

The 4:15*

Delta Omicron Chapter, #111, Dallas, Dallas County, Area 9, Texas State Organization, DKG Society International

Mission Statement: DKG Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Vision Statement: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide



Texas
State Organization



Volume 65, Issue 7, May 16, 2022
Marylin Nease, editor

*The 4:15? Delta is the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet and Omicron is the 15th. On a good day, 4:15 is the time we leave school and head to a Delta Omicron meeting!

President's Message



Dear Delta Omicron Members,

I was planting flats of annuals and perennials in my front yard the other day when I thought about April. **April comes from the Latin word *aperio*, which means "to open" because plants begin to bud or grow during this month.** Yes, all the beautiful, colorful plants are out in the garden centers. It is rather hard to select only a few of them.

Spring is here, and a lot of things are happening in our chapter this month and in the summer. First, we had the CCDC luncheon on Sat., Apr. 9, 2022, at the Prestonwood Country Club. We had a wonderful meal and a spectacular silent auction. We also had a Dallas Arboretum outing on Tues., Apr. 19. We had a beautiful day of walking and enjoying all the flowers. The DKG Texas convention is coming up June 16-18 in Lubbock, and the international convention is on July 12-16 in New Orleans.

I also want to congratulate and highlight **our five new inductees**. What a wonderful addition to our chapter! It will be fun getting to know them.

My last meeting as your president is coming in May, and I feel a bit sad that my tenure is almost over. It certainly has been a lot of fun, and I must say a learning curve during the pandemic. I wonder how many people heard about ZOOM and used it during the past two years. Well, our very own Delta Omicron Chapter experienced and conquered ZOOM. It was a new way for us to stay in touch, which we all appreciated. When we meet officially again in the fall, I won't be leaving; I still will be your past president and of course an involved member. Thank you for all your support and love. I truly have been honored.

Katherine

Chapter Website:

[link to chapter website](#)

Carolyn Power, Webmaster

Pres/Katherine Grogan
1st VPs/Elenora Asbury
& Kathy Rodriguez
2nd VP/Margaret
Thompson
Rec Sec/Margie Rohde
Cor Sec/Susan Endicott
Treas/Leesa Cole
Parl/Julie Turnbow
Im P Pres/Lou McMillan

Next meeting: Mon., May 16, 5:00 p.m., HPPC*, Room K and Zoom.
Program: Let's Celebrate! (Founders, Birthday, Golden Members, Interview, Installation of Officers, Achievement Award) (DKG Purposes 1, 2, 3, 6)
*Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 3821 University Blvd., Dallas, second floor, room K. Enter parking garage from Shannon Lane on church's west side. Take elevator to second floor.

CHAPTER: MEMBERSHIP NEWS by Margaret Thompson, Membership VP



Hooray! Summer is almost here! It has been special for me getting to know our newest sisters the past two years. **My hope is to continue growing friendships next year as we experience luncheons, meetings, and field trips.**

This summer, **if you have special teacher friends interested in DKG who you think would be an asset to our chapter, please let me know**, and I will send them some general information.

It is so important for us to update our biographical information! Thank you if you have been able to do this. **I have attached a copy of this form to the newsletter** for you to complete and return to me as an attachment via email, margaretmccthompson@gmail.com. **Or, you can click on the link**, download the interactive document, complete the form, and return it to me via email. [Member Biographical Data](#). **I plan to continue to bring forms to our meetings** for you to complete should you not be able to do this online. **Another option is** for you to call me at 214-538-1227, and **I can fill out your form for you over the phone**. If you're unsure whether you have updated your info, feel free to phone me!

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

A favorite teaching memory is the time I was decorating Easter eggs with a four-year-old preschool boy, and he put the dye tablet in his mouth thinking it was a Sweetarts candy. He spit it out, but we still had to call the poison control center to make sure he'd be okay.

Family—My husband _____ and I have three children. We adopted our youngest one. We weren't planning on another child, but he was a shaken baby at four months old and was in foster care with my cousin, and that's how we found out about him. Now he's 21 and perfectly healthy.

In my free time, I enjoy being with my triplet great-nephews in Frisco, watching Hallmark movies, viewing mystery shows on TV, and traveling.

A favorite teaching memory involves a former student, _____ who really impressed me. He wasn't an A student, but he had an A+ personality. Every day when he walked into my classroom, he said, "Hello _____ . How's your day going?"

No one in _____ family had gone to college. Between his junior and senior years, he had a DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) internship to work at the Museum of Natural History in Fair Park. One day I was at Fair Park, and there he was, cheerfully selling ice cream from a cart outside the museum. The next summer, I took him to the African-American Museum at Fair Park. The director hired him for the rest of the summer. _____ went to college, did well academically, and was student body president.

He came back to Dallas and now works for Dallas ISD. He's currently a nominee for principal of the year. He's invited me to be his guest at the gala when the district's principal of the year is announced. I call _____ new baby my "grandstudent." _____ continues to be involved with the museum. He worked

there during his college summers and now volunteers as an adult.

More than once he told me," I never thought I could go to college."

Family—One of my best memories is meeting my husband and getting married to him. I was a single adoptive parent until we married. When we married, he adopted my daughter ; he wanted everyone in our home to have the same last name. When we went to court to finish the adoption, by chance we had the same judge who had presided when I adopted my daughter. She was almost six when I adopted her. She was seven when and she met each other. When we married, she was 12.

In my free time, I like to work crossword puzzles. In fact, when I was in the hospital recently, one of my best friends brought me a crossword puzzle book. The book was kind of a joke to her because it was a little puzzle book with big letters and big squares, making it look like a kids' book, but it was a *NY Times* puzzle book, so the puzzles are really challenging!

What got me liking crossword puzzles? When I started teaching at Hillcrest High School in Dallas ISD, back when teachers had time in the teachers' lounge, every morning a lady in the lounge was working a crossword puzzle. She invited me to join her, saying, "Let's do this together." She'd read one of the across clues to see if I knew it. She'd fill it in if I didn't know it. She said, "You're too young to know all the words used in crossword puzzles." I started taking the newspaper, and we'd work the puzzles every morning at Hillcrest. Later, when I worked at Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas ISD, I stopped at Kips on Northwest Highway on my way to work so I could work my puzzle and then go on to school. Still later, I stopped at Original Pancake House on Midway to work my puzzle on my way to TJ. I allowed myself five minutes to get to school.

A favorite teaching memory is working with students who are from other countries and realizing how appreciative they are of the education they can get in the United States, and the friendships I've formed with them.

I teach Integrated Reading and Writing at Dallas College (Richland campus). From 1996 to 2007, I taught part-time at Richland, and from 2007 to now, I've been a full-time professor.

Family—I have two daughters I adopted from China when they were little babies less than 12 months of age. I traveled to China twice to meet them and bring them home. They are now 24 and 27.

In my free time, I love to write (journal writing), to paint (water color and acrylics), and to travel. I've been to a lot of places, and I'd still like to go back to Ireland and Italy someday when Covid allows.

MEET OUR GOLDEN MEMBERS

Delta Omicron is proud and honored to have four 50+ year members:

Shirley Kochman, inducted in 1963

Wanda Spoonmore, inducted in 1964

Janet Cundiff, inducted in 1968

Jean Wallace, inducted in 1970



L-R: Shirley Kochman, Wanda Spoonmore, Janet Cundiff, Jean Wallace

MEMBERS ON MEMBERSHIP: What’s your “why” for being in DKG? Our answers are what we need to communicate to potential members!



Carolyn Miller shares, **“I love being in DKG with other educators who are committed to our children and their parents and who want to make our communities and our world a better place for all.**

“I’ve been thinking a lot about how we can work with first-year educators—how to keep them in education. I think education schools are trying to become more practical in their teacher training. I know the Dallas College programs are trying to do that. I often ask myself, ‘How can we be guides and helpers to early-career educators?’ I remember thinking as a first-year teacher, ‘I’m about to drown.’

“Also, teachers are so underpaid. Books are being tossed out! I’m alarmed when I read the newspaper. I wonder ‘What can and should I be doing? And, do I really want to spend my retirement mentoring somebody?’ Plus, how can a multiple-choice test accurately predict or measure how effective a teacher someone will be or is? I have many questions and concerns.

“I think part of the solution is in the curriculum process at colleges. We have to prepare students for the *real* classroom teaching experience. Yes, future educators need to be prepared to teach the required curriculum, but they *really* need to be prepared to teach the *people* in their classrooms/their students.

“I love being in DKG because these concerns are what we members all think about and want to discuss and find solutions for.”

**Happy Birthday!
May**

- Elenora Asbury, 7
- Lou Brown, 7
- Kathy Rodriguez, 7
- Margie Rohde, 8
- Janet Cundiff, 24
- Cindy Braley, 25
- Dr. Jaime Callahan, 31

**Happy Birthday!
June**

- , 5
- Marilyn Smith, 7
- Liza Leggett, 12
- Carolyn Miller, 12
- Penni Lewis, 13
- Mary Gill, 18
- Maureen Baker, 21
- Susan Bell, 22
- Marilyn Lamb, 30

**Happy Birthday!
July**

- , 6
- Nancy Johnson, 11
- Margaret Thompson, 12
- Barbara Harris, 13
- Leesa Cole, 22
- , 22
- Delores Bates, 26



MEMBERS: PERSONAL NEWS

Mary Carol Hughes reports, "I shared some of the iris with our daughter . Here's her picture from mid-April. Thank you for collecting and sharing the plants earlier [from past member Claudine Morgan in 2014]. Bringing joy and beauty."



shares, "I want to acknowledge the cards and personal notes I received from Delta Omicron members. I was in the hospital for part of a week, home again, and back in the hospital for part of another week. I didn't check my mailbox during that time. When I did check it, I found I had a stack of cards, many from Delta Omicron members, some from members I don't know yet since I'm a new member.

"People seldom send cards anymore, or write personal notes either. Instead, they send an email or an e-card or a text message or a Facebook note. I'm "old school." I like to do things the "old school" way. Your cards and personal notes meant a lot to me; you really helped me feel better. I thank you for your thoughtfulness!"

MEMBERS: BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Elenora Asbury shares the following:

"Two books I have thoroughly enjoyed are *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan and *All the Little Hopes* by Leah Weiss.

"*The Kitchen Front* is historical fiction set in WWII. Four women vie for spots hosting a BBC cooking program.

"*All the Little Hopes* captures life in small-town North Carolina during the latter part of World War II. The story follows Lu and Bert, two girls from different backgrounds, as they navigate adolescence. There is wonderful wisdom, and there are many great characters."

MEMBERS: HEALTHY CHOICES



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Barbara Clinton shares, "I often search the grocery store for vegetables to serve my four-year-old grandson, Ezra. At the Mansfield Walmart Supercenter, I was happily surprised to discover colorful rainbow baby carrots and mini cucumbers. I have not convinced Ezra to eat them yet, but I am definitely a fan!"

DELTA OMICRON CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES, MAR. 14, 2022



by Margie Rohde, Recording Secretary

Delta Omicron Chapter, Dallas, Texas State Organization, DKG International, met on Mon., Mar. 14, 2022, in room K at Highland Park Presbyterian Church.

Attending were 32 members: Margaret Arnold, Elenora Asbury, , Denise Barker, Delores Bates, Barbara Clinton, Leesa Cole, Sara Coleman, Grace Delatour, Cindy Dominguez, Marta Finlay, Katherine Grogan, Mary Carol Hughes, , Kay Keeland, Shirley Kochman, , Liza Leggett, Penni Lewis, Lou McMillan, Carolyn Miller, Marilyn Nease, , Kathy Rodriguez, Margie Rohde, Marilyn Smith, , Wanda Spoonmore, Margaret Thompson, , Dawna Walsh, and .

Three guests attended:

taught special education for 16 years at Highland Park Middle School in HPISD. were presenting our program and are volunteers at the Dallas Arboretum.



OPENING:

Katherine Grogan played the song “What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong, which Penni Lewis, Music Chair, shared. The song played while members ate refreshments. Katherine called the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m.



Wanda Spoonmore, Personal and Professional Enrichment, gave the inspiration on National Pi Day. was the first to use the Greek letter π to represent the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its radius. π = the circumference of the circle divided by its diameter. No matter how big or little the circle, π will always be 3.14. Two famous scientists have personal connections with National Pi Day. Albert Einstein was born on March 14, and Stephen Hawking died on March 14. Wanda finished with a joke: “What did one math book say to another? Leave me alone! I’ve got my own problems!”

PROGRAM:

Elenora Asbury, Co-Vice President for Programs and Projects, introduced , who are volunteers at Dallas Arboretum. volunteers one or two times a week at the Dallas Arboretum and volunteers at the Perot Museum.

presented “Favorite Plants of Dallas Arboretum.” stated that the Arboretum contains 66 acres and is the largest floral display in the Southwest. It has 450,000 bulbs and 500,000 plants on display. He showed pictures of some of the most popular plants. **Abelia** grows 3-5 feet tall and likes full sun. A popular variety is “Edward Goucher.” “Kaleidoscope” is another abelia variety which only grows 2-3 feet tall but produces fiery colors in the fall. In the spring and summer, this variety has lime green leaves.

Ligustrum is a low growing hedge and green year-round. recommends the variety “Sunshine.” The “Big series” of **begonias** are noted for their early bloom, are easy to grow, and like either sun or shade. The “Black Pearl” variety of **capsicum** produces a lot of heat in its berries, and the berries are hotter than jalapeno peppers. This plant is very colorful and likes full sun. It grows well in zone 8A. stated that watering a plant 24 hours before a freeze will help it withstand the harmful effects of the freeze.


Hollies are popular plants in our area. recommends getting a female holly bush if you want berries, as male plants do not have berries. Nellie R. Stephens variety of holly can grow to 12 feet tall!



Marta asked what plants will **attract hummingbirds**. stated that any plant with a lot of color will work but especially recommended **dogwood or Japanese maple trees**. **Celosia** plants, especially the “Intenz” variety, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. It likes full sun and blooms all summer.

Evolvulus ‘Beach Bum Blue’

- Dwarf morning glory
- Heat, drought and humidity tolerant
- Amazing sky-blue flower color
- Fuzzy, silver-toned foliage
- Height 6 – 12”, spread 12 – 24”
- Blooms from spring to first frost
- Prefers full sun, but will tolerate light shade



Coleus plants are low maintenance and will do well in partial sun or shade. Jim recommends the “Wasabi” variety for best results. **Cyperus papyrus** is a sturdy plant with large, fuzzy poms at the end of its stems. “Prince Tut” is a good variety to purchase. The **dichondra plant** likes partial shade and is low maintenance. recommends the “Silver Falls” variety. **Evolvulus** plant grows 30-60 inches tall; “Beach Bum Blue” variety is recommended for best results.

Ipomoea is a sweet potato vine. **Lobelia** is great in pots and is an early blooming plant. **Pelargonium** will only bloom until the weather gets hot. **Lobularia** plants have a wide range of colors. **Zinnia** flowers, especially the “Profusion” series, are resistant to leaf rot. stated that **ornamental millet plants** smell like maple syrup. showed a **variety**

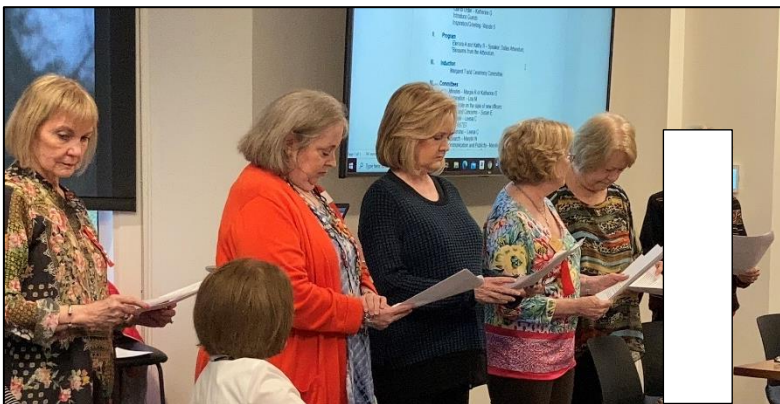
of cherry tomato that has unique color. **Candy cane** plants like full sun; a good variety to purchase is “Sweet Pepper.” **Mustard** plants grow fast and are good choices for pots.

mentioned the **Dallas Blooms theme for this year is “Birds in Paradise.”** On March 24 from 7 to 9 there will be a food and wine festival at the Dallas Arboretum. **A Tasteful Place is a new garden of edible plants.** In the fall, the Arboretum showcases a lot of gourds in fanciful designs. The Arboretum is especially known for its Christmas at the Arboretum display. That display is best viewed at night. Members enjoyed presentation greatly.

INDUCTION CEREMONY:

Margaret Thompson, Vice President for Membership, introduced the following ladies for induction:

Katherine Grogan and the Ceremonies Committee participated. Members of the committee included Liza Leggett, Kay Keeland, Margaret Arnold, and Members congratulated the new members.



We welcome you into our DKG fellowship!

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.



Lou McMillan, Nominations Committee Chair, presented the proposed officers for the 2022-2024 biennium: Kay Keeland and Melanie Rudebeck for President; Denise Barker and Cindy Braley for Vice President for Programs and Projects; Margaret Thompson for Vice President for Membership; Margie Rohde for Recording Secretary; and _____ for Corresponding Secretary. The members **voted to accept all the nominations.**

Katherine updated attendees on **members' health concerns.** She mentioned that Sherri Allinder had neck surgery and is in a brace. Kay Keeland shared Vicky Hamilton's situation. She has kidney cancer and is currently living in an apartment while her home, which was damaged

in the October 2019 tornado, is being repaired. Cards would be appreciated, but members are urged to email Vicky first to get her correct address.

Leesa Cole, Treasurer, gave the **treasurer's report.** Current balance in the bank is \$4,579.37. Eight members have paid their **dues.** Eighteen members are going to the **CCDC luncheon,** and their reservations have been paid. A member asked if one could still pay for the luncheon. Leesa stated that the deadline to pay was March 15 and she will send out an email to members about whom to contact. One must register as an individual rather than as a chapter, as the chapter deadline has passed. \$130 was sent to **Schools for Africa.** **Anticipated income for March** includes more membership dues. **Dues** are \$100 for active members and \$50 for reserve members. Final payment needs to be made by May 30, 2022. Katherine displayed Leesa's address for members to send dues to. Members may also use Venmo.

Leesa, also **Scholarship Committee Chair,** reminded members about the chapter **grant-in-aid available to nonmembers for \$250.** The deadline to apply is April 1. There is also a chapter **scholarship available to members for attending conferences;** the deadline is April 1.

Marta Finlay, **Finance Committee Co-Chair,** made a pitch for members to pay dues by the end of May so that the finance committee doesn't have to call members to remind them.

Marylin Nease, **Research Committee Chair,** shared that **springtime** is an early part of the year when blossoms appear on flowering plants. **She hopes the new members will blossom into full members.**

Marylin, also **Communications and Publicity Committee Chair,** shared that any members may get **recognition for books or articles published while a member.** Marylin must submit the candidates' work by April 1 to TSO for the Member in Print award. **Local newspapers** can also be **recommended for the Excellence in Overall Coverage of Education News award.** She will recommend the *Dallas Morning News* to TSO for this honor, and articles must be from the start of this current school year until April.

Margaret Thompson, **Vice President for Membership,** expressed her excitement at having inducted **five new members.** She continues to work on getting **biographical information on all members.** She passed out more sheets for members to fill out and return to her.

Kay Keeland, **Fellowship Committee Co-Chair,** asked if members were ready for another **outing to the Dallas Arboretum.** There was a lot of interest so Kay plans to schedule a trip to the Arboretum in April. She will send out an email. **Wanda Spoonmore, Fellowship Committee Co-Chair,** will plan an **outing to a restaurant.**



Barbara Clinton, Women in the Arts Committee Chair, talked about artist **Hailey Herrera**. Hailey was born in South Korea and has painted since she was seven. She earned computer science and math degrees and worked for a while in those fields. After some time, she returned to painting. She paints flowers that look so realistic that one would think one is looking at a photograph. Hailey puts flowers on mugs, bags, and even shower curtains. She has a gallery in Bryan-College Station called Degley Gallery.

Legislation Committee Chair, reminded members to **talk with their legislative representatives** and really share their feelings. Not much is happening currently on **TRS reform or the windfall tax reform**. There is also concern about the **cost of providing TRS medical care to members**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Katherine reminded members that the **CCDC luncheon** is April 9 at Prestonwood Country Club. She also **thanked hostesses** for the meeting, the **ceremonies committee**, and members

who provided decorations for the tables at the meeting.



ADJOURNMENT:

Door prizes were won by Margaret Arnold, , Cindy Dominguez, and . Members sang the **DKG song**. Katherine **adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.**

Margie Rohde
Recording Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT for Apr. 2022 by Leesa Cole, Treasurer

Bank balance reconciled 3/31/22 \$5,673.01

Income Mar. 2022

Budgeted: Dues for 2022-23 (27 total paid)
In and Out: SfA contribution (1 member)
CCDC reservations (18 paid)

Expenses Mar. 2022

Budgeted: Area Workshop chapter fee
Reimburse president for memorial flowers
Memorial contribution to ASTEF
In and Out: SfA contribution
CCDC luncheon reservations

Anticipated income Apr/May/June

Budgeted: Membership Dues for 2022-23
In and Out: Area Workshop member registration

Anticipated expense Apr/May/June/July

Budgeted: Dues to Int'l / Dues + Fees to TSO
Convention stipend to split among attendees
Reimburse chapter president/s for State convention
Reimburse Corresponding Secretary for mailings
Reimburse chapter president/s for international convention
In and Out: Area Workshop member registration

Finance Notes:

- Dues collection began in Mar. 2022 for the 2022-23 membership year.
Final payment due May 30, 2022
\$100 active / \$50 reserve (pay in full, or pay over 2 months)
Checks made to: Delta Omicron
Mail to: Leesa Cole, 4123 Seabury Drive, Dallas 75287
Venmo to: @DeltaOmicronTX-Treas
- Attending Lubbock Convention? Chapter budget includes \$250 for members to split. Notify Leesa Cole if you are registered to attend.
Excludes president/s (included in chapter budget) and Leesa Cole (TSO reimburses).

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Marta Finlay, Co-chair



The Finance Committee would like to **thank everyone who paid their dues at the Feb. and Mar. meetings!**

Here are **ways you can pay**

your 2022-2023 dues:

Write a check* made out to Delta Omicron and mail to
Leesa Cole
4123 Seabury Drive
Dallas, TX 75287

Or send via Venmo to DeltaOmicronTX-Treasurer

*Active Members \$100



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, by _____, Chair

Runoff News, TRTA Convention Report, 2023 Legislature, Retirement Info, and TRTA Membership

There will be a **runoff election on May 7, 2022**. Early voting in-person will be from Mon., Apr. 25, 2022, to Tues., May 3, 2022. The candidates who win this May runoff will run in the Nov. Primary. Very few people are voting in elections, so please vote.

“The **68th TRTA Convention** was held Apr. 11-13 in Dallas at the Hilton Anatole. Tim Lee, Executive Director of TRTA, discussed topics that matter most to TRS retirees with State Senator Royce West, Representative Rafael Anchia, Giovanni Capriglione, and Tony Tinderholt. Topics included how to win a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and improve funding for the TRS-Care health insurance program.”

Please click on these links for additional information.

<https://mailchi.mp/trta/welcome-to-foundation-month-522865?e=a6144f63e5>

<https://www.trs.texas.gov/TRS%20Documents/trs-news-member-april-2022.pdf>

The Texas Legislature did not have a regular session in 2022. The legislature meets biennially in odd-numbered years for 140 days. **The next regular TX Legislature session will run from Jan. 10, 2023 - May 29, 2023.** Visit your legislators during this off-session time and talk about your pension, COLA, and TRS-Care. Let them know your situation. Write letters, visit them, and keep it up. Remember **we have very few friends in Austin.**

Some of you may be thinking about retirement, so I have included a few things that might help you. All employees (ACTIVE and RETIRED) of a school system in Texas need to check with TRS to make sure that they are familiar with **death benefits** and how to obtain them. Make sure TRS has your “Death Benefit Form.” A death benefit will not go to a funeral home; it will only go to your beneficiary. It can help pay for your funeral or leave a small amount of money to someone special. This is not treated as a life insurance payment; therefore, it is subject to federal income tax. A “Death Benefit” has nothing to do with your pension. It is a separate entity. Please click on this link for further information.

https://www.trs.texas.gov/Pages/active_member_death_benefits_claims.aspx When you start to think about retiring, contact TRS to make sure that you have all the **documented paperwork**. You may need to make a **retirement appointment** with your school district or TRS. Make sure you understand the **six different tiers for retirement** and how you qualify for retirement. The tiers determine your monetary monthly and annual annuity checks. Please click on this link and look at the tiers on page 30.

https://www.trs.texas.gov/TRS%20Documents/benefits_handbook.pdf **Check “My TRS” on the internet often** to make sure there are no mistakes in your account. Computers do make mistakes. Get the most current issue of “**Teacher Retirement System of Texas-TRS Benefits Handbook**,” and read it carefully. Please review this link. <https://www.trs.texas.gov/Pages/Homepage.aspx>

If possible, **please join Texas Retired Teacher Association (TRTA)**. They will keep you up-to-date on education and educator issues. Membership is \$35 a year for state and an additional \$10 for local membership. If you have to choose one, go for \$35 to state. When we talk to legislators, the number of members that we have speaks volumes. Just think, if we had 200 retirees and only 10 joined, that wouldn't look like educators were concerned or cared. **Please join TRTA.**

<https://mailchi.mp/trta/welcome-to-foundation-month-522865?e=a6144f63e5>

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE, by Leesa Cole, Member



Many thanks for their work this biennium go to our **2020-22 Nominations Committee**: Lou McMillan, chair, and members Barbara Clinton, Leesa Cole, , Melanie Rudebeck, and Wanda Spoonmore.

Many thanks for saying yes to serving on our **2022-24 Nominations Committee** go to Leesa Cole, Dr. Catherine Donahue (chair), Katherine Grogan, Marylin Nease, and

At the Mar. 14 chapter meeting, members voted to approve the slate of nominees for our 2022-24 Executive Board.

NEXT BIENNIUM'S OFFICERS ARE THE FOLLOWING:



MELANIE RUDEBECK AND KAY KEELAND, *co-presidents*

About Melanie: *Inducted 1996 ♦ Current job*, The Community School of the Park Cities, Executive Director ♦ *For fun* I enjoy being with family and friends, going to our family ranch, and having boys. (16) is nearing his Eagle Scout project and learning to drive. (11) loves Scouts, wrestling, baseball, basketball, and friends.

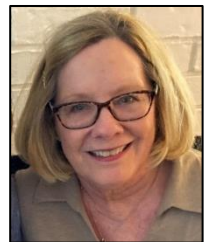
About Kay: *Inducted 2001 ♦ Current jobs*, Dallas College, speech adjunct professor; also, tutoring K- 8th. ♦ *For fun* I enjoy traveling with my daughter, going to musicals, eating out with friends, doing charity work with Doodle Rock Rescue and Soup Kitchen (for the homeless), and being involved with DKG, Matheon Club, Mary K. Craig Class, and Valley Forge Freedom Foundation.



CINDY BRALEY AND DENISE BARKER, *co-vice presidents for programs and projects*

About Cindy: *Inducted 2017 ♦ Retired*, corporate trainer, AT&T ♦ *For fun* I love quilting, crafting, traveling, and spending time with my family and friends.

About Denise: *Inducted 2013 ♦ Retired*, Mesquite ISD, Family and Consumer Science ♦ *For fun* I love to sew, quilt, and garden.



MARGARET THOMPSON, *vice president for membership*

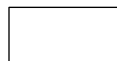
About Margaret: *Inducted 2006 ♦ Retired*, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Children's Ministry Coordinator ♦ *For fun* I love traveling by car or plane to see my family, eating out with girlfriends, and researching genealogy.

MARGIE ROHDE, *recording secretary*

About Margie: *Inducted 2018 ♦ Retired*, Plano ISD, Special Education 6-8 and Strategic Reading ♦ *For fun* I love doing water aerobics classes and reading.



, *corresponding secretary*



About : *Inducted 1976 ♦ Retired*, Dallas ISD, Educational Diagnostician ♦ *For fun* after retiring, I did substitute teaching in Richardson for about seven years. Now, I enjoy sleeping late and not waking up to an alarm. Most of the time, I like to read and travel. Knitting is still a favorite thing, too.

Melanie shares, "I love our meetings because we get to network with other educators. The conventions are fun to see the bigger picture of what we do in DKG. It takes everyone for our chapter to run smoothly. Looking forward to serving with Kay."

SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE, by Leesa Cole, Chair

I received no applications for our chapter scholarship and grant-in-aid this year. Please plan now for next year's candidates!

- \$100 scholarship to a member
- \$250 grant-in-aid to a non-member



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE, by Kay Keeland, Co-Chair

Kay Keeland shares, "Thanks for going on our field trip to the Dallas Arboretum [on Tues., Apr. 19]. What a fun day! So appreciate your support."

Attendees were l-r, front row (pic below): Mary Carol Hughes, Marylin Nease, Margaret Thompson, ; **l-r back row:** Katherine Grogan, Cindy Braley, Kay Keeland, Denise Barker.

Marylin Nease reports, "I enjoyed the fellowship with friends, the colors and variety of plants, the birds' songs, and the cool, cloudy/sunny day! Also, I had fun visiting the Arboretum's Tasteful Place, where Mary Carol and I enjoyed samples of Caribbean spicy sauce, pan-seared carrots, and carrot cake, all three made with Arboretum-grown carrots. Thanks, Kay, for being our field trip organizer and hostess!"



Margaret Thompson reports, "It was fun today!"



A tiny sample of Arboretum beauty!

Left:
Amaryllis

Right:
Lobelia,
geranium,
and Dusty Miller



Left:
Larkspur
and
petunias

Right: In
the gift
shop,
Cindy
found a t-
shirt that
colors
itself in
the sun!



Katherine Grogan shares, “A beautiful spring day to spend with my DKG sisters enjoying the trees and flowers. We liked the new lavender, larkspur, and begonia flowering plants. We also stopped to view the pink clusters of flowers on the cherry blossom trees.”

COORDINATING COUNCIL OF DALLAS COUNTY (CCDC) 66th Annual CCDC Spring Luncheon

Members of the thirteen Dallas County chapters enjoyed the 66th annual spring luncheon of the Coordinating Council of Dallas County on Sat., Apr. 9, 2022, 10:30 a.m. at Prestonwood Country Club.

Delta Omicron's **twenty-one attendees** included Denise Barker, Delores Bates, Susan Bell, Cindy Braley, Dr. Jaime Callahan, Barbara Clinton, Leesa Cole, Sara Coleman, Grace Delatour, Katherine Grogan, Katy Kunofsky, Marilyn Lamb, Marilyn Nease, Carrie Parsons, Carolyn Power, Becky Quigley, Mary Riddle, Kathy Rodriguez, Margie Rohde, Marilyn Smith, and Margaret Thompson. Serving as **luncheon greeters** were Leesa Cole, Katherine Grogan, Kathy Rodriguez, and Margaret Thompson.



Not pictured:
Dr. Jaime Callahan,
Grace Delatour,
Katy Kunofsky,
Carrie Parsons,
Becky Quigley,
Kathy Rodriguez

Before the program began, attendees took pleasure in **fellowship time and harp music** (by Leslie Valentincic, Theta Alpha).

Dr. Pam Ponnors, CCDC chair, **introduced chapter presidents and honored guests**. Latonya John, Lambda Theta, **introduced the speaker, Shalan Inmon, TSO president**, who in her address drew meaningful analogies between the parts and functions of a rose and DKG members and their roles.

Following Shalan's address, Linda Smith, Delta Rho, gave the **invocation**. Then, attendees enjoyed **table talk and a delicious lunch** of salad, rolls, chicken, gravy, vegetables, cookie, water, and tea.

After lunch, Marilyn Marsh, Kappa Psi, presented the **Friend of Education Award**. Kendall Hutchinson, Theta Alpha and Cora McFarland Scholarship chair, led attendees in **parlor games** (bingo, crossword puzzle, and word search puzzle), which helped members learn about DKG scholarships and grants, DKG history, and DKG current info. **Bingo winners from Delta Omicron** were Denise Barker and Kathy Rodriguez. Katherine Grogan assisted with determining bingo winners. Kathy Carter, Iota Nu, led the **recognition of 25- and 50-year members**. Kendall Hutchinson updated members on **changes in the Cora McFarland Scholarship**. She also revealed the **winners of the silent auction**, with auction proceeds going to the Cora McFarland Scholarship fund. Winning bidders from Delta Omicron were Cindy Braley (twice) and Leesa Cole.





Delta Omicron's auction basket brought in a winning bid of \$200. Thank you, Katherine Grogan, for your generous contribution to the auction by filling our chapter's basket with \$160 worth of items!

Mary Claire Welch, Eta Eta, led attendees in **"The DKG Song."** Marylin Nease shares, "I loved looking around the perimeter of our dining room at our huge circle of ladies holding hands and singing our song! A wonderful closing to the event!"

AREA 9



2021-23 Area 9 Coordinator, Liz Garrett

→ Area 9 has **24 chapters in six North Texas counties**—Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Grayson, Kaufman, and Rockwall.

→ **Save the date: Sat., Sept. 10, 2022, Area 9 Workshop.**

This workshop is our opportunity for orientation as incoming officers and committee members for the 2022-24 biennium. Plus, we'll enjoy fellowship with other Area 9 chapters!

Graphic art created by Kristi John, Theta Alpha Chapter, Dallas County



Q. What's Area Workshop?

A. Remember when we voted in March for our 2022-24 Delta Omicron officers? Area Workshop is when we receive training for our new jobs as chapter officers and committee chairs/members.

Q. We know who our officers for 2022-24 will be. How do we know new committee chairs and committee members?

A. After our new co-presidents—Kay Keeland and Melanie Rudebeck—select the committees and chairs, someone from each committee should plan to attend Area Workshop.

Q. How do we register for Area Workshop?

A. Leesa Cole, our treasurer, can take registration \$\$ beginning in May and through Aug. 30. She will send in names and \$\$ monthly to the Area Workshop treasurer.

Q. How many \$\$?

A. Early bird registration is \$12. Registration fee will be \$15 after May 15. Please write your check to Delta Omicron.

Q. Who's in Area 9?

A. The 24 chapters in Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Grayson, Kaufman, and Rockwall counties.



TEXAS STATE ORGANIZATION <https://www.dkgtxas.org/>

→ TSO Newsletter

[Lone Star News - Spring, 2022](#)



→ 2021-23 State President

Shalan Inmon's biennium theme? **JOURNEY: Which Way Will You Go?**

Her biennium goals? **Nurture** - Develop relationships with current and new members.

Serve - Give of your time to others. **Educate** -

Promote the purposes and mission of DKG to others. **Wonder** - Dream, ask, reflect.



→ Delta Omicron Members Currently Serving in TSO Roles

(1) **Leesa Cole**, continuing as **TSO Executive Secretary** (began July 2020)

(2) **Katherine Grogan**, Area 9 member of **TSO Archives Committee, 2021-23**

(3) **Kay Keeland**, Area 9 member of **TSO Programs and Service Projects Committee, 2021-23**

(4) **Marylin Nease**, Area 9 member of **TSO Membership Committee, 2021-23**

→The Next TSO Convention—Save the Dates!



Lubbock, June 16-18, 2022

Convention information is now available on the [2022 Lubbock Convention](#) web page. Check back often for new updates on special events.

Unifying Project (Chapters all across Texas unify in supporting a service project in the convention site's community/area. For the 2022 Texas State Convention, our Unifying Project is Shelby's Bridge in Sudan, TX, which is 50 miles northwest of Lubbock.)

Gift shop, thrift store, café, floral shop, training facility...**that's Shelby's Bridge!** Teens and adults with learning disabilities are crossing the bridge into living more independent lives in the future. Friends at this unique place learn skills needed to work successfully in various arenas of employment. **Check out the work being done there by visiting Shelby's Bridge on Facebook or going to the website (www.shelbysbridge.org)** and you'll be glad you can be part of the work.

Gift cards brought to the Lubbock Convention will help in accomplishing their goals.

- **Hobby Lobby**
- **JoAnn's and Michael's cards** can purchase materials for projects.
- **Mastercard and Visa cards** can be used for a large variety of needs.
- **United, Albertson's, and H-E-B cards** can help in purchasing items for the café.
- **Costco and Sam's cards** will provide for the café needs and general supplies.
- **Walmart, Target, and other cards** are invaluable in providing for Bridge & friends' needs.
- **Cards for Stripes and Allsup's** will purchase gas for transportation and delivery.

Bring a gift card...or several...to have a part in the work of Shelby's Bridge.

For questions about this project, contact [Virginia Bowers](#), Lubbock Convention Steering Committee.

[2022 Convention Registration Form](#) (Interactive)

[2022 Convention Schedule at a Glance](#)

[2022 Convention Program Advertisement Form](#)

[2022 Convention Hotel Reservation Link](#)

[Visual Arts Display Application Form](#)

[2022 Convention Vendor Application Form](#)

Delta Omicron Chapter's Lubbock Convention Info:

Who's registered so far: Denise Barker, Cindy Braley, Kay Keeland, Carolyn Miller, Marylin Nease, Melanie Rudebeck. Considering it: Susan Bell, Leesa Cole, Penni Lewis, Wanda Spoonmore. Who else is going? Early-bird registration closes May 15 and is \$50. After May 15, registration is \$75.

→2023 STAR (Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat): Registration Open

Registration for the STAR event is now open and can be accessed at [this link](#). Mark your calendar for Jan. 13-15, 2023 at Camp Allen. The registration link is also located on the [Women in Arts Committee](#) page.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

INTERNATIONAL <https://www.dkg.org/>

→The Next Three International Conventions—Save the Dates!

- New Orleans, Louisiana (New Orleans Marriott), July 12-16, 2022 [Convention Info](#)

Who from Delta Omicron is registered so far: Denise Barker, Cindy Braley, Kay Keeland, Melanie Rudebeck. Considering it: Leesa Cole. Who else is going?

- National Harbor, Maryland (Gaylord National, D.C. Area) – 2024
- Aurora, Colorado (Gaylord Rockies) – 2026

→Gallery of Fine Arts

March 17, 2022

Dear Marylin Nease,

Congratulations! The DKG International Arts and Humanities Jury thanks you for being among the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts entrants of the January 15 – February 15, 2022 submission period. Your literary efforts, “We’re Sisters” and “Sisters in Orange and Red” have been accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

We anticipate the unveiling of the new DKG Fine Arts Gallery online by mid-April.

You [and other DKG members] are encouraged to submit additional works during the next submission period from Aug. 15 – Sept. 15, 2022....

Again, congratulations for your accomplishments.

Sincerely,
DKG International Arts & Humanities Jury



Photos: Barbara Clinton, Leesa Cole, Liz Garrett, Katherine Grogan, Shalan Inmon, Marylin Nease, Margaret Thompson, Pixabay.

Graphic Art: DKG, TSO, Pixabay.