

## DELTA OMICRON CHAPTER, DALLAS, AREA 9, AT STATE CONVENTION, LUBBOCK, 6/15-18/2022

### Nine chapter members attended:

- **Kay Keeland & Melanie Rudebeck**, our incoming co-presidents;
- **Denise Barker & Cindy Braley**, our incoming co-vice presidents for programs and projects;
- **Leesa Cole**, our continuing treasurer and TSO Executive Secretary;
- **Marta Finlay & Mary Gill**, our continuing Finance Committee co-chairs;
- **Carolyn Miller**, our continuing Necrology Committee chair; and
- **Marylin Nease**, our continuing Communications and Publicity Committee chair and Yearbook Committee chair.

### DELTA OMICRON EARNED THE FOLLOWING HONORS AND AWARDS AT CONVENTION:

**ASTE F (Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation)** *Mission Statement: ASTEF's mission is to provide funding for activities that support professional and personal growth of women educators in Texas and to promote educational excellence for Texas students.*

#### Chapter Donations to **ASTE F Scholarships**

- Scholarship Honors, \$2 Per Member
- Scholarship Honors for 10 or More Years

#### Chapter Donations to **ASTE F Leadership**

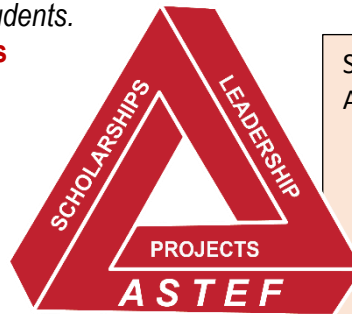
- Leadership Trailblazers, \$2 Per Member

#### Chapter Donations to **ASTE F Projects**

- Project Builders, \$2 Per Member

#### Individual Contributions to **ASTE F**

- Silver Level - \$500-\$1,499: **Wanda Spoonmore**
- Bronze Level - \$100-\$499: **Leesa Cole, Marylin Nease, Carolyn Power**
- Friend Level - \$25-\$99: **Delta Omicron Chapter, Carolyn Miller**



Since 2013, **OUR** state foundation—ASTE F—has awarded the following:

- Over \$391,264 in scholarships;
- \$240,354 in project stipends;
- since 2016, \$56,000 to aspiring educators; and
- will fund the Leadership Seminar in Feb. 2023.

### Eula Lee Carter Memorial Scholarship Fund

Contributing Chapter

#### Chapter Communications and Publicity

- Five-Star Newsletter Award (**Marylin Nease**, Editor)
- Media Award for Overall Excellence in Education News, *Dallas Morning News* (Nomination document submitted by **Marylin Nease**)

#### Chapter Yearbook

- Early Bird Award (**Marylin Nease**, Editor)
- Exemplary Award (**Marylin Nease**, Editor)

### Chapter DKG Compliant Website Award

Delta Omicron, 2022 (**Carolyn Power**, Webmaster)



## Chapter Membership Recognition

Rosebud Award, Maintained Total Membership, March 1, 2021-March 1, 2022 (**Margaret Thompson**, Membership VP)

## State Achievement Award

Marylin Nease

*(In order to qualify for the Texas State Achievement Award, a member must have served as a chapter president or vice president and completed two or more leadership roles at the state level. State leadership roles include state officer, state committee chair or co-chair, area coordinator, state convention chair or co-chair, and ASTEF president, vice-president or director. Additionally, the member should have been a workshop leader and have good attendance at chapter, area, and state meetings. International attendance is also desirable.)*

**PRESENTATION SCRIPT (WRITTEN AND READ BY JUDY MEZICK, TSO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR, 2021-23, AT THE 2022 LUBBOCK CONVENTION'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON)**

This State Achievement Award recipient is described as compassionate and caring, making guests feel welcome at chapter meetings and serving as a mentor for all. She keeps her chapter up to date with all things DKG by guiding, suggesting, reminding, and encouraging. Inducted into DKG in 1983, her attention to detail and vast knowledge of the Society are great assets to her chapter and to her volunteer work at TSO Headquarters.

Having served in most chapter offices and on many chapter committees, she has received her chapter's achievement award twice and often presents programs on topics such as heart health, caregiving, membership growth, Schools for Africa, and ASTEF. Yearbooks, newsletters, and research are among her specialties, with her yearbooks consistently earning Early Bird and Exemplary awards.

She has regularly attended area workshops, serving as a breakout session presenter many times; and as area coordinator, she undertook the tremendous responsibility of organizing the 2020 area workshop by Zoom.

Her state involvement includes having served on five state committees and chairing the Headquarters committee. In addition, she served as Secretary of the 2005 Dallas Convention Steering Committee, Publicist for the 2016 Frisco Convention, and Annie's Attic sales organizer at the 2019 Arlington Convention; and she has attended nearly every state convention since 1996, often serving as a presenter.

On the International level, she has attended seven conferences and conventions, and her essays and poems have been published multiple times in the online DKG Art Gallery.

We are pleased to present this TSO Achievement Award to Area 9's Delta Omicron member Marylin Nease!



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*Note from Marylin: Thank you to Delta Omicron's Carolyn Miller and Carolyn Power for nominating me for this award. May I just say that we never know what our friends might be up to? Carolyn and Carolyn definitely know how to keep a secret! I never saw this honor coming. I thank you both for thinking of me and for completing and submitting the necessary paperwork to make it all happen!*  
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## TSO Employed Personnel

State Executive Secretary: Leesa Cole  
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**SOCIETY BUSINESS**

**TSO Archives Committee**

Katherine Grogan, Member

**TSO Expansion Committee**

Leesa Cole, Member

**TSO Headquarters Committee**

Leesa Cole, Member

**TSO Leadership Development of Chapter Presidents (LDCP)**

Leesa Cole, Member

**TSO Leadership of State Personnel (LOSP)**

Leesa Cole, Member

**TSO Membership Committee**

Marylin Nease, Member

**SOCIETY MISSION AND PURPOSES**

**TSO Leadership Seminar Committee**

Leesa Cole, Member

**TSO Programs and Service Projects**

Kay Keeland, Member

**TSO CONVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE – Lubbock 2022**

Leesa Cole, TSO Executive Secretary, Ex Officio

**PLUS, our former Delta Omicron member Mary Armstrong Lindsay received the Golden Rose Award!**

(The Golden Rose Award is designated for a member who is not eligible for the Texas State Organization Achievement Award, but has given years of service at the state level in leadership roles such as state committee member, presenter at area and state workshops, or script writer. This member should also have good attendance at chapter, area, and state meetings, with International attendance desired. In most cases the nominee will have 25-30 years of membership in DKG.)

Mary served as our Delta Omicron president for 1998-2000 and 2000-2002 and held many other leadership positions in Delta Omicron before she remarried about 12 years ago, moved to Paris, TX, and joined a chapter there. Behind the scenes, Mary's Paris chapter sisters and Delta Omicron sisters worked together on compiling and submitting Mary's Golden Rose Award nomination document. **Fun fact:** Mary's husband's mother helped charter the Paris chapter that Mary joined.



*Part of an email from Mary, post-convention:*

Dear Carolyn and Marylin,

It was so wonderful to spend time with both of you in Lubbock!! I also want to thank you and ask you to pass along to the chapter my thanks for their participation in the Golden Rose nomination. I have written a letter to the chapter, so if either or both of you have a fax machine and will send me the number, I'll fax the letter for the next Delta Omicron chapter meeting....

Marylin, I'm so thrilled that I was present to see you honored for all the contributions you have made to every level of DKG. The Achievement Award was a well-deserved honor. I'll bet Charles was pleased to hear about that also.

I've been remembering all the conventions we've been to together, and my memory is of all the fun and good conversations! Hopefully, we'll have many more years of convention fun.

Love you,  
Mary

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## **CHAPTER ATTENDEES' REFLECTIONS ON CONVENTION**

### **Kay Keeland reports,**

What a great experience the convention in Lubbock was!

I was so excited that Marylin received the State Achievement Award. She so deserved it. I am very proud of her. Congratulations, Marylin!!!!

The breakout sessions were so informative and very relevant.



I enjoyed meeting DKG members from many chapters. I made some great friends and learned what their chapters do.

On Thursday and Friday evenings after long and busy days, our Delta Omicron group went out to dinner at two great restaurants.

I now feel more connected to DKG, and I'm looking forward to attending convention next year in McAllen. Come join us!

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### **Marta Finlay shares,**

Going to convention, one can see how dedicated the members are to DKG. They are there to grow and share.

The keynote speaker, **Bear Mills (photo)**, reminded all the educators of how many lives we have touched. Sometimes we don't even know the impact we have had on a former student or how powerful a teacher's words can be.

I was so proud of our chapter on their recognitions and awards. I was elated for our former member Mary Lindsay on receiving the Golden Rose Award and Marylin Nease on receiving the TSO Achievement Award.

It was fun being with everyone, laughing, getting to know everyone, reminiscing with old friends, and sightseeing in Lubbock, especially at the American Windmill Museum.

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### **Marylin Nease reports,**

**I attend DKG state and international conventions and conferences for three reasons:** for inspiration, for what I can learn, and for fellowship with my chapter's attendees and other DKG women.

**At the Lubbock convention, the three keynote speakers definitely inspired me.**

**Bear Mills** (a product of Fort Worth public schools and now an author and motivational speaker) epitomizes the student that teachers dream of—not in the way he began school but in the way he turned out. Bear shared his personal story to illustrate the impact an educator can have in a child’s life and, in turn, how a student can renew a teacher’s hope and faith in the education process. Isn’t this why we all teach?



**Steve Gomez** (photo, in his 20<sup>th</sup> year with the highly successful women’s basketball program at Lubbock Christian University, also his alma mater) shared his philosophy for teaching and coaching. His goal is “to instill self-discipline and a healthy competitive spirit in each player by encouraging and bringing out the best character traits and physical abilities that each one possesses.” Isn’t this what the best educators do—that is, coach their students to be the best they can be?

**Dr. Helen Popovich, 2020-22 DKG International Parliamentarian** (photo), taught from high school to



college and served as a college administrator from dean to president in Texas, Minnesota, Florida, and Michigan. At our Saturday night Presidents and Founders Banquet, Dr. Popovich spoke on “The Joy of Yes.” She shared anecdotes from her own life to urge us to embrace the many adventures that life offers. By saying yes instead of no, we discover unexpected joys—from seeing life with joy the way a child does when we parent with a yes, to reveling in the “genuine spiritual fellowship” of DKG when we say yes to membership.

**At the convention, I had many opportunities to learn.** I attended eight breakout sessions and helped present one of them. I’m the Area 9 member of our state’s Membership Committee, so in the session titled “Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate—Membership 101,” I shared ways to retain members, focusing on building personal connections, involving every member through a specific job, and offering meaningful, varied programs and service projects to engage members. Then, I invited audience members to share what works in their own chapters.

*Continued on next page....*

2022-2024 TSO  
Biennial Theme

**JOURNEY**  
*Which way will you go?*

**At convention, I also enjoyed fellowship with other “key women educators.”** In our convention free time, I went to dinner with Delta Omicron’s attendees on Thursday night at an Italian restaurant (left) and the next night at a steakhouse (right). Besides enjoying good food, we had great fun just talking,



catching up, and getting to know each other better. Especially fun for me was to hear the enthusiasm and interest of our incoming officers as they shared ideas about what they had learned during convention sessions. During the convention’s meetings and meals, I also enjoyed seeing familiar faces from other chapters statewide and catching up with conversations and hugs—and meeting new people and hearing about their lives and their part of our state.

**What else stands out from this convention for me? The music.**

A few highlights follow. Bagpipe and drum music (Lubbock and Odessa Fire Departments) accompanied the presentation of flags at our Opening Session on Thursday evening. Harp music (performed by Leslie Valentincic, Theta Alpha, Arlington) accompanied the Service of Remembrance on Saturday morning, when our Vicky Hamilton and other Texas DKG members who died in the past year were remembered.

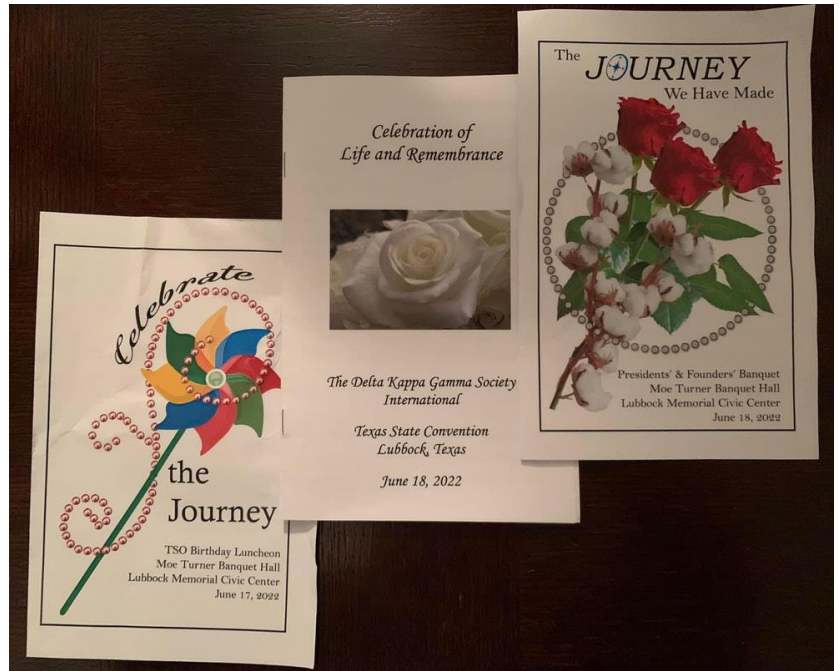
**Finally, when convention was over and I was home again, I caught up on sleep—** from 7:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:30 a.m. Monday! Convention is both fun and tiring. 😊





**Cindy Braley** reports, “I haven’t been a DKG member for many years (inducted 2017), so my first state convention was very enlightening.

“I will be 1st Vice President for Programs and Projects (2022-2024), along with Denise Barker, and the convention’s breakout sessions were a great place to strategize our yearly calendar.” (Photo: Denise Barker, Cindy Braley)



Area 9’s attending two past state presidents, past area coordinator, **current area coordinator (Liz Garrett, seated to Marylin’s left)**, and nine outgoing chapter presidents (of 23)—were recognized at the Opening Session, Thursday evening.

As TSO Executive Secretary, **Leesa Cole**'s time at convention is always part fun and part work. Go, Leesa!







**Melanie Rudebeck** participated in ASTEF's Mystery Mania fundraiser and won a \$100 gift card! *Go, Melanie!*



**Denise Barker** reports, "I bought a Mystery Mania ticket for \$10 and won a \$50 Visa gift card!" *Go, Denise!*



**Kay Keeland** reports, "I bought a \$10 Mystery Mania ticket and won a \$25 gift card!" *Go, Kay!*

*260 members or chapters donated gift cards of \$10-\$100 to ASTEF's Mystery Mania fundraiser!*

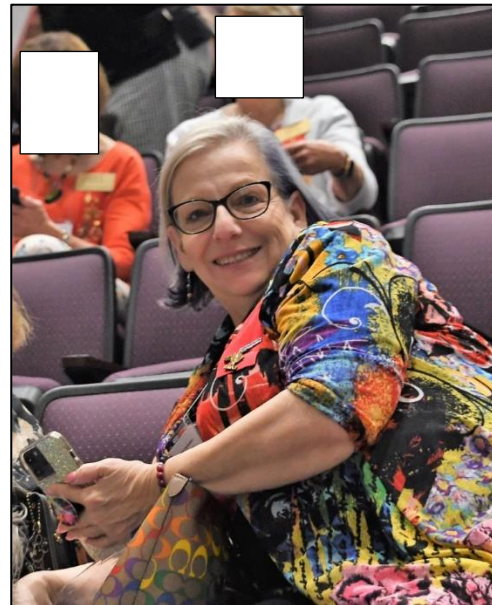
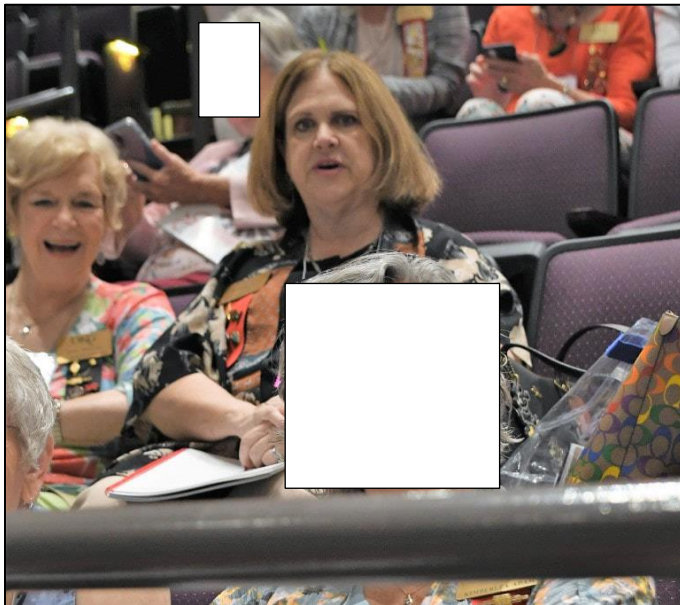
### Money, Numbers, and Other Info

- 2022 ASTEF Project Stipends: A total of \$14,282 was awarded to 13 chapters for their projects.
- Delta Omicron members donated \$190 in gift cards (*photo on right*) to the convention's Unifying Project, Shelby's Bridge. The total contributed by all chapters was \$5,685.
- At the Presidents and Founders Banquet, attendees donated
  - **\$3,134.75** to our DKGIEF (Delta Kappa Gamma International Educators Foundation; FYI, \$2,719.75 of this \$3,134.75 is dedicated to the *Emergency Fund to help members with a major loss due to a natural disaster*) and
  - **\$5,361** to assist those impacted by the shooting at Uvalde's Robb Elementary School.
- DKG's Texas State Organization has 227 chapters with a total membership of 6,296.
- A total of 653 members attended the Lubbock Convention, including the presidents of 128 chapters.
- Three kinds of breakout sessions are offered at conventions: Society Business, Special Interests, and Continuing Professional Education.





**After Friday's Birthday Luncheon, we gathered for a group photo, l-r: Marylin Nease, Mary Gill, Carolyn Miller, Marta Finlay, Mary Armstrong Lindsay, and Kay Keeland.**



**On Saturday morning, Carolyn Miller and Cindy Braley (in left pic) and Denise Barker (in right pic) wait for the start of the convention's Business Meeting.**



**On Saturday night, to end the 2022 state convention,** at the close of the Presidents and Founders Banquet, six hundred-plus attendees sang our DKG song.

In the pic on the left, can you spot Denise and Marylin? And Mary Lindsay?

Below is one small part of our 600-plus group bidding farewell.



**Verse 1:** Women teachers, to the calling/  
Firmly rally, never falling,/  
Duty ne'er upon us palling,/  
Staunch, courageous we!  
Loyalty and trust e'er heeding,  
Mindful of our sisters' needing,  
Aid and guidance from those leading,  
Helpful may we be!

**Chorus 1:** To Delta Kappa Gamma,  
Faith we pledge forever!  
Hand in hand our loyal band,  
Forward moving ever!  
Onward! 'Tis our sisters need us;  
Courage, Faith, and Honor lead us!  
Wrongs in truth and justice heed us!  
Firmly shall we stand!

**Verse 2:** Guardians of the faith yet sleeping,  
For our sisters watch e'er keeping,  
Deeds of others now we're reaping;  
We for others stand!  
To us pioneers have given;  
We return their gifts to heaven;  
Work for others is the leaven/  
That inspires our band!

**Chorus 2:** Oh, Delta Kappa Gamma,  
In thy fold we gather!  
Unity and Liberty/  
Shall be our watchwords ever!  
Education e'er we'll further;  
Each is bound to each as brother;  
With this faith in one another,  
We shall win for aye!



**After Saturday night's Presidents and Founders Banquet, we posed for photos.**

*Top left: Marylin Nease, Carolyn Miller, Leesa Cole.*

*Below left: Marylin, Carolyn, Mary Armstrong Lindsay.*

*Below right: Marylin, Carolyn, Denise Barker, Cindy Braley, Mary*



**Photos:** Denise Barker, Cindy Braley, Leesa Cole, Marta Finlay, and Mary A. Lindsay  
[TSO CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY](https://www.facebook.com/tso.deltakappagamma) ,  
[www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org) ,

<https://www.facebook.com/tso.deltakappagamma>

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