



The 4:15



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

Volume 60, Issue 6

Marilyn Nease, editor

February 20, 2017




++ President's Pen

*"There are good ships and wood ships,
Ships that sail the sea,
But the best ships are friendships,
And may they ever be!"*

Irish Proverb

Dear Delta Omicron Chapter Members,

I cannot believe it is already February 2017! It seems like only yesterday that I put away the Christmas decorations. And, we've already had our first meeting of the New Year. Didn't **Leah Black** present a marvelous program on estate sales? I don't know when I've enjoyed a program more!

Speaking of enjoying good times, I just spent a wonderful weekend in Brenham (home of the wonderful Blue Bell ice cream) with two very dear friends I've known for years.  (top photo) and I go all the way back to 1961, when she pledged my sorority at SMU.  (lower photo) and I became friends through  because our boys were all about the same age. We also were all married during this time, so our husbands were good friends as well. We shared many wonderful and challenging times, all the many facets of life that forge enduring friendships.

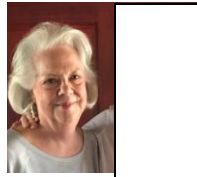
And, it has suddenly dawned on me that we are doing, and have done, the very same thing in DKG: we are making friends for life. Many of you in the chapter have been doing this for years. Like our Founders (all friends whose friendship led them to establish our amazing Society), we are blazing paths together that we might never have trod if it were not for Delta Kappa Gamma.

Therefore, I propose a toast to you, Delta Omicron, you wonderful teachers and friends who have done so much to make our chapter the distinguished group of educators that it has become, and, hopefully, will continue to be for years to come! Oh, the places we'll go in 2017 and beyond!

Yours in love and friendship,

Lou McMillan

2016-2018 Chapter President ■

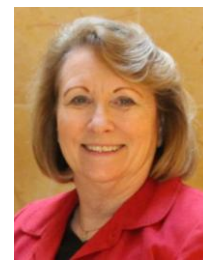


Chapter Meeting News Monday, February 20, 2017

Time and Agenda:

4:30 p.m. – Fellowship and Food

5:00 p.m. – Program



Program Presenters:

 **Marilyn Nease**

Topic: How's Your Heart Health?

Special Guest:

TSO President **Marilyn Gregory**

Topic: DKG Member Opportunities, TSO News, and Ways to Use Our Hearts!

Social Arrangements:

Committee Chair – Sherrie Negrete

February Hostesses - Nancy

Johnson, Kay Keeland, Shirley

Kochman, Katy Kunofsky, Marilyn

Lamb, Penni Lewis,  Lou

McMillan, Carolyn Miller



Location:

Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Room H020
3821 University Blvd., Dallas 75205

What to bring: (1) a heart-healthy recipe book or health and exercise book or DVD—see p. 2; (2) Box Tops for Education coupons for our Hillier School project; (3) bag of candy and/or plastic Easter eggs—see p. 2; (4) \$30 to Mary Gill to reserve your place for the CCDC luncheon—see p. 4 and p. 13. ■

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Delta Omicron's The 4:15*

Five-Star-Award Newsletter

To submit news, contact
Marylin Nease, editor

* Delta = the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet, and Omicron = the fifteenth letter; also, on a good day 4:15 = the time we leave school; best of all, on a really good day, 4:15 = the time we head to Delta Omicron; hence, *The 4:15* title for our chapter's newsletter. ☺

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

Chapter Webmaster: **Carolyn Power**

Chapter Webwatcher: **Marylin Nease**

Chapter News...

Part 1 - Officers

2016-2018 Executive Board:

President: **Lou McMillan**

Vice President, Programs / Service Projects: **Barbara Clinton**

Vice President, Membership: **Jaime Callahan**

Recording Secretary: **Susan Bell**

Corresponding Secretary: **Ashraf Mobh**

Treasurer: **Mary Gill**

Parliamentarian: **Kay Keeland**

Immediate Past President: **Mary White**



Programs and Service Projects VP's Report

For Barbara Clinton, Programs/Projects VP

● February 20 Meeting Info

February is Heart Health Month, and our February chapter program will be all about our hearts.

Two Program Presenters

Speaking as a heart patient, Delta Omicron member **Marylin Nease** will share her own heart adventure, including some dos and don'ts she's learned along the way.

██████████ will offer information on cardiovascular risk factors for heart disease—cholesterol, high blood pressure, sedentary lifestyle, smoking, obesity, etc. She will also review basic exercise guidelines.

██████████ is a graduate of Baylor University with an undergraduate degree in



Health/Fitness Studies, and a Master of Science in Education degree (in Health, Human Performance, and Recreation). She has worked in cardiopulmonary rehabilitation as an exercise physiologist the past 13 years and is currently the supervisor of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation at The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano. ██████████ is also our **Lou Brown's** daughter.

Heart-Healthy Cookbooks and ASTEF Fundraiser

In preparation for our February program, chapter members have contributed copies of their favorite heart-healthy recipes. Members will receive the recipes compiled into a cookbook.

Members will also donate heart-healthy cookbooks and health or exercise books or DVDs from their own at-home collections for a fundraiser at the February meeting. Proceeds will go to ASTEF, TSO's education foundation, which funds scholarships, leadership events, and projects—all close to our hearts!

Special Guest, TSO President Marilyn Gregory

And, of course, we all know that TSO President Marilyn Gregory's biennium theme is "The Heart of the Society Is Its Members." Marilyn will update us with DKG member opportunities and TSO news, as well as how we can use our hearts.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 20 for this special focus on our hearts! ■

● 2016-2017 Service Projects

▶ CHAPTER:

• **All Hands on Deck for Hillier** – ASTEF-funded program at Hillier School to support early-career educators, support students with diagnosed learning differences, and support the principal (August-May)

• **Denton State-Supported Living Center** - donation of monetary gifts (December) **Completed**

▶ TSO:

• **Week of Caring** - chapters statewide develop service projects in local communities (February, March)

Delta Omicron's 2017 Week of Caring Project: Advocates for Community Transformation (ACT)

♥ ACT is Lou McMillan's nephew's ministry in West Dallas and South Dallas, a program she's worked with for several years.

♥ At our Feb. and Mar. meetings, we'll donate plastic Easter eggs and bags of candy toward ACT's annual Easter egg hunt.

♥ We can also help stuff the eggs. Lou will drive.

• **Unifying Project** - project that serves needs of state convention community, unifies chapters across Texas in service (May, June)

▶ **INTERNATIONAL:** *Continued on page 3.*



•**Schools for Africa (SfA)**, a UNICEF and DKG international project (adopted in 2010) to “transform lives through education” on the African continent, with special focus on girls, orphans, and vulnerable children (October, November) **Completed**
 •**Support Early-career Educators (SEE)**, DKG international project (adopted in 2012) to strengthen the profession by empowering beginning teachers via mentoring and practical support from experienced teachers (August-May) ■

Membership VP's Report

By Jaime Callahan, Membership VP



● Veterans and Newer Members—Both Essential to the Society's Vitality

For this month I am borrowing from the TSO Membership Committee chair, Michelle Grandinetti, who also borrowed (with her permission) from TSO's Second Vice President, Cookee Johnson.

Cookee wrote in the winter 2016 edition of *Lone Star News* about a subject that I feel is very important and deserves continued attention. The article emphasizes the responsibility of veteran members to recognize the value that newer members bring to the chapter and their need to be nurtured and mentored. As many of you know, I have a special place in my heart for those who are loving mentors.

Cookee emphasizes, “The initiate is excited about the heritage of DKG, service to community, projects for purpose, and programs for inspiration and information. She will come with new ideas, creative suggestions, enthusiasm, and boundless energy.”

Michelle continues by explaining the importance of recognizing this and places the charge upon veteran members to embrace the initiate's enthusiasm, accept her ideas, and

incorporate her suggestions into the activities of the chapter.

Change is a good thing...

We must make sure that she is given opportunities to participate in the preparation of programs and to serve on committees.

Right away, I can see the value of gathering program ideas from newer members because that is how we help to develop others and keep their interests high. We cannot assume that a new member knows how to be a DKG member or that she understands the requirements of chapter membership.

Cookee continues, “Change is a good thing, and in DKG change in membership is opportunity for growth, renewed commitments, and moments of sheer excitement about the future of our Society. Members are the heart of our Society, and we can grow our Society with the anticipation and excitement of our initiates.”

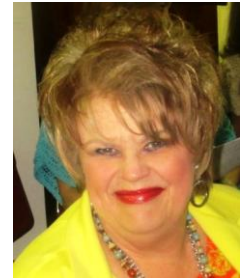
Gentle guiding hands, encouragement, and support will guarantee that these initiates will one day become the veterans mentoring the initiates.

Delta Omicron ladies do an excellent job of embracing new members. I believe our continued growth will depend on the infusion of new ideas with tradition! ■



Recording Secretary's Report

By Mary White, Immediate Past President,
 For Susan Bell, Recording Secretary



The Delta Omicron Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at 4:30 P.M. for food and fellowship and at 5 P.M. for the program on Monday, January 23, 2017, at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Thirty members and one guest attended.

At 5 P.M. **Lou McMillan**, president, welcomed members and thanked our social chairman, **Sherrie Negrete**, and her hostesses: **Susan Endicott**, **Bonnie Ethridge**, **Marta Finlay**, **Kay Keeland**, **Nancy Johnson**, **Carolyn Power**, and **Kathy Rodriguez** for hosting our December brunch.

Lou McMillan led members in sharing cares and concerns. We were glad to learn that **Mary Gill's** daughter is in good spirits and is able to go back to work. The pins in her foot come out February 10. **Leesa Cole's** sister is feeling stronger, and the medication seems to be working. Prayers go out to **Penni Lewis**, who has tendonitis in her leg, to **Susan Bell**, who has just had shoulder surgery, and for **Marilyn Nease's** sister as she receives more test results and care. Our condolences were expressed to **Katy Kunofsky** for the passing of her father, and to **Becky Quigley** for the loss of her brother.

Carolyn Miller, personal and professional enrichment committee chair, provided an inspirational message reminding us that we should be kind, honest, happy, forgiving, and the best we can be, remembering that everything is between us and God, not us and our fellowman.

Margaret Thompson made a motion that the November minutes published in the December newsletter be approved, and **Susan Endicott** seconded the motion.

Mary Gill, treasurer, reported that we have a balance of \$5,200. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

legislation chair, announced that the Texas legislature will be voting on TRS health care on Tuesday, January 30.

Becky Quigley, Hillier School/ASTEF Project chair, thanked members **Margaret Armstrong**, **Katrina Hallman**, and **Kay Keeland** for providing December goody bags for the Hillier staff. Thanks also go to **Lou McMillan**, **Marilyn Nease**, and **Margaret Thompson** for their weekly after-school tutoring. The goody bag sign-up list for February and April was shared with members.

New Business:

The 2017 Texas State Convention will be June 22-24 in Houston. Go online to register to stay at the Westin Galleria Hotel. The rooms are \$139 plus tax.

The 2017 Southwest Regional Conference will be July 4-7 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Online registration for the hotel is not available yet.

The 2017 CCDC luncheon is Saturday, April 1, at the Lakewood Country Club. Tickets are \$30. Lou encouraged members to think of someone they could nominate for a "Friend of DKG" award. [REDACTED] has a nominee in mind.

Mary White read an email sent to members from Rita Rose, a former member of Delta Omicron, inviting members to her Gamma Beta chapter meeting on February 2 in McKinney at 4:45 P.M. **Kathy Rodriguez**, a Delta Omicron member, will be speaking at the meeting.

Program:

Barbara Clinton, programs and service projects vice president, introduced her longtime friend and Delta Omicron member Leah Black, our program presenter. Leah's company is Ron & Leah Black Estate Sales. The points of her program were what services we provide, how a sale is organized, how items are priced, how we advertise, how sales are conducted, what happens to unsold items, and when the seller receives payment for sold items. Afterward, we had our own "Antiques Road Show." Several members brought items for Leah to evaluate and to give a price valuation. This was interesting and fun!

The meeting was adjourned, and members joined hands for the singing of "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song." ■

Treasurer's Report



By Mary Gill, Treasurer

On February 4, our balance was \$5,220.

To reserve your place for the Coordinating Council of Dallas County Luncheon at Lakewood Country Club on April 1, please bring a \$30 check written to Delta Omicron to our February 20 meeting. Or, mail me your

check by March 1 so I can mail in our reservations by March 6. ■

Chapter News continued...

Part 2 – Committees: Society Business

Communications and Publicity Committee

● Thank You to Committee Members

By Marilyn Nease, Committee Chair



Thank you to **Chris Brunner** for keeping our non-email members informed. Each month Chris prints and mails *The 4:15* to our five members without email.



A thank-you also goes to **Mary Louise Milliorn** for making phone calls to members without email. ■

● **Editor's Note:** Periodically *The 4:15* will feature articles of special interest to members. These articles will be about the Society, the chapter, professional issues, women's issues, and human interests.

This month's articles are human interest ones. These are three personal essays in an ongoing series exploring the impact of one family member's illness on the family as a whole.

One and All

By Marilyn Nease, Editor

Part 1: December 12, 2016

Oh, to Be...



Back when I was teaching high school English classes, occasionally I'd hear a student long for the easier days of childhood. Now sometimes on Facebook, I read a post from one of my former students remarking about the pangs of

"adulting."

Lately, I'm relating to their urges to go back in time.

No, I don't want to go back to childhood. I've always felt happy at each stage of my life. However, at the moment I'd love to go back to the innocence of a couple of months ago, say to November. Or, to last August or June. Or, to last April. Back to any of those times in 2016 when my three sisters and I convened in Oklahoma to clean my older sister [REDACTED] garage or carport or storage sheds or home's upstairs. We sisters, along with other family members, worked hard sorting through more than two decades of acquiring and storing. Each time we ended up dirty and weary on our way to restoring order and function. Sometimes we sisters gathered around [REDACTED] kitchen table for a meal of oven-roasted vegetables from her garden or from her younger son's garden. I knew I was having a good time being with family then, even in the midst of the labor and sweat.

But I didn't know how good those times were until December. Not until I learned that my youngest sister [REDACTED] has cancer.

Oh, to be innocent again. To live in our sisterhood's happy-go-lucky, pre-cancer days.

An Uncertain Future

So, what now?

The best I've figured out so far is that we have to carry on as before, the best we can, with interruptions for doctor appointments and medical procedures. In between the interruptions, and especially during them, we must live in the present moment, sharing love and laughter and life in whatever it is we're doing at the time.

Nothing can change—because everything has changed with the loss of our innocence.

What lies ahead we sisters do not know.

A Shared Past

All we know is about our past. We grew up sharing one bedroom, reared by parents who taught us about family and responsibility, about education and vision.

And through the decades, we've remained a tightly knit group of four by making time to get together at holidays and family dinners, at sister weekends and family reunions.

We're in our 60s and 70s today, still feeling young inside but now vulnerable, too.

A Present to Share

And all we can do is live in our shared present.

Every time my younger sister [REDACTED] and I carpool from Texas to Oklahoma for visits with [REDACTED], or for [REDACTED] medical appointments, we'll talk and drive, talk and drive, as always, looking forward to the four of us being together again.

When we're together, we'll celebrate and make more memories, ones that will sweeten the future, even as we think, "Oh, to be innocent again."

Part 2: January 6, 2017

In a Ditch

Suddenly the scene began to spin; that meant we were spinning. We'd been driving north. Now we spun to the south. Next, we spun to the north again. Then, we spun to the east and headed straight down a 60 degree embankment 20 or so feet before spinning to face south again and coming to an abrupt and welcome stop.

"Is everybody okay?" asked my nephew [REDACTED] from the front passenger's seat.

The other four of us answered affirmatively that we were. In the driver's seat sat my nephew-in-law, [REDACTED]. In the back seat of the four-wheel-drive Dodge Ram pickup, I sat behind the driver, my younger sister [REDACTED] sat in the middle, and my older sister [REDACTED] sat behind the passenger.

We'd been on our way to a medical facility in Oklahoma City, where our youngest sister [REDACTED] was scheduled for a biopsy.

The night before, snow had fallen, leaving a winter wonderland for us to admire the next morning. While we watched from [REDACTED] kitchen windows, a light snow continued to fall. Several times we remarked on the beauty before us.

A little later, we were on the road heading to OKC. Snowplows and salt trucks had done their work before us, and the highway surface was drivable—until we hit that slick spot and spun out of control.

Despite [REDACTED] best efforts, the pickup couldn't climb the snow-covered incline to take us back to the highway, where we'd be able to resume our trip. Our only way out of the ditch was to call a towing service. An hour later, we cheered the sight of a tow truck, which needed multiple tries to pull us up the slick, steep incline. Only later, when [REDACTED] wrote the name of the towing

service on a check, did we note its name: Bad Day Towing. We enjoyed the chuckle, knowing our trip into the ditch could have been so much worse.

We arrived at the hospital an hour and a half late, but safe and sound. [REDACTED] was already in surgery, already having the biopsy. We'd have to wait to see her until she was in recovery. But that was okay because now at least our day was back in order again.

Except that it wasn't. Not since that day in December when [REDACTED] received the phone call that told her she has cancer—and by extension we have cancer. [REDACTED] cancer is *our* cancer, [REDACTED] *family's* cancer.

Like that Dodge truck traveling smoothly along until it hit that unexpected slick spot and spun out of control, our lives were playing out in their normal daily routines until that phone call, that cancer, sent us all flying into a ditch. A ditch of shocks and questions, of fears and worries.

If only we could pick up a phone, call Bad Day Towing, be pulled out of our ditch, and resume our family's journey, just as it was before.

Part 3: January 17, 2017 Third Door on the Left

A medical attendant leads the nine of us down the hall to the third door on the left. Four sisters, a husband, a son, a daughter-in-law, and two nephews arrange ourselves around the examination room. We make small talk.

Soon an oncologist [REDACTED] arrives for the preliminary conversation, and then a second oncologist [REDACTED] for the main conversation. Opening the door, each smiles, wide-eyed, at our group's number. We've set a record, we learn.

[REDACTED] tells [REDACTED], and us by extension, in a straightforward and compassionate manner that the cancer is lung cancer and incurable. He uses diagrams to show where it has metastasized. He talks about available treatments, all palliative. He is informative, kind, often funny. We listen, soaking in his words, appreciating his skill and manner, enjoying the chance to laugh.

[REDACTED] my youngest sister, the patient, joins in the humor.

When [REDACTED] wonders whether we have enough time for him to arrange for another specialist to talk with us today, he asks our group, "Is anyone here on a limited time frame?"

Hand raised, [REDACTED] grins impishly at him, before saying, "I am."

Incurable.

I don't know that any of us prior to the meeting fully admits to ourselves that we'll be hearing that word.

Except [REDACTED]. She responds to [REDACTED] prognosis with poise and dignity, grace and humor, saying, "It is what it is." Hearing about a clinical trial her particular lung cancer might qualify for, she says, "I want to do it if I can. To help others."

Earlier at home, most of us have studied the PET scan and accompanying text written in "medicalese." We know the situation is not good, that it is, in fact, ominous.

Still, don't we all hope until doom's confirmed? "Hope springs eternal..." and all? (Alexander Pope, "An Essay on Man," 1734)

Afterward, when the medical meeting and talking are over, we reassemble at a nearby restaurant for a meal and fellowship before driving back to our four separate homes around the state. Before we say goodbye, my older sister [redacted] leads the nine of us in joining hands and expressing to each other our gratitude and love for our family.

And now it begins—the "what next"?

For [redacted] it's immediately ten rounds of radiation to her right femur to prevent its breaking. Then, it will be more meetings and more information about the possibility of additional radiation, smart pills, immunotherapy, a clinical trial, chemotherapy, and so on. She'll have many decisions to make.

For the rest of us, it's what can we do for [redacted]? We begin with a housekeeper, fresh flowers delivered weekly, a supply of good books, a laptop loaded with decades of family photos, spring blooming bulbs, irrigation maintenance, deck replacement, a ramp, frequent visits, talk of a road trip, and on and on. We make plans to pack twenty years into one.

To be continued.... ■

Membership Committee

Data

● January Attendance

Attendance at our **January 23 chapter meeting was 30 members and one guest.**

● Chapter Profile

Our chapter has three members with more than 50 years of membership, six with 40-49 years, six with 30-39 years, 10 with 20-29 years, 12 with 10-19 years, and 19 with nine or fewer years of DKG membership.

We have 20 members employed full-time in education, and 36 members semi- or fully retired (including one honorary member).

Total membership is 56, with 55 active status and one honorary status. ■



Hillier Movie and Arts Night

♥ Annual school fundraiser

♥ A family and community event

♥ Friday, March 3, 5:45-9:00 p.m.

♥ Browse the students' gallery of art; hear the Hillier choir sing; watch Disney's *The Lion King*; enjoy food, fellowship, and fun. HPPC Elliott Hall

♥ **Mark your calendar. More info coming soon!** 😊

Part 2 – Committees: Society Mission / Purposes

Legislation Committee

By [redacted] Committee Chair

● TRTA Convention in March

The TRTA Convention will be held in Austin March 27-29. Buses will be leaving the Dallas area to go to Austin. If you are interested, please let me know.

"Some legislators have been heard to say 'educational retirees don't get concerned enough to take action on a problem until it hits them in their faces or their pocketbooks.'" (Dallas Retired Teachers' Newspaper, February 2017.) ■

Scholarships Committee

By Leesa Cole, Committee Chair



The following info is posted on the TSO website homepage:

State Scholarship Applications Due March First

TSO Scholarship Applications are due March 1, 2017. If you need financial help for 3 hour, 6 hour, 9 hour, or doctoral classes, apply for TSO scholarships now. Weatherby Educational Travel, Life Long Learning, and Mini Grant scholarships also are available. Visit the [State Scholarships](#) page for all applications. Applications should be mailed to Scholarship Committee Chair Cindy Drumm and postmarked no later than March 1, 2017. (The mailing address is available on the application.)

Posted February 1, 2017, on TSO website homepage

Note: Please refer to my scholarship info document that was sent to chapter members on February 5; it has more details. And as always, if you have questions, contact me. ■

Part 2 – Committees: Special

ASTEF/Hillier Project Committee

● 2016-2017 ASTEF Project: All Hands on Deck for Hillier, Year Three *How's the Project Working?*

Remember that ASTEF provided \$2,600 this year so that each Hillier teacher could select \$200 worth of classroom materials using his/her own professional judgment?

In January we asked Hillier's teachers what they think of this year's ASTEF project. Here's a very small sampling of their very positive responses written on our mid-year survey:

♥ “It was an amazing gift and opportunity to purchase ‘only in our dreams’ items. From Lakeshore I purchased three reading comprehensive activities to develop critical reading skills. The students LOVE the activities because each card has a colored picture of the subject and passages that are not too long, so the focus can be on the analysis work. We love all the care DKG gives to Hillier. To me, the after-school tutoring has been extremely beneficial to help the students improve prosody and fluency. The members are so generous with time and selves to help us and the students! You are all fabulous!” **(46-50 year teacher)**

♥ “I really appreciate the opportunity to pick some PE equipment with the Visa card. One purchase was pedometers so the students can learn to check their heart rate and count steps towards being healthy. The students are very excited to use them and ask when they can use them again. The project is a great support for teachers to better serve the students. I would like to thank you for all you do.” **(1-5 yrs.)**

♥ “It was such a blessing to receive the gift cards. One thing I purchased was place-value cards. The students love creating and naming a variety of numbers with these. They think they are pretty cool going up to place values that go up to the millions place. We use them every day, and they love the colors, too. I am so thankful for all that DKG does for us, from tutoring to teacher encouragement. It makes the teachers and students feel well loved and appreciated. Many thanks to you all!” **(21-25 yrs.) ■**

● After-school Tutoring at Hillier



TUTORING TUESDAYS!

By Marilyn Nease

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Tutee #1 – My first tutee is a fourth-grade girl. As we walk upstairs, I ask her about her day.

“Bad,” she replies.

“The whole day?”

“Yes!”

“There must have been something good about your day.”

“No, and I don’t want to read.”

I enter the office to sign in. A teacher comes in and asks me whether I’m volunteering with _____ today. I answer yes. He tells me she’s hiding under the table in the hall.

“You might play along a little before you find her,” he urges.

In the hall I ask a student, “Have you seen _____? I don’t know where she went.”

He points under the table.

“Oh, there you are!”

Immediately she slides from under the table, and we head down the hall. Her whining continues.

I tell her what I used to do with my high school students when they occasionally had a whining mood: “I told them that they had one minute to complain and whine and gripe, that I was setting a timer, and that I wanted to hear them whine loudly. After that we were going on with our lesson, and I didn’t want to hear any more whining.”

After she and I get to our classroom and seat ourselves, she whines again about “having to read.”

I say, “No, you *get* to read. There’s a difference in *getting* to do something and *having* to do it. Okay, I’m setting the timer for one minute. Let me hear you whine!”

Told to whine, she never measures up solo in volume and creativity to a classroom of high school kids. Still, she gets my message. ☺

She opens a book from the *Mercy Watson* series; she’s selected it from her teacher’s desk. I set the timer for 20 minutes. I ask whether she wants to take turns with me reading every other page.

“No, I want to read every page.”

“Excellent!”

And she begins. ☺

Reading is not easy for her, but I hear solid progress from when we began our partnership last October. I am pleased, and I encourage her along her journey through the words and sentences, paragraphs and pages.

“How much longer do I have?”

“Let’s check the timer.”

When she sees eleven minutes, she’s surprised and thrilled that she’s read almost half her time. And that’s the first time today she’s asked, “Are we there yet?” ☺

She returns to reading, and before long 20 minutes are up.

Finished, she says, “Bye!” and hops out of her chair to leave. I remind her about saying thank-you and putting her book and chair away.

She puts her book and chair where they belong, and we thank each other. She heads off to play, and I go in search of my next tutee. ☺

Tutee #2 – My next tutee *volunteers*. *Hooray!* She’s a seventh-grade girl, and this is our first time to work together.

Her book is *Too Many Dogs*. I ask her to catch me up on the first 20 pages she’s already read. She does, and off we go—with the timer set for 30 minutes. She’s a good reader; she and the level of the book seem well matched. She usually figures out unknown words on her own, using the skills she’s learning at Hillier. Now and then, we stop to discuss the story, making sure she’s comprehending. She seems to be.

Our story presents two enterprising, sixth-grade girls who want to earn money. They establish a dog-walking business, complete with business cards. Successful, they give \$80 to the frozen custard store owner to use when their friends come in for treats. *Generous girls!*

Two of their Chill shop friends are boys, and one of the girls shares their business plan with one of the boys and gives him a card. A few days later, the two boys and the two girls meet in the neighborhood, each pair walking dogs. And the competition is on!

Before our timer sounds, I ask my tutee how she’s doing. She’s starting to wilt, but we have less than a minute remaining of our 30 minutes. I ask her to predict who’s going to win the competition.

“The girls!” is her immediate response. I love her spirit. ☺

She asks me to sign her reading log and thanks me for reading with her. We say our goodbyes, and she heads off to play outside.

I drive home, thinking about the wonders of reading—how kids go about solving its puzzle, and how teachers offer tools and encourage progress. Meaningful teamwork, it seems to me. ■



TUTORING WEDNESDAYS!

By **Lou McMillan**

Wednesdays, January/February 2017

I've got two new students.

One is a second grader and a slow, but determined reader. She's a new student to Hillier.

The other young lady is a fourth grader and a voracious reader. We will

be working on her comprehension.

I still have my hockey star tutee, who also loves to read. I am working on expression with him, and on learning to read with more clarity.

I so look forward to being with these children each week! I don't think teachers can really ever stop teaching, even though the classrooms and/or students may change! ■



TUTORING FRIDAYS!

By **Margaret Thompson**

Fridays, January/February 2017

We started reading at Hillier again this month.

It warmed my heart to have Tutee 1 run into me at school and announce he wanted to read first!

We want to finish a book about a mystery "Bion" that has been attacking people.

I also have enjoyed working on flash cards with Tutee 2, who is so sweet!

Plus, I have started reading with a seventh-grade girl who reads extremely well.

Such an enjoyable group of students! ☺ ■

● **February Encouragement for Our Hillier Teachers**

By **Susan Endicott, February Encouragement Team**

Leesa Cole, Sara Coleman, Katy Kunofsky, Carolyn Miller, [redacted] and I had the privilege of making "treat bags" for Hillier teachers this month.

Here are pictures of the contents and of the bags delivered Friday, February 10, 2017.

Leesa found the cute tags to add to the popcorn, mints, and gum. So cute! She also printed off the "I Am a Teacher" cards! There are stickers, markers, pencils, crackers, soaps, tissues, pens, emery boards, and note cards!

We had a fun time putting the encouragement bags together, and then chatting afterwards, too! Okay, we chatted the whole time! It was nice "girl" time!

I think our Hillier teachers will be tickled with the encouragement bags! ☺



Q. How do Hillier's teachers feel about DKG?

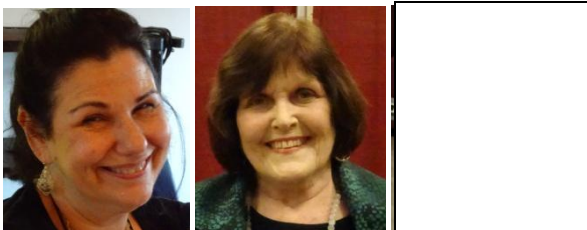
A. A teacher new this year to Hillier shares, "I never knew that anyone outside of the school's students, teachers, and parents cared so much." •A veteran teacher adds, "Thank you for all of this. It keeps our morale high." •And an early career educator in her second year of teaching reports, "It always brightens my day to see the fun items that DKG leaves for us in the workroom. Everything DKG does makes a positive impact on Hillier's students and teachers!"



"I am a teacher....I am the most fortunate of all who labor....every day."



Sara Coleman with February's teacher encouragement bags delivered to the Hillier School's teachers' workroom



Thanks, February ASTEF/Hillier encouragement team! ■

Chapter News continued... Part 3 – Members' News

Members' Professional News



● Congratulations, Leesa!

Dear Delta Omicron Sisters,
As you know, TSO Headquarters has been seeking ladies to fill the jobs of Executive Secretary and Treasurer since Betty Vines retired in August.

Because the business of TSO had to continue even without someone in those positions, Cheryl Crawford and I took on some of those necessary duties.

After working in that capacity for the past several months, I realized that I was already doing much of the work of TSO Treasurer. So, I decided to add my name to the list of applicants, and I'm pleased and excited to let you know that I am the new Treasurer for Delta Kappa Gamma TSO.

I wanted my chapter sisters to know before word got out on the state website and in the *Lone Star News*. I appreciate so very much the love and support that I have always gotten from you all, and I'm ready to be the very best representative of you that I can for TSO.

Sincerely,
Leesa Cole ■

Members' Personal News



● Plans on Hold

Margaret Thompson reports, "President Trump has put a freeze on hiring, so our son isn't sure whether he is going to Washington for training in the State Department this March.

Thank goodness he didn't give notice at his current job! ■

● A Thank-you from Mary

Mary Gill shares, "I'd like to thank our members for their thoughts, emails, mailed notes, and prayers during my daughter Sarah's recent medical struggles.



"She is feeling good, back at her dog training, and looking forward to February 10, when the three pins will be removed from her toes." ■

● Happy 90th Birthday to Mary's Father

Mary Gill announces, "On January 15, [redacted] and I hosted a party honoring our

father for his 90th birthday!

"We had a great turnout, and Dad reconnected with many friends and former patients and neighbors he hadn't seen for many, many years.

"When I proposed this party idea to him last fall, he told me he didn't think anyone would come and he thought it would be a waste of my time and effort. I took that as a challenge and made a gallant effort to make contact with as many people as I could, and we had a turnout of almost 50 people!" ■

● Happy February Birthdays!

Katrina Hallman, 2; Mary White, 12; Marta Finlay, 15; Catherine Donahue, 19; Marilyn Nease, 22 ■



Photo Album: January 23, 2017, Chapter Meeting



Hostess Chair Sherrie Negrete prepares the table for February's hostesses' treats.



Fellowship time:
 Top—Leah Black and Carolyn Miller.
 Middle: Lou McMillan and guest Jan Nance.
 Below—Kay Keeland and [REDACTED].



Enjoying fellowship time:
 Left—Marta Finlay and Barbara Clinton.
 Below—Nancy Johnson and Jaime Callahan.





Fellowship time:
Left—Mary White and Lou McMillan;
In back—Mary Louise Milliom, Bonnie Ethridge, and Katy Kunofsky.



Fellowship:
Top—Kathy Rodriguez, Sherrie Negrete, Katy Kunofsky, Mary Louise Milliom, Mary Gill.

Middle—Katrina Hallman, Sara Coleman, Jean Wallace.



Fellowship:
Kathy Rodriguez and Sherrie Negrete.



Fellowship time: Above middle—Barbara Clinton, Kathy Rodriguez, and Mary White.

Bottom—Margaret Thompson, Marta Finlay, Jan Nance, Marilyn Lamb, Katy Kunofsky, and Becky Quigley.



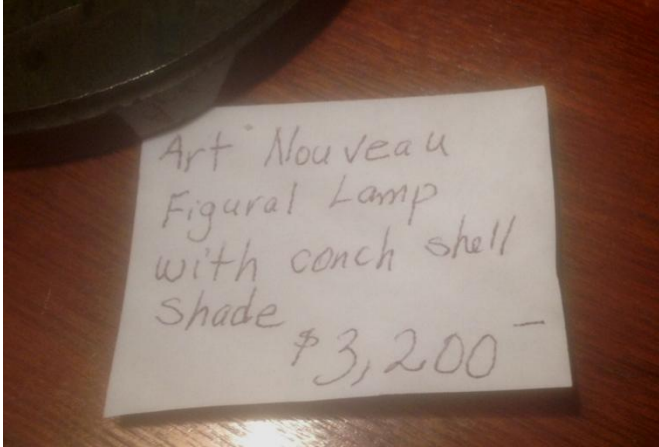
Program begins:
Barbara Clinton introduces Leah Black and "Estate Sales."

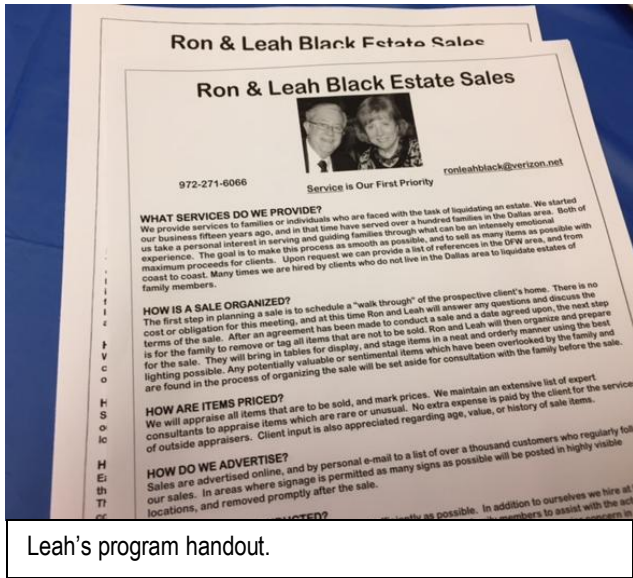


Program: Top—Leah appraises a vase.
 Middle—Partial display of items for appraisal.
 Bottom—Evening bag for appraisal.



Program:
 Top—Vase for appraisal.
 Middle—Lamp for appraisal.
 Bottom—Lamp's appraisal.





Leah's program handout.

Margaret Thompson reports, "It was fun at our last meeting. Leah did a great job." ■



Wanda Spoonmore adds, "It was an enjoyable meeting, and it ended at 6 p.m."

"We stayed and visited with one another for about 30 minutes." ■

Carolyn Power shares, "Members brought items for Leah to evaluate and price during the meeting. She told stories of rare finds that almost got sold for next to nothing but were saved by knowledgeable estate dealers."

"Very interesting program as some of us are at the point of closing homes for our parents or thinking of downsizing for ourselves." ■



Dallas County News

● 2017 Spring Luncheon

Save the date: April 1, 2017, Fellowship/9:30 a.m., Program/10 a.m., Lakewood Country Club, Annual CCDC Spring Luncheon, with speaker Marilyn Gregory, TSO president.



Luncheon ticket: \$30.00

Menu:

Tomato and Mozzarella Salad,
Baby Spinach, Pesto Dressing
Chicken Parmesan, Angel Hair
Pasta, Buttered Broccoli,
Chocolate Mousse Cake

Note: A \$30 check written to Delta Omicron is due to Mary Gill at Delta Omicron's February 20 meeting, or must be mailed to Mary by March 1. That gives Mary time to complete the paperwork and send in our reservations by March 6. ☺ ■



Area 9 News

● Heart to Heart

Hello, Area 9 Sisters!

February is the month of valentines and love!

It is also the month we look at our hearts! President Marilyn Gregory's theme, "The Heart of the Society Is Its

Members," comes to the forefront. I love her theme because as I have traveled around to all our Area 9 chapters the last year and a half, I have seen the theme at work. You are the heartbeat, and our chapters are strong and healthy because you, the members, are the beats of your chapter. Whatever the size of your meetings, you are connecting with each other, and I hope that you are really getting to know all the heartbeats in your chapter.

Now, as we look ahead to February, your President's Report is due. Some of the chapters' executive boards get together and help their president get it ready to send in. It is a really important report. The Necrology Report is also important to get in if you have had a member pass away.

In March, you want to make sure that you begin to look at the different funds you are going to support as a chapter. Each

chapter chooses who and what funds you want to help.

Also, in April we will be looking at the different coordinating councils having their luncheons. Make sure you go to the luncheons because we get to connect with other chapters and hear from different "heartbeats."

Remember that in June our state convention is in Houston and you want to get your room reservations in. All the information is located on our state website. The dates are June 22-24, so start saving your money for a fun, educational time in Houston.

Happy Valentine's Day and Heart Month!♥

Until next time,
Cathy Criner
Area 9 Coordinator ■



Texas State Organization News

TSO Website

www.dkgtexas.org

Get Connected

Have you ever wanted a pen pal? Have you ever considered discussing your favorite book with someone from Finland? Or do you want to know strategies and tips on DKG membership? The Society's website offers the opportunity for each member to make these and many other connections with DKG members around the world. [January/February 2017](#)

Posted January 24, 2017, on TSO website homepage ■

Lone Star News, Winter Edition

The winter edition is an online version only. Follow this link: <http://www.dkgtexas.org/uploads/4/2/8/3/42835841/winter.Isn.2016.pdf> ■

TSO Headquarters Staff Employment Opportunity

We are thrilled to announce **Leesa Cole** has been hired as TSO Treasurer. We are now seeking applicants for the Executive Assistant's position. If you live in the Dallas area, you might be the one for the job! The position is open to Texas DKG members. If you are interested, please fill out the application and return it to Billinelle Currie by February 15, 2017. [General Information](#) [Executive Assistant Application](#)

Posted January 26, 2017, on TSO website homepage ■

TSO Projects

● **Week of Caring**, February, March 2017 (See p. 2)

● **Unifying Project**, May, June 2017:

<http://dkgtexasconvention.weebly.com/unifying-project.html> ■

TSO President and Theme, 2015-2017



Marilyn Gregory

The Heart of the Society Is Its Members

Biennium Goals:

Health – to encourage members to practice healthy lifestyles, which promote healthier chapters

Education – to educate members about the importance of membership and encourage them to make an impact

on their communities and the world

Achievement – to achieve our goals as leaders in our chapters and recognize our accomplishments as key women educators

Reflection – to reflect on our heritage as we advance the Society

Teamwork – to work as members of a team to strengthen involvement in all levels of the Society ■

TSO's ASTEF



Alpha State Texas
Educational Foundation

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Q: What is ASTEF's mission?

A: Impacting Education by Impacting Educators!

Q: How does ASTEF carry out its mission?

A: Through funding (1) scholarships and (2) leadership events, which support the professional and personal growth of Texas women educators, and through funding (3) projects, which promote educational excellence for Texas students. ■

TSO Committees, 2015-2017

From Area 9 and Delta Omicron:

- **Marilyn Nease**, Headquarters Committee
- **Carolyn Power**, Legislation Committee
- **Mary White**, Ceremonies Committee ■



2017 State Convention



Make plans now to attend the June 22-24, 2017, state convention in Houston at the Westin Galleria Hotel!

Visit the **Houston convention** website to

- ♥ reserve your hotel room,
 - ♥ read issues of the convention newsletter (*Heartline*),
 - ♥ learn about the 2017 Unifying Project, and
 - ♥ discover everything convention related!
- ♥ <http://dkgtexasconvention.weebly.com/> ■

DKG

Southwest Regional News

2017 Southwest Regional Conference



Save the Date: July 4-7, 2017, Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii—"Experience the Lifestyle of Aloha." ■

DKG

International News



Website

www.dkg.org ■

Purposes

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has seven basic *purposes* that govern its program of work and study. The activities of each level of the Society implement the *purposes* of the Society. <https://www.dkg.org/content/purposes> ■

Vision Statement

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide ■

Projects

- Schools for Africa (SfA) usforumdkg.org
<https://www.dkg.org/content/schools-africa-0>
- Support Early-career Educators (SEE)
<https://www.dkg.org/content/see-support-early-career-educators> ■



President and Theme, 2016-2018

Carolyn Pittman
DKG—Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide

Editor's Note: Be sure to read Pittman's essay "The Butterfly Effect and our vision" on page 2 of the Sep/Oct 2016 edition of DKG News.

<http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Publications/DKG-NEWS.aspx>

"DKG, because of what multiple individuals do, moves lives." ■

The U.S. Forum

The [United States Forum](#) supports non-partisan federal legislation in the interests of education and women educators.

It provides U.S. members of DKG with relevant information on pending issues and legislator contact numbers to enable more effective advocacy.

At the national, regional, state, and chapter levels, the US Forum serves as a vehicle for members to participate in making DKG's Purposes come to fruition through action.

<http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

The *U.S. Forum Connection* is a free monthly e-newsletter designed to keep members informed about current legislation affecting education, women, and children. *Connection* subscribers can receive state-specific information that impacts the legislative process by sending a request to bedenbaugh.angela@gmail.com ■

2018 International Convention



Save the date: July 16-20, 2018, JW Marriott, Austin, Texas.

If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Convention Chair JoAnn Brooks at joannbrooks@verizon.net ■

Lisbon, Seville, Madrid, & the Basque Country with DKG

13 days, Summer 2017

Within the borders of one small area, you'll find impressively distinct destinations. Relive the Age of Discovery in Lisbon, and discover Moorish influences in exotic Andalusia. Fast-forward to the present day to feast on tapas, drink sangria, and join the night life in Madrid before ending in the Basque Country, where an impressive culinary scene shines.

<http://portugalandspaindkg.grouptoursite.com/> ■

DKG Member Store

Have you ever shopped from the DKG international website?

Do you know what's available there?

If you click on the link below and take five minutes to explore the store, you'll be amazed. I was when I looked tonight!



Store categories include the following:

- ♥ Branded Products
- ♥ Forms
- ♥ Membership Supplies
- ♥ Program Materials
- ♥ Publications
- ♥ Branded Products from Award Concepts (includes lots and lots of jewelry)

http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Store/Product_Display.aspx?category=%27PUBS%27

Happy shopping! ■

DKG

Photos in The 4:15 were taken by and/or used with the permission of Chris Brunner, Barbara Clinton, Cathy Criner, Susan Endicott, Marilyn Gregory, Lou McMillan, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Marylin Nease, Carolyn Pittman, Margaret Thompson, and Pixabay.

Graphic art is by Maura Anderson, DKG, and Pixabay. ■