

# Theta Gamma Thoughts

Theta Gamma, Chapter # 195, Area V, Corpus Christi  
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Texas State Organization  
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Mission Statement: The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Vision Statement: Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide

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2015-2017 TSO Theme –  
*The Heart of the Society  
is Its Members*

## President's Message

Dear Sisters,

Happy New Year to each and every one of you! I hope you are all in good health. It is time to start a new year with new goals and thoughts on what we want to accomplish this year.

I was so pleased to have so many of you join me in my new home in December. The Chili was wonderful as always and the program was inspiring. I love the idea of setting a new tradition for our group for future December meetings. An ornament exchange, a cookie swap, a white elephant trade.. The possibilities are just flowing! I enjoyed learning about traditions of other countries, and being that it was centered on our DKG countries made it even more special. Thank You Laura for teaching us something new!

I am so saddened that we lost our beloved Neva, AKA Tody. I just loved visiting with her and listening to how she enjoyed life. I bet she is having a grand time in Heaven already!

Our meeting in January will be on the island at Kay's house. Parking is limited, so this is a great meeting to consider carpooling. We will have a speaker from Four String Farm on The Healthy Plate. I must say, my plates lately have not been too healthy. I am looking forward to what they will pass on to us.

Don't forget, we are going to do our annual purse project for the Women's Shelter, so now is a good time to throw one extra item in your cart when you go shopping to fill up your purse. Although we don't have a list yet, it seems like many of the items are often the same as the year before.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,  
Shannon

## Next Meeting Information:

**Thursday, January 21, 5:30 p.m.**

Healthy Plate

Home of Kay Schroeder

15357 Bowsprit Court (78418)

Heritage farmer Justin Butts and registered nutritionist Kayla Butts from Four String Farm in Rockport will discuss tasty ways to grow and prepare meals that meet the USDA Healthy Plate guidelines.

Purpose: 6

[Map to Kay's Home](#)

## Minutes of the

## December Meeting

12/10/2015

President Shannon Clubb called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at her home. Members present were Brandey Addison, Kimberly Brumley, Laura Day, Neva Gentry, Norma Janice, Barbara MacDonald, Brenda Machen, Luanna Ortiz, Sharon Phillips, Donna Rodenberg, Beverly Tackett, Carol Walker, and Judith Whitlock.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed.

A sympathy card was sent to the Area 12 Coordinator, and a get well card was sent to Mary Ann Walden by corresponding secretary Luanna Ortiz.

Kimberly Brumley presented the Treasurer's report. As of 9/14/2015, the balance on hand was 2933.03. With income of \$2771.16 and disbursements of \$4813.08, the current balance on hand is \$891.11. Bank interest for August to November was not included in income and the cost of initiation was not included in disbursements. Both will be accounted for in the next report. The report was approved and filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

#### Programs and Service Projects:

Brenda Machen, Donna Rodenberg, and Libby McGee attended the First Year Teachers' Academy held by CCISD on November 14. They took cookies and presented a survey asking the attendees what they would like to have from a mentor. The surveys will be used to match Theta Gamma members with new teachers to provide the best fit for a mentor relationship.

Painting at Crazy Picasso is on hold for now.

Legislation: Members should follow TRTA on Facebook. A push is on to give the state control of teacher pension benefits. This would substantially change the retirement benefits.

Laura Day Brown presented a program for the Global Awareness committee on "Christmas around the DKG World". DKG has established groups in the United States, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Mexico, Finland Guatemala, Iceland, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Great Britain, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Germany, Estonia, Panama, and Japan. Laura gave some examples of Christmas traditions in several of these areas. She then passed out note cards and asked members to write down a Christmas tradition in their families. Her challenge to the membership was, "What do we want to make our Theta Gamma Christmas tradition?" A suggestion was made to choose a group to write and send Christmas cards to: armed forces serving overseas or nursing home residents.

#### Announcements:

- Livestock show homemaking judges are needed for the week of January 11. See Shannon for more details.
- Driscoll Children's Hospital Christmas cards were designed by a TM student.
- Sylvia's husband suffered a mild heart attack; then had a fall while in the hospital. He is waiting for angioplasty.
- Our next meeting will be held at the home of Kay Schroeder on January 21, 2016. The program will be "The Healthy Plate" presented by Four String Farm.

Pride and the Prize: The challenge for this month was to name our new initiates. They are Mairaed Gillooly, Samantha Greses, Debrena Lightfoot, Barbara MacDonald, and Kelli Powell. The winner of the Pride and the Prize drawing was Beverly Tackett. She received a beautiful poinsettia plant.

A Pace donation was collected but not counted at the meeting. The total will be given at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Debbie VanZandt, Recording Secretary

### *Future Meetings*

February 18: Love Yourself, Love Your Look

March 5: Joint Chapters Luncheon at P.O.E.T.S. (4825 Saratoga Blvd)

April 21: Purse Project/Bucket List

May 14: Founders/Chapter Birthday at the home of Brandey Addison (3833 Julia Ln.)

### *From the "Before the Bell Newsletter"*

provided by Texas Retired Teachers

[We're Thinking about ADHD All Wrong Says a Top Pediatrician](#)

[A Kids' Coding Expert Says We're Making Computer Class Way Too Boring](#)

[Why Children Who Play Succeed](#)

*From the December Meeting*



Brandey, Brenda, Beverly, and Donna



Barbara, Sharon ↑ Luanna and Kim ↓



The "salad bar"



Secretary Debbie - hard at work



Neva, who will be missed.



Christmas around the DKG World with Laura

## *Sharing a Current Holiday*

Laura - My Mom, Dad, and I went to Christmas dinner at my brother's dead ex-wife's mother's house. (Who needs fiction?) Mom and I took obligatory tastes of each dish. The food was so awful I was feeding the dog under the table. It was like a SNL skit. Mom and I howled all the way home.

Angela - We had a fun and restorative break. My family and I went to West Texas for pre-holiday time with family and looked at colleges with our youngest. I would covet prayers for both of my boys as they really start to decide what direction they need to go in life. Will turned 21 over the break and is considering where he would like to go to get his Master's degree. He has decided that he is going to put teaching on hold until he finishes his Master's degree. Both are concerned about getting jobs that they would enjoy but also make enough to support a family.

## *Take Pride - Win a Prize*

Win a fabulous prize for submitting your answer and apply for a mini -grant at the same time!



Go to the website [dkgtxas.org](http://dkgtxas.org). There is an application for a 2016 TSO March Mini-Grant.

Write down the deadline for application and bring your answer to the January meeting! Oh, while you are there, fill out your application for the mini-grant and send that in.

Best of Luck!

## *TRTF Teacher Grants and Student Scholarships Now Available!*

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is offering fifteen \$500 Classroom Assistance Grants to public school teachers in

Texas for innovative projects and learning platforms. To learn more about projects that have been funded in previous years, [please click here](#).

TRTF is also offering fifteen \$500 Student Scholarships to graduating high school seniors or current college students pursuing degrees in education at a Texas college or university. Scholarships can also be awarded to advanced students pursuing Master's or doctoral degrees. Student scholarship applicants must be related to a member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA). To verify the membership of your relative, please send an email to [info@trta.org](mailto:info@trta.org). Applications must include a copy of the student's transcript (high school transcript for graduating seniors; college transcript for students who have completed at least one semester of college coursework).

All applications are now available for download at the following link: <http://trtf.org/scholarships-grants/>. The deadline to submit applications is Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Late applications will not be considered.

Winning recipients will be announced at the 63rd Annual Convention of the Texas Retired Teachers Association during the Foundation Luncheon on April 11, 2016. Recipients do not have to be present to win."

## *Don't Pass These Up*

Our Esther Jane Roark Hahn Scholarship is open to a resident of the Coastal Bend pursuing a career in the field of education. The grant is for \$300.00 and may be used for tuition, registration fees, books or supplies. The applicant may be enrolled in any level of education with the transcript reflecting an overall average of at least 2.0. Preference is given to relatives of Theta Gamma members.

Do you have a student or a family member that meets these qualifications? If so, please remember the application is due to the Scholarship Committee **before April 1**.

As a member of Theta Gamma you are eligible to apply for the May Blythe Theta Gamma

Scholarship. You must have been a member of Theta Gamma for at least one year. The scholarship is for \$300.00 and may be used for tuition, fees, books or supplies at a non-society continuing professional education event, seminar, workshop, or graduate class.

Remember the scholarship does not have to be used for a formal classroom setting course. Some of you may be passing up free money.

**The application is due to the Scholarship Committee before April 1.**

Applications can be found on our **Theta Gamma Chapter Website**. Please open and print out the application you need. Fill it out and bring it to the next meeting, email, or mail it to our scholarship chairman:

Mrs. Bettie Ruth Mitchell,  
4729 Sea Island Drive 78413  
[betmitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:betmitchell@yahoo.com)

### *Quick Links to society sites:*

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

State: <http://www.dkgtexas.org/>

Theta Gamma Chapter:

[www.thetagamma.weebly.com](http://www.thetagamma.weebly.com)

### *Alpha State Convention*

**87th Texas State Convention**  
Frisco Convention Center  
Frisco, Texas  
June 23 - 25, 2016

The official TSO Convention Website is now open and ready for business. Visit the Convention Website for convention information and registration links. Check the website often as the information will be updated as it becomes available. [Convention Website](#)

### *Keep This in Mind*

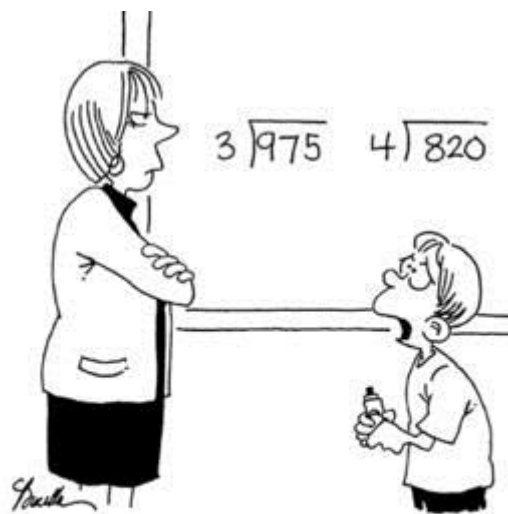
**Debbie Van Zant** will again be looking for volunteers to help with the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Teen Bookfest by the Bay** on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at Tuloso-Midway High School. Twenty authors of young adult books will talk about their books and the writing process, and there will be writing and illustrating workshops.

### *News from International*

The 2018 DKG International Convention will be held in Austin, Texas.

If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Convention Chair JoAnn Brooks at [joannbrooks@verizon.net](mailto:joannbrooks@verizon.net).

And, International will soon have a new website – soon. There is a sneak peek on the current one.



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