

The 4:15*

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

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

Vision Statement: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide



Texas State Organization



Volume 65, Issue 1, September 20, 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 Members,

Wow, can it really happen? Are we finally going to have an in-person meeting? These past months, we have been sequestered in our homes. We've been wearing masks, sometimes gloves, and being careful. I've never placed so many online orders before last year. Then, the vaccines arrived, and we had hope. Lots of hope.

For our meetings, we have several changes. First, we will now meet at Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 3821 University Blvd. The new meeting room is on the second floor, and it is room "K." Second, the agenda has been changed slightly: our monthly speakers will go first after the welcoming, and the business portion of Delta Omicron's meeting will follow the speaker. Third, I will try my best to have ZOOM ready so that anyone not attending in person can still hear our speaker and listen to our meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone. Happy fall! Welcome back!

Katherine

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

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

Next meeting: Mon., Sept. 20, 5:00 p.m., HPPC*, Room K and Zoom.
Program: "Growing Up"
(DKG Purposes 1, 6)
*Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 3821 University Blvd., Dallas 75205

CHAPTER: MEMBERSHIP NEWS by Margaret Thompson, Co-Membership VP



It's so good to be back with everyone after this long quarantine!

Please take time to welcome our new members:

. September will be their first in-person meeting – I'm excited for them! They will be officially inducted into Delta Omicron in November.

October is BRING A FRIEND meeting, so start thinking of someone you might like to share with us. Attached in the email with this newsletter, you will also find a **Prospect Card**. Please complete it with the name of one person to whom you want me to mail information about DKG. Then, we'll look forward to meeting these friends.

My goal this year is to invite teachers from Highland Park Presbyterian Day School and Hillier School to join our ranks. If you know any of these teachers, feel free to call a few of them and invite them. I will reach out with flyers about DKG soon.

Welcome back, everyone!



MEMBER NEWS, PROFESSIONAL

Liza Leggett reports, "I'm teaching a new course for me this year - Fashion Design, a year-long, high-school credit CTE (TEA Career and Technical Education) course. This opportunity is so exciting for me because I've always loved fashion and it's what I studied in college. Now, I'm getting to share my knowledge with students and regain my interest and grow my knowledge. A great blessing!"



MEMBER NEWS, PERSONAL

Cindy Dominguez shares, "Our daughter and the kiddos just left yesterday [August 23] after a two-week visit. We joked that they've spent over half the year with us here in Dallas! The twins are getting so big, and we've been so blessed to see them grow into toddlers! It's been a fun and busy year!

"I really haven't been up to too much because of the pandemic. We try to stay safe while the kiddos aren't here so that we don't transfer anything to them. They'll be two November 1, and hopefully they'll be eligible for the vaccine by the end of the year.

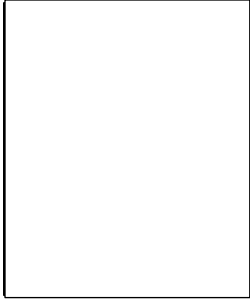
"I do plan to attend the upcoming meetings, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!"



Carolyn Power (left) reports, "I will have another knee surgery on September 22, so I will not attend the September chapter meeting as I'll be prepping for surgery."

Leesa Cole (right) shares, "I took a week of vacation in August and visited my family and friends in Lubbock. I had not seen any of them since March 3, 2020, and it was a glorious week of catching up. In a word -- WONDERFUL."





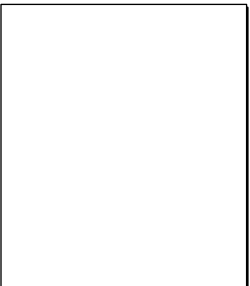
(left) reports, "I was scheduled to have knee replacement surgery on September 9, but it has been postponed, so I'll be able to attend the September 20 meeting after all."

Mary Gill (right) shares, "I'll still be in Idaho when our September meeting happens. My new grandbaby is making her debut tomorrow [August 30]!" *Photos: p. 22 in this newsletter.*



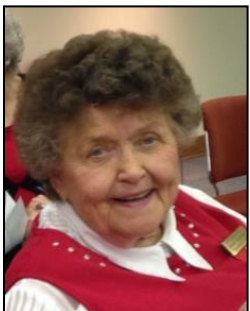
Judy Culbertson reports, "I had knee replacement surgery July 23 and am still in a lot of pain and slow to rehab. I had no idea it was going to be such a trial. My surgery required more than expected, and I have been told that it may take two years to recover fully—if I do. But once I feel better and can drive again, I will be there on a walker. I will let you know of my progress."

Carrie Parsons shares, "Once again, I am tutoring to supplement my income. I have back-to-back clients beginning at 3:30 and ending at 6:00 M-F. I'm so sorry that I cannot attend most of the meetings. If there are cancelations, I will gladly attend. Things can change rapidly these days as we all know. Cheers to a great start this year."



reports, "I was so hoping that I could get away [from Henderson] to attend the meeting in September, but it does not look promising. "Someday---it will be such fun to return to all of the wonderful meetings with the Chapter. "Please tell everyone hello."

Lou Brown shares, "I am sorry I will not be at the September meeting. I'm not fully vaccinated. My doctor thinks Bell's palsy #2 and numb toes are a reaction to the first vaccine. "Please put me down to be a hostess in 2022. Hope I'll receive the second vaccine by then."



Wanda Spoonmore shares, "My husband John's death was six years ago *September 20*, and his memorial service was October 8."

Marylin Nease reports, "I had a good Labor Day weekend with my sisters. We gardened a little, laughed a lot watching / *Love Lucy* episodes, completed two jigsaw puzzles, and made more memories." *Photo: p. 22 in this newsletter.*





Sara Coleman shares, "I'm starting my third year at Edgemere. My daughter arranged favorite things from my house in my apartment so it would feel more like home.

"Health-wise, I'm better off than a lot of people here. Last month, my doctor, nurse, and I did a happy dance when I was released from going weekly to Presbyterian's Wound Clinic. I had an infection in my legs. I now know what to watch for.

"I love that Margaret Arnold from our chapter is my Sunday School teacher at PCBC."

Happy September Birthday!

Vicky Hamilton, 6

Margaret Arnold, 12

Mary Riddle, 15

Julie Turnbow, 17

Barbara Clinton, 22



CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES, MAY 17, 2021

by Margie Rohde, Recording Secretary



Jean Wallace, and

Delta Omicron Chapter, Dallas, Texas, Texas State Organization, DKG International, met on Mon., May 17, 2021, via Zoom.

Attending were 26 members: Elenora Asbury, Maureen Baker, Susan Bell, Barbara Clinton, Leesa Cole, Grace Delatour, Marta Finlay, Mary Gill, Katherine Grogan, Barbara Harris, Nancy Johnson, Kay Keeland, Liza Leggett, Penni Lewis, Carolyn Miller, Marylin Nease, Carolyn Power, Kathy Rodriguez, Margie Rohde, Wanda Spoonmore, Margaret Thompson,

One guest attended: _____, a daughter of Beth McLean. _____ teaches in Godley ISD and lives in Granbury. Beth McLean was a Delta Omicron member who recently died. _____ was present to participate in the Necrology Committee's tribute to Beth, who was much loved by many members.

OPENING:

Katherine Grogan called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. Maureen Baker, Personal and Professional Enrichment Chair, presented the inspiration with the theme that every celebration needs three things: light, music, and something to eat and drink.

PROGRAM:

Necrology Committee

The program began with a **tribute to Beth McLean**, led by Carolyn Miller, Penni Lewis, and Carolyn Power. Penni, who shared a classroom with Beth at University Park Elementary in Highland Park ISD, stated that Beth took her under her wing and was a **super friend and teacher**. Beth was a talented person, making her own clothes and cooking. **Penni stated that her best memories of Beth were from outside the classroom.** When Penni was grieving the deaths of her parents, Beth insisted on taking Penni on trips, which gave Penni a much-needed boost. Penni said Beth volunteered at Network in her later life.

Marta Finlay remembered how Beth **found the perfect person to care for Marta's two daughters** so that Marta would feel comfortable teaching kindergarten with Beth.

Carolyn Power stated that Beth was a master teacher. Carolyn especially remembered the **many international trips Beth and Jim took and how she shared her experiences with Carolyn and Penni**. Beth **created international days in her classroom**, always making sure that she tied the activities to kindergarten TEKS. Beth had the children make gifts for Mother's Day. **Her classroom always had many animals in it, and the children's families took turns caring for these animals during breaks**. Margaret Thompson shared her experience caring for the classroom tarantula. Unfortunately, the tarantula died while with the Thompsons, so Margaret bought a replacement. Beth insisted on taking up a collection to repay Margaret.

deeply appreciated all the sharing of memories.

Penni Lewis, Music Committee Chair, shared a recording of "Celebrate!"

Ceremony #1: Recognition of Years of Service

Margaret Thompson, Membership Vice President, introduced the **following members to be honored: Susan Endicott and Melanie Rudebeck, members for 25 years; and Janet Cundiff, a member for 53 years, Shirley Kochman, a member for 58 years, Wanda Spoonmore, a member for 57 years, and Jean Wallace, a member for 52 years. Unfortunately, only Jean Wallace was present for the ceremony**. Marylin Nease, Research Committee Chair, gave a **presentation on the meaning of the symbols of Delta Kappa Gamma. Our key is a golden ellipse with Greek letters in its center and a wreath of laurel leaves**. Below the letters is a **cup, which represents knowledge**. The **coat of arms** consists of a **red shield with a band of gold. Three Tudor roses** on the band symbolize the Society's **ideals of friendship, loyalty, and helpfulness**. The **flaming lamp and the open book** on the shield signify **scholarship and knowledge**. The **laurel sprays** are the traditional symbols of **achievement**. Margaret read the **Delta Kappa Gamma pledge** for members and asked them to silently repeat the pledge.

Ceremony #2: Founders Day

Liza Leggett, Ceremonies Committee Chair, led the **Founders Day ceremony** with help from her committee members. Delta Kappa Gamma was founded on May 11, 1929, by Annie Webb Blanton, Mamie Sue Bastian, Ruby Cole, Mabel Grizzard, Anna Hiss, Ray King, Sue King, Helen Koch, Ruby Lomax, Cora Martin, Lalla Odom, and Lela Williams. **Dr. Blanton wanted to share views on education and methods with other educators worldwide**. In 1933 she was appointed professor at UT Austin. She knew that the status of women and opportunities for women were limited without some changes. She **hoped that DKG would advance the roles of educators so that they could accomplish worthy goals**.

Delta Kappa Gamma has 7 stated Purposes. The first is to unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship. **The second** is to honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education. **The third** is to advance the professional interest and position of women in education. **The fourth** is to initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interest of education and women educators. **The fifth** is to endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to nonmember women educators. **The sixth** is to stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action. **The seventh** is to inform members of current economic, social, political, and education issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society. Speakers gave examples of each Purpose brought to life in Delta Omicron this past year.

Ceremony #3: Chapter Birthday

Liza Leggett also led the chapter birthday ceremony.

On May 19, 1956, 40 Dallas-area women educators became charter members the Delta Omicron Chapter of DKG. It was the 111th chapter in Texas. The chartering was directed by two past state presidents: Eula Lee Carter and Phyllis Ellis.

We proudly celebrated the 65th birthday of our chapter.

Interview of an Almost 50-year Member

Nancy Johnson conducted an interview of _____, a longtime member.

_____ was born in Mississippi but moved to Texas as a child. She attended Hillcrest High in Dallas ISD and North Texas State University before her mother asked her to move back to Mississippi, where **she graduated from Mississippi State University.** _____ also received a Master's degree from Mississippi State. She **taught third and fourth grades while still in Mississippi and loved teaching.** _____ **started several programs to enrich the children's experiences.** The children put on a Christmas program as well as an Easter program for their families. When she was still in Mississippi, she wanted to start a school for disadvantaged children, but that never happened. _____ **taught eight years in Dallas ISD before deciding to become an educational diagnostician. She had to return to school to get certified as a diagnostician.** _____ also started working on her PhD, but never finished the program.

_____ **credits her mother with her interest in legislation.** Her mother used to stand on street corners to push for reforms she believed in. _____ continues her mother's tradition by getting legislative information to members and pushing for members to vote.

_____ **has been married for 20 years to _____, a retired lawyer.** _____ was at one time #3 in the District Attorney's office. _____ **hopes that she can convince _____ to travel more once the pandemic is completely over.** One of her favorite activities remains skiing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leesa Cole, Scholarship Committee Chair, stated that **no one applied for the chapter scholarship or the chapter's grant-in-aid.**

The Chapter Achievement Award will be presented next year.

Susan Endicott, Corresponding Secretary, was not present, so Katherine summed up member care and concerns.

NEW BUSINESS:

Leesa Cole, Treasurer, gave the **treasurer's report.** The **bank balance as of Apr. 30 was \$7,195.39. Area 9's portion of that amount is \$717.02, so the actual balance is \$6,478.37.** Income for March and April includes dues and CCDC Brunch reservations. Expenses for March and April include reimbursement to Membership Vice President, Schools for Africa chapter and member contributions, and CCDC Brunch reservations. Leesa stated that **25 members still need to pay dues, and that dues should be paid by May 30. Leesa will accept either full payment of \$100 or partial payment of \$50.** She can accept payment either through mailed checks or via Venmo.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

The **DKG Convention in Denton** in June was briefly discussed. Members registered to attend include Leesa Cole, Katherine Grogan, Kay Keeland, Carolyn Miller, Marylin Nease, Carolyn Power, Wanda Spoonmore, and _____.

Carolyn Power had already left the meeting, so Katherine reminded members of the U. S. Forum's May 19 Zoom about "Voting: A Right for Everyone" presented by the League of Women Voters.

Katherine also gave a **brief thank-you to members for all their help in the past year.** She announced that she **hoped the chapter can have meetings in person at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church in the fall.**

Marylin Nease, Area 9 Coordinator, **reminded members of the reception for Patti Belknap at the TSO Headquarters on June 5 from 2-4 p.m.** Marylin needs to know how many members will attend.

ADJOURNMENT:

Katherine played the DKG song. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 14, 2021

The Executive Board of Delta Omicron Chapter, Dallas, Texas, Texas State Organization, DKG Society International, met at Katherine Grogan’s house on Aug. 14, 2021. Attending were Katherine Grogan, President; Elenora Asbury, Co-Vice President for Programs and Projects; Margaret Thompson, Vice President for Membership; Margie Rohde, Recording Secretary; Marta Finlay and Mary Gill, Finance Committee Co-Chairs; Marylin Nease, Communications and Publicity Committee Chair; and Kay Keeland, Community Service Committee Chair. Unable to attend were Leesa Cole, Treasurer; Kathy Rodriguez, Co-Vice President for Programs and Projects; Susan Endicott, Corresponding Secretary; Julie Turnbow, Parliamentarian; and Lou McMillan, Immediate Past President. Katherine Grogan **called the meeting to order** at 10:55 a.m. and welcomed attendees.

2021-22 CHAPTER MEETING LOCATION:

Katherine announced that our **chapter meetings for 2021-22 will be at Highland Park Presbyterian Church** in room K on the second floor. She is seeking a church staff member to sponsor Delta Omicron so that we can use the room without a fee instead of renting it for \$50/meeting.

She plans to conduct hybrid meetings by Zoom as needed and asked that the board approve her purchase of a Zoom account for \$160/year. The board approved her request. Katherine already has a document camera to use.

Kay Keeland and Elenora Asbury volunteered to stand outside by the parking garage entrance and at the north elevator to guide members to room K before the first meeting. Board members discussed emailing a simple map to chapter members to help them find the church and parking garage.

PROGRAMS:

a). Elenora listed the proposed programs for the coming year:

Sept. 20, Mon., 5:00 p.m. – guest _____, “Growing Up _____”

Oct. 18, Mon., 5:00 p.m. – member Elenora Asbury, “Literary Ladies: Women Authors”

Nov. 15, Mon., 5:00 p.m. – guest _____, Dallas Public Libraries, “Know Your Library”

Dec. 4, Sat., 10:30 a.m. – Holiday Brunch, Katherine Grogan’s house (place TBD)

Jan. 10, Mon., 5:00 p.m. – guest _____, Dallas Leadership Foundation (TBD)

Feb. 14, Mon., 5:00 p.m. – members Joyanne Burger and Lou Brown and a speaker Kay Keeland will contact (TBD), “Heart to Heart: Heart Health”

Mar. 14, Mon., 5:00 p.m. – guests, Dallas Arboretum, “Blossoms from the Arboretum” (TBD)

Apr. (date and time TBD), CCDC Luncheon

May 16, Mon., 5:00 p.m. – DKG Founders Day, Delta Omicron birthday & member interview, member recognitions (25- & 50-year, chapter scholarship & grant-in-aid, chapter achievement award), (& necrology ceremony if not already conducted during the year)

b). Katherine will talk with Ceremonies Committee members about plans for the May meeting.

- c). Elenora plans to have the speakers present programs at the beginning of each meeting with any chapter business to follow.
- d). Katherine and members praised Elenora for her work as programs co-chair.

MEMBERSHIP:

- a). Margaret announced that there are **two prospective members** nominated by Kay Keeland. **Margaret also hopes to invite** the director of the day school and the director of the day care program at HPPC to join.
- b). She suggested that the **chapter have a “bring a friend night”** when all members would invite a friend they think would be a good member. The chapter could do this at the October or November meetings. Margaret **suggested that members consider taking a prospective member out to lunch before bringing them to a meeting** and use that outing to share information about the chapter.
- c). Katherine has collected some **door prizes** for meetings. She also shared **star sheets (for member reflections/input)** from convention and suggested that they could be **used to increase membership**. These could be **handed out at the September meeting, or Margaret can adapt the idea to use for member input**.
- d). **New members from last year still need their pins**. The board **discussed having a ceremony for these new members at the September meeting**. The chapter has already purchased five pins. We need to check induction records for members who need their 25- and 50-year pins. Katherine will talk with the Ceremonies Committee regarding a ceremony.
- e). **Katherine and members praised Margaret’s work on membership**.

FINANCE:

- a). **Marta gave a brief treasurer’s report for Leesa: The balance in our account is \$3,939.96**. Area 9 money is no longer in the chapter account as Marylin Nease is no longer Area Coordinator and those funds have been disbursed. Marta has **list of paid members**, which she will send to the executive board. Several checks have not yet cleared. Three members from last year have not yet renewed their membership. Numerous efforts have been made to urge members who have not yet paid to rejoin. **Mary Louise Milliorn has requested her active membership become reserve membership**. Katherine suggested that this be voted on at next meeting.
- b). **Marta discussed using card stock with DKG logo and Delta Omicron name in red for thank-you notes to speakers and other mailings**. She mentioned that **postage is increasing soon** and felt that these in-house-produced cards would be cheaper than buying individual, as needed, commercially produced cards. Susan Endicott could use these DKG-personalized cards for get-well and sympathy cards. Marylin suggested that electronic stationery could be used more; members said they preferred USPS-mailed, paper cards. Marta will get an estimate of the cost of getting card stock printed with DKG logo and name of Delta Omicron.
- c). **Katherine and members praised Marta and Mary for their work leading the Finance Committee**.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY:

- a). **Marylin needs to update the yearbook**, specifically the directory of members, the programs list for the coming year, the awards and honors from convention, and so forth.
- b). **She also plans to create the Sept. newsletter**.
- c). **She will send group emails to members to gather info** for the yearbook and newsletter.
- d). **Katherine and members praised Marylin for the work she does on the newsletter and yearbook**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT and FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

- a). Kay wants to pick a different school to help this year. One possibility is the West Dallas Community School, where Rose-Mary Rumbley has taught in the past. Ideas to consider are making a donation, selecting a teacher to support, giving teacher bags, serving a meal for the teachers, or tutoring. Another possibility is Notre Dame School, a school for special education children. The board decided to ask if members have any other choices for schools and **vote on this at the September meeting.**
- b). Kay stated that Mary White has moved to Kansas, but she is presently in Dallas for a few days. To honor Mary, Kay wants to have a luncheon with members on Aug. 20 at Jason's Deli. Kay will send an email to members regarding this plan.
- c). Kay has talked with Wanda Spoonmore, and they agreed to wait on any more luncheons or social outings until the Covid situation improves.
- d). Katherine and members praised Kay for her work with community service projects and fellowship outings.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a). Katherine requested that each officer and committee chair record information that might be helpful to future officers and chairs. All members of the executive board received a form to use.
- b). Katherine discussed food arrangements for meetings. She felt there was too much food at the last September meeting that was held in person. The board agreed that designating just a few members per meeting and designating refreshment types and servings to bring might work better. Cindy Dominquez, Social Arrangements chair, is responsible for planning hospitality at meetings. Katherine, Kay, and Cindy will have lunch to discuss plans, specifically to alphabetically divide our membership and assign them to specific meetings to bring food.
- c). Katherine needs our membership list, programs list, and executive board meeting minutes by Aug. 20, as she has the Area 9 Presidents' meeting Aug. 21.

Katherine adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m. Members enjoyed lunch and fellowship. Members thanked Katherine for her leadership as president and her hospitality as meeting hostess.

Margie Rohde

Recording Secretary

Katherine and members praised Margie for her work as our recording secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT for September 2021 by Leesa Cole, Treasurer



Bank balance as of 8/30/2021: \$4139.96

Area 9 portion of this balance: \$0

Income June-August 2021

Budgeted: Dues 61 of 64 paid (1 honorary doesn't pay)

Area 9: Chapter donations for State Pres. reception

Expenses June-August 2021

Budgeted: Dues to International

Dues and fees to TSO

President reimbursement: member correspondence

President reimbursement: San Antonio Int'l Conf.

President reimbursement: Denton TSO Conv.

Member split stipend: Denton Conv.

Corr. Sec. reimbursement: newsletter mailings Jan-May

Area 9: Reimbursements: State Pres. reception

Anticipated income September

Budgeted: Dues from unpaid members or new members

Anticipated expenses September

Budgeted: Dues to International and TSO

Chapter donation to Cora McFarland Schol. Fund

Chapter fee to CCDC

President reimbursement: Zoom account

Membership chair reimbursement: new member name badges

Check order

- The August balance closes out all income & expense for '20-'21 and begins the budget for '21-'22.
- Finance Committee: Marta Finlay, Katherine Grogan, Leesa Cole - met 9/5/21 to form the proposed budget. Mary Gill joined via Zoom. Committee members Sherri Allinder and Julie Turnbow were unable to attend.
- Chapter members received a copy of the proposed budget via email prior to the Sept. meeting from president Katherine Grogan.
- Chapter discussion and vote to occur during the Sept. meeting.
- Detailed monthly financial reports have been submitted to the recording secretary, chapter president, and finance chairs.
- Form 15 annual treasurer's report has been filed with TSO HQ.
- 990n e-Postcard annual filing has been submitted to the IRS.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE, Kay Keeland (right) and Wanda Spoonmore (left), Co-chairs

Part 1: On Tuesday, August 3, four Delta Omicron members enjoyed an outing to Ham Orchards in Terrell. Ham Orchards' advertising says the business "has been growing and selling the sweetest peaches in Texas since 1979." Ham's farm-market store offers freshly picked peaches, assorted peach products, and a variety of farm-fresh produce.



Attending were Maureen Baker, Dr. Catherine Donahue, Kay Keeland, and Lou McMillan. Kay organized the field trip, Catherine drove, and Lou took care of the photos.

Lou reports, "We had a lot of fun!"



Kay Keeland, Maureen Baker



Left: Catherine Donahue, Maureen Baker,
Right: Kay Keeland, Lou McMillan



Kay Keeland, Lou McMillan,
Maureen Baker

Part 2: Kay Keeland and Wanda Spoonmore organized a **“Bon voyage, Mary White!”** lunch on Aug. 20, 1:00 p.m., at Jason’s Deli. Mary was inducted into DKG in 2004 and served as our 2014-16 Delta Omicron president. Now, our Mary has moved to Kansas to be with family, and we wish her our best.

Attending to enjoy fellowship with Mary and each other were Susan Bell, Marta Finlay, Mary Gill, Katherine Grogan, Kay Keeland, Shirley Kochman, Marilyn Lamb, Lou McMillan, Carolyn Miller, Marilyn Nease, Mary Riddle, Wanda Spoonmore, Margaret Thompson,

Come back to Dallas often, Mary, for lunch with your Delta Omicron sisters!

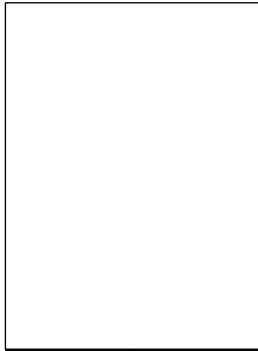
Wanda Spoonmore wrote, framed, and presented these words to Mary White:

“Best wishes to Mary Frances White, past president and very dear friend, from your colleagues in The Delta Omicron Chapter. Thank you for your support, leadership, and loyalty. You will be missed. Here’s to a new chapter in life. August 20, 2021.”

Note: More photos will be in next month’s newsletter.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, by



“TRS Mission Statement - Improving the retirement security of our members by prudently investing and managing the Trust assets and delivering benefits that make a positive difference in their lives.” (TRS Strategic Plan FY 2019-FY 2023)

Indeed Tower was sold on June 23, 2021, which released TRS from its rental agreement of \$326,000 a month.

Now, TRS would like to purchase 450,000 square feet of the costly Mueller Development for \$250-300 million.

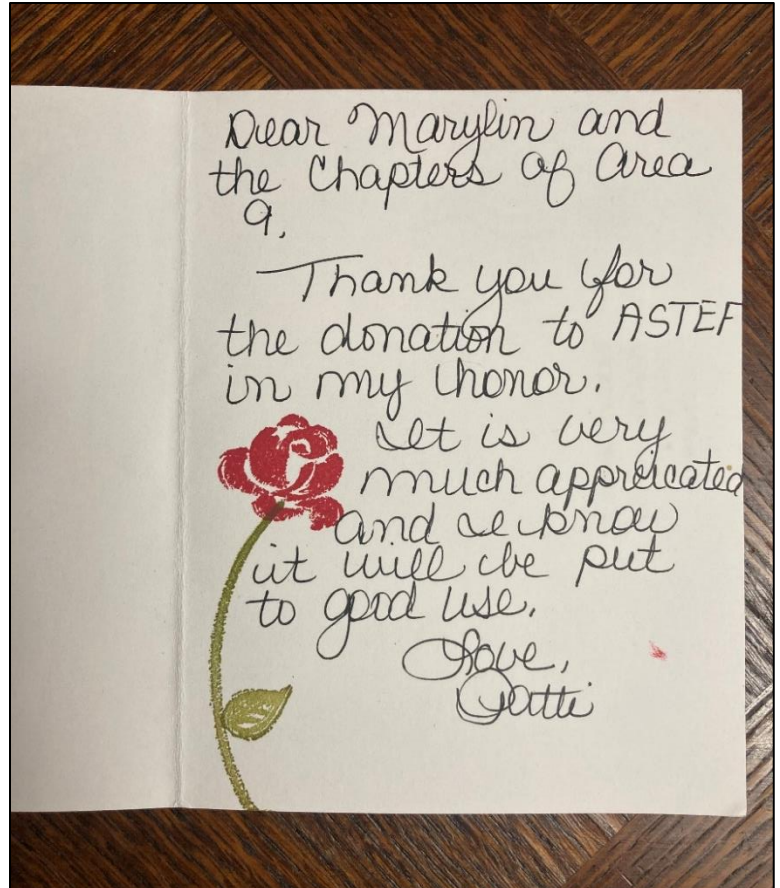
The money to purchase the new campus would come from our pension fund. Please contact your senator and representative, and voice your concerns.

AREA 9

→ A Thank-You to Area 9 Chapters from Patti Belknap, 2019-21 TSO President

At TSO Headquarters on June 5, Area 9 chapters hosted a reception to honor our state president from Area 9, Patti Belknap. To fund the event, our area’s chapters each contributed \$25, which gave us \$625.

After “a good time was had by all” and our bills were paid, we needed to close the 2019-21 Area 9 bank account, but we had a little of the reception funds left over. Marylin Nease (2019-21 Area 9 coordinator) and Deborah Thomas (2019-21 Area 9 treasurer) agreed we should donate that money to the ASTEF (Alpha State Texas Education Foundation) Leadership Fund in honor of Patti. ASTEF Leadership is a cause near and dear to Patti’s heart. Below is a thank-you note from Patti.



→Our Area 9 Coordinator, Liaison Between Our Area’s Chapters and TSO



Area 9 has 24 chapters in six North Texas counties—Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Grayson, Kaufman, and Rockwall. **Pictured is our 2021-23 Area 9 coordinator: Liz Garrett, Nu Gamma, Collin County.** Liz will visit each chapter during her biennium.

Katherine Grogan, Delta Omicron president, attended the Area 9 Presidents Meeting on Sat., Aug. 21, in McKinney. Katherine reports, “We had a good meeting. For the 2022 Area 9 Workshop, I signed Delta Omicron up for gift bags for the breakout session presenters.”

Save the date: Sat., Sept. 10, 2022, Area 9 Workshop. This workshop is our opportunity to receive training as incoming officers and committee members for the 2022-24 biennium. Plus, we’ll get to enjoy lots of fellowship with other Area 9 chapters!



**Texas
State Organization**

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

→TSO Newsletter

[Summer Lone Star News](#)

→Reflections on TSO’s 2021 Convention

Overview: Our 92nd State Convention was at the Denton Convention Center/Embassy Suites Hotel, June 16-19, 2021—a convenient location for Area 9 members! Thanks to June’s brief window of relative safety Covid-wise, 674 Texas members attended convention.



Delta Omicron’s attendees were Leesa Cole, Katherine Grogan, Kay Keeland, Carolyn Miller, Marilyn Nease, Carolyn Power, Wanda Spoonmore, and

One focus for DKG women is **community-service projects to assist educators and children.** **The 2021 convention’s unifying project was gift cards for CASA of Denton County.** *Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) serves children in foster care due to abuse or neglect. Trained community volunteers advocate for the best interests of each child. CASA’s vision is to provide a safe, permanent, loving home for every child. CASA also provides various needed resources that give every child the opportunity to grow and learn in a happy, healthy environment.* **Convention attendees’ total contributions in gift cards? \$6,150! Kay Keeland, leader for Delta Omicron’s contributions to this convention’s CASA project, reports, “Delta Omicron members donated \$550 worth of gift cards! I am very proud of my chapter members!”**

Also, at Saturday’s Celebration Brunch, President Patti Belknap spotlighted the **DKG International Emergency Fund** and the ways it assisted members following damage to their property during last year’s

severe weather. To rebuild the Emergency Fund, brunch attendees donated \$4,821.35!



From Katherine Grogan: The Denton convention was such a breath of fresh air. **Everyone was so happy to visit with and be with other chapter members.** The Embassy Suites was a perfect place for our convention. The hotel personnel were so appreciative to have guests.

I attended the general session Thursday evening and the business meeting Friday morning. Late Friday morning, during the “ASTEF Annual Meeting of Members,” I especially **enjoyed learning about applying for an ASTEF project stipend.** Friday afternoon, a breakout session on “**Hobby Beekeeping**” was super interesting. One of the most memorable sessions for me was “**A Laugh a Day Keeps Anxieties Away.**” We laughed for an hour. When the session was over, we didn’t want to leave.

I have to say, the **convention tote bag** was a hit! Everyone was comparing the

variety of embroidery work and yarn colors.

I enjoyed representing Delta Omicron and attending convention with seven ladies from our chapter!



From Mary (Armstrong) Lindsay: My favorite things about the TSO convention in Denton are almost too numerous to mention. However, I can say with joy and enthusiasm that **the best part of all was being together in person:** sharing time with old friends and new, being reminded of the sisterhood of DKG, and remembering the joys of past convention gatherings. I always treasure the times when I can see my Delta Omicron sisters.

Note: Mary was Delta Omicron’s president in 1998-2000 and 2000-2002. Later, Mary married and moved to Paris (TX), where she is continuing her DKG membership and has also served as chapter president.



From Marylin Nease:

- **What a happy surprise to be checked in at the registration table by** a dear friend, one of my former HEBISD Trinity High School English Dept. colleagues. Later, we had fun attending a breakout session together: Bonnie Moore’s “Making a Difference One Conversation at a Time!”
- **What a joy to be with my Area 9 presidents once again and in person.** Because of Covid, I’d met some of them only via Zoom meetings. Of Area 9’s 25 chapters, 23 presidents or their representatives attended convention! What a great group of ladies and leaders! Go, Area 9!
- **What a comfort to spend time with my Delta Omicron sisters,** from rooming with Carolyn Miller, to lunching and attending with Wanda Spoonmore “ASTEF’s Ticketed Event.” Johnny Quinn’s presentation was honest and entertaining, informative and inspirational—just what I needed to hear!

- What ease it was to wear my AC “Key Player” baseball shirt, jeans, and Keds! Easiest, comfiest convention outfit ever!



2019-2021 Area Coordinators



- What fun it turned out to be for me (Oklahoma born and raised) to memorize and lead the “Texas Pledge” at our Opening Session! Thanks for asking me, Patti Belknap!
- What a well-organized convention and well-run hotel—I enjoyed both!

COORDINATORS



From Kay Keeland: The convention was well organized, and the hotel was great.

I enjoyed meeting other DKG members and finding out about what their chapters are involved in.



Clockwise: 1. Organizing area coordinators. 2. Record keeping during business meeting. 3. Friday's banquet.



From Leesa Cole:

State conventions are an extension of my job [as TSO Executive Secretary], but I do enjoy the bonus of seeing chapter members who attend.

Denton was special because we had to cancel McAllen. The steering committee for Denton did an outstanding job planning our state convention.



**Clockwise:
1 & 2.**

*Congratulations to
Wanda Spoonmore
on being a
DKG Golden
Member!*

3. Wanda with
TSO leaders
Judy Mezick
and Marilyn
Gregory.



From Wanda Spoonmore: This year, Texas State Organization had a mini-convention, and in a nutshell, I enjoyed myself. **The highlight for me is visiting with members from other parts of Texas, renewing acquaintance with colleagues from previous years, and hearing guest speakers.** State president Patti Belknap kept the general sessions moving, so we were not bored. At times, we came close to freezing as the lovely host hotel and convention center had a more than adequate AC system.

The highlight of all highlights comes with the fact that I am a 57-year member of Delta Kappa Gamma. Each year, prior to the last brunch, a special session is scheduled for the 50-plus members to gather. Other members of DKG are afforded an opportunity either to renew acquaintance from the past or meet us for the first time. Most of the attending past state presidents--Nancy Newton, Marilyn Gregory, Dr. Jo Murphy, Patti Belknap, Joanne Davis--as well as many other colleagues, dropped by to chat. Not any Delta Omicron members took advantage of this opportunity.

At the brunch, if we bought a ticket, the 50-plus members are seated at what are known as the Honor Tables. At some point during the brunch, we are introduced and presented with a certificate and a long-stemmed red rose. It may be only 60 seconds of fame, but I like it. **I like sitting with the other 50-**

plus ladies and learning of their career highs and lows, their family life, and their plan for spending the remainder of their life. It is interesting as one or two do most of the talking while the others listen.

The opening session was special to me because the Chancellor/President of my alma mater, Texas Woman's University, Dr. Carine Feyton, was on stage as part of Denton's welcoming speakers.

DELTA OMICRON'S RECOGNITIONS AT THE DENTON CONVENTION: ASTE F (Alpha State Texas Education Foundation)

Delta Omicron Chapter Contributions to

Scholarship, Double Honors - \$2 per member

Leadership, Trailblazers - \$2 per member

Projects, Project Builders - \$2 per member

Individual Contributions

Silver Level: Wanda Spoonmore

Bronze Level: Leesa Cole, Marylin Nease

Friend Level: Lou Brown, Grace Delatour, Katherine Grogan, Kay Keeland, Shirley Kochman, Lou McMillan, Carolyn Miller, Carolyn Power



Eula Lee Carter Memorial Scholarship Fund

Delta Omicron Chapter contribution

Communications and Publicity/editor Marylin Nease

Five-Star Newsletter Award

Media Award for Overall Education News, *Dallas Morning News*

Yearbook/editor Marylin Nease

Early Bird Award

Exemplary Award

Chapter Website/webmaster Carolyn Power

DKG Compliant Website

→Meet Our 2021-23 State President



Shalan Inmon was installed as TSO president on June 18 at the Denton state convention.

Her **DKG experiences include** 2017-19 state first vice president, 2017 Lubbock convention chair, 2015-17 state recording secretary, 2009-11 Leadership Seminar chair, and 2007-09 Area 12 coordinator.

At Slaton High School (20 minutes southeast of Lubbock), Shalan **taught Family and Consumer Sciences**, 1979-2009.

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

Her **biennium goals?** **Nurture** - Develop relationships with current and new members. **Serve** - Give of your time to others. **Educate** - Promote the purposes and mission of DKG to

others. **Wonder** - Dream, ask, reflect.

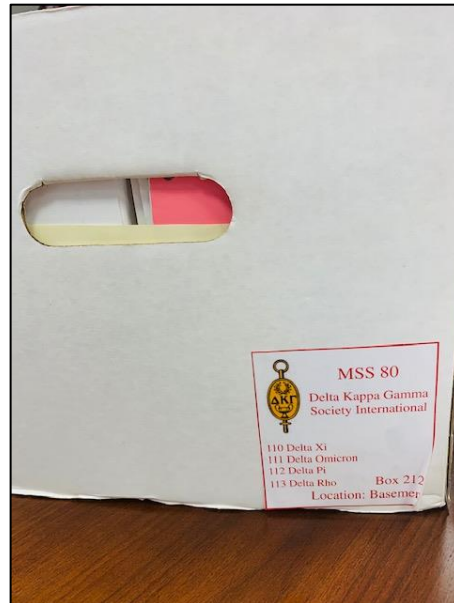
Congrats, Shalan! We look forward to serving with you.



→ Delta Omicron Members Currently Serving in TSO Roles

1. Katherine Grogan, Area 9 member of TSO Archives Committee, 2021-23

Our TSO archives are housed in Denton at Texas Woman's University in the Blagg-Huey Library. These photos show examples of the many, many, many files. Every chapter has archives here.



2. Kay Keeland, Area 9 member of TSO Programs and Service Projects Committee, 2021-23

- Kay reports, "My committee has not met yet."

3. Marylin Nease, Area 9 member of TSO Membership Committee, 2021-23

- At the suggestion of my committee chair, I've contacted my Area 9 coordinator and offered my services and asked her to forward a letter offering my services to the 24 presidents in Area 9.
- This state committee's first meeting will be Oct. 23, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., via Zoom.

4. Leesa Cole, continuing as TSO Executive Secretary (began July 2020)

- Very involved in all things at the state level –
- In July, provided training for new state officers and attended International Leadership training virtually.
- In August, attended TSO Executive Committee retreat in Glen Rose, TX.
- I am now ex-officio on many state committees, state conventions, and the ASTEF Board.

→ The Next Two TSO Conventions—Save the Dates!

Lubbock, June 14-18, 2022

McAllen, June 14-17, 2023

→ 2022 STAR (Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat): Registration Open

Access registration here: [this link](#).

Save the date: Jan. 14-16, 2022, at Camp Allen.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

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

→ Reflections on the DKG International Conference in San Antonio, July 21-24, 2021

From Katherine Grogan, Delta Omicron’s president and representative at the conference: Upon arriving at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, I was greeted by Charlotte Nyman, the TSO corresponding secretary, before I went to the registration desk. She **made me feel welcome**, and my husband was able to help her with translating Spanish for another guest.

The general session was very interesting. **Many of the attendees were so friendly** as many of us didn’t have chapter members along as companions.



I was proud to represent Delta Omicron at this important DKG event.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Eva-Maria Kangro. She is a psychologist, ballet dancer, saxophonist, and author. I couldn’t believe her enthusiasm toward our group. Eva-Maria presented via Skype. She emphasized that we need face-to-face relationships to thrive. We all connect differently, but the principles remain the same: **we need to be valued, cared for, and supported by others.** Her talk was fantastic!



I selected several membership breakout sessions to attend. I especially enjoyed Bonnie Moore’s presentation. I came back with some great ideas. Hybrid meetings were emphasized as well as having family DKG get-togethers such as picnics or potlucks.

An interesting talk by Gail Goolsby was about starting the Kabul International Academy in Afghanistan. She lived in this country for eight years, and it was really challenging with the different culture. She later wrote a book called *The Unveiled Truth*.

This conference had **many “Fast Break” sessions that lasted only 15 minutes** and were in the hallways of the convention center. I learned about the July 12-16, 2022, international convention in New Orleans; world fellowships; copyright and public domain; and quilting experiences. I think this was a great idea to incorporate these quick talks.

Note: For the conference’s community service project, attendees and their chapter members contributed hardback children’s books.



Cathy Criner, conference service-project organizer, reported on Aug. 21, “**The books were given to two agencies so far and will be given to two more, all serving children.** The first 250 went to The Children’s Shelter*, and the next 250 to Boysville*. The next 200 will go to International Children’s Academy*, and the last 50 will go to one of our local teachers returning to teaching after being in San Antonio ISD administration. Our service project was very successful, and I am glad to be part of something like this. My committee was

outstanding, and **we appreciate the many members in Texas and beyond who donated books.**”

Katherine Grogan, Delta Omicron’s president, adds, “**At the San Antonio conference, there were books everywhere!**”

Kay Keeland, Delta Omicron’s leader for this conference project, reports, “**Delta Omicron’s members donated 100 books! Thank you, Delta Omicron, for your generosity!**”

*[The Children's Shelter](#) [Boysville](#) [International Children's Academy](#)



Also having fun attending the San Antonio conference was **Leesa Cole**. Leesa is our chapter treasurer and Texas State Organization (TSO) Executive Secretary.

→The Next Three International Conventions—Save the Dates!

- New Orleans, Louisiana (New Orleans Marriott), July 12-16, 2022 [Convention Info](#)
- National Harbor, Maryland (Gaylord National, D.C. Area) – 2024
- Aurora, Colorado (Gaylord Rockies) - 2026

→Gallery of Fine Arts <http://dkggallery.dkg.org/dkggallery/>

Next submission periods: Aug. 15-Sept. 15, 2021, and Jan. 15-Feb. 15, 2022

Photos: Mary Gill, Katherine Grogan, Shalan Inmon, Carol McMillan, Lou McMillan, Marylin Nease, Carolyn Power, Margaret Thompson, Janie Wigley, Mary White.
Graphic Art: DKG, TSO, Pixabay.