

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
2016-2018 International Theme "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

Sisters,

How many of you remember the local car dealership commercial with the jingle, "Love, Love, Love- Keeps you going!" I love music and find jingles stay with me the best since they are short and sweet.

February is the month of love. The month of year where everything is red and hearts—perfect for DKG! Our Texas State President's theme of hearts and of course our red rose stand proud as well.

Being a proud member of Theta Gamma is a goal I want each one of us to have. Proud to be a member, proud to share the experience, proud to be called a DKG Sister. As sisters, let's finish out the year strong. Our next meeting was to be a fundraiser— Love Lotería, but due to lack of planning and promotion of the event, we will postpone. I think everyone will enjoy sharing the Love of Fellowship and the Love of Money as our fundraiser! We will talk about the new details together to make this a lovely event.

We have to pull together the love we have for the Women's Shelter as well and plan the makeup date for that.

Our meeting is this Thursday, February 16th at the Lozano Instructional Facility. Please come to select what committee you feel your strengths belong in or what interest you may have in assisting a committee. Remember we are not only to get something from DKG; we

are to give something to DKG so that all benefit from our work from the HEART.

Hoping to see each one of you at our meeting;
Love Ya Like A Sis,
Kimberly Craig

Next Meeting Information

February 16th, 5:30 p.m.

Love Date

Lozano Instructional Support Center
1761 Hudson Street (78416)

Minutes of the January Meeting

The regular meeting of the Theta Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma was held on January 19, 2017 at the Lozano Center. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by President Kimberly Sperling.

Those in attendance were Kimberly Brumley, Kimberly Sperling, Laura Brown, Sylvia Gonzalez, Samantha Greses, Norma Janice, Barbara MacDonald, Sharon Phillips, Donna Rodenberg, Sylvia Swift-Perez, Debbie VanZandt, Judith Whitlock, Janice Doughty, and Vilma Zuniga. We did not have quorum.

Since we did not have a regular meeting in November or December, there were no minutes to either approve or correct.

Good News announcements: Samantha Greses was named Teacher of the Year for Montclair Elementary.

Catalina Clubb, daughter of our own Shannon Clubb, won Reserve Champion with her rabbit at the Nueces County Jr. Livestock Show.

Treasurer Kimberly Brumley gave her report. Our balance for January 19th with scholarship monies and Pace Fund embedded is \$715.75.

President's report:

Committee discussion was tabled since we did not have a quorum. Think about which committee you would like to be on.

Membership concerns and location concerns were voiced. Possible idea was to have our business meeting at Lozano Center and our fellowship gatherings somewhere else, possibly a restaurant.

Since we did not get to make dinner for the South Texas Women's Shelter in December due to the water crisis, a suggestion was made to take Valentine treats to the shelter. While a good idea, this conflicted with our Lotería Night. Since we have our luncheon with the other chapters in March and won't have a regular meeting, we will have dinner for the shelter that month.

Lotería Night will be held on February 16, 2017 beginning at 5:15. Cards will be \$5 each or 3 cards for \$10. Laura Brown will be the food coordinator for the night, and Kimberly Brumley will head up communication. Bring a friend!

We raised \$85 dollars for the Scholarship Fund with the Gift Card drawings. Sylvia Swift won the card from the Olive Garden. Sylvia Gonzalez won a gift card. Donna Rodenberg won a card to the Outback, and Augusta Brumley won a card to Red Lobster.

We raised \$14.81 for the Pace Fund.

The Teen Bookfest by the Bay will be on February 18 at the Bank Center. Volunteers are needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. to enjoy the wonderful chili made by our retirees.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara MacDonald, Recording Secretary

Future Meetings

March 11, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Joint Chapters Luncheon
Trinity Towers
101 N. Upper Broadway
Hosted by Delta Psi

Thursday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.

Legislative Update for All Sisters
Lozano Instructional Support Center
1761 Hudson Street (78416)

Thursday, May 18, Time 5:15 p.m.

Founders' Day and Chapter Birthday
Donna and Kimberly's Home
3309 Casa Bonita (78411)

Red Roses to:

Kimberly Brumley who was in Abilene last week for the first two of six days in the Texas ASCD Curriculum Leadership Academy. This week, as a member of the TSO Leadership Seminar 2017 team, she will speak Friday night about how to build strong leadership teams.

Debbie VanZandt who's Teen Bookfest by the Bay 2017 is at the American Bank Center on Saturday, February 18. Volunteer information was sent to you so please volunteer if you can spare some time that day..



www.teenbookfestbythebay.org

Samantha Greses who is teacher of the year at Montclair Elementary!



Seen at the January Meeting



Janice and Laura at the Chili Supper



Sylvia G. and Velma enjoying the meal too



Norma's dessert – a model of sensible eating



Kim and Kimberly



Sylvia P., Judith and Debbie



Donna, Barbara, and Samantha

Quick Links to society sites:

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

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

Theta Gamma Chapter:
www.thetagamma.weebly.com



Sharon and Augusta

Hot off the Presses from TSO!

The following slate of officers has been nominated by the TSO Nominations Committee to lead TSO during the 2017--2019 biennium:

President - Jo Murphy

1st Vice President - Shalan Inmon

2nd Vice President - Patti Belknap

Recording Secretary - Judy Mezick

Corresponding Secretary - Cindy Neander

Bonnie Moore has been asked to serve as Parliamentarian.

Leesa Cole, our Executive Assistant, has been hired for the newly created position of TSO Treasurer. Leesa, as well as Cheryl Crawford, have been instrumental in taking care of the business of TSO in this interim period following the retirement of Past Executive Secretary Treasurer Betty Vines. Leesa brings a wealth of knowledge about TSO and ASTEF finances with her as she begins her work in this position. Leesa began her work as Treasurer yesterday.

These new officers will be voted on at Houston Convention.



Alpha State Convention

Now is the time to begin planning to attend the 2017 DKG Texas Convention in Houston June 22 - 24. Begin making your plans by visiting the new [Convention Website](#) where members can book their reservations at the beautiful Westin Galleria Hotel. Visit the website often for convention updates including regular "Heartlines" which is a newsletter designed to provide information about Houston and about the convention. (TSO News Jan. 7, 2017)

Think Scholarships NOW! Presenting 5 Sources of Same

DKG International Scholarships

As many as 30 scholarships are awarded each year to members pursuing advance degrees.

Scholarships for those seeking other graduate studies are \$6,000 and a doctorate is \$10,000. The Society awarded \$96,000 in scholarships for 2015-2016 and \$86,000 for 2016-2017. As of 2015-2016 the Society has awarded \$4,888,500 to 1,100 members since the international scholarship program began in 1940.

To qualify for a scholarship at the international level, the applicant must

- Be an active member of the Society for a minimum of three years if pursuing doctoral studies, and be an active member at the time of application if pursuing other graduate studies.
- Have completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- Be accepted and enrolled in a graduate program of a nationally accredited institution of higher education, preferably pursuing a doctoral degree.
- Provide evidence of excellence in scholarship and service to the community.
- Be a first-time recipient of an international scholarship

DKG State Scholarships

The Texas Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has several generous scholarships available to its members. There are scholarships available for graduate studies, continuing adult education, and educational travel. Information on all the Scholarships offered as well as instructions and application forms may be printed from the links on this page <http://www.dkgtxas.org/state-scholarships.html>

Local Scholarships

Our **Esther Jane Roark Hahn Memorial Recruitment Grant** is awarded 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 are in your yearbook. 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

Applications must be in the hands of the Scholarship Committee before April 1.

Also available from TRTA:

[Classroom Assistance Grant Application](#) Click on it.

Texas Retired Teachers Foundation Creates New Scholarship Program for "Beginning" Teachers

The Beginning Teacher Scholarship will reimburse applicants for certification tests and test results, and provide funds to help the applicant purchase materials for his or her classroom during his or her first year of teaching. TRTF will award ten \$750 scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year to candidates who are relatives of an active member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA), who have earned or are earning an undergraduate or master's degree in education at a Texas university or college, and have pursued or are pursuing their teaching certification exam.

Students must have taken or be scheduled to take the Texas teacher certification exam in 2017, in anticipation of beginning their teaching career during the fall of 2017 or spring of 2018.

The names of the ten 2017-2018 TRTF scholarship recipients will be announced at the 2017 Convention of the Texas Retired Teachers Association during the Foundation luncheon. The convention will be held in Austin, Texas on March 27-29.

An applicant must:

1. have taken or be scheduled to take the Texas teacher certification exam in 2017 in preparation to begin teaching in the fall of 2017 or spring of 2018.
2. be a relative of an active member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA).
3. have earned an undergraduate or master's degree in education and a teacher's certification by August 31, 2017.
4. submit his or her application and college transcripts by 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2017.

**APPLICATIONS MAY BE DOWNLOADED BY
CLICKING HERE!**

All photos are submitted by members and clip art is from Delta Kappa Gamma or on sites offering them as Free to Use.

Editor's note: The following publication has just been brought to my attention and I have subscribed to it to share with you.

This newsletter is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children and is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

**U.S. FORUM CONNECTION
Special Issue for New Subscribers
Condensed From 2016 Issues of The U.S.
Forum**

CHILD BRIDES

Although 18 is the minimum legal age for girls in the United States to marry, younger girls do get married either with the consent of their parents or the approval of a judge. In the U.S. the problem of girls under the age of 18 being forced into marriage by family members is beginning to get attention by researchers. The non-profit Unchained At Last investigated marriages in New Jersey between 1995 and 2012 and found that 178 marriages of children between 10 and 15 were approved by judges. A 2011 survey by the Tahiri Justice Center identified 3,000 known or suspected cases in the previous two years alone of girls in the US as young as 15 who were forced to marry under threats of death, beatings or ostracism. The problem is not limited to girls. In 2006 a 10 year old boy was married to an 18 year old woman. In 1996 a 12 year old girl married a 25 year old man with judicial permission. Part of the problem is public ignorance of the problem. Also there are currently no federal laws which cover the problem, and state laws dealing with the subject vary widely. In depth studies of the problem have just begun in the last few years..

RETROACTIVE DIPLOMAS

With the change in required exit exams to get a high school diploma, some states are granting high school diplomas retroactively to students

who failed the state exit exams but who passed the coursework which the state now requires. In the past nine months, Georgia has retroactively awarded high school diplomas to over 17,000 students. Texas has awarded 4,000 diplomas and anticipates that an additional 12,000 will be eligible to get retroactive diplomas. \Some other states that have passed legislation to allow students who did not pass formerly required exit exams but passed end of course exams to get high school diplomas are California, South Carolina, Arizona and Alaska. If your state has dropped high school graduation tests and you know of students who might be eligible for a retroactive diploma; contact your state Department of Education.

REVISED GED STANDARDS

The GED Testing Service has recently lowered the passing score for the test. This will allow states to lower the score needed to pass the GED. Every section will go from 150 of 200 to pass to 145 of 200. This is retroactive and is estimated to result in approximately 25,000 additional individuals passing the GED based on exams they have already taken. States would have to agree to make the change. To find out whether this change affects you or someone you know check with an institution near you which is part of the GED program. This may be a community college or your state department of education. A person having this high school equivalency certificate will have better job opportunities.

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #157, JANUARY 2017

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

Currently the main order of business in the Senate is approving the President's cabinet appointments. The Constitution states that certain appointments are to be made with the advice and consent of the Senate. The two main cabinet appointments which have not yet been approved by the Senate are the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General. If you wish to let your senator know your opinion of those nominated for either of

these positions you can call the Congressional Switchboard at 1-866-327-8670 [this is a toll free number]. The call volume is currently so high that you may not be able to get through using the toll free number. Another way of contacting your senator is via email or a telephone number which is not toll free both of which are available at https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

SUPREME COURT & AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

When sixth grader Ehlena Fry who suffers from cerebral palsy entered kindergarten in 2009, the school district (Napoleon Community Schools) denied her the ability to bring her service dog into the school. The district ruled that an adult could perform the tasks with which the dog helped her. The dog which was trained to open doors and pick up items, among other things, was designed to give her a measure of independence so she would not have to rely on others to help. The family is seeking monetary damages from the school rather than pursuing a lengthy administrative remedy process. Although the school eventually allowed her to bring the dog to school after two and a half years, they placed so many restrictions on the dog that Ehlena's parents decided to homeschool her. The family later located a school which allowed her to have the dog at the school. At issue is whether the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which would allow the dog to accompany her to school or whether the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which would allow the family to sue the school would take precedence. A ruling on the matter is expected later this year.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

A generic version of the EpiPen has recently become available. Since this is the delivery system rather than the drug, this gets around patent protection.

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. government contact information can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard 1-866-327-8670 [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

Email access and addresses:
for members of the House of Representatives
<http://www.house.gov/>

for members of the U.S. Senate
<http://www.senate.gov/>

White House 1-202-456-1111

Five constituent contacts will cause a legislator to pay serious attention to a given issue.