

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

Seek new members & opportunities
Open your heart, mind, & attitude
Act to serve & share
Reach to renew, respond, & relate



Volume 67, Issue 3, Nov. 20, 2023
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!

Co-Presidents' Message



Dear Delta Omicron Members,

Welcome, November and the holiday season. I have really been enjoying our meetings this year!

Some of us met for lunch last week to see Mary White, one of our former active and now reserve members. I went over for my lunch break to see her. It reminds me that we



Melanie

need to take time for the important people in our lives, especially during the holiday season. I am very thankful for this group and each of you!

Kay

Delta Rho is interested in merging with our chapter. We will be voting on this at our Nov. 20 meeting. I hope that you will join me in welcoming them into our chapter!

Looking forward to our Nov. dinner.

*"Work for others is the leaven / That inspires our band,"
Melanie Rudebeck and Kay Keeland
Co-Presidents*

Co-Pres/Kay Keeland & Melanie Rudebeck
1st VP/Katherine Grogan
2nd VP/Margaret Thompson
Rec Sec/Margie Rohde
Cor Sec/
Treas/Leesa Cole
Parl/Betty Sue Welch
Im P Pres/Katherine Grogan



Chapter Website:
[link to chapter website](#)
Liza Leggett, Webmaster

Nov. 20, 5 p.m., Chapter Dinner Meeting:
Greek Isles, 5934 Royal Lane, #120, southwest quadrant of Preston & Royal intersection. Our co-president Melanie Rudebeck will speak about her CCDC scholarship & trip to Costa Rica. Thank you, Wanda Spoonmore, for making the arrangements with Greek Isles!

CHAPTER: PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, REGIONAL AREA WORKSHOP & CONVENTION NEWS

AGENDA (WORKING DRAFT): Delta Omicron dinner meeting, Nov. 20, 2023

I. Opening

- A. Call to order: Kay Keeland & Melanie Rudebeck
- B. Welcome: Margaret Thompson
- C. Inspiration: Margaret Arnold
- D. Ice breaker/Fellowship: Katherine Grogan

II. Program

- A. Introduction: Katherine Grogan
- B. Melanie Rudebeck, "My CCDC Scholarship & Educational Adventure in Costa Rica"

III. Business

- A. Treasurer's report: Marta Finlay
- B. Nominations Committee: Wanda Spoonmore
- C. Delta Rho: merger request & Delta Omicron: vote

IV. Announcements:

- A. Dec. 2 Holiday Brunch
- B. Other announcements

V. Adjournment – DKG Song: Penni Lewis

2023-24 Meeting Dates & Programs

- Nov. 20, 2023** – Greek Isles, \$28, Dinner & Induction, Melanie Rudebeck's reflections on her Coordinating Council of Dallas County (CCDC) scholarship & educational adventure in Costa Rica
- Dec. 2, 2023** – Holiday Brunch & Fellowship, home of Dr. Dawna Walsh
- Jan. 8, 2024** – Janie Wigley, Area 9 coordinator
- Feb. 12, 2024** – Jill Rumbley-Beam, entertainer
- Mar. 18, 2024** – Margaret Arnold's Education Memories; Delta Omicron Committees Activity
- Apr. 27, 2024** – Coordinating Council of Dallas County (CCDC) luncheon
- May 20, 2024** – DKG Founders presentation, Delta Omicron birthday celebration and awards, Installation of 2024-26 chapter officers



Katherine Grogan, 1st VP: Programs

2023-2024 Projects:

- Chapter** – Community School of PC (Sept/ May). Denton State-Supported Living Center (Dec).
- Coordinating Council of Dallas County (CCDC)** – Cora McFarland Scholarship Fund (Apr).
- TSO/State** – ASTEF (Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation) (Feb/June).
- International** - Schools for Africa (SFA) (Jan). Supporting Early-career Educators (SEE) (Sept/May).

2024 Northeast Regional Area Workshop:

Dr. Gene D. Burton College & Career Academy, 2301 John King Blvd., Rockwall, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.,
June 22, 2024

2024 International Convention:

National Harbor, Maryland
July 9-13, 2024

CHAPTER: MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Margaret Thompson, Membership VP



As Thanksgiving approaches, I am thankful for the friendships I have in this Society!

Continue to think of friends and other teachers who might enjoy our Delta Omicron chapter. To introduce them to the benefits of Delta Kappa Gamma, invite them to attend our meetings and outings as our guests.

The continued growth and health of our chapter are dependent upon your efforts to reach out to prospective members.

MEET OUR GOLDEN MEMBERS

Delta Omicron is proud and honored to have four 50+ year members:



L-R: Shirley Kochman, inducted 1963; Wanda Spoonmore, 1964; Janet Cundiff, 1968; Jean Wallace, 1970

Happy November Birthday!

Dr. Elyse Griffin

Joyanne Burger

Katherine Grogan



MEMBERS' PERSONAL NEWS



Twin Time!

Margaret Thompson shares, "I was able to fly to the Chicago area in late October and visit my sister in her new condominium, as well as see her daughters' homes in Chicago and Arlington Heights.

"It was so good to spend one-on-one time with my twin. After a few days, we started completing each other's sentences again!"



Thank You for the Birthday Wishes!

Yes, I had a Happy Birthday #XC, and a large portion of fulfilling that Happiness belongs to you, the members of Delta Omicron, who brought or mailed me greeting cards. Many of the cards contained personal messages, which expressed your thoughts to me. I have read all at least two times.

A special thank-you to Kay Keeland for planning the remembrance and to the executive board for the delicious mini bundt cakes.

Delta Omicron, I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Thank you XC number of times,

Wanda Spoonmore

DELTA OMICRON MEETING MINUTES, OCT. 16, 2023

Delta Omicron Chapter, Dallas, Texas, Texas State Organization, DKG International, met on Mon., Oct. 16, 2023, in room L at Highland Park Presbyterian Church.

Attending were 19 members: Delores Bates, Marta Finlay, Mary Gill,

Kay Keeland, Shirley Kochman, Liza Leggett, Penni Lewis, Marilyn Nease, Carolyn Power, Kathy Rodriguez, Margie Rohde, Melanie Rudebeck, Marilyn Smith, Wanda Spoonmore, Margaret Thompson, and Dr. Dawna Walsh.

Four guests attended: Sandra Couch, Cindy Sloan, and Kathy Sutton. Sandra is originally from Arkansas and was a DKG member there. She has a Master’s degree and worked for the Arkansas Department of Education. Later, she moved to Dallas and taught in a Dallas elementary school. She is considering reinstating her DKG membership. was this meeting’s speaker. Cindy and Kathy are members of Delta Rho, are considering transferring to Delta Omicron, and have visited before.



Margie Rohde
Recording Secretary

OPENING:

Kay Keeland, co-president, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Margaret Thompson, Second Vice President for Membership, gave the inspiration. She read passages from a book about Mrs. Thornapple and how this teacher involved her second graders each year in a play. She knew that if all the children had parts in the play, their parents would attend the program. She also knew that shared experiences would lead to learning. Practicing lines and acting out the play led to learning. It also developed leaders among the children. **Involvement can lead to deeper learning and fellowship.**

Marilyn Nease, Communications and Publicity Committee chair, led the members in an icebreaker. Members were instructed to line up according to the year they joined Delta Omicron. However, they were not allowed to talk and could only use their hands or fingers to communicate. This activity proved to be challenging to members, but they did manage to line up fairly well.

PROGRAM:

Melanie Rudebeck, co-president, introduced _____, Chief Operating Officer for The Senior Source, located in Dallas. The Senior Source’s parent agency is Americorps, a federal government

Involvement can lead to deeper learning and fellowship.

agency founded in 1993. shared that she did an internship with The Senior Source while working on her Master's degree. She really liked the organization and joined it in 1995 after graduating. **She has been the Chief Operating Officer for 10 years.** stated that people age differently, so The Senior Source has a variety of programs to cover the needs of all seniors, no matter where they are on the spectrum of aging. 25,000 elderly are served by this agency each year. 10,000 people turn 65 in the United States each day. The older population is currently growing faster than any other group.

A major goal of The Senior Source is to limit isolation among the elderly and thereby indirectly improve their emotional and physical health. Some programs run by this agency are AmeriCorps Senior, Foster Grandparents Program, Senior Companions, and RSVP, which places volunteers 55+ in various community organizations throughout the city. The Senior Source also offers caregiver support, stressing the need for caregivers to take care of themselves as well as the one they are caring for. They also address home safety and answer questions about home health care.

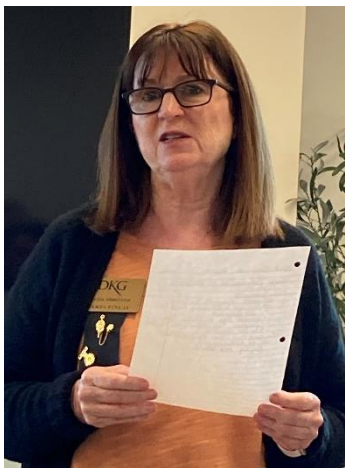
The agency has an elder financial center, which is a joint project with the District Attorney's office and Probate Court. The financial center educates elders about possible scams and how not to become a victim. In the past, elders were often scammed by people they already knew. Now, more scams are done by strangers. For every scam reported, 44 go unreported! Rarely are funds that have been lost to a scammer recovered. Two examples of scams are the grandmother scam and the romance scam. It is important to remember that no governmental agency will ever call, text, or email to ask for personal financial information. The Senior Source also has computer classes to give elders practical information, especially how to avoid malware scams. In addition, the agency also gives unbiased counseling on Medicare benefits and end-of-life decisions.

The Senior Source provides employment services for both full- and part-time jobs. It advocates for hiring elders in the community, emphasizing the benefits of hiring seniors to potential employers. All their programs take people 50 years and up. AmeriCorps Seniors is for seniors 55 and up.

passed out handouts about their services and encouraged members to go to their website for more information.

BUSINESS: Marta Finlay, Finance Committee co-chair, gave the treasurer's report. At the end of September, the bank balance was \$2392.87. During September, \$50 was donated to CCDC, and \$1/member was donated to the Cora McFarland Scholarship Fund. **She stated that the Northeast Regional Area Workshop**, which will be held in June 2024, replaces the state convention for 2024 and the Sept. 2024 Area 9 Workshop. **Marta reminded members that the Nov. meeting will be at the Greek Isles Restaurant.** Members need to give \$28 to Leesa Cole by Nov. 11.

Wanda Spoonmore, Nominations Committee co-chair, talked about reasons to serve as an officer or as a committee chair. She stated that members of successful chapters do more than pay dues and attend meetings. She reminded members that someone initially thought of each member as a leader before they suggested that person for membership. The more a member gives in time, the more she receives in return.



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Marylin Nease, Nominations Committee member, introduced current officers who then shared what their jobs are like and encouraged other members to try these jobs. All officers shared that others are willing to help with an officer's responsibilities. **Kay Keeland** stated that she was glad she said yes to being president. **Melanie Rudebeck**, Co- President, shared the positives of two people doing the job of president. **Margie Rohde** stated that the job of recording secretary got easier as time went on. Corresponding Secretary, talked about sending out cards to members for various reasons. Marylin passed out interest surveys so members could list preferences as far as officer positions and committee assignments.



Carolyn Power announced that Proposition 9, which would approve raises for retired teachers, is on the Nov. ballot. She stated that there is a lot of incorrect information floating around and encouraged members to educate themselves on the proposition. She urged members to talk to their friends and neighbors about the positives of this proposition.

There was no Social Arrangements Committee report; Betty Sue Welch was absent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cindy Sloan and Kathy Sutton invited Delta Omicron chapter to Delta Rho's Nov. Auction, which will be at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School in Richardson ISD Nov. 28. They will send a flyer to Marylin Nease so that she can send it out to all members and encourage them to attend.

Kay announced that today is Wanda Spoonmore's 90th birthday. She presented Wanda with a box holding many birthday cards from members. **Penni Lewis, Music Committee chair, led members in singing "Happy Birthday."** Kay passed out cupcakes to all members.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Margie Rohde, Recording Secretary Kay Keeland & Melanie Rudebeck, Co-Presidents



TREASURER'S REPORT for Nov. 2023

by Leesa Cole, Treasurer

This report will be given at our Nov. 20 meeting or at a later date.

"...For our sisters watch e'er keeping..."

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Leesa Cole & Wanda Spoonmore

Timeline:

- **Oct.-Nov.**, receive input from current officers / chapter members
- **Nov.-Dec.**, meet to narrow and prioritize the list for officer positions
- **Dec.-Jan.**, contact members for officer positions
- **Jan. 8**, present nomination list to chapter
- **Feb. 12**, provide nomination list for vote at meeting:
President, 1 & 2nd VP, Recording & Corresponding Secretary (voted by members)
Treasurer & Parliamentarian (appointed by new executive committee)
- **Mar. 15**, president & treasurer name & contact info to TSO HQ for RAW training planning
Committee members are Katherine Grogan, Marylin Nease, Margaret Thompson.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Wanda Spoonmore, committee chair, reports, "Former active member and chapter president, 2014-2016, Mary White and 10 other members of Delta Omicron enjoyed lunch and a visit at Jason's Deli, Fri. Nov. 3. Mary's bright smile was ever present as always. Our conversations centered on family, life in Kansas, and family pets. We had a great visit with our dear friend.

"Eleven attended the three-hour lunch. Unable to attend and sending greetings to Mary were Barbara Clinton, Carolyn Miller, Dr. Jan Nance, and Marylin Nease.

"Mary White, thank you for making time in your trip to visit with us."



L-R, Front:

Carolyn Power, Mary Gill,
Lou McMillan, Shirley Kochman

L-R, Back: Kay Keeland, Melanie Rudebeck, Mary White,
Wanda Spoonmore



"Not in Kansas Anymore" for a Week!

Mary White, now living in Kansas, asks, "Who could ask for a better Texas trip?!"

"My daughter picked me up at Love Field and drove me to East Texas, where I spent three days with my three sisters and brother. Then, I met classmates, and we celebrated our 62nd high school class reunion. We had a happy time catching up with each other. Next, a Dallas classmate drove me to Richardson to have dinner with my breakfast group. For years, my husband and I met others every day for breakfast! The next day, two friends and I took Lou to lunch to celebrate her birthday. Afterwards, my daughter met me, and we went to her house for a few days. On the last day of my visit, I met my much missed and loved Delta Omicron sisters for lunch. I loved my visit so much! Oh, before we met our Delta Omicron friends, Lou and I stopped by Chico's. Seems we like the same thing! I spent the night with Lou, and early the next day, she drove me to the airport.

"I am so blessed and thankful to have visited with so many family members and friends that I miss and adore! Everyone is welcome to come to Kansas for a visit!"

Lou M & Mary W





COORDINATING COUNCIL OF DALLAS COUNTY (CCDC)

CCDC chair **Mary Claire Welch** reports, “Our 2024 spring luncheon will be April 27 at Lakewood Country Club.”

Q. What can CCDC’s twelve chapters think about now to plan ahead?

A. Making a fundraising basket for the silent auction that supports our Cora McFarland Scholarship / Encouraging members to apply for the scholarship. / Thinking of a candidate for the Friend of Education Award and preparing the nomination form. / Checking chapter records for 25- and 50-year members to be honored. / Asking presidents about our chapter’s luncheon-day responsibility. / Publicizing the event and encouraging members to attend.

AREA 9

In the Oct. 2023 issue of her *Sky Press* newsletter, **Janie Wigley**, our Area 9 Coordinator, shared the following excerpts from **DKG News**, Volume 80, No. 5:



a quote from **DKG President Dr. Debbie LeBlanc** “...we can move heaven and earth at the international and state organization levels, but the buck truly stops with chapters.” (p. 1) and



a quote from **DKG Executive Director Nita R. Scott** “...I believe we are still as relevant today as we were in 1929. Our story touches women of all ages and walks of life every time I share it. Our Founders were amazing and progressive women—agents of change and mavericks in their time. They worked to build the organization we know today as DKG—and I hear them cheering us on as we face the challenges of a new era.” (p. 3)



**Texas
State Organization**

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

2013-15 Past State President **Nancy Newton** passed away Sat., Nov. 4, 2023. Sympathy goes to Nancy’s family, Area 10, and Iota Pi—and all who knew and loved her.

From Nancy’s husband, Ed:

About 8:15 Saturday evening, Nov. 4, my beloved Nancy went to be in a better place. Her death came suddenly and without pain. The world has lost a wonderful, loving, kind, and Godly woman. I am blessed that I was able to share life with her for 57 years. I am confident that someday soon we shall be together again, probably not as husband and wife, but as brother and sister in Christ Jesus.



It is likely that we will have a Celebration of Nancy's Life on a Saturday afternoon in Jan. at Alsbury Baptist Church here in Burleson, and will include the DKG Chapter and State ceremony as she requested. All that is yet to be decided. It will not be a time of sadness, but a time to rejoice in a life well lived. I will advise you of details as they are decided.

Cards may be sent to Ed Newton and family



Marilyn Nease requests, "Let me share two everyday examples of Nancy being a cheerleader for others.

"In the early 2000s, she and I were at TSO Headquarters in Dallas giving a tour to that year's Leadership Seminar attendees. In a few private seconds, Nancy whispered to me, "I fought for you!" She wanted me not to be discouraged because I hadn't been selected for Leadership Seminar. I very much appreciated Nancy's thoughtfulness and her judgment of me as someone to fight for.

"In 2014, I submitted my poem 'Of Socks and My Aunt Frances' to the DKG International Arts and Humanities Jury to be considered for publication in the online DKG Fine Arts Gallery. Jury members chose my poem for publication.

Nancy not only emailed me her congratulations but also took the time to read my poem and tell me ways she related to its story.

"Thinking of Nancy now, I recall and cherish her smiles and her encouraging nature. Rereading her email about my poem makes me smile and say again—for that note and for everything else, 'Thank you, Nancy!'

"More importantly, I know that everyone who knew Nancy could tell their own stories about her mentoring!"



Wanda Spoonmore reflects, "The summer of 2012 was an exciting time for me because New York City was the host city for the DKG International Convention.

"I was the incoming president of the Delta Omicron Chapter. My husband and several members of our chapter attended the convention. I did not know any of the members who attended from other Texas chapters. I was an active Delta Omicron member, true, but at that time I had not extended myself beyond my chapter membership.

"Up walked Nancy and changed that.

"During a general session meeting in a mammoth auditorium, we were given a much needed rest break. Just to stand in place was a pleasure. Many people left the auditorium, but I remained. As I stood in front of my chair, I saw a lady about six rows in front of me. She too was standing. We exchanged eye contact. After several seconds of looking at each other, she made her way to me and introduced herself.

" 'Hello, I am Nancy Newton.' Thus, to quote the famous *Casablanca* line, 'It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.'

"Talking with Nancy was always a pleasure. Her positive energy was an energy that I shared. We were both graduates of Texas Woman's University: the classes of '56 and '65. I always said our graduation years formed a palindromic number.

"Over the years, Nancy and I exchanged a few emails, Christmas cards, and visits at many DKG meetings. Always the positive energy was present.

"The big surprise came in 2014 when Nancy made plans way in advance to attend Delta Omicron's Oct. meeting because it was my birthday month. Nancy wanted to be present to wish me a Happy Birthday. Yes, I was happy.

"Our last conversation took place at the Texas State Organization Headquarters building when we and others gathered to honor Deborah Thomas on her retirement as state treasurer. Nancy, Leesa Cole, Dianne McCorcle, and I sat in the foyer chatting. We had a nice long visit.

"From New York City to Dallas, we had eleven years. Thank you, Nancy, for being part of those years. Your energy will abide with me and with the many other individuals you have encountered over your lifetime. And I know all of you who have read this remembrance to the end will say 'Amen' to my final statement.

"Thank you, Nancy, for more than I (we) could ever express."

"...Deeds of others now we're reaping; We for others stand!"

➔ **Northeast
Regional
Area
Workshop
(NE RAW)**

SAVE THE DATE!
Northeast Regional Area Workshop
Saturday, June 22, 2024
Dr. Gene Burton College & Career Academy
2301 John King Blvd, Rockwall TX
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

www.dkgtxas.org

➔ **TSO Conventions**

- 95th Annual Convention: June 23-26, 2025, Embassy Suites and Convention Center, Denton
- 96th Annual Convention: June 15-18, 2027, Embassy Suites and Conference Center, San Marcos

➔ **Lone Star News, Fall 2023 Edition** [Lone Star News, Fall 2023](#)

➔ **2023-25 TSO Leadership Names, Faces, & Roles We Need to Know**



Bonnie Moore
President



Jeanette Rhyan
First Vice
President



Dr. Stacey Arnold
Second Vice
President



Lynda Anderson
Recording Secretary &
Mentor, Areas 1,9,17



Judy Mezick
Corresponding
Secretary



Shalan Inmon
Immediate Past
President



Mellie Smithwick
Parliamentarian



Janet Helmcamp
ASTEFL President



Leesa Cole
Executive
Secretary & State
Treasurer

"...Aid and
guidance
from those
leading...."