

The 4:15



Delta Omicron, Chapter 111, Dallas, Dallas County, Area 9, Texas State Organization, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

DKG Mission Statement:
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.



Volume 63, Issue 8, April 4, 2020

Marylin Nease, editor



President's Message

To All My Delta Omicron "Sisters,"

In spite of the tremendous change in my life, I have to say I have had many new adventures that have been not only fun but also new life lessons that I needed to learn.

Lesson #1: Learning to live in a new environment totally different than what I have been accustomed to for the last twenty years!

Being back in a family again (24/7) has been a joy and a privilege that I certainly never expected to have! I joined my son [redacted] family last October 20 (remember my tornado experience?) and have been with them ever since.

However, now that my grandchildren [redacted] are home because of COVID-19 school closings, as well as my terrific daughter-in-law [redacted], because of her school closing, too, it's not just me at home with the dogs every day!

[redacted] I have been grocery shopping together and cooking together, and I have learned to use spices I never knew existed! We have walked 2 1/2 miles every day together; the kids sometimes join us. We have played multiple games of gin rummy, watched all the seasons of *Downton Abbey* again ([redacted] had never seen them), and we are watching *The Crown* episodes now, which I had never seen!

I have also been able to be part of the E-Learning the kids have now started. This is amazing technology that I could never have been a part of during my years of teaching!

The days that lie ahead are "uncharted waters," but with faith and trust that there is a reason for everything that happens and "That which does not kill us will only make us stronger" (a quote from *Steel Magnolias*), these days could be some of the best yet. ♥

Look for the rainbows,

Love from *Low McMillan*



Chapter Meeting News

Monday, March 16, 2020

Our March meeting was to be a spring fashion show at Talbot's in Plano, with Talbot's providing our refreshments and some of our members serving as models in the fashion show.

However, out of an abundance of caution and wanting to do our part to help flatten the curve, we wisely yielded to COVID-19 and cancelled our meeting.

Next Meeting

Will we meet in person on May 18? Who knows? In the meantime, let's plan for a virtual meeting via Zoom.



2019-2020 Meetings and Programs

Monday, September 16, 2019, 4:30/4:45 p.m. Salad/Dessert Supper. Marylin Nease and Melanie Rudebeck "YOU Are the Key to Membership Growth." **Chapter Project:** TBD. (1, 6)

Monday, October 21, 2019, 4:00/4:30 p.m. [REDACTED], "Vickery Meadow Summer Reading Academy: Volunteers Tutoring Children." US Forum, Carolyn Power. **International Project:** Schools for Africa (SfA). (1-3-6-7)

Monday, November 18, 2019, 4:00/4:30 p.m. Julie Turnbow Martin, "My Path of Teaching." Induction Ceremony. (1-2-3-6)

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 11:00 a.m -1:00 p.m. Home of Elenora Asbury. Brunch and Fellowship. **Chapter Project:** Denton State-Supported Living Center. (1, 6)

Monday, January 13, 2020, 4:00/4:30 p.m. [REDACTED], "Having Fun with Yoga." **International Project:** Support Early-career Educators (SEE). (1-2-3-4-6)

Monday, February 17, 2020, 4:00/4:30 p.m. Rose-Mary Rumbley, "February Fun." **ASTEF Giving Month.** (1, 6)

Monday, March 16, 2020, 4:00/4:30 p.m. Talbots, 1900 Preston Road, Plano. "Spring Fashion Show." **TSO Project:** Week of Caring. (1, 6)

Saturday, April 4, 2020, 9:30 a.m. Lakewood Country Club, 6430 Gaston. Coordinating Council of Dallas County: Annual Spring Luncheon. (1-2-5-6)

Monday, May 18, 2020, 4:00/4:30 p.m. Ceremonies to Honor Our Founders, Celebrate Our Chapter's Birthday, and Announce Chapter Scholarship, Grant-in-aid, and Achievement Award. Marilyn Nease, "An Interview with Almost Golden Member Carolyn Miller." **TSO Project:** Unifying Project for McAllen Convention. (1-2-3-5-6)

ENGAGEMENT in purposeful programs and projects to increase member involvement. 2019-2021 Biennial Goal #2, Patti Belknap, TSO President

2019-2020 Projects:

Chapter - Supporting Teachers (October-May), also Denton State-Supported Living Center (December).

TSO - Week of Caring (March), also Unifying Project (May).

International - Schools for Africa, SfA (October), also Support Early-career Educators, SEE (January).

Treasurer's Report



By Leesa Cole, Treasurer

DUES COLLECTION FOR 2020-2021!

I'm not certain that we will meet as scheduled in May, so please see below for dues payment options. If you wish to pay in installments, need to delay payment, or have general questions on this topic, please contact me directly. ***You and your membership are valued.***

If you can, follow the timeline below so that I can enter you as paid in the portal and send payment to International and TSO before June 30.

- **May 18:** Pay at meeting if we have one.
- **Before May 30:** Mail dues to me if not attending May meeting or in the event that we don't have one.
- **June 25:** This is the final deadline for me to receive payments, so **mail to me before this date.**

FYI:

- **Aug. 1 and Sept. 1:** Int'l will send email reminders to members who have not paid dues.
- **Oct. 1** Unpaid members will be dropped by Int'l.
- Any member dropped for non-payment can be reinstated once dues are paid.

Knowing the above, if you have circumstances that will delay dues payment, please reach out to me.

Again, you and your membership are valued. Active member dues: \$100

Communications and Marketing Committee

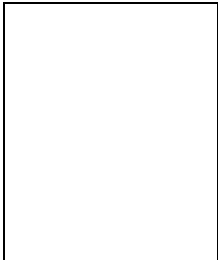
By Marylin Nease, Chair

Many thanks go to **Leah Black**, corresponding secretary, for printing and mailing copies of each month's newsletter to our members who do not have computer access to email. Leah also mails copies to our state president, Patti Belknap, and our state editor/photographer of *Lone Star News*, Carol McMillan.



And, a big thank-you goes to four-year member **Janet Hogg** for volunteering last November to be a newsletter photographer! Great job, Janet! Way to step forward!

Legislation Committee



By [REDACTED] Chair

Five Pieces of Legislative News for April 2020

Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) 2020 State Convention has been cancelled. If you registered for the convention, you will be receiving a full, automatic refund from the TRTA membership department. The refund will include your registration fee, as well as any meal tickets that you purchased. TRTA members will not be held liable for room reservations by the Omni or the Holiday Inn. Both hotels will automatically cancel the reservation.

Tim Lee, Director of TRTA, and Brian Guthrie, Director of Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) discuss the **TRS pension trust fund and how the market fluctuations are impacting your retirement security.** Click on the following link to view the video.

<https://www.facebook.com/TexasRetiredTeachers/videos/811045519401816/>

If you are struggling to make ends meet and need immediate financial assistance, please contact Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) for information about **"A Helping Hand" program.** You must be a member of TRS in order to apply. You may reach TRTF at 1-800-880-1650 or click on this link.

<https://trta.org/a-helping-hand-available-for-retirees-in-need/>

Congress has passed the **"Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" or the "CARE Act"** to those who qualify and are affected by the Coronavirus or COVID-19. This money is also available to active and retired educators, including those who are affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and those that receive Social Security or Social Security Insurance (SSI). You must qualify in order to receive the money. Please click on the following links for more information.

<https://waysandmeans.house.gov/sites/democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/files/documents/SSA%20CAR ES.pdf>

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/heres-what-the-historic-2-trillion-coronavirus-stimulus-package-will-do-to-help-small-businesses-2020-03-26>

<https://trta.org/breaking-trs-members-to-receive-federal-funds-from-stimulus-package-facebook-live-recap/>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text>

Greg Abbot, the Governor of Texas, sent out a proclamation **suspending elections until November 3, 2020**. Dallas County Elections Office recommends each political subdivision to postpone the election. Please click on the following link for more information.

<https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/upcoming-election-information/>



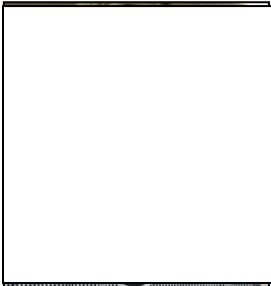
Scholarship Committee

For Leah Black, Chair

The Delta Omicron Chapter scholarship (for members) and grant in aid (for non-members) are available. See page 35 in chapter yearbook.

Committee members are [REDACTED], Leesa Cole, [REDACTED], and Marilyn Smith.

Women in the Arts Committee – STAR Info



For [REDACTED] Chair

Info source: Lone Star News

Who: DKG members and their non-member adult women friends

What: Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat (STAR)

Where: Camp Allen, Navasota, TX

When: January 15-17, 2021 (MLK weekend). Sign up now to save your place.
STAR is popular!

Why: To enjoy a weekend of fellowship, fun, creativity, and crafts and arts instruction. No experience required.

How: Use this link: https://www.dkgtexas.org/uploads/4/2/8/3/42835841/wia.registration_2021.pdf

Members' Personal News

Life being what it is in this pandemic—cancelled meetings, shelter-in-place orders, and so forth, I thought our April newsletter ought to reflect that change. On March 25, I emailed our chapter members:

Dear Delta Omicron Sisters,

Send me whatever you'd like to put in our April newsletter--photos, a "report" on what you're doing during

our shelter-in-place time, etc. Are you cooking more and have a recipe to share? Exercising, walking in your neighborhood, FaceTiming with family and friends? Reading good books and have one or more to recommend? Sorting out a closet and getting more organized?

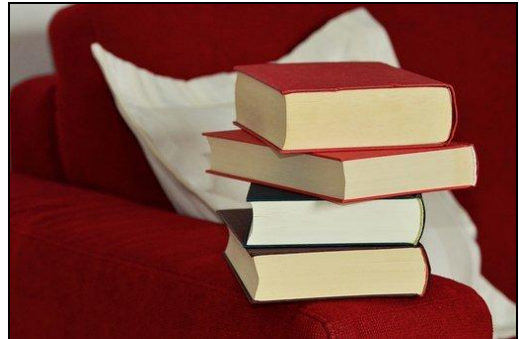
Catching up on a long to-do list and feeling proud of yourself?

Learning to social distance yourself six feet from others and adopting new ways of saying "Glad to see you/Wish I could hug you," such as a queenly wave and an enigmatic smile?

Gardening now that the rain is gone and the sun is out again?

If you're still working, are you working remotely, and how's it going? Give us an update on what it's like to do online instruction with your students. We'd love to hear all about it!

However short or long you want to write it, please take time to send me your input for our newsletter. By the end of March?



Thank you, and looking forward to hearing from you, ❤️
Marylin



From March 25, **Carrie Parsons** reported, "Well, C19 has opened up my world for the time being. No school and no tutoring for now. I am sending some lessons virtually and recommending some clients just enjoy this time with their children.

"I am walking longer each day and have enjoyed treks along Turtle Creek. I'm cleaning and organizing... occasionally and, of course, cooking.

"Prayers needed for my brother, who lives in New York; his wife, who is an OR nurse, and my nephew, who lives in Brooklyn. They are surrounded by C19.

"As for me, I'm taking this time to slow down and relax."



From March 25, **Katherine Grogan** shared, "I read four terrific books over the last two weeks. They are available to borrow, read, and return.

Before We Were Yours

by Lisa Wingate

This book is about the Tennessee Children's Home Society. It takes place in Memphis in 1939. Additionally, the book alternates to the present in Aiken, South Carolina. It's an engrossing tale about sibling love and the toll of secrets.

How to Walk Away

by Katherine Center

This book was amazing. It's about a young lady named Margaret who has a horrible accident and how she has to change to a new normal.

Winter in Paradise

by Elin Hilderbrand

Love this author. I can't read enough of her books.

Without giving away too much, these books are about a family that seems to go through life nicely and then a whole lot of things happen that are a shocking surprise to them. Each book is a cliff hanger.

What Happens in Paradise

by Elin Hilderbrand

This is the second book of the trilogy.
The third book won't be out until October 2020.

Also, my Lifeboost coffee president sent me this saying that might encourage all of us:
"May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door." -- Old Irish Blessing



From March 25, **Maureen Baker** reported, "I am delighted to see the sun again. Today, I was able to get out into the garden. It is refreshing to be out with Mt. Cedar gone, or at least I hope it is gone.

"I have been doing a variety of things, such as [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), e-mailing family, reading, reading, and reading during the day and watching my favorite shows at night. "My Sunday school class and church are online or Zoom, as is my Bible study. This has allowed me to see others and have a discussion with them."



From March 25, **Susan Endicott** shared, "My poem on day 7!"

On my seventh day of captivity
I've thought about my routine
My eyes flutter open
I stretch
Still yawn
Creep out of bed so as not to wake [REDACTED]
Change out of loose clothes into more loose clothes

Wash face and hands
Slowly leave bedroom and quietly close the door
I turn off the alarm (because there are dangerous civilians out there who want my toilet paper)
And turn on the COFFEE

As the coffee delightfully fills my kitchen with its calming aroma
I put away any stray dishes
Walk to all the windows to check out the growing GREEN of Spring
Look at my puzzle on the table in case a piece shows up that I couldn't find the day before

I finally make my way to MY CHAIR
Turn on the IPAD
And begin my day with E-mails

I love my Trivia questions
Today was: What 7 letter word appears on all US coins

- A. Liberty
- B. Freedom
- C. Limited
- D. Arizona

UMMMMM... I got it right!! Hint: it is not Arizona

I love the Fodors.com...today they had an article on all the Best Lock Down News Around the World
If you've not seen the Barcelona piano player and Sax player playing "My Heart Will Go On" from their
balcony...it is delightful!
And then there is the Audubon.org...The cutest pics of birds from around the world.
I love birds. I love animals.

I'm still breathing.

I think though that I hope I don't forget
How to put on makeup
How to roll my hair
How to wear clothes without elastic
How to drive
How to hug and not be scared
Okay I doubt I'll forget how to hug
But I'm still scared for our world at the moment

But I'm in my routine and still breathing

Hope you are too!!



On March 27, **Marylin Nease** reported, "██████████ and I are staying home, trying to help flatten that curve and slow the spread of COVID-19. Besides my usual DKG responsibilities, I finished one book and then read another. I've also spent several work sessions in our flowerbeds—spreading compost from our compost bin, and digging up and disposing of a rose bush I've had since 1987 (from my paternal grandmother, Rose). Why? Rose rosette disease! Also, we had 65 bags of mulch delivered, and I spent parts of two perfect-weather days spreading it in our flowerbeds. On another day I planted okra seeds. I can do all of this labor after three months of physical therapy to strengthen my right shoulder. Hooray!

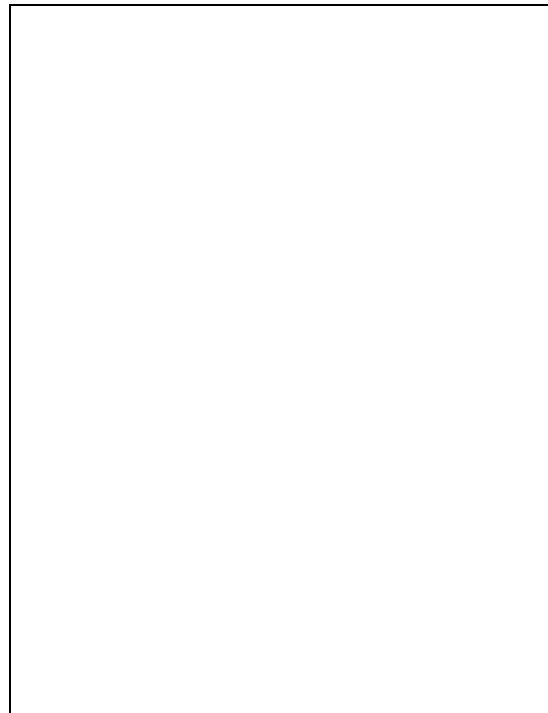
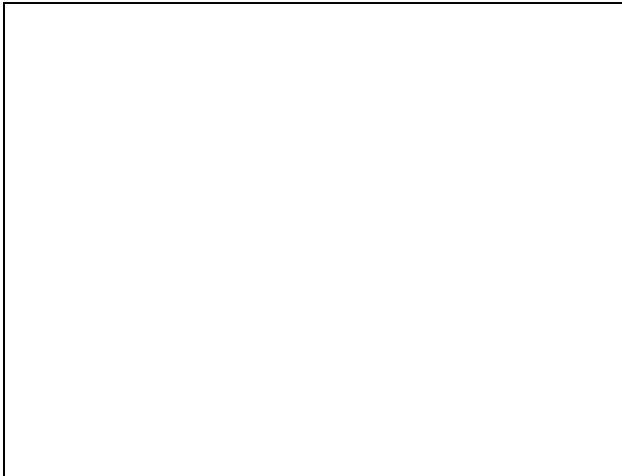
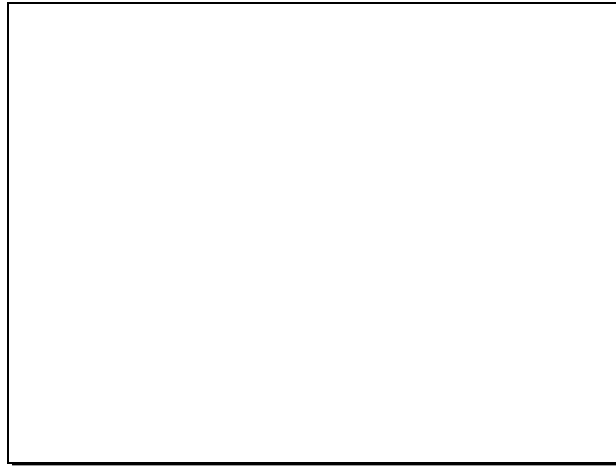
Now, back to the books I've been reading—both with strong female protagonists.

Two weeks ago, I finished *She Would Be King* by Wayétu Moore (published in 2018). The book begins in the early 1800s and takes place in West Africa, Virginia, Jamaica, then West Africa again. It follows three central characters, all of them joining forces in the battle for human freedom. I like that I learned a bit about Liberia's founding and that the tale is about a woman who has enough strength, courage, and wisdom to be king of her village—but she is female. Still, she leads the fight for justice, a struggle that continues today. Magical realism is central to the tale: the three main characters have special powers they use for good. The author was born in Liberia, reared in Texas, and is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California. One of my best friends read the book and passed it on to me. Let me know if you'd like to read it, and I'll pass it on to you.

Last night I finished *The Tall Woman* by Wilma Dykeman (published in 1962)—also passed on to me by the same friend. I love this book. It's historical fiction, one of my favorite genres. Set in pre- and post-Civil War time in Virginia, the story follows the life of the oldest daughter of a pioneering family as she comes of age, marries, and rears her own family. She is a strong woman, strong in body, mind, and heart, able to embrace the joys and the challenges of her historical time and place. This beautifully written story contains lots of life wisdom relevant to any era. Again, I'll pass it on to you if you'd like to read it. Just let me know.



On April 3, **Mary White** shared, "[redacted] is here!
"Proud parents are [redacted]. 'Over the moon' with joy is her
happy Grandmommy, Mary White! Big sister [redacted] is happy, too."



Happy April Birthdays!

This is not an April Fools Day joke. I looked through our membership directory twice, and I did not find any members with an April birthday. Wow!

Members' News Continued: Updates from Leesa Cole



CCDC Cora McFarland committee met via Zoom on March 28 and awarded scholarships to very worthy applicants. It's so exciting and inspiring to learn about the endeavors of our fellow DKG educators - such a talented and intelligent group! This scholarship is such a gift to the women taking classes to further their service to education. I am a two-time recipient, and I know many of you also have benefitted from this generous opportunity.

TSO HQ is working remotely as much as we can. Deborah Thomas, Executive Assistant, and I take turns being in the office alone. Being the state's finance department, we are "essential" to both TSO and ASTEF. The accounting system is only available in the office. We are all responding to email remotely. Cheryl Crawford, Executive Secretary, checks the office voice mail from home and responds to those calls or passes them to Deborah or to me as needed.

TSO Scholarship Committee and TSO Finance Committee both held their regular meetings on March 21 and April 3 via Go To Meeting (a secure video conferencing platform provided by International). Deborah and I both participated in those meetings along with state president Patti Belknap. Both committee chairs, Sherri Davenport/Scholarship and Susan Harmon/Finance, ran very efficient and productive meetings. I have been deep in preparations for and follow-up from both meetings where state scholarships were awarded and the TSO budget was reviewed and amended. Needless to say, my daily routines have not changed much – just the space in which I work and minus the face-to-face group meetings.

ASTEF committee members will also be doing their work remotely, what they would normally do in Dallas, over the weekend of April 24-26. Lots of shifting patterns and working differently everywhere!

My husband is learning to embrace technology in order to provide Texas History classes via Google classroom and to keep the connections with his history students and his athletes (it's supposed to be track and soccer season). He is taking multiple long walks each day, and I try to join in the late evening when I can. When/if the rain stops again, I can't wait to tackle some outdoor cleanup now that two big meetings are completed and I can have my weekends back for a while.

I have an **important update to announce about TSO HQ that will involve our chapter.**

Because Cheryl Crawford (current TSO Executive Secretary) is retiring, your state headquarters will have new-ish employees. On July 1, I will move into the Executive Secretary position; Deborah Thomas, who is the current Executive Assistant, will move into my current position of State Treasurer; and our very own Katherine Grogan (our next chapter president and a valued volunteer at TSO HQ) will be the Executive Assistant. How 'bout that, y'all! I am very excited about this new opportunity for the three of us personally/professionally but also for our organization and foundation. We will be a great team!

The TSO Technology Committee has compiled a list of resources for socializing while you isolate (many of you are probably already using these), so if you want some ideas, go to www.dkgtexas.org and read the top article – or [click this link](#) and go directly to their resources.

Let's all continue the course of sheltering at home, keeping a safe distance when going out, and keeping those hands clean so that this pandemic curve can try to flatten and our world can return to personal gatherings without fear. I'm an introvert, and I love technology, so I'm enjoying the remote meetings, but I do miss sharing a happy embrace with my DKG sisters and friends.

Love to you all,
Leesa



2018-2020 Chapter Executive Board:

President: **Lou McMillan**

Vice President, Programs / Service Projects: **Katherine Grogan**

Vice President, Membership: **Melanie Rudebeck**

Recording Secretary: [REDACTED]

Corresponding Secretary: **Leah Black**

Treasurer: **Leesa Cole**

Parliamentarian: **Kay Keeland**

Chapter Website: <http://deltaomicrontexas.weebly.com/>

Chapter Webmaster: **Carolyn Power**

Chapter Webwatcher: **Marilyn Nease**

Coordinating Council of Dallas County (CCDC) News



CCDC's Spring Luncheon!

By Carolyn Miller, 2019-2021 CCDC Chair

Our spring luncheon scheduled for Saturday, April 4, at Lakewood Country Club was cancelled out of an abundance of caution during this time of COVID-19.

Area 9 News



By Marilyn Nease, 2019-2021 Area 9 Coordinator

Five Dates to Save—and, in one case already, to reschedule...

- ✓ **Saturday, March 28, 2020**, Dallas, **Area 9 Reception** honoring 2019-2021 TSO President **Patti Belknap**-----**rescheduled to Saturday, October 24, 2020**
- ✓ **June 17-19, 2020**, **TSO Convention**, McAllen
- ✓ **July 7-11, 2020**, **International Convention**, Philadelphia
- ✓ **Saturday, September 19, 2020**, **Area 9 Workshop**, Region 10 ESC, Richardson
- ✓ **June 16-18, 2021**, **TSO Convention**, Denton

Three Key Points for Area 9 in 2019-2021

(1) Membership Growth—We **ALL** must recruit, reinstate, and retain members **ALL year long, every year**. We **ALL** must be thinking about educators we will invite to membership, former members we will invite to reinstate, and ways to retain our members.

(2) Reception for Patti Belknap—Our 2019-2021 state president is from Area 9. Our 25 Area 9 chapters will host a reception to honor and celebrate Patti as our TSO leader on **October 24, 2020**, in Dallas. More info will follow.

(3) Area 9 Workshop—Chapter presidents met August 10 to begin planning for our **September 19, 2020**, workshop. The event will be at the Region 10 Education Service Center in Richardson. More info will follow.

Texas State Organization News



Patti Belknap, 2019-2021 TSO President

Biennium Theme: YOU are the key.

Biennium Goals:

Knowledge of the Society's mission, purposes, and traditions.

Engagement in purposeful programs and projects to increase member involvement.

Yearlong involvement in recruiting, mentoring, and leading.

Support from officers, mentors, and others to increase stronger members and chapters.



Emma Joven
Area 9 Mentor



ASTEF

Next September 17, ASTEF (our Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation) will celebrate its 10th birthday.

What does ASTEF do? It **funds scholarships, leadership training, and projects for its members.**

Q. What is an easy way to support the work of ASTEF?

A. Go to Amazon Smile, open your Amazon account from there, and choose your

charity: **ASTEF!**

TSO Convention, June 17-19, 2020, McAllen

Use this link to

- (1) register for the convention,
- (2) reserve your hotel room,
- (3) view the convention schedule,
- (4) apply for the visual arts display,
- (5) apply to present a breakout session, and
- (6) see more convention info.

<https://dkgtexas2020convention.weebly.com/>

Key Makers





Embassy Suites Hotel, McAllen. Photos by Cheryl Crawford, TSO Executive Secretary.



2020 Convention's Unifying Project

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are highly trained volunteers appointed by courts to advocate for the best interests of children in child welfare systems because of abuse or neglect at home.

In Area 5, TSO members will be supporting CASA projects in (1) Laredo/Webb County, Voz de Niños; (2) Edinburg/Hidalgo County, CASA of Hidalgo County; (3) Brownsville/Cameron and Willacy Counties, CASA of Cameron and Willacy Counties; (4) Corpus Christi/Nueces and Aransas Counties, CASA of the Coastal Bend; and (5) Kingsville/Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, and Kleberg Counties, Brush Country CASA.

These CASA offices have many needs, but they are especially interested in donations that will help pre-teens and teenaged clients. They get many donations for young children, but the older children do not receive as much. **We can help by donating (1) gift cards (Wal-Mart, Amazon, Target, HEB, Academy Sports, Visa/Mastercard that do not have a fee), (2) kid friendly fast-food restaurant cards (such as McDonalds, Whataburger, Dairy Queen), (3) books for grades 4-12, (4) girls' and boys' hygiene items, and (5) journals, small purses, wallets, key chains, or other small items.**

2020 Convention's Visual Arts Display

Who: DKG member artists

What: Visual Arts Display of any type of fine arts and crafts: photographs, paintings, writing, needlework, pottery, sculpture, etc.

Where: State convention in McAllen

When: June 17-19, 2020; **Deadline to apply:** April 15

Why: To share your artwork with others, inviting them to experience and enjoy member-created art

How: Use this link to apply: <https://dkgtexas2020convention.weebly.com/applications.html>

International News...



President and Theme, 2018-2020

Cathy P. Daugherty

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

International Convention, July 7-11, 2020, Philadelphia, PA

Hotel: Philadelphia Marriott Downtown,
1201 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107

Keynote Speakers: Jane Golden, artist;
and Olympia LePoint, scientist

**Link to hotel, speakers' bios, and more
convention info:**

https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Events/2020_International_convention/Hotel_Philadelphia.aspx



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Graphic art is by DKG, TSO, and Pixabay.

Delta Omicron's The 4:15*

Five-Star-Award/Seal-of-Merit Newsletter

To submit news, contact
Marylin Nease, editor



Why is *The 4:15* the title for our chapter's newsletter?

* *Delta* is the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet, and *Omicron* is the fifteenth letter.

* Also, on a good day, 4:15 is the time we leave school.

* Best of all, on a really good day, 4:15 is the time we head to a Delta Omicron meeting! ☺