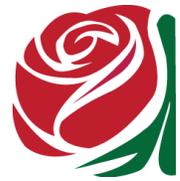




The 4:15



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

Volume 60, Issue 7

Marylin Nease, editor

March 20, 2017

++ President's Pen

By Lou McMillan,
Chapter President, 2016-2018



Dear Delta Omicron Chapter Members,
It's hard to believe our DKG year of meetings is almost over, even though spring hasn't totally "sprung"!

However, DKG "Marches on." *Pun intended!*

We have two exciting events planned for our March meeting: we will initiate **Jan Nance** and **Sarah Beth Uhles**, and we will enjoy a very interesting program presented by **Denise Barker** and **Susan Bell**, "Painted Churches of Schulenburg." I am really looking forward to welcoming Susan back after shoulder surgery, and Denise back after a visit with her daughter in Colorado.

Sherrie Negrete will be calling our hostesses for March refreshments. Ladies, I know situations occur that prevent us from getting to meetings, but any month you are a hostess, please make sure you get your dish to the meeting, or ask someone to bring it for you. Sherrie has had to do "double duty" too many times! Remember "It takes teamwork...."

If you plan to attend our April 1 CCDC luncheon at Lakewood Country Club and find, at the last minute, you cannot attend, you might give your ticket to someone in the chapter who doesn't have one and would like to attend. That way, someone else can enjoy the program and delicious lunch, even if you can't.

I also want you to know how much the ACT crew appreciated all the plastic Easter eggs and Easter candy you donated in February. I took them by yesterday so they could start filling the eggs. They think we are "pretty special folk," and we are! Our group is one of the most caring, giving groups I've ever worked with. Unfortunately, we will not be able to help at their Easter egg hunt. It's April 1, when we will be attending our spring luncheon. But, they do need more candy, so please bring more Easter candy (no more eggs) to the March 20 meeting.

Let's please remember members in the hospital or with ill loved ones!

I hope you have a wonderful weekend! I look forward to seeing everyone March 20 at 4:30 p.m. ■

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pp. 17-19: Texas State Organization News

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Chapter Meeting News

Monday, March 20, 2017

Time and Agenda:

4:30 p.m. – Fellowship and Food

5:00 p.m. – Program



Program Presenters:

Denise Barker, Susan Bell

Topic: Painted Churches of Schulenburg

Initiation Ceremony:

Jean Wallace, Ceremonies Chair

Jan Nance, Sarah Beth Uhles, Initiates



Sherrie Negrete, Social Arrangements Committee Chair

March Hostesses – **Mary Louise Milliorn, Ashraf Mobh, Marylin Nease, Sherrie Negrete, Carrie Parsons, Carolyn Power, Rebecca Quigley, Mary Riddle, Kathy Rodriguez**

Location:

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

What to bring: (1) Box Tops for Education coupons for our Hillier School project; (2) bag of candy to stuff plastic Easter eggs for our Week of Caring project—see p. 2; (3) a guest you think would be a good candidate for DKG membership. ■

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

By Barbara Clinton, Programs/Projects VP

● March 20, 2017, Meeting Info

Delta Omicron members **Susan Bell** and **Denise Barker** will share their recent trip experience touring the Painted Churches of Schulenburg,

Texas, through an audiovisual presentation.

Denise's description of the program is as follows: "Built by German and Czech immigrants in the 1800s, the Schulenburg churches are rich in history. They reveal much about the lives of one group of America's new arrivals who held on to the familiar ways of their native countries, even as they assimilated and contributed to their new one."

Both Susan and Denise are avid travelers.

Denise, the fifth of seven children, was born in California but lived in five different states. Since Denise's father was an Air Force pilot, her family moved often, affording Denise many opportunities to experience the joy of travel.



Susan, one of three children, and born in Texas, began her travels early in life with frequent family summer trips to dude ranches in Bandera and Kerrville, Texas. Susan's affinity for the Hill Country continues: she says she and her husband, Mike, "love to travel to Marble Falls and several areas nearby just to soak in the beauty." ■

● 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 March meeting, we'll donate bags of candy (individually wrapped and sized for stuffing plastic Easter eggs) toward ACT's annual Easter egg hunt.



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

► **INTERNATIONAL:**

- **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



● Keys to Membership Retention and Expansion?

In the last *Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin Collegial Exchange*, the International Membership Committee suggested three keys to increasing membership retention and expansion.

First, a positive chapter environment provides members with support, encouragement, a feeling of

being a valued member, and engagement.

Second, we should use technology connections to encourage members to work together and communicate, even using technology to mentor from a distance by sharing information and inspiration.

Finally, we must have a plan that involves key stakeholders to recruit and retain new members.

I have experienced so many of these traits within our chapter, including inspiring and relevant programs, the mentoring of new members by experienced members, and a beautiful web of constant communication, where we remind ourselves that a pencil or pen and paper are pieces of technology, too!

In the spirit of encouraging a positive and supportive culture, I recently attended a presentation about happiness, delivered by happiness expert and researcher Shawn Achor.

In a little over 10 minutes, Achor discusses the choices we all make every day regarding our level of happiness. I would encourage you to watch his Ted Talk (link below) and think about how our brains can be rewired to perceive the world in a very positive way.

I know we all have hard times, so learning about tools to unlock hidden potential and happiness has to be something we could all use every now and again. Living in a world where success is supposed to determine our levels of happiness can lead us down the wrong road.

In his book, *The Happiness Advantage*, Achor reveals research he and his team conducted applying this concept to education and improving student achievement. It was fascinating to me, and I hope you enjoy a little Happy Talk, too!



Recording Secretary's Report

By Carolyn Power, Past President,
For Susan Bell, Recording Secretary



The
Delta
Omicron
chapter of
The Delta
Kappa
Gamma
Society



International met on February 20, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church.

Lou McMillan, president, welcomed all attending and especially Marilyn Gregory, the Texas State Organization president.

Carolyn Miller, chair of the personal and professional enrichment committee, presented the inspirational thought for the evening. Chapter members applauded her story of a persistent woman working seven years to make highways safer in America.

Lou announced a change in the agenda in order to vote on an educator recommended for DKG membership, **Jan Nance**.

Jamie Callahan, membership vice president, spoke about Jan's 42-year educational experience. Members voted by paper ballots, which were collected for counting.

Lou introduced Marilyn Gregory to speak about the work of the Texas State Organization. Her report included current actions being taken as well as plans for future state conventions and plans for the international convention Texas is hosting in 2018. She challenged each member to read *The Butterfly Effect: How Your Life Matters* by Andy Andrews.

Lou, having received news of the ballot count, introduced **Jan Nance**, who will be initiated at our chapter's next meeting on March 20.

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter, and Lou thanked **Mary White** and **Carolyn Power** for substituting for **Susan Bell**, recording secretary, during her absence.

Mary Gill, treasurer, gave her report, which will be filed for audit. Mary reminded members to turn in their checks for the CCDC luncheon by March 1.

Lou asked members to share cares and concerns regarding our members and their families. She encouraged members to mail cards of encouragement.

Lou thanked the hostesses and decorating committee for their delightful refreshment, project, and program presentations. She thanked everyone who had brought plastic Easter eggs and Easter candies for our chapter's TSO Month of Caring project. She also thanked members who donated heart healthy cookbooks for the ASTEF fundraiser.

█ gave a report concerning the Hillier Movie and Arts Night to be held March 3, 2017, at 5:45 p.m. █ showed a display of individual notes written by Hillier faculty and staff thanking Delta Omicron for the support given to them this year through our chapter's ASTEF project, All Hands on Deck for Hillier.

Lou recognized member **Kathy Rodriguez** for presenting the program at Gamma Beta Chapter in McKinney last month.

Lou asked if there were any other old or new business. Hearing none, she asked member **Leah Black** to introduce our program.

Leah talked about our program aligning with the current TSO theme of "The Heart of the Society Is Its Members" and with February being national Heart Health Month. She introduced **Marilyn Nease**, whom she described as the heart of Delta Omicron. Leah then introduced [REDACTED], daughter of chapter member **Lou Brown**. [REDACTED] works at The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano as supervisor of the Cardio-pulmonary Rehab Center. Marilyn shared her personal story of heart trouble diagnosis, surgery, and rehab. [REDACTED] shared factual information about cardiac risks and strategies such as exercise that lead to healthier hearts. A question-and-answer period followed the presentation, and both speakers gave detailed answers. Leah presented both speakers with gifts thanking them for the excellent program.

Lou McMillan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Kathy Rodriguez** made the motion, **Wanda Spoonmore** seconded it, and members' votes passed the motion.

Members closed the meeting in a traditional circle singing "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song." ■



Treasurer's Report

By Mary Gill, Treasurer

On March 8, our balance was \$5,324.03.

At our February 20 meeting, members donated \$34 to ASTEF. ■

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 article is a human interest one. This personal essay is part four 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 4: February 13, 2017 Sister Talk

I call my youngest sister, [REDACTED], for frequent updates. Recently, we talked an hour. Sisters!

Breathing Better

"So, what's the latest on your treatment plan?" I ask [REDACTED], who has cancer.

"Turns out I didn't have the other two markers needed to qualify for that clinical trial I'd been meeting about. The lab said my biopsy tissue had one out of three markers, so I'm back with [REDACTED]."

She continues, "I was disappointed at first. Now I'm glad I'm with [REDACTED]. He's called me four times already this week. He's really staying on my case. He thinks I should go with a trial he's familiar with from when he worked in New York. First, though, he has to convince a grant board to fund my treatment with the drug."

"Oh, I had to change my heart medicine. [REDACTED] says my old medication won't work with the trial drug. He talked with my cardiologist, and now I'm on a new heart med. I've complained to my cardiologist for years about being short of breath. [REDACTED] talks to him once, I'm on a new med, and I'm breathing better!

"Now, we're waiting on the grant."

Eat Lots of Butter

"So, how did your appointment with the nutritionist go?" I ask.

"Well! She told me to eat lots of butter. Also, whole milk, not skim, soy, or almond. I'm to focus on high protein, high calorie food. To keep my weight up. Shawna has the papers so she can study them. She's the 'Nurse Cook' around here now."

[REDACTED] is [REDACTED] daughter-in-law, and [REDACTED] and her mother, aunt, and sister take turns preparing meals to tempt [REDACTED], and to keep [REDACTED] and visitors fed.

[REDACTED] adds, "The nutritionist also said if the idea of a hot meal doesn't appeal to me, that's okay. Instead, I should concentrate on cold meals, like shakes with peanut butter."

The Best Medicine

"I feel more like [redacted] every day," [redacted] tells me, laughing.

[redacted], our mother's sister, lived to almost 98, dying five years ago. She was a constant in our lives.

"Yes, I use my cane to point to what I want people to do," [redacted] chuckles. "You should have seen me last weekend pointing to the crepe myrtles I wanted pruned, to the deck I wanted redone, and so forth. You can get a lot done when you're sick!" she adds, laughing.

[redacted] asks, "Remember that time [redacted], at 95, called Parks Hardware wanting potting soil delivered? Told they don't deliver in town, she asked to speak to [redacted]. She told [redacted] he'd be driving past her house on his way home, and to deliver her dirt. He did. And he put the bags exactly where she wanted them!"

"Remember when she bought a mattress at Warn's and talked [redacted] into giving her a set of sheets?"

Recalling [redacted] stories, we laugh ourselves happy. Sisters!

To be continued... ■

Membership Committee

Data

● February Attendance

Attendance at our February 20 chapter meeting was 24 members and two guests.

● 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. ■



● Meet Our Initiates

Jan Nance



- ♥ Recommended by Lou McMillan
- ♥ Number of Years in Education: 42
- ♥ Current Teaching Assignment: Texas A&M Commerce, Retired Professor
- ♥ Most Recent Degree: Ed.D. in Business and Education, 1969
- ♥ Most Recent Professional Award:

Professor Emerita (for distinguished contributions to academia at Texas A&M Commerce)

♥ Other: Prison ministry

Sarah Beth Uhles



- ♥ Recommended by Jaime Callahan
- ♥ Number of Years in Education: 5
- ♥ Current Teaching Assignment: Fifth- and sixth-grade math, McCulloch Intermediate School, Highland Park ISD. Also, coaches grades 5-8 in number sense, calculator, and general mathematics.

♥ Most Recent Degree: Master of Science in Education from Baylor University; currently working on her Master Math Teacher Specialization at Southern Methodist University

♥ Most Recent Professional Award: Professional Achievement Award in 2015 for her Math Team

♥ Other: Volunteering with middle school and high school students at The Village Church

♥ Fun Fact: Voted into DKG membership in 2015, but couldn't attend initiation ceremony because of required attendance for a grad school course ■

Part 2 – Committees:

Society Mission / Purposes

Legislation Committee

By [redacted] Committee Chair

● Let's Contact Our Legislators

Tim Lee, Executive Director of TRTA, is asking for everyone to contact their legislator concerning TRS-Care.

As you well know, TRS-Care has been wonderful insurance with low premiums and great benefits. ■

Part 2 – Committees:

Special

ASTE F/Hillier Project Committee

2016-2017 ASTEF Project: All Hands on Deck for Hillier, Year Three . . .

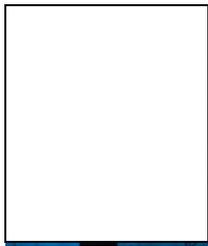
● Annual Fundraising Event

By Marilyn Nease

Hillier's first ever "Movie and Arts Night" was well attended by students, teachers, siblings, parents, grandparents, friends, and Marilyn Nease and [redacted]

[redacted]. Some additional chapter members who could not attend this year chose to help underwrite the event.





██████████ chapter member and Hillier principal, led the fundraiser. She welcomed attendees and presided over door prize drawings spaced at the beginning, middle, and end of the evening.

Attendees browsed a display of students' creative artwork. ██████████

██████████ favorites? The imaginative monsters fashioned by sewing muslin fabric into desired shapes, stuffing them with cotton, and adding colorful paint.

Pizza, popcorn, candy bars, drinks, glow sticks—all were available for \$1 each.

Hillier's students walked the red carpet onto the stage, boys on one side and girls on the other to become an entertaining choir. They donned "shades" and moved to the rhythm and lyrics of the song as they sang about school being fun and cool. Another fun selection was from Disney's *The Lion King*.

When the movie *Aladdin* began, students stretched out on blankets on the floor to watch. One little boy was already dressed in his pajamas.

The favorite part for **Marylin Nease**? The smiles, waves, and a hug from her past and present tutees.

Attendees at this year's school fundraiser enjoyed food, fellowship, and fun! ■

● After-school Tutoring at Hillier



TUTORING TUESDAYS!

By **Marylin Nease**

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Tutee 1 – My first tutee and I meet on the school driveway during parents' pickup time after school. We walk in together, and I ask about her day. My

fourth-grade girl's mood is better than last week, but I think that may be because she knows I'm on to her: that her whining won't work with me. Or, maybe she's Valentine's Day happy? Anyway, after a minimal attempt at whining, she accepts that we'll be reading today. ☺

She picks out a Dr. Seuss book, *Ten Apples up on Top*. We enjoy the story and illustrations, the rhyming and repetition. She munches on her favorite Valentine's Day candy, Skittles, as we read.

Over the course of several months, I can hear that she's steadily improving her reading. I'm especially pleased to listen to her giving her Hillier phonics instruction a genuine try to help her decode unfamiliar words. She also tries longer now when attempting new words; she's more patient, confident, and determined while reading.

When she finishes the book, I ask her about getting another book. She says she has English homework. I tell her to get it so we can work on it during the rest of our 20 minutes. Instead, she decides she wants to read another Dr. Seuss book, *Hop on Pop*.

When our time is up, she completes her reading log and asks me to sign it. We thank each other, and I remind her to put her books away, and she does. ☺

Tutee 2 – My next tutee is a second-grade boy I've worked with once before. My previous tutee suggests to him to try *Ten Apples up on Top*, and he agrees. I love that she's mentoring him about reading! The first time I've seen her take this role! ☺

He's an expressive reader, and I compliment him, telling him he could be an actor. He replies that his social studies teacher has told him he belongs in Hollywood. I laugh and tell him she's right! ☺ We enjoy the book. Now and then, we take turns reading pages to help him with energy. When he occasionally runs into an unfamiliar word, I'm pleased to hear him sounding it out successfully. ☺

Tutee 3 – My third tutee is a willing, agreeable first-grade boy I haven't worked with before.

His teacher encourages him to get out his flashcards for us to practice. There are probably 20 words: *on, as, is, by, are*, etc. The really troublesome words are *his, this, they*. We practice several times, and I compliment him, saying I can tell he's been practicing at home and school. I urge him to continue practicing.

During our practice, my first tutee sometimes eases up to our table as self-appointed mentor. She suggests giving him a piece of Valentine's candy each time he gets a flashcard right, and I let her do so. He pops the candy hearts into his mouth and continues his practice.



Whatever it takes. ☺ One child enjoys his sweet rewards for his successes. The other child, who thought she didn't want to read, is now volunteering to mentor tutees. ☺

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Tutee 1 - Today's tutee is my fourth-grade girl. We meet on the staircase and make our way to the school library, which seems to be a favorite place for her. She's an organizer. When she sees the books in the bookcase are not organized, she wants to put them back in order. We bargain to let her sort and reorder books for a while, read a while, sort some more, read some more, etc.

In this manner, our tutoring session runs 45 minutes. In the end, she straightens the library's bookcase, sometimes singing as she works, and reads nine books for a total of 54 pages.

I notice that she carefully studies the illustrations, and I hear her using her language training (phonics) to sound out unknown words. In the Moon Dogs series, she reads *The Old Lamp, Hot Sun, Jed's Bag, Sim and the Bat, The Glum Cat, Jed Swims, A Wish*, and *Chips for Lunch*. The final book she reads is the longest and most challenging: *The Oak and the Reeds*, and sometimes we take turns with the reading.

She and I are both awed by her accomplishments, including the most books and pages ever, and I praise her work profusely. Her eyes are wide, and her smile big.

Even though her father and younger sister have arrived to take her home, she wants to stay to record the info in her reading log. She does, and I sign my initials. Her dad waits patiently. ☺

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Tutee 1 – I begin today with my fourth-grade girl, who responds, “Terrible!” when I ask about her day. This seems to be her standard answer, not to be taken seriously. ☺

We go to the school library, and she immediately sits at the teacher’s desk. I pull over a chair so that I can sit beside her. Because she often wants to sit at the teacher’s desk in whatever classroom we use for our tutoring, I tell her she may very well end up being a teacher someday. She ponders the thought. ☺

Before we start our official tutoring, just chatting, we discover we each have three sisters and are both the second sister. I show her a photo of my three sisters from my phone and tell her quickly about the 5K my Fort Worth sister and I walked on Saturday in Oklahoma as part of our four sisters’ weekend. My tutee and I like that we’ve found this new connection. ☺

She asks to do math homework today. Her homework is equivalent fractions and the multiplication table, so we work on those two math items. She completes the equivalent fractions page (for example, $1/4 = 3/12$), and I check her work. Then she recites the multiplication table (1-15), reading from the printed chart. She tells me her math teacher began teaching the multiplication table today.

When our time is up, she starts to leave. Before she exits, I remind her about her empty snack sack, which she throws away, and about the last thing we say, and she says, “Thank you!” ☺

Tutee 2 – My second tutee is my second-grade boy. We also go to the library, and he chooses to sit at one of the student tables. I ask him to pick out a book from the bookcase. He selects *Sim and the Bat* and reads it to me. The story is about a boy named Sim, who can’t hit the baseball with the heavy bat, so he shifts to using a frying pan as a bat and succeeds in hitting the ball. I tell my tutee that I can relate because my sisters and I used to play baseball with a tennis racquet and tennis balls. He smiles. ☺

Next, he selects *Lost* from the *Alba* series. He tells me he’s read the book before, and when he reads, I can tell he enjoys the story. I do, too. The plot is a good vs. evil one, and the main character is a girl named Alba, who, so far, outsmarts the bad guy, a man who works in her father’s lab. I wish we had time to read book 2! ☺

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Tutee 1 – My fourth-grade girl and I meet at the school driveway during parents’ pick-up time. She’s in an “I don’t wanna” mood.

We agree to go to the school library, possibly her favorite room at Hillier. I sign in and then head to the library. She’s hiding under the teacher’s desk. ☺ When the whining continues, I tell her I’m setting my timer so she can have a one-minute whining session, and then there’ll be no more. Oddly, she has trouble whining when told to whine. ☺

We begin reading, and in twelve minutes she reads eight books in set 1 and part of set 2 of the Moon Dogs adventure series. When one story is about a dog with a broken leg, I quickly tell her about my sister’s dog, Rosie, who lost a leg to a UPS truck and has adapted well to getting around with three legs. My student is fascinated.

Along the way in her reading, I compliment her for repeatedly using her phonics instruction to sound out unfamiliar words. She’s learned so much at Hillier, and she’s using it!

She asks me to put the timer on pause. She wants to take a break to organize the library’s bookcase of books. ☺

When she’s finished with organizing, I resume the timer, and she reads more books in the Mad Dogs series until the timer sounds, letting us know she’s read for 20 minutes. She counts the books she’s read, and the total is 12, the most ever.

She puts her books away, and we thank each other.

On my way out, I see her teacher in the hallway and tell her about the growth I’m seeing! We are both pleased! ☺ ■

TUTORING TUESDAYS!

By Mary Riddle

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

I’m very happy to be back tutoring at Hillier!

My student today was a little hard to warm up to, but once I asked her about the chapter book, her eyes lit up. She was ready to read to me.

I told her I am coming on Tuesdays to hear her read, and she smiled at me. That made my day! ■



TUTORING WEDNESDAYS!

By Lou McMillan

Wednesdays, February/March 2017

I have added one more student on Wednesday afternoons.

I now have four children, and I have been able to “double the fun”!

I have also extended my time to an hour and a half. Worth every minute! ■



TUTORING FRIDAYS!

By Margaret Thompson

Fridays, February/March 2017

I had last week off, and this week was snowed under catching up at work.

There isn’t much to report since I didn’t read with students last Friday, and this Friday was the last day of school before spring break, so no one wanted to read.

Lately my favorite students have been leaving before 4 p.m. and no one else wants to read for me. ☺ I have no report this month.

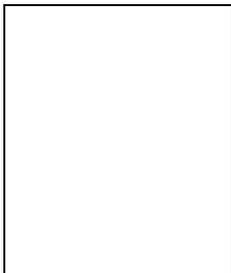
For the next couple of weeks, I will be getting off work at 3, so maybe I’ll get more interest. ☺ ■



Chapter News continued...

Part 3 – Members' News

Members' Professional News



● **Next Concert**
[redacted] reports, "My next concert at the Meyerson with the Dallas Symphony Chorus and Dallas Symphony Orchestra is the Bach St. Matthew Passion on March 30, 31, and April 2. ■"

Members' Personal News

● Surprise Trip

Elenora Asbury shares, "[redacted] surprised me with a trip to St. John! I knew we were going on a trip, but didn't know where. We had a wonderful time, and I had my first (and I hope only) experience with a water spout.



"It's like a tornado originating in the ocean. Often water spouts die out before reaching shore. As [redacted] was relaxing and reading, I walked a short distance to the front desk. It started sprinkling, but I thought nothing of it since I didn't have far to go. Suddenly there was a torrential downpour, and I managed to step into a storage shed. I 'stole' a garbage bag to cover myself and managed to get to the small gift shop.

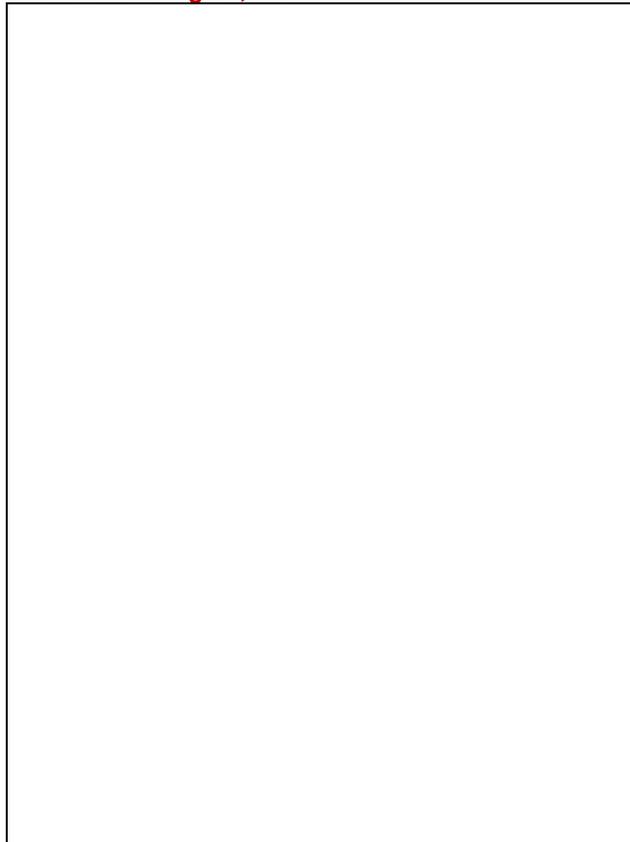
"Turns out that a water spout had aimed directly at the restaurant on the top level where we were staying. It had been quite a while since a water spout had hit St. John. The awnings were ripped apart and glasses and other items were broken inside the restaurant. Nothing else was damaged.

"Very grateful the water spout wasn't lower because I was close to the restaurant. Ignorance was bliss since I thought it was simply raining.

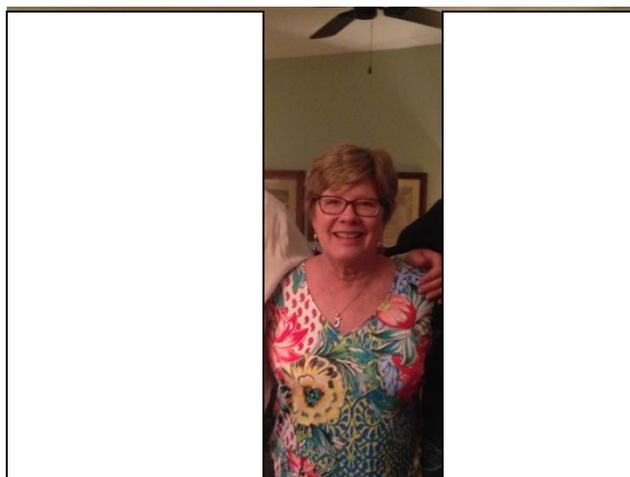
"[redacted] had thought it would be nice to go somewhere warm and escape the colder February weather here. Ha! There was at

least one day in Dallas in the 80s. Not sure if that day was hotter here or in St. John!" ■

● Off to Washington, D.C.



Margaret Thompson's [redacted] left for Washington, D.C., last Sunday to begin his orientation with the State Department. He will find out what embassy he is assigned to in early April.



[redacted] proud parents, Margaret [redacted] Thompson ■

● **Helping a Friend This Year**



Maureen Baker reports, "I am working as a nanny on Mondays and Fridays until August. Of course, I will take off two days for our Southwest Regional Conference in Hawaii, but all other Mondays I am in Coppell.

"My dear friend and name sake, Maureen, has cancer and cannot take the child with her during her treatments, so they pay me to teach

the baby all that I can before her first birthday. She is adorable and sweet.

"I look forward to seeing everyone again when I am available." ■

● **Update on Leesa Cole's Sister** ■



Leesa Cole reports, "My sister ■ has been released from the defibrillator vest that she named Herbert and has had to wear for the past four months. She is thrilled to remove that from her new lifestyle.

"Her heart continues to improve, and she will stay on all the meds, which will require her to continue monitoring food choices and liquid intake and to avoid situations where she might fall or get a hard bump or cut.

"Cardiac rehab ends this month, so she hopes to travel to Taos in April to visit her daughter and three grandsons.

"Your thoughts, prayers, and cards have meant so much to us these past months. DKG sisters are priceless." ■



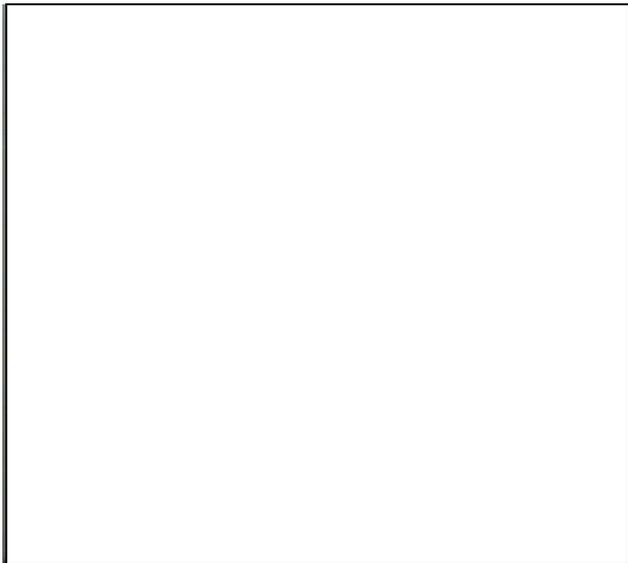
● **Happy March Birthdays!**

■ **Carrie Parsons, 7;**
Kay Keeland, 16; Carolyn Power, 16 ■

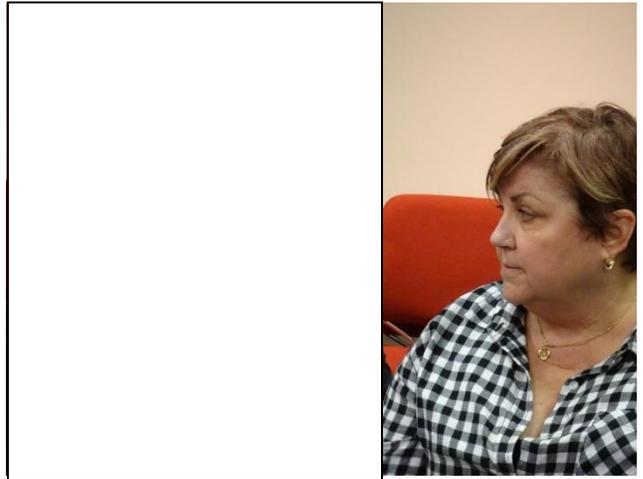
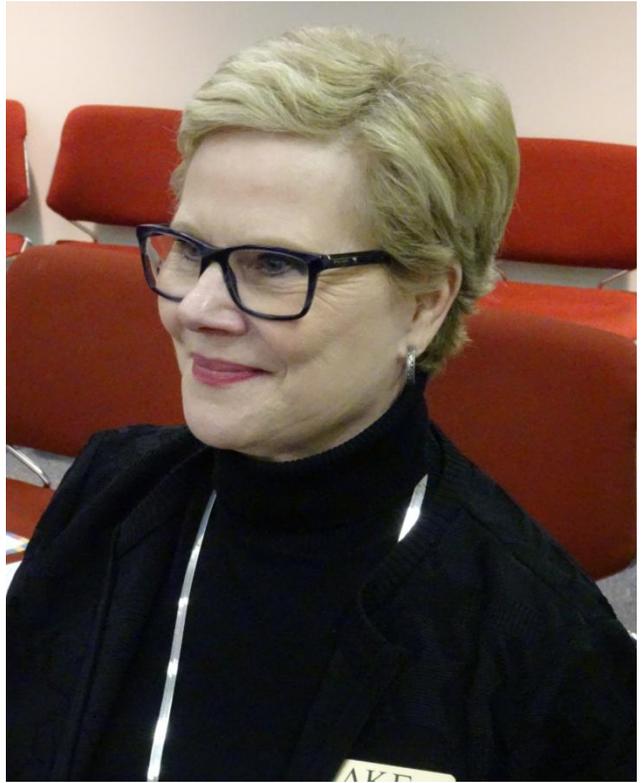
Photo Album: February 20, 2017, Chapter Meeting







***DKG Purpose 1: To unite women educators of the world
in a genuine spiritual fellowship***



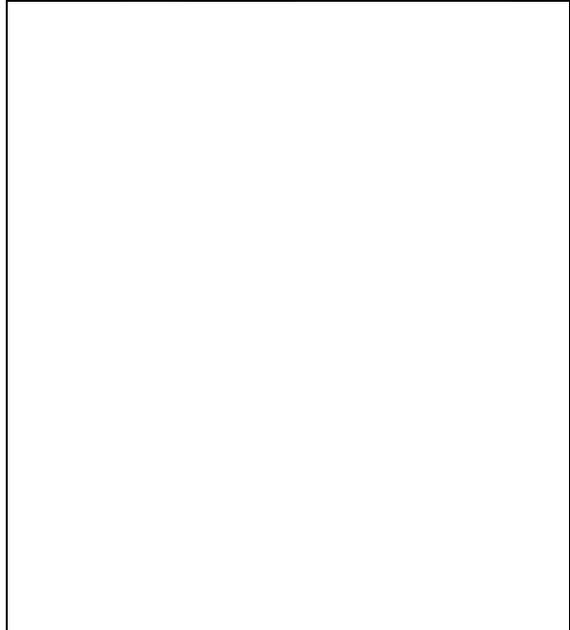
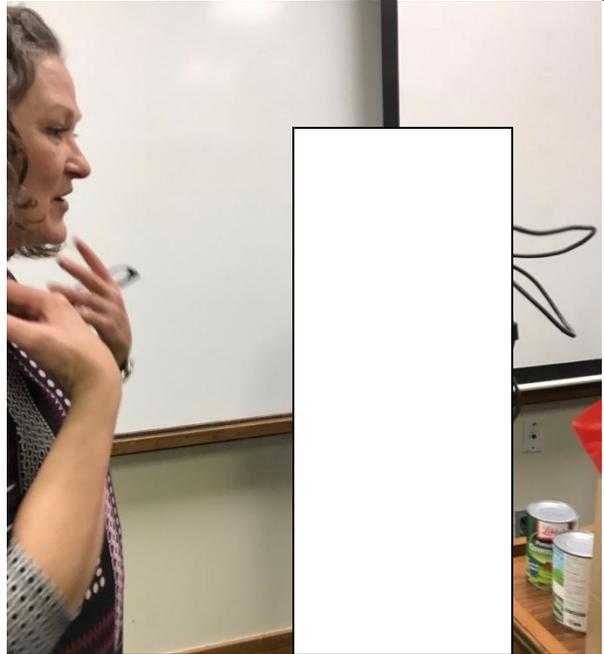
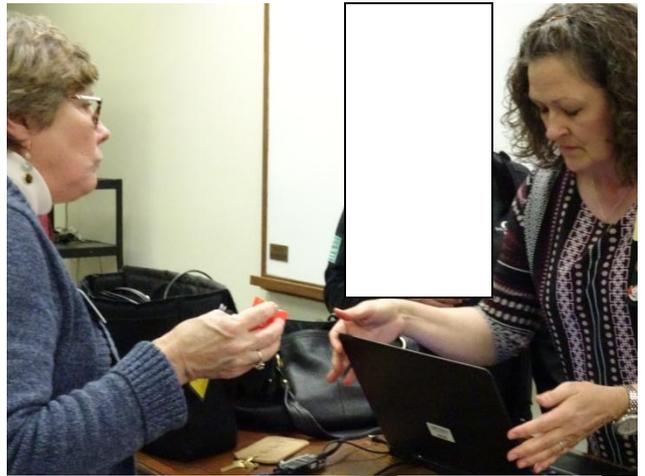
DKG 50+year members Shirley Kochman and Wanda Spoonmore



Welcome back, Mary Riddle!



Solving Technology Troubles





The Meeting Begins



Jaime Callahan shares bio info for a recommended educator.



Lou McMillan starts the meeting and welcomes everyone.



Leesa Cole updates members on her sister's health.



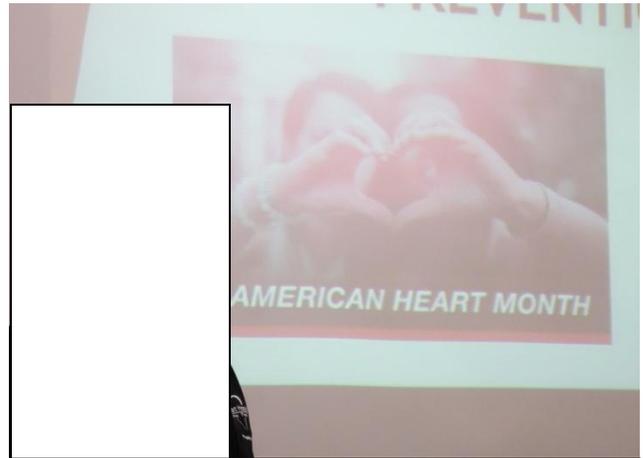
Carolyn Miller shares an inspirational story.



TSO President Marilyn Gregory updates us on Texas activities and DKG opportunities—and her love of the Society and its members, who are the “Heart of the Society.”



Leah Black introduces the program presenters, Marylin Nease [redacted].



[redacted] supervisor of cardio-pulmonary rehab at The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano, discusses cardio risk factors and demonstrates upper body exercises.



Don't have hand weights or exercise equipment at home? No problem! Check your pantry. Cans of green beans work!



Marylin Nease shares her personal heart story to illustrate the need for everyone to increase their own heart health awareness.



Audience members listen to [redacted] helpful heart health info



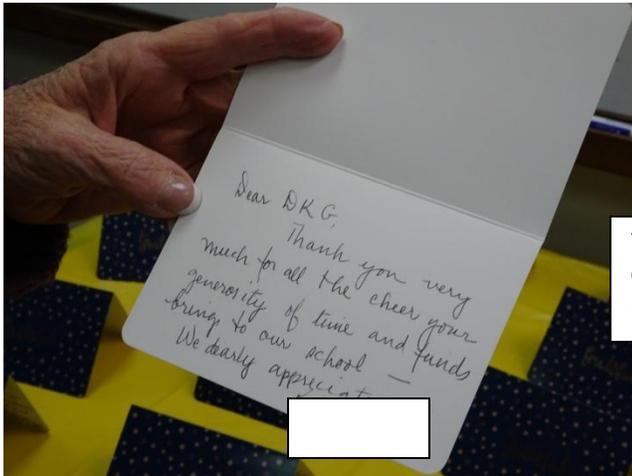
Members listen and respond to our heart health program.



ASTEF fundraiser: partial display of member-donated heart healthy cookbooks, with ASTEF donations hat



Pictured is the first round of member-donated plastic Easter eggs and Easter candy for stuffing the eggs, part of our chapter's TSO Week of Caring project. The second round will be the additional candy that members donate at our March 20 meeting. All items will go to ACT's 2017 Easter egg hunt. See page 2 for info about ACT.



Thank-you notes from the Hillier School's 13 teachers, each one expressing personal appreciation for Delta Omicron's ASTEF-funded project, "All Hands on Deck for Hillier," now in year three.



Dallas County News

● 2017 Spring Luncheon

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.



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

DKG



Area 9 News

● Goodbye, February, and Hello, March!

Hello, Area 9 Sisters!

March is known for March Madness (if you are a college basketball fan), the Ides of March, and of course (don't pinch me!) St. Patrick's Day. Thank goodness

March 17 is during our spring break! Those of us who are still teaching are getting ready for STAAR testing, so we could say we are coming into some madness, too!

For those of us who will be retiring, our eyes are set on slowly cleaning out years of items we have collected to make our teaching career a success. Those of you who have already crossed over into the land of the "leprechaun," some of us are going to join you lucky folks!

I hope all of you have thought about joining the forces down in Houston for our yearly state convention. You still have time to get your reservation in! You do not want to miss a wonderful time of seeing and meeting up with all of our TSO DKG sisters. If you have never been to a convention, now is the time to join us in Houston. You do not want to miss out on the fun, fellowship, and learning experiences you can have while there.

Some of you, I know, are planning to go to Hawaii, so make sure you are gearing up for that great trip. I know our sisters in Hawaii are so excited to host this year's Southwest Regional Conference.

If you are the treasurer for your chapter, you need to start getting your pen and checkbook ready to send in your monies for all the different funds we support at state and international levels.

I look forward to seeing some of you on Saturday, April 1, for the CCDC luncheon, and others of you on May 6 at the Collin County Coordinating Council luncheon. I will send a representative to the Grayson County luncheon, as I have a previous engagement already planned for April 8. I so enjoyed last year's time with you! I hate when I can't get to be with the "heart of the society"...YOU!

Until next time,
Cathy Criner
Area 9 Coordinator ■

DKG

Texas State Organization News

TSO Website

www.dkgtexas.org

TSO Headquarters Update



Leesa Cole reports, "Good news from TSO Headquarters...Dr Betty Duke-Ruhd has been hired as our new Executive Secretary and will start work in April.

"Since I have been hired as the Treasurer for TSO, Deborah Thomas now has the position of Executive Assistant, my previous position. You may know Deborah as a past coordinator for the Dallas County Cora McFarland scholarship as well as the current chair of the Coordinating Council of Dallas County. Deborah started her new job at HQ on March 6.

"Both of these ladies bring a wealth of Society knowledge and experience to our State Headquarters.

"Cheryl Crawford continues on as Administrative Clerk. She is our go-to for historical info as she's been at HQ for six years now.

"Personnel isn't the only big change at TSO HQ. Stop by when you have a chance to see the new furnishings and office configuration.

"We at TSO HQ are excited about the new opportunities ahead." ■

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> ■

Get Connected - March/April 2017

Did you know you can participate in free courses at Harvard, Stanford, and MIT among others?

These institutions and other prestigious universities in the United States and around the world offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for the public.

[Get Connected March/April 2017](#)

Posted March 3, 2017 on TSO website ■

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 ■



TSO Projects

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

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

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

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/>

♥♥♥ **Who's** attending Houston 2017 from Delta Omicron?
Denise Barker, Susan Bell, Barbara Clinton, Leesa Cole,
Kay Keeland, Lou McMillan, Carolyn Miller, Marilyn Nease,
Wanda Spoonmore, Mary White—so far. Come join us! ☺ ■



Southwest Regional News

2017 Southwest Regional Conference



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



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." ■

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 ■



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