



Theta Gamma Thoughts

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
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Corpus Christi, Texas: Area V
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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

Dear Theta Gamma Sisters,

Happy New Years! May you look forward to a new and exciting year. We only have five more meetings before summer. Hopefully you will be able to make each one. January's meeting is hosted by the retirees and they do a chili dinner that is just wonderful! So come and eat a nice hot meal while seeing how Our Past has Enlightened Our Future

Sincerely,

Kay Schroeder

January 12th Meeting Information:

5:15 PM

Retirees will host their annual Chili Supper at the home of Kim Brumley and Donna Rodenberg 3309 Casa Bonita, 215-5127. The basket for the raffle is entitled "A Shopping Spree".

Participants in the Sister City Program and Foreign Exchange Students will share experiences in their home country as well as during their time attending school here in Corpus Christi.

PACE monies will go to the Emergency Fund

Babysitting will be provided for \$5 per child. If you need childcare let Donna know by Monday, January 9 at donnarodenberg@yahoo.com or 361-215-5127.

Minutes of the Meeting

December 1, 2011 at Shayla Floyd's House

Call to order-5:35 meeting was called to order by Kay Schroeder. She introduced the visitors, which were to be initiated that night. They were Heather Howse-Rohmfeld, Luanna Ortiz and Gwynetta Hoelscher.

Attendance report was given by Eileen Rogers. Members present were Brenda Machen, Kimberly Picozzi, Kay Schroeder, Eileen Rogers, Donna Rodenberg, Linda Uballe, Norma Janice, Ann Falkner, Leslie Elmore, Michele S. Richer, Debbie Van Zandt, Vilma Zuniga, Angela Steagall, Sylvia Gonzalez, Shayla Floyd, Brandey Addison, Kim Brumley, Margaret DeVille, and Theo Wagner.

Members absent were: illness-Carol Walker and Elnora Corbin; out of town-Sarah Moore; family-Sylvia Swift, Libby McGee, Beverly Tackett, and Shannon Clubb; professional- Jennifer Krnavek, Janice Doughty, Valarie Buhidar and Sheila Jenkins; other-Judith Whitlock and Bettie Mitchell. Neva Gentry could not come because she didn't have a ride.

The Treasure's Report was given by Linda Uballe. It will be filed for audit. As of October, our balance on hand was \$3697.20. Deposits amounted to a total of \$410.13. Our available funds totaled \$4107.33. Disbursements totaled \$2630.01, leaving the balance on hand of \$1477.32.

We had a thank you letter from Driscoll Children's Hospital for our donation of books.

Theo Wagner, Chairman of Professional Affairs, presented an article from Wichita Falls' Times Record News. Human Resources Director, Debbie Osborn, wrote the article titled "Summary of Employee Benefits". Here are a few interesting "benefits". According to the local chapter president, Shelby Patrick, these benefits are questionable. The district doesn't deduct money for Social Security. Which means we can not draw spousal Social Security benefits after their death, because we have TRS. The only true benefit was Teacher Retirement which both the employee and the district contribute. Several benefits listed are not gifts. They are mandated by federal law. One example, family and medical leave benefits, which provide 12 work weeks per year of job protection and unpaid leave for an employee who needs it. Patrick was surprised that the Teacher Retirement Care Surcharge was listed as a benefit. The state requires the teachers to pay the surcharge themselves. He also objected to Osborne including the Flex Plan as a perk. The money comes from the teachers and the district makes a little money off the money left at the end of the year. One last thing, maternity leave for teachers must be covered from the teacher's accrued sick leave. If they don't have enough, then their pay is docked for the extra time not covered by sick leave. **Remember, these benefits are not local.**

Margaret DeVille invited us to come to the Sister Chapter ornament auction. Hope some of you made it.

Margaret also stated that there would be a TRS seminar at TMHS on January 12. Refreshments will start at 4:30, with the seminar to begin around 5:30. If you are anywhere near retirement, this is something you need to go to.

Our retiree chili supper, provided by the Retirees, will be Jan. 10, to allow members to attend the TRS Seminar.

Tuloso-Midway is having a Winter Wonderland at the high school on Friday, Dec. 9. That is this **Friday**. Tickets are 50 cents or \$1.00. There will be a hayride, beanbag toss, etc. outside. Then inside will be bingo, tamales (and other foods), the basket auction and a Christmas Tree Forest of real trees, decorated that will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. There will be lots of things for the family to do. It starts at 4:00 and ends around 8:00.

Leslie Elmore reminded us that there will not be a book auction this year. We are looking for a new location and possibly a large tent to use, if anyone has one.

The Initiation Ceremony was held for Heather Howse- Rohmfeld, Luanna Ortiz and Gwynetta Hoelscher. The ceremony was performed by Donna Rodenberg, Kim Brumley, Vilma Zuniga, and Kay Schroeder. Certificates were presented to all new members including Michelle Richer and Ann Falkner. They also got their pins, which were bought by the person who nominated them.

The raffle basket earned \$82.00 and the Pace Bag received \$9.64.

We ended with our song at 6:40. Good fellowship continued as well as tours of Shayla's new home.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Eileen Rogers

Recording Secretary

Red Roses of Congratulations to:



Donna Rodenberg and her daughter Sarah Loren Rodenberg who graduated from Abilene Christian university with a BS in Interior Design on December 16th.

Red Roses for Sharing to:

Nancy Shaheen: My daughter and her husband have opened a new restaurant that is cute and Italian. My son-in-law, Francesco, is from Palermo Sicily. My part so far has been major babysitter for their 5 year old and 1 year old! Very very tiring but I am loving bonding with these 2 precious children and getting closer to them.

Ciao!

We are very excited to announce the Grand Opening of Bellino's Ristorante Italiano in Corpus Christi, Texas on December 21st at 3815 S. Alameda in The Village Shopping Center across from Lamar Park.

We will be open for dinner from 5 until 9:30 during the week and from 5 until 10 on weekends. We are open Tuesday through Saturday!

We will have our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on January 6th and will begin serving Lunches not long after that. (Nancy said she will let us know when that will begin.)

We hope you stop by for a glass of wine or dinner or both!

Warmest Holiday Wishes!

Susan & Francesco Inguaggiato

Red Roses of Healing to:

Elnora Corbin who is still healing from the injury to her shoulder when she fell on the way to the meeting.

Future Meetings

February 16, 5:15 PM, at the Crazy Super Buffet, 10241 South Padre Island Drive

March 3, 11:00 AM, Joint Chapters Luncheon, TBA

April 12, 5:15 PM, TBA

May 5, 11:00 AM, At Kay Schroeder's Home

From the New "Lone Star News" now available online at [Alpha State Texas](http://www.alpha-statetexas.org)

United Through Reading is Alpha State's 2012 unifying project for the 2012 Las Colinas Convention.

Chapters and individuals are asked to bring new books to the convention along with writable DVD's in clear cases. The books along with a DVD of a separated parent recording the story will then be shipped to the children by United Through Reading's United Service Organization partner at Dallas Ft. Worth airport.

The [United Through reading](http://www.alpha-statetexas.org) website has book lists from which to choose appropriate books for the program.

With United States troops being deployed for lengthy amounts of time, the United Through Reading Military Program is helping ease the fear, uncertainty and anxiety felt by children in military families by providing them with opportunities for emotional connections that relieve the stress of separation. Phone calls and Skype end when families hang up, but the recorded DVDs and books provided by United Through Reading are available to the children over and over. One mother explained that her daughter feels like her father is part of her every day because she still gets to read with him whenever she wants. She simply pops in a DVD.

Another told of negative behavior by her son being reversed when he could see and hear his dad daily.

The concept of United Through Reading has proven to be a simple but effective way of keeping families connected. Texas State Organization will help make the connections.

Quick Links to our society sites:

International: <http://www.dkq.org>

State: <http://www.alphastatetexas.org/> Be sure to take a look at the information in the committee reports especially the ones in which you have a chapter position.

Theta Gamma Chapter: <http://www.orgsites.com/tx/thetagamma/>

Have You Changed Your Address/Phone/Email?

If you have changed *anything* about your address, phone or email -

please notify Carol Walker at 937-3604 or walkerbc64@msn.com

and

Treasurer, Linda Uballe at 537-5762 / 882-6628 or ljuballe@sbcglobal.net

Take the time to find and wear your pin to the next meeting—you've earned it.



Members still employed are also encouraged to wear theirs to work on the first Monday of every month. Show our organization off to others – we may pick up a new member that way.