoe strings together or by putting the pair in a Ziploc bag. That will help tremendously when we collect the shoes in March and actually take them to the schools.



Image from Creative Commons

By Earin Martin

## Spring Fundraiser—Jewelry Sale / Exchange



Image from Creative Commons

The chapter's fundraiser this year will be a jewelry sale/exchange at the spring meetings. We all have jewelry that is still in good shape but that we just don't wear anymore for some reason. So instead of taking your costume jewelry or other jewelry that you don't need anymore to a charity, save it for the spring jewelry sale/exchange.

Bring your jewelry to the October, November, or December meetings. Someone will clean, bag, and price it at a reasonable price such as \$1.00, \$5.00, etc. Then we'll sell it at the February, March, and April meetings. The proceeds will be used for one or more of the international, state, or chapter endeavors, including but not limited to our chapter SEE project.

## Membership Review

One of the benefits of membership in DKG is that conventions and conferences are planned during the summer so that even those still in classrooms can take a break to connect with other educators. Many of us have participated in the annual TSO conventions held across the state. Yes, there is business that requires voting on issues that will affect how chapters and the state operate. But the breakout sessions range from those that deal with running a chapter meeting and all the issues that officers need to know, to sharing classroom ideas, and even some on interests one might have outside of the professional venue. Next year's 88<sup>th</sup> convention will be held in Frisco.

International conventions bring together all our member nations to conduct business for the Society. Again, wide ranges of workshops are presented. The gathering of educators from across the globe makes this a true sisterhood of professionals. These biennial meetings are held in even-numbered years. In 2016 we will meet in Nashville, Tennessee at the Opryland Hotel. And beyond that, the 2018 International Convention will be right here in Austin!

Regional conferences convene in odd-numbered years with just a section of the Society gathering in one of the states in that area. No business is conducted but the US Forum meets to discuss issues that impact national policies. Within our Southwest Region, the Latin American Forum also works to find ways to improve their systems. In all of these gatherings, outstanding speakers give insights into a variety of societal issues or tell of amazing discoveries. The next Southwest Regional, in 2017, will be in Hawaii at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel. When you attend any of these conventions, you come away inspired by the amazing women we have within our organization.

By Bernadine Eaton

## S.E.E. Project Contacting New Teachers

Since the new school year is now underway, Marcia and Bernadine have been busy visiting the schools we have supported in the past. Principals and office staff have been very happy to see us as we inquire about those young teachers who had mentors last year. Only McBee did not have any new teachers but the others were very quick to introduce us to the most recent educators to their campuses. Several of the people were very excited to know someone would be helping them survive the year. One young man instantly recognized the DKG name, as he benefited from one of our scholarship programs in California. He signed up immediately! Because we have no new contacts at McBee, we went to Barrington to begin a relationship with that campus. The principal is considering having mentors, as she has 10 new teachers. With so many beginning teachers, we will be asking for a few more of our Epsilon Kappa sisters to join in a very rewarding program. At our next meeting we will give a brief overview of how to provide support for these emerging professionals.

Our next big step is to order the remaining STEM books for our previous mentees. We also will buy 10 iPad minis for five of our returning mentees.

By Bernadine Eaton and Marcia Kirkland

## Incoming Initiate Showcases Talent

Norma Jost, already committed to joining Epsilon Kappa, revealed another passion besides teaching math, at the recent Lunch Bunch get together. She loves to sing and will be part of the Tapestry Singers' upcoming concert at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on November 21<sup>st</sup>. This performance is entitled, *What Dreams May Come*. She has tickets for sale or they can be obtained through [tapestrysingers.org](http://tapestrysingers.org). There will be a free concert at the Capitol on December 5 at noon featuring holiday music.



Image from Creative Commons

# September Meeting Highlights

The year started off with personal greetings from our new TSO President and chapter member Marilyn Gregory and an update of the results of the 84<sup>th</sup> legislative session.

But first, Marilyn personally presented Natalie Barraga's Golden Rose pin to Elizabeth Newell. Elizabeth was awarded the Alpha State Golden Rose Award at the TSO Convention in San Antonio and was supposed to receive Natalie's pin in lieu of the new pin she received at the convention. Elizabeth was honored and touched to receive Natalie's special pin, and Marilyn was equally pleased to present it to Elizabeth.

In Marilyn's first chapter visit for the year, she presented her state theme for the 2015-2017 biennium, *The Heart of the Society is its Members*, and reviewed her goals for the biennium that correspond to the acronym *HEART*. Those goals were summarized in the August/September Epsilon Kappa newsletter.

Guest speakers Josh Sanderson and Monty Exter, lobbyists at the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), provided information about some of the key laws that passed related to education this past legislative session, including the new district accountability rating system and campus "grading" system (HB 2804); individual graduation committees (SB 149); video cameras in special education classrooms (SB 507); youth suicide prevention training for school personnel (HB 2186); and minutes of instruction/school calendar (HB 2610).

**HB 2804, Accountability System Redesign and Campus Rating System**, replaces the four indices used to rate public schools with five weighted domains that include new indicators of achievement. It requires the commissioner to assign a temporary performance rating, which has yet to be determined, to each district and campus not later than August 15, 2016. It also requires the commissioner, beginning with the 2017-18 school year, to assign each district and campus an overall performance rating based on an A-F scale. The A-F scale for rating campuses has met significant resistance and may be repealed or amended before it is implemented in 2017-2018.

**SB 149, individual graduation committees**, applies to a grade 11 or 12 student who has failed to comply with the end of course performance requirements for not more than two courses. It requires a district to establish an individual graduation committee (IGC) for each qualifying student at the end of or after the student's 11th grade year to determine whether the student may qualify to graduate. It is effective immediately.

**SB 507, video cameras in special education classrooms**, requires a school district, upon the request of a parent, trustee, or staff member, to provide equipment, including a video camera, to each school in the district in which a student who receives special education services in a self-contained classroom or other special education setting is enrolled. This bill is effective immediately.

**HB 2186, youth suicide prevention training for school personnel**, requires staff development provided by a school district to include suicide prevention training to new school district and open-enrollment charter school educators and to existing school district employees on a schedule adopted by TEA. This bill is effective immediately.

**HB 2610, minutes of instruction/school calendar**, replaces the previous required number of *days* of instruction and now requires each school district to provide *75,600 minutes* of instruction, including intermissions and recesses. A *day* of instruction means 420 minutes of instruction. This bill is also effective immediately.

You can view a full report of the legislation that passed as well as legislation that did not pass online on the Texas Association of School Administrators webpage at <http://www.tasanet.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=706>.

We reviewed progress on the 2014-2015 chapter goals. One of the goals is to encourage members to actively participate in committees and activities. Fifty-seven members, or 67% of the 85 members, attended at least 1 chapter meeting or committee meeting in 2014-2015. Thirty-two of the 85 chapter members in 2014-2015 did not attend any chapter meetings or committee meetings. Plans are in place to encourage more of the non-participating members to participate.

Another goal for 2014-2015 was to increase attendance at chapter meetings to at least 50% of active membership. Average meeting attendance for 2014-2015 was 29.44%, or 25.7 members attending meetings on average. Because attendance did not



Josh Sanderson and Monty Exter of ATPE share insights on the 84th legislative session at the September 10 Epsilon Kappa chapter meeting.

## Highlights continued

come reasonably close to the goal of 50% for 2014-2015, the original goal of 60% for 2015-2016 was revised to read as follows: At least 70% of the (active) chapter members will attend at least one chapter meeting or committee meeting. This corresponds to the actual results that 67% of the chapter members attended at least one chapter meeting or committee meeting in 2014-2015.

The final goal is to encourage members to apply for grants and scholarships. Members were encouraged to apply through articles and deadlines in the chapter newsletter, a short program at the February 2015 meeting on scholarships and grants, development and distribution of the Quick Guide for Scholarships and Grants, and posting information on the chapter website.

An additional goal is to have all officers and key committee chairs for the 2016-2018 biennium identified by mid-January 2016 so that they can be involved in the planning for 2016-2017 and have most of the arrangements for meeting dates and times, location, hostesses, and programs/projects made before school is out for summer 2016.

The chapter budget for 2015-2016 was adopted, and the chapter policy pertaining to reimbursement of expenses for the chapter president to attend the international convention and TSO convention was revised to read as follows:

The president or her substitute will be reimbursed for the following expenses pertaining to chapter business up to the amount approved in the Chapter Annual Budget:

- Registration fees and official registration form meals to attend state conventions and the international convention during her term of office
- Lodging at up to one-half the cost of a double room for the dates of the conference/convention as verified by receipts
- Actual coach fair or mileage at \$0.25 per mile, whichever is less.

The chapter projects for 2015-2016 are: Supplies for Siloe, Schools for Africa, and our chapter SEE project. See the separate article about Supplies for Siloe in this issue of the newsletter. Brag Basket proceeds will be used for these projects as designated.

The fund-raising activity to be held in the spring will be a jewelry sale/exchange. See the separate article about the spring jewelry sale/exchange in this newsletter.

## Plan Ahead for Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch dates are set through January. This is a great opportunity to get together with some of the chapter members for a casual get-together to get to know each other a little better. No business, just great fun. If you are in a position where you can get away for lunch, put these dates on your calendar and plan to join us. Lunch Bunch alternates between North and South Austin to give everyone a chance to participate.

### **Tuesday, October 20, 2015, 11:30 a.m.**

Cheesecake Factory, 10000 Research in the Arboretum  
Menu: Soups, Salads, Sandwiches or full menu

### **Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 11:30 a.m.**

Cheddar's, 4301 West William Cannon Dr. (off Mo-Pac service road)  
Menu: Full Menu

### **December 2015, No Lunch Bunch**

### **Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 11:30 a.m.**

P. F. Chang, 10114 Jollyville Rd.  
Menu: Asian-Inspired

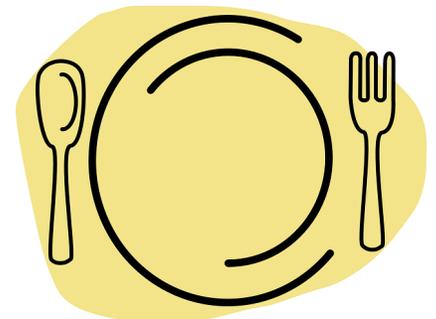


Image from Creative Commons

# Modernizing #ProfessionalLearning

By Erin Bown-Anderson, Administrative Supervisor, Community of Teaching and Learning in Austin ISD (@ErinBown1)

Striking the balance between dedicating time for meaningful professional learning and working with the demands on teachers in the classroom is always a challenge. Despite the best efforts of many district and campus leaders, the ability to carve out and protect this time for learning and collaboration is often an insurmountable task. What innovative solutions exist? How can technology help facilitate innovative professional learning? A teacher put it this way: “Hands down, the BEST professional development I get is through Twitter. It happens all the time, when I want it.”

In the sea of ever-evolving technology, social media stands out as having the capability to fundamentally change the connectivity and accessibility of the professional learning landscape. Twitter alone has provided the space to organize revolutions, connect families in crisis situations, and allow geographically separated friends to stay in touch. This ubiquitous connection is changing the way educators access new thought, share ideas, and deepen thinking about instructional practice. Professional Learning Networks (PLNs) are shaping the way teachers are learning and harnessing the power of community on a scale once unimagined. Ideas and contributions to the discussion can come from anyone anywhere in the world, and new connections can be forged in a matter of minutes. With the simple use of a hashtag, copious amounts of information is instantly organized into accessible bites. For example, by following hashtags like #edtech for the latest ideas in technology integration in the classroom, or #pbl for ideas and examples for Project Based Learning in action, teachers can access information they need right when they need it. Twitter has accelerated the opportunities to talk directly to authors, experts in the field, and content specific communities that are always looking for new contributors.

Technology is a tool that, when used to increase connections, contributions, and creativity, can help transform student learning and professional learning. Alan November, international leader in educational technology, poses a poignant question as the title of one of his latest books, “Who Owns the Learning?” (2012). November challenges educators to rethink how we design work for students, and subsequently, professional development. This simple shift away from “delivering professional development” to authentically and collectively engaging in it honors the different ways learning takes place. How can we value and harness the vast constellations of thought and ideas that are already making a difference? Join the conversation.

November, A. (2012). *Who owns the learning? preparing students for success in the digital age*. Bloomington, Ind.: Solution Tree Press.



Image from Creative Commons

# Food for Thought

## Toffee: A “Secret” Newell Family Recipe

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon light (white) corn syrup
- 3 tablespoons water
- ¾ cup chopped nuts (such as pecans)
- 1 small chocolate candy bar (such as Hershey’s milk chocolate)



Image from Creative Commons

Cook sugar, syrup, butter and water until a few drops crack in cold water.\*

Chop nuts and sprinkle onto a piece of foil shaped into an oval with dimensions of about 8 inches by 12 inches and with a rim about 1 inch tall.

Pour hot syrup mixture over nuts. When firm, but still hot, place broken bits of chocolate over the surface. When chocolate is soft, spread over the surface.

When completely cooled, break into pieces. (Striking with the handle of a dinner knife works for this.)

ENJOY!

\*For best results, use a good candy thermometer and cook until slight above 280 deg F. The candy will burn quickly after about 290 deg F and continues to cook during the first minutes after it is removed from the heat.

Note:

Each Christmas there were a dozen or so different goodies that Bob’s mom, Virginia, made to share with family and friends. This was one of the favorites and one that Bob and I can prepare with reasonable success to share with my family and friends.

- Elizabeth Newell

## Dues Reminder

If you’ve already paid your annual membership dues, thank you. If you haven’t already done so, there is still time to pay them. Dues are \$90 and can either be brought to the October 5 meeting, or you can mail a check made payable to Epsilon Kappa to Marcia Kirkland, Treasurer, 12314 West Cow Path, Austin, TX 77827-5752.

## Life Milestones

Cara and Dan Hamlin welcomed their first daughter, Elizabeth Avery, on September 23. She was born at 7:15 a.m. and weighed 9 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches long.



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

One of the easiest ways to access news of DKG is to use [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org), which is the Texas State Organization's user friendly website. As of late September, the main items highlighted are: the Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar (application link provided), TSO and Southwest Regional photos, Convention handouts on the resource page, and links to the ASTEF/Road Scholar trip to Savannah, Georgia, and the second Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat. From the left hand links, it is a quick jump to International. In the top-rotating banner is an invitation from Dr. Lynn Schmid for the upcoming International Convention in Nashville. Toward the bottom of the page, the Features section has a link to the first DKG international trip to England, Scotland, and Ireland. Back on the TSO site, certified chapter websites are listed and that is the fastest way to access our Epsilon Kappa site if you have not already bookmarked it. Our webmaster, Kathy Mihalik, has done an outstanding job of posting current material. Marilyn Gregory's new state theme along with her picture is on the opening page. This upcoming year's programs are listed under meetings. Photos from all of our meetings, Founders' Day, and the state and regional conventions are ready for viewing.

As I receive news from the NEA daily report, it is revealing to notice that all across the nation our profession struggles with common issues. The Seattle teachers' strike is mentioned in every issue. Part of their concerns are those we all face: teacher evaluation, pay, shortages, and retention. Almost all states' newspapers have articles on these problems. Many states are recognizing the importance of early childhood education. Testing issues plague everyone with most teacher groups urging a limit on high stakes tests. Security in schools and on buses is another concern.

NBC news recently reported on the Last Mile program based in San Quentin prison. Instructors teach inmates how to code and program so that they are ready for employment when they are released. It has been a very successful outreach and the founders are hoping to expand it to other states. Here in Austin another adult education idea is taking shape at the Skillpoint Alliance. This new site on Bolm Road will train those who want to advance with technological skills. All these endeavors pinpoint the growing importance of adult education.

Keeping up with education news covers an always-intriguing look at the problems and success of our profession.

By Bernadine Eaton

## Upcoming Meetings

### October

Monday, October 5, 6:00 p.m.  
DKG International Headquarters  
416 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Austin

### **Initiation**

**Celebration of Life (Natalie Barraga, Marie Scheel, and Jolene Crozier)  
Celebrating Epsilon Kappa's 57<sup>th</sup> Birthday and 90+ Member Birthdays**

### November

Tuesday, November 3, 6:00 p.m.  
Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI), Barraga Room  
1100 W. 45<sup>th</sup> St, Austin

**Technology: The Impact of Social Media on our Lives: Focusing on the Research** – Diane Dolezel

## Eye on Educational Excellence

Our Monday, October 5, we will meet to initiate two new women into the chapter, celebrate our chapter's 57<sup>th</sup> birthday and recognize members with 90+ birthdays. Additionally, we will celebrate the lives of Natalie Barraga, Marie Scheel, and Jolene Crozier. International Executive Director Sandra Smith Bull will be present to talk about what attracted her to DKG, personal benefits she has gained from being a member including service to DKG, and the opportunities she has had to build her leadership skills. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at International Headquarters. Initiation will begin promptly at 6:15 pm. Save some room for cake!

On Tuesday, November 3, we will initiate two additional members and our own Diane Dolezel will be discussing how social media impacts the lives of our teenagers. Below is a brief summary:

*Social media use is pervasive in the lives to teenagers. Social networking impacts their identity, literacy, and perceptions of privacy, safety, and danger. The anonymity of the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram facilitates cyber-bulling and identity misrepresentation among today's teenage digital natives. The impact of social media on the lives of today's teenagers is aptly chronicled in Danah Boyd's research based book, **It's Complicated**, which forms the basis for this presentation.*

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the Natalie Barraga Room. (Outreach building 605).

Submitted by Deb Acevedo-Tamminga

## Supplies for Siloe

### Bring school supplies and teacher resources to the October 5 meeting!!!

One of the chapter projects this year is *Supplies for Siloe* (SEE loh eh). At the October 2015 chapter meeting, we will collect school supplies and teacher resources for the students and teachers at Siloe School in the impoverished Santa Lucia community near San Salvador, El Salvador. In addition, funds collected through the September and October 2015 Brag Basket will be used to purchase additional school supplies and teacher resources for Siloe School, which serves kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Siloe school is adjacent to a poor colonia (another name for neighborhood) called La Linea, where many gang members live. Many of the children who attend the Siloe school are children of those gang members. El Salvador is a male-dominated society where women are treated as second-class citizens, and it is not unusual for the wife to be abused by her husband. Many times the husbands are out drinking, doing drugs, and entertaining other women while the mother is left to raise the children with very little support.

The teachers there have requested materials on **sex education** and **eating disorders in Spanish**, so if you run across some, please pick them up. Suggested supplies include:

White board markers	Liquid glue
Art sketch pads	Pencil boxes
Paint and brushes	Flashcards for math
Scissors	English/Spanish dictionaries
Colored paper	Library books in Spanish
Rulers with metric	Outside mural paint
Triangles	



**Do not** include paper/notebooks (such as spiral notebooks or binders), crayons, pencils, and used markers.

Supplies and resources will be taken to the school the last week of October.

## CPE Workshop on Project-Based Learning Held September 26

Nine area teachers who are currently teaching, including one Epsilon Kappa member, plus one guest who is not currently teaching attended the CPE workshop on Project-Based Learning on September 26 at Travis Heights Elementary School. Four chapter members also attended to assist in hosting the event, which was sponsored by Epsilon Kappa. Carroll Taggart, gifted education teacher in Lake Travis ISD, shared background and techniques for using Project-Based Learning, also called Problem-Based Learning or “authentic” learning, in the classroom. Participants were very impressed with the information and tips they received from Carroll and said they are excited about implementing it in the classroom. The teachers will receive three hours of CPE credit from TSO for attending the workshop.

A special thanks to Carroll for giving up her time on a Saturday morning to conduct the workshop; Julie Jistel for recruiting Carroll to conduct the workshop; Deb Acevedo-Tammanga for coordinating with TSO to secure the CPE credits and registering participants; Charlotte Brown for coordinating and providing refreshments, and Mary Louise Poolman and Earin Martin for providing refreshments. And last but not least, a big thank you to Lisa Robertson, Principal of Travis Heights Elementary and Epsilon Kappa member, for allowing us to use the library in her school for the workshop.

For those of you who weren't able to attend, Carroll provided some great online resources for teachers wanting to implement Project-Based Learning in their classrooms, including: [www.bie.org](http://www.bie.org) (Buck Institute for Education; [Project Citizen](http://ProjectCitizen.org), Center for Civic Education; [Texas Performance Standards Project](http://TexasPerformanceStandardsProject.org) (for gifted students, but you can tweak it to meet your needs); and PBL Cards (you can Google for various resources). Carroll explained that all of the material on Project-Based Learning now references the Common Core standards. However, while Texas is not a Common Core state, you can apply Texas' Essential Elements in much the same manner.



Carroll Taggart, gifted education teacher and trainer in Lake Travis ISD, engages participants as she shares her expertise at the CPE Workshop on Project-Based Learning sponsored by Epsilon Kappa on September 26.

## Looking Ahead

### OCTOBER 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

- October 5, Chapter Meeting 6:00 p.m., International Headquarters
- October 20, Lunch Bunch 11:30 Cheesecake Factory, Arboretum
- October 31, Halloween
- November 1, Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 3, Chapter Meeting 6:00 p.m., TSBVI
- November 17, Lunch Bunch 11:30 Cheddar's, 4301 W. William Cannon

### NOVEMBER 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					



## YEAR AT A GLANCE

Reserve the following dates on your calendar for chapter meetings and make plans to attend.

Monday, October 5, 2015	6:00 p.m.	DKG International Headquarters
Tuesday, November 3, 2015	6:00 p.m.	TSBVI
Saturday, December 5, 2015	10:00 a.m.	Hilda Diaz' Home
Saturday, January 23, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Marilyn Gregory's home (Exec. Bd., Comm. Chairs, and EEC) – No regular chapter mtg.
Saturday, February 6, 2016	11:00 a.m.	Marie Callender's Restaurant
Monday, March 7, 2016	6:00 p.m.	TSBVI
Saturday, April 9, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Newell's Home
Monday, September 12, 2016	6:00 p.m.	TSBVI
Monday, October 3, 2016	6:00 p.m.	DKG International Headquarters

**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.



# EPSILON KAPPA CHAPTER DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS 2015 - 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVE MEMBER DUES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$90

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:

\*EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (tax deductible)  
Each member contributing at least \$50 will be recognized as a **Sustaining Donor**.

Phyllis Richards Endowed Leadership Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Foundation Projects \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to EPSILON KAPPA. Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail by October 5<sup>th</sup> to Marcia Kirkland, 12314 West Cow Path, Austin, TX 78727 (phone 512-250-2026)

→ Contribution forms for state and international funds may be found in the **Forms** section of the respective websites ([www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org) and [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)).

Photo Release: By submitting your membership dues and by your attendance at chapter meetings and events, you are granting permission to be filmed, videotaped, audio taped, or photographed by any means at such meetings and events and are granting full use of your likeness, voice, and words, including publication on the world wide web (www) with access through the internet, without compensation.



\* **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** is a 501(c)(3) corporation organized by Epsilon Kappa Chapter members. Funds raised and managed by the Foundation support professional development grants for educators and educational projects in the greater Austin area.

- The **Phyllis Richards Endowed Leadership Fund** provides grants to **chapter members** who attend Delta Kappa Gamma leadership events, such as conventions/conferences and seminars.
- **Chapter Foundation Projects** include the chapter's **SEE Project – Supporting Early-career Educators**. Grants for educational projects and/or professional development may also be awarded from this fund.

**EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** is **your** foundation.  
Your support of the foundation extends the impact of Epsilon Kappa Chapter on educators and education in the Austin area.

~ All contributions to **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** are tax deductible. ~



## Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, November 14. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at [diane.sidoroff@gmail.com](mailto:diane.sidoroff@gmail.com) or to Earin Martin at [grantsmanagement101@gmail.com](mailto: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!

### Epsilon Kappa Chapter The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Diane Sidoroff  
901 Creekbend Drive  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

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

## Let's Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in October and November:

Melisa Thompson Kemp	10-06	Charlene M Zimmermann	10-30	Bernadine Eaton	11-22
Evelyn Barron	10-09	Maria McPhail	11-06	Erin Bown-Anderson	11-23
Leslie Mellenbruch	10-09	Dorothy Baum	11-07	Hilda Diaz	11-29
Deb Acevedo-Tamminga	10-12	Genelle Schlickeisen	11-09	Joan Burnham	11-30
Pamela M Kelly	10-14	Sheila Thomas	11-10	Roslyn Garrett	11-30
Kathryn (Kate) Starkes	10-24	Margie Cuellar	11-20	Debra Wissman	11-30

