

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 64, Issue 6, February 15, 2021
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 Ladies,

January is finally over, and we can now look forward to February. I always enjoy looking and shopping for cute Valentine gifts; however, my shopping will be mostly online this year. I must confess that buying Valentine's cards, candy hearts, cute stuffed animals, a heart throw, and lots of chocolate is a must for my Valentine's plans. All my nine grandchildren love getting something special from their Nana.

February is also our giving month! The timeline for giving is February 1-28. Our donations must be postmarked by February 28 to count toward our ASTEF Giving Month goal of \$10,000. Individuals or chapters giving \$25.00 or more will be recognized in the TSO convention program. **(more info, p. 2)**

Please also consider giving to Schools for Africa either by mailing a check directly to UNICEF (along with the official donation form) or to our chapter treasurer. **(more info, pp. 2-3)**

I hope you will consider a donation to these worthy causes.

Katherine



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

Save these dates
for our
business/program
meetings:
Feb. 15
Mar. 8
Apr. 24
May 17

Chapter Website:
<https://deltaomicrontexas.weebly.com/>
Carolyn Power, Webmaster

Mon., Feb. 15, Zoom.
4:30 p.m., fellowship. 5:00 p.m., meeting.
Program: Schools for Africa, Marylin Nease & Carolyn Power; AND, Literary Ladies, Elenora Asbury & Kathy Rodriguez
(DKG Purposes 1, 6, 7)

CHAPTER PROJECT NEWS



What Is **ASTEF**?

The mission of ASTEF (Alpha State Texas Education Foundation) is

1. to provide funding for activities that support professional and personal growth of women educators in Texas, and
2. to promote educational excellence for Texas students.

ASTEF members may apply for a Texas State Organization (TSO) state **scholarship**, participate in **leadership** events, and apply for **project** stipends.

To learn more about ASTEF, use this link. [Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation](https://www.astef.org/)

How to contribute? Use this link. [ASTEF Giving Month Contribution Form](#)

Do you know the application deadline for an ASTEF Aspiring Educator Grant? **March 1**
Aspiring Educator grants are just one opportunity ASTEF offers. If you know an aspiring educator, share this info with her.

<https://www.astef.org/> On ASTEF's home page, look at the left-hand column. Scroll down to the column's second half titled "Making Dreams Come True..." Here you'll learn about the grants.

<https://www.astef.org/aspiring-educators.html> This page lists the most recent Aspiring Educator Grant recipients.

<https://www.astef.org/projects--grants.html> The bottom of this page has a **9:32-minute** video featuring three recipients of ASTEF's Aspiring Educator Grant. Katie, Jean, and Valentina tell the impact of their grants on their lives as they prepared to become educators. Katie went into college after high school, Jean and Valentina were paraprofessionals who went to college to earn their degrees in education. If your time is limited, pick one of the ladies and hear her story.

How to Apply [Grant Guidelines](#) Use the link to read about the application process.

[Grant Application, fillable form](#)

[Aspiring Educator Application 2021-2022 \(Word doc.\)](#) Same application, one is fillable, one is Word version

What Is **Schools for Africa**?

"The SFA mission involves

1. providing access to quality basic education for children, focusing on girls, orphans, and other vulnerable youngsters" in 21 sub-Saharan countries in Africa, and
2. DKG working in partnership with UNICEF (since 2010).

To learn more about SFA, use this link. [Schools for Africa](#)

Or, watch these two short videos.

The first one is 45 seconds. [SFA, Bricks built urgently needed classrooms"](#)

The second one is just over one minute. [SFA, "Working for UNICEF makes me happy"](#)



Delta Omicron members support DKG International's project Schools for Africa in February.

Because we can't meet in person to pass a basket for donations this year, please use one of the following two methods to send your check.

1. Write a check to UNICEF. Mail it with the completed donation form to the address on the form.

Donations can be in memory of or in honor of someone or simply a contribution. Donors will receive an acknowledgement and receipt from UNICEF. Use this link [SFA \(path to brochure and donation form\)](#); then, scroll down to **Please pay all donations directly to UNICEF using the Schools for Africa Flyer (donation form)** ▼ Immediately below the red arrow is the form you need. Let Leesa know you contributed (not the amount) so she will have a headcount of chapter participants.

2. Or, write a check to Delta Omicron (with SFA in the memo), and mail it to Leesa Cole by Feb. 28.

Leesa will write and mail one check to UNICEF on behalf of Delta Omicron.

Susan Endicott will write acknowledgement notes to members who donate money through the chapter.

In case you might wonder...

Q. Why do we write checks to UNICEF instead of to DKG for our Schools for Africa project?

A. DKG does not have the personnel and infrastructure in Africa to administer the project.

UNICEF (**United Nations International *Children's Education Fund***) has been working in Africa with children and schools since shortly after WWII—for 70+ years.

UNICEF has the personnel and infrastructure already in place to successfully administer our Schools for Africa project (*meaning: UNICEF knows which African countries and which schools and officials to work with so that the money is spent appropriately*).

THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO "SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA"! Any amount you can give will make a big difference to students and teachers in Africa! 😊 FYI, at our February 2020 meeting, when we passed around a manilla envelope, members contributed \$235! Go, Delta Omicron!



LEADING WOMEN EDUCATORS
IMPACTING EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

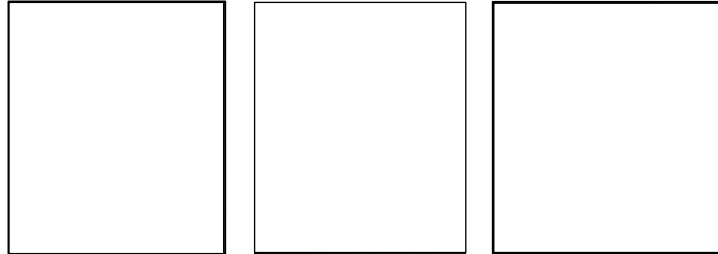


for every child

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Please join us in welcoming our newest Delta Omicron members:
The executive board decided to have our induction ceremony at our first meeting after the pandemic. To celebrate this significant event in person will be special for everyone!



Now is the time to talk to your teaching friends and acquaintances about the benefits of joining Delta Kappa Gamma! Let them make the decision whether or not to consider joining our organization. Complete the **attached (in email) Prospective Member** form, and email it to me – margaretmccthompson@gmail.com. I can take it from there! Remember, DKG accepts new members **all year long!**

See you at our February 15 meeting.

Margaret Thompson



Happy February Birthday!

Katrina Hallman, 2
Mary White, 12
Marta Finlay, 15

Dr. Catherine Donahue, 19
Marylin Nease, 22



Member Moments... with

Q. A favorite teaching moment?

A.

Q. A favorite DKG moment?

A. As a brand-new member, I have no chapter highlights to report except for meeting new people who've had the same career as myself.

Q. A favorite personal moment?

A. After working full time, with one or two part-time jobs, I graduated from college after seven years of non-stop work, with my K-8 Interdisciplinary teaching degree!

Connection Circles

Maybe the next best thing to finding in our mailbox a real letter from a dear friend or family member is receiving a phone call from her.

Living for almost a year during COVID-19 has affected us all—even if we haven't contracted Covid itself. Confining ourselves month after month to our safe bubble of household family, and maybe enlarging our bubble a bit on occasion, can make us feel a bit isolated even if we're introverts.



I have an idea I hope you'll buy into: Connection Circles. Please take a look at the Connection Circles document that came as another attachment in your email with this newsletter. If you have questions, bring them to our Feb. 15 fellowship (4:30) and meeting/program (5:00).

In the proverbial nutshell, here's the plan. We'll each be in a group of five, led by a present or past chapter president, and we'll each make one phone call a week to another member of our circle of five. We'll get better acquainted, check on each other, and pass along chapter news. That's it. One call a week from a friend to a friend to strengthen our chapter connections without worrying about Covid. 😊

Delta Omicron, Chapter Meeting Minutes, January 11, 2021

Delta Omicron Chapter, Dallas, Texas, Texas State Organization, DKG International, met on Monday, January 11, 2021 via Zoom.

Attending were 25 members: Margaret Arnold, Elenora Asbury, Maureen Baker, Delores Bates, Susan Bell, Barbara Clinton, Leesa Cole, Grace Delatour, Susan Endicott, Marta Finlay, Katherine Grogan, Vicky Hamilton, Mary Carol Hughes, Liza Leggett, Penni Lewis, Lou McMillan, Carolyn Miller, Ashraf Mobh, Marilyn Nease, Carolyn Power, Margie Rohde, Marilyn Smith, Margaret Thompson

Four guests attended: . All four guests are soon-to-be members who have attended previous meetings.

OPENING:

Katherine Grogan called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. Maureen Baker was late to the meeting, so she was unable to give the inspiration.

PROGRAM:

Barbara Clinton, Women in Arts Committee Chair, introduced **Ashraf Mobh**, a chapter member and Assistant Principal at Johnson and Walnut Grove Elementary Schools in Southlake Carroll ISD. Ashraf received her Bachelor's from the University of Texas at Arlington and her Master's from Dallas Baptist University. She taught fourth grade in Highland Park ISD for eight years, where she was teacher of the year. She also was a team leader for her grade level.

Ashraf talked about her **experiences in Asia and Africa**. She recalled going to camp every summer as a child and had many beautiful experiences. She asked members to share their impressions of their own summer camp experiences. Members mentioned enjoying silliness and fun, forming lifelong friends, enjoying new activities, going to new places, team building, and if they went to sports camps, experiencing great intensity.

Ashraf stated that camps are a great way to reach young people. Five years ago, she joined **Global Encounters Camps**. She is currently program director for Global Encounters Camps. Ashraf is a Muslim, and her specific sect of Islam believes in equal rights for men and women, working to improve the quality of life for all, elimination of poverty, and giving back to other people. She witnessed how her community suffered after the 9/11 attack on America and knows that many people have misconceptions about Muslims. Working with Global Encounters Camps allows her to meet people from many different communities. This organization **works with Aga Khan Development Network**, which functions mostly in poor areas of Asia and Africa.

Teenagers from ninth through twelfth grades can apply to participate in the camp program. Ashraf wants **not only to help people in poor areas, but also to educate, motivate, and create well-grounded and ethically motivated young people**. These camps have lasting and transformative effects on their participants. She wants the young people to be impressed with the communities in which they work while strengthening their own identities. The teenagers start with an orientation before going to a local school for service learning. The teenagers also make excursions to learn more about the local culture. To date young people have participated from 23 countries. Global Encounters Camps has 1,250 alumni. **Aga Khan Academies are currently found in India, Pakistan, and Kenya**.

Ashraf teaches the teenagers to think about sustainable goals when they start programs at local schools. She gave an example: Students wanted to teach the children in the school to wash their hands. One of the women working with the students suggested that they contact local hotels and ask for used soap donations so that the local community did not have to buy the soap. The students then sanitized the soap before giving the soap to the school.

Since Covid happened, Global Encounters Camps conducted **online camps**. 1,200 participated in the past year. Ashraf mentioned that the program involves IT staff at the beginning of each camp, as internet connections are often difficult in the areas where this program works.

She stated that **people in Africa make the most of what they have and have great respect for what they have**. They are very creative, for example, making shoes out of rubber tires or old water bottles. Many of the people she has met are full of kindness and beauty.

Several members shared some of their experiences in Africa. Ashraf's talk was well received by the members.

BUSINESS:

The members **approved the amended minutes** from the December meeting as printed in the newsletter.

Leesa Cole read the **treasurer's report**: The bank balance as of December 30 was \$5,243.41. \$717.02 belongs to Area 9, so the actual Delta Omicron balance is \$4,526.39. December expenses were chapter fees to the Cora McFarland Scholarship. Anticipated expenses for January include reimbursement to the chapter's corresponding



secretary and several annual contributions. These contributions include ASTEF Scholarships, Leadership, and Projects; TSO Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund; and International Funds.

Margaret Thompson, **Membership** Co-Vice President, stated that she plans to have an orientation meeting soon for the chapter's prospective new members.

CURRENT PROJECT:

Vicky Hamilton, Special Community Service Committee member, reported on the **Vogel Alcove Project**. **Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley has recorded herself reading three books** for the children at Vogel Alcove. The committee plans to **do buddy bags for the children in March**. Vogel Alcove sends home buddy bags every day because of the children's great need. Many do not have food at home. Spring break also comes in March. The committee is looking into ways the chapter might help during spring break.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Susan Endicott, **Corresponding Secretary**, stated that she sent a card to Katherine and James Grogan because James had heart surgery, and to Carolyn Miller, who had a fall.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Marylin Nease, **Communications and Publicity Chair**, discussed the chapter's **THAT Project, which is Teachers Helping Active Teachers**. In November, the volunteer members in the project got organized. The pairings of active educators and volunteer encouragers are as follows:

Highland Park ISD
Dr. Jaime Callahan – Mary Gill
Dr. Elyse Griffin – Margaret Arnold
Katrina Hallman – Elenora Asbury
Nancy Johnson – Marta Finlay
Liza Leggett – Leesa Cole
Richardson ISD
Penni Lewis – Susan Endicott
Southlake Carroll ISD
Ashraf Mobh – Maureen Baker

The Hillier School
– Marylin Nease
– Carolyn Miller
Highland Park Presbyterian Day School
– Carolyn Miller
The Community School of the Park Cities
Melanie Rudebeck – Lou McMillan
Eastfield College
Kay Keeland –
Collin College
Julie Turnbow – Katherine Grogan

In December, volunteers began their support with notes, emails, phone calls, humor, self-care tips, and music.

Then, individual volunteer **members shared their experiences**. Marta Finlay stated that she had enjoyed having Nancy Johnson to support and thinking of ways to let her know that we support her and are here for her. Nancy has let Marta know that she appreciates Marta's thoughtfulness. Katherine Grogan shared that she had met with Julie Turnbow for coffee.

Julie shared with Katherine what she needed for support and asked especially for phone calls and notes. mentioned that she had left flowers at Kay Keeland's door and that Kay was especially touched because that day had been very difficult for her. Lou McMillan shared that she has sent Melanie Rudebeck little notes and has visited her school. Lou also purchased a Starbucks gift card for Melanie and sent her comic strips. Elenora Asbury sent Katrina a goodie bag.

The volunteer members plan to continue their support until the pandemic ends.

Carolyn Miller, **Chair of the Coordinating Council of Dallas County**, announced that the **CCDC luncheon has been scheduled for Saturday, April 24**. Carolyn sincerely hopes that the pandemic will be better by then so that we might hold the luncheon. The luncheon will start at 10:00 a.m. with food being served at 11:00 or 11:30 a.m. The price will be \$38/person. This luncheon serves as a time to honor presidents of all 14 Dallas County chapters, announce scholarship winners, and honor individual members from each chapter. There are \$3,000 and \$5,000

scholarships available. Any member who is interested in applying should contact Dr. Jaime Callahan, who serves on the committee evaluating applicants for the **Cora McFarland scholarship**.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEES, MORE ON THE PROGRAM'S "HELPING OTHERS" THEME:

, **Legislation**, discussed **the many plans the governor and President-elect have** that may affect members. They want to get rid of the windfall tax provision, extend the sustainability of the retiree fund, change the Social Security calculation, and give Social Security to everyone. promised to send out to members more information on these plans as she gets it.

Carolyn Power, **Global Awareness**, had to leave the meeting for another commitment, so she plans to share her report next meeting.

Barbara Clinton, **Women in Arts**, shared a brief slide show, highlighting projects members have participated in during the past year. The Vogel Alcove Project and donations to the North Texas Food Bank were highlighted.

Marilyn Nease, **Research**, shared the quote: "Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person." **Volunteering time, money, or energy makes not only the world better, but also makes us better.** She discussed **seven scientific benefits** from lending a helping hand. They are as follows: **a.)** Helping others can help us live longer by managing stress, avoiding disease, alleviating loneliness, and giving us greater satisfaction in our lives. **b.)** Altruism is contagious. **c.)** Helping others makes us happy and may also give us a neurochemical boost. **d.)** Helping others may help with chronic pain. **e.)** Helping others lowers blood pressure by as much as 40%. **f.)** Helping others promotes positive behaviors in teens. **g.)** Helping others gives us a sense of purpose and satisfaction. 25% of adults volunteer, with more women than men volunteering. 35- to 44-year-olds are the most likely to volunteer, while 20- to 24-year-olds are least likely to volunteer.

Penni Lewis, **Music**, played the song "You've Got a Friend."

CLOSING:

shared her necklace that she won at a past program when Lou McMillan's daughter presented a program about the Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine, Texas, where she was the director.

Katherine Grogan played the "DKG Song" for members. Then, she adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.



Margie Rohde
Recording Secretary

Delta Omicron Executive Board Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2021

The Executive Board of Delta Omicron Chapter, Dallas, Texas, Texas State Organization, DKG Society International, met via Zoom on Saturday, January 23, 2021. Attending were Katherine Grogan, President; Margaret Thompson, Co-Vice President for Membership; Margie Rohde, Recording Secretary; Susan Endicott, Corresponding Secretary; Leesa Cole, Treasurer; Julie Turnbow, Parliamentarian; Marilyn Nease, Communications and Publicity Committee Chair; Marta Finlay, Finance Committee Co-Chair; and Carolyn Power, Global Awareness Committee Chair. Katherine Grogan received a message from Kathy Rodriguez, Co-Vice President for Programs and Projects, that she was having computer problems and would not attend.

Katherine **called the meeting to order** at 10:38 a.m.

PROGRAMS:

- a.) Marilyn Nease discussed the **Schools for Africa presentation planned for the February 15 meeting.** She stated that she and Carolyn Power needed 10 minutes for their presentation. Katherine Grogan stated that she wanted Marilyn and Carolyn to have as much time as they needed, as this topic was important. Marilyn will **include the link for Schools for Africa in the newsletter so members can learn more about the**

- project before the meeting.**
- b.) The **other half of the program** for the February 15 meeting is **Literary Ladies**. Elenora Asbury and Kathy Rodriguez are the presenters for that program. Marylin will check with Elenora and Kathy to see how much time they need for their presentation.
 - c.) Leesa Cole discussed **how to handle donations to the Schools for Africa program**. She stated that donations **need to be made to UNICEF instead of DKG**, as UNICEF has the personnel and infrastructure already in place to successfully administer our Schools for Africa project. **Method #1:** Members will receive **a receipt from UNICEF** that members can submit on taxes – if they donate using the official UNICEF form and mail it and their check to UNICEF. Members should **notify Leesa that they donated** so that Leesa has a count of how many members donated, but members do not need to state the amount of the donation. **Method #2:** Members can write a check to Delta Omicron and put SFA in the memo lined and mail it to Leesa. Leesa will then write one combined check to UNICEF.
 - d.) Carolyn Power stated **that donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone on the UNICEF form**. Leesa needs to be informed by members if they donate in honor of or in memory of someone so that **Susan Endicott can write an acknowledgement note**. If many members donate in honor of or in memory of someone, volunteers will be recruited to assist Susan in writing the notes.

AREA 9 COORDINATOR:

Marylin Nease **requested the executive board's input in completing a chapter-visit form** that she must submit to Patti Belknap, state president, and Emma Joven, Area 9 mentor.

- a.) **The members discussed their main concern for state leaders.** The board expressed concern that **many members do not attend Zoom meetings**. Marylin Nease suggested that members need to **offer help** to nonattending members. Margaret Thompson suggested they might try doing Zoom by phone. Some members may need more than one contact to successfully learn to Zoom.
- b.) Members discussed the idea of making a **video of interesting moments from a meeting or recording Zoom meetings in their entirety**. Katherine stated that she could record the meetings. A short video could also be emailed to nonattending members after the meeting.
- c.) **Marylin asked how the state organization could help chapter leaders.** Several members requested that **state forms be simplified**. Leesa Cole stated that 90% of forms initiate from the international organization, not the state organization, but she felt that some forms might be simplified by state leaders and that state leaders are already working on that, particularly to reduce chapter presidents' paperwork load.
- d.) **Board members expressed a desire to hear from Patti Belknap periodically.** Marylin stated that she gets emails from Patti, which she forwards to members. Carolyn expressed a preference for video rather than an email from Patti. Members would **appreciate one message/month** to the area coordinator or directly to the chapter. Marylin reminded members that there are 18 areas in Texas so sending messages directly to individual areas would require a lot of effort on Patti's part.
- e.) The board **discussed the state convention and their concern that it might be cancelled**. Many board members have not yet registered for the state convention for that reason. Leesa stated that a member could reserve a hotel room in advance without losing any money and wait to register for the convention.
- f.) **Marylin needs a list of members willing to serve on state committees.** She explained how chapter leaders could go to www.dkg.texas.org to get more information on what the various committees do. Most committees **meet via Zoom at present**. Marylin listed **3 reasons to join a committee**: to make new friends, to learn more about DKG, and to grow as an individual. The incoming 2021-2023 state president will need to fill 360 state positions (committees, area coordinators, and so forth) so she needs every chapter's help with candidates.
- g.) The state committees have similar titles to those local chapter have. **The state committees are as follows:** Archives (which is at TWU), Ceremonies, Communications and Publicity, Bylaws and Rules, Headquarters (which is in the Dallas-Richardson/Preston Rd-Campbell Rd area), Membership, Yearbook, Necrology, Global Awareness, Music, Programs and Projects, Research, Legislation, Eula Lee Carter Scholarship Fund



(which gives scholarships to members in Pan American countries), Scholarship, and Women in Arts. **Some committees function primarily at convention**, such as Ceremonies. Women in Arts is responsible for the Children's Arts Display at state convention and also for planning the Star Retreat (usually held in January of each year).

- h.) The board **developed a list of chapter leaders**, and Marilyn will submit the names to Patti.



FINANCE REPORT:

- a.) Leesa Cole, Treasurer, stated that **Delta Omicron has slightly under \$4,000**. \$3,800 is budgeted for the current year. Leesa stated that the chapter almost never spends everything that is budgeted. For example, the chapter is not paying for the meeting room at Northway Christian Church, but stamp expenses have increased.
- b.) Marta Finlay, Finance Committee Co-Chair, discussed whether the chapter should decrease membership dues for one year to \$75. The board discussed **possibly sending more money to one or more of the charities** we currently support such as Vogel Alcove, Schools for Africa, North Texas Food Bank, or The Denton School. **The board voted to keep the dues at \$100/year** after some discussion and to **educate members on how little of the \$100 membership fees paid actually stays with the local chapter**.
- c.) Margaret Thompson made a **motion to put more budget information in the yearbook and newsletter**.
- d.) Leesa Cole explained that she **set up Venmo in the chapter bank account**. She is **looking into the possibility of adding PayPal** to the account. She will report on both at the February 15 meeting. Zelle cannot be used, as the bank account is a business account.

MEMBERSHIP:

- a.) Margaret Thompson held **an orientation meeting on January 16 for new members**. Margaret will send a report on the orientation meeting to the newsletter.
- b.) **plans to join in May**. They paid \$100 membership and will not need to pay membership dues again until May of 2022.
- c.) **The board discussed when the chapter can hold an induction ceremony**. After some discussion, the board decided to hold the ceremony at the **first in-person chapter meeting after the pandemic improves**. Margaret will share the induction plans at the February 15 meeting.
- d.) **is an active teacher and will be added to the THAT Project**. Carolyn Power volunteered to pair with . *Post-meeting note:* Margaret Thompson will serve in Carolyn's place.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a.) Katherine Grogan announced that our **chapter newsletter received Five Star Recognition!** Katherine has the **certificate awarded**. Marilyn stated that the certificate needs to go to our chapter archives.
- b.) Marilyn Nease discussed **starting engagement groups with the goal of getting to know each other better**. There would be **five-member groups**, and **individual members would only need to make one phone call/week**. **Susan suggested that using texts as well as phone calls** might work better, as she knows some people will not answer calls from a number they don't recognize. The **calls should be positive**, include wellness checks, and remind members of the next meeting or other important information. Members could **send personal notes in addition to calling**.
- c.) **Margaret will give Marilyn the photo, address, and phone number of new members** for this engagement-groups project and for the yearbook.
- d.) Marilyn will **rework the groups after listening to board members' suggestions and will send out an email to the executive board**. She will include the yearbook's member directory (for phone numbers of members) with the reworked groups list.
- e.) The board agreed that the **engagement group plan would start in early February**.

CLOSING:

Katherine Grogan **adjourned the meeting** at 12:48 p.m.



Margie Rohde
Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report, February 1, 2020



Bank balance as of 1/30/2021: \$4,700.22
Area 9 portion of this balance: \$717.02
Delta Omicron portion: \$3,983.20

Income Jan.

\$330.00 New member dues + inductee fees
** Not included in balance above

Expenses Jan.

Budgeted: Reimbursements to Corresponding Secretary
Annual contributions to ASTEF's 3 funds, TSO Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund, International Funds

Anticipated income Feb.

Budgeted: Possibly CCDC lunch reservations
Possibly member contributions for Schools for Africa

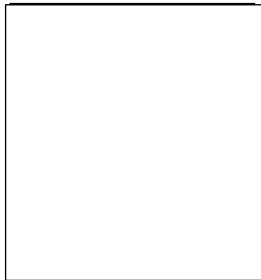
Anticipated expenses Feb.

Budgeted: Reimbursement to Membership Chair
Chapter contribution for Schools for Africa
Possibly member contributions for Schools for Africa

Before May 30:
Make plans to pay membership dues-- details forthcoming.

Leesa Cole

Legislative Committee



On January 15, Lieutenant Governor Patrick named the Senate Committees. **Key committees for Teacher Retirement (TRS) issues are the Senate Finance, Senate State of Affairs, and Senate Education Committees.**

"The Texas Legislature website (www.capital.Texas.gov) is the **best resource** for locating contact information for your Senators and Representatives, both at the Capitol and at their district offices."

Talking points for Legislative Priorities – STATE –

1) Preserve the funding plan enacted during the 86th Texas Legislative Session via

Senate Bill 12.

- 2) Provide TRS annuitants with a real, meaningful cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).
- 3) Maintain contributions for TRS-CARE to avoid increased premiums and cuts in services or benefits.
- 4) Adopt TRS Sunset Staff Report and additional TRTA recommendations.

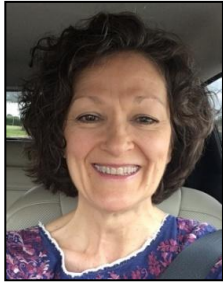
FEDERAL –

- 1) Reform WEP and GPO current formulas that unfairly penalize Texas retired educators.
- 2) Prevent mandatory Social Security as a resolution to the inequality of WEP and GPO.

"Your job now as a member is as important as always: **reach out to your elected officials, and TELL YOUR STORY.**"

Source: Lee, T. (2020) *Special Edition: TRTA 2021 Legislative Priorities, All Hands on Deck! The Voice, Fourth Quarter, pages 1-4.*

Scholarship Committee



TSO Scholarships & ASTEF Aspiring Educator Grants Available Applications due March 1, 2021

1. STATE scholarship applications and information are available on the TSO website: [State Scholarship Applications](#)
2. Know a non-member who is pursuing teaching credentials? You can sponsor her to receive an ASTEF **Aspiring Educator Grant**. Go to [Aspiring Educator](#) to learn about recent recipients; then, visit [Forms](#) for the guidelines and application.

Please reach out to someone on the **Delta Omicron scholarship committee** with your questions: Chair: Leesa Cole; Members: Sherri Allinder, Delores Bates, Katrina Hallman, Ashraf Mobh.

Interested members can also talk with **current members who have received a state scholarship**: Dr. Jaime Callahan, Dr. Elyse Griffin, Kay Keeland, Shirley Kochman, and .
Their testimonials are in a separate document attached in the same email as this newsletter.

Leesa Cole

DALLAS COUNTY Coordinating Council

CORA MCFARLAND SCHOLARSHIP Applications due March 1, 2021



Please contact Dr. Jaime Callahan if you have questions regarding the application process - jac0531@yahoo.com Jaime represents Delta Omicron on the Cora McFarland Scholarship Committee.

You can also read testimonials from current members who have received this scholarship: Dr. Jaime Callahan, Leesa Cole, Grace Delatour, Susan Endicott, Mary Gill, Dr. Elyse Griffin, Marilyn Nease, and Carolyn Power. **Their testimonials** are in a separate document emailed as an attachment with this newsletter. **Additional Delta Omicron recipients you can contact** for their experiences are Nancy Johnson, Melanie Rudebeck, and Dr. Dawna Walsh.

Dr. Jaime Callahan



The process of applying was exciting. You are given the opportunity to share about your goals and dreams with sisters who are eager to help you succeed. Mentors from our own Delta Omicron Chapter were happy to assist along the way, so don't hesitate to apply! – Dr. Elyse Griffin

Professional Update



Ashraf Mobh shares, “I was glad I was able to join the January meeting. It’s been tough with our board meetings falling on the same Monday as our DKG meetings.

[Southlake Style Write Up](#)

[Inside Carroll Write Up](#)

Slide 46-47

“I have a couple of articles that were written about me with my job change to Southlake Carroll ISD. You don’t need to share these, but I wanted to pass them along to you.

“So blessed to be part of DKG.”

Marylin Nease: “Love the articles, Ashraf! I also loved Barbara Clinton’s introduction of you before you presented your excellent ‘Global Encounters’ program at our meeting. All three are great tributes to you as a person and educator.

“Every time I am with you, I learn from you. Thank you!

“Know that we in Delta Omicron are proud of you and are always cheering for you!”

Personal Update



From the Dallas Cowboys to Another Dimension

By Lou K. McMillan, January 26, 2021

October 20, 2019 . . . what a night! A date that will live in Infamy forever. Well, at least in my personal list of infamies.

The weekend began with a lovely visit with cousins at their beautiful lake house in East Texas. A beautiful lake, gorgeous flowers, exhilarating conversation, delicious meals provided by loving hands, magnificent sunsets (don’t know about sunrises . . . we all got to sleep late).

I love family gatherings. They are always so much fun and way too short. How “time flies”! But, alas . . . all good times must come to an end.

Our return ride back home was uneventful. We got in around 5:00 that afternoon.

After unpacking, fixing a light supper, and getting into my pajamas, I began waiting for my favorite fall (and, I hoped, winter) pastime . . . my Dallas Cowboys. There is nothing I live for more than football season. Especially, the Cowboys. I am a fanatic to the “9th Degree.”

And then, the “Hounds of Hell” broke loose in my bedroom! Instead of watching half time like most of the rest of the Cowboy population, some of us “chosen ones” got to endure the most horrific sound imaginable. I covered in an inner hallway, covered with my heavy bed spread, and praying like there was no tomorrow. I actually thought there might not be a tomorrow. The sound lasted 3-4 minutes but seemed like an eternity.

When I knew it had passed, I got out of my corner and walked out of my condo into another dimension (or, that’s what it looked like). Cars were turned upside down, huge trees were completely uprooted (as if they were toothpicks), chimneys were tumbling off the roofs, carports were scattered all up and down the back parking lot. It is what I would imagine as a “Doomsday Destruction” scene.

The next morning, my precious son came and rescued me from the awful sight of mass destruction. He, my precious daughter-in-love (as I like to call her), and my beautiful grandchildren

welcomed me into their lovely home from that horrific night until the middle of June 2020.

For the rest of my post-tornado journey, I leased another condo on our property and stayed there until three weeks ago. I was then able to move back into my condo---my brand new, completely refurbished home. Hallelujah!

In closing, let me say I had never seen anything like that tornado in all my life, and I hope never to again. I will never forget that horrific night, and I thank God for the miracle of His provision . . . not a single person died (no one was even severely injured) and, like the Phoenix, we will rise again.

Of Books and Reading: An Extension of Our “Literary Ladies” Program



Penni Lewis

I have been a book fanatic all of my life...basically teaching myself to read around age three.

The first novel I remember reading was an abridged version of *Little Women* in second grade.

Gone with the Wind has been a favorite in adulthood along with related items. I have a collection of dolls and other items that relate to literature...many of which I used in my classroom. These two shelves are just a small part.





Susan Endicott

I have been an avid reader all my life. Growing up in the Air Force, I traveled with my family quite a bit, so I didn't have lifelong friends to go about with, and I think this in part led me to read!

Of course, I had all the Nancy Drew books as a young girl, and this led to my loving mysteries. I read all the Agatha Christie books as well.

Twenty years ago, I joined a book club made up of other teachers at Armstrong Elementary. And, yes, we've been together a long time. This group of ladies made me read other genres, which took me out of my "comfort zone," but it has been so worth every read! Also, I've gotten to know a group of women whom I

cherish!

Books lead you to distant lands, make you feel things with all your heart, deposit in you truths that are hard to bend, and lead you to discover other people's truths/cultures/feelings. Books open up possibilities you may not see and will lead you to seek with all your heart!

Whenever parents of the students I taught asked me, "What can I do to help my child achieve?", I always answered, "Read to and with them, and Read some more!"

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

TSO Newsletter

Winter 2020 Lone Star News

Alpha State Texas Education Foundation (ASTEF) – Scholarship, Leadership, Projects

[ASTEF Giving Month Contribution Form](#)



2021 TSO 92nd Convention - Denton



92nd Texas State Organization convention will be held in Denton, Texas. Activities will begin with the Children's Art Show and Leadership Seminar Reunions on Wednesday evening, June 16, and will conclude with the Celebration Brunch on Saturday, June 19.

Read all about the upcoming convention in the convention newsletter *The Key*.

[The Key, Volume 4](#)
[2021 Convention Website](#)

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

Portland, Oregon, **July 7-10, 2021**

San Antonio, Texas, **July 21-24, 2021**

Tampere, Finland, **July 28-31, 2021**

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