

## Eta Delta Data



Eta Delta Chapter 172 Area 3, Houston  
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Texas State Organization

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

*Vision Statement:* Leading women educators impacting educators worldwide.

Ann Mahan, editor, annmahan@comcast.net



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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Jane Flinn**

*Dear Sisters,*

The Area III Workshop on September 20, 2014 was very successful and informative. Our much loved sister, Allene Holman, was remembered during the Celebration of Life and Remembrance there. As I returned home, I reflected on Allene and my early days as a member of Eta Delta. She was exceptionally warm and welcoming. Through Allene and the rest of you, I learned what it truly means to be a Delta Kappa Gamma sister.

Remembering Allene led to my remembering still others who have welcomed and helped me throughout my career. Ruth came to my classroom on the first day of my first job as an elementary special education teacher. She showed me how to do lesson plans, shared materials, made suggestions for the first day with my class, and told me where my box was, and where to put my lunch. She would drop by regularly to check on me and talk. When I left for another district, I went from elementary school to high school. This time there was Mary and "E lounge" where the English, science, and some of the social studies teachers congregated. They took me under their wings showed me how organize my classroom, how to approach high school students, and become involved supporting extra-curricular activities. In Cy-Fair ISD, Cheryl and Nadine taught me leadership, communication, and problem solving skills in my early years as the director of special education.

Each person who helped me contributed to building my confidence and skills as an educator. They took me from being a nervous, wide-eyed new teacher to a confident, competent, passionate educator. We all need to reflect on our years in education and those who took us by the hand and led the way for us to become "leading women educators." Our gift back to each of them must be to hold out our hand to new teachers and lead them down the pathway to becoming successful, passionate educators.

*Jane*



### CHAPTER MEETING OCTOBER 4, 2014

- TIME:** 9:45-11:30
- HOME:** **DEBBIE MCCART**  
9135 Western Drive  
Houston 77080  
(281)682-4945
- INSPIRATION:** **SHIRLEY MOAN**
- PROGRAM:** *Taking Care of Loved Ones: Wills and Bequests*
- PRESENTER:** **DEBBIE MCCART**
- HOSTESSES:** **EXECUTIVE BOARD**
- DIRECTIONS:**
- FROM 290:** Take the Fairbanks North Houston Exit and turn south (toward the McDonald's and Home Depot). Follow Fairbanks N. Houston across Hempstead hwy and railroad track where it becomes Blalock. Stay on Blalock to Campbell. Turn left on Campbell and follow to the curve, turning left on Western Dr.. It's the second house on the right.
- FROM I-10:** Take the Campbell exit (watch for speed trap through Spring Valley) and follow Campbell until it dead ends into Long Point. Turn left and *immediately get in the right lane*. Turn right at the light (Campbell resumes here) and follow to Western Dr. Turn right and it's the second house on the right.
- REMINDER:** Pay chapter dues by October 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Change for Children **red** boxes will be distributed.  
*In honor of breast cancer awareness, wear **pink** to the meeting.*

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## Birthdays



Regina Williams 7  
Debbie Brand 14  
Kathy Froehlich 14

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## Have you heard . . .

- The *Lone Star News* acknowledging Eta Delta's Blankets of Love Project that won a 2014 Annie Award is now available online. Look for **Debbie McCart's** picture on page 6 and **Bonnie Moore** on page 7.
- **Brenda Paulk** and **Ann Mahan** are participating in the ASTEF program in Colonial Williamsburg.
- While Jane Flinn was in D.C., she attended the all day National Book Festival. She stood for six hours straight, but it was worth every minute! Jane said authors such as E.L. Doctrow, Paul Auster, Alice McDermott and others made the event wonderful.

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## Workshop Wrap

September 20, nine Eta Delta members attended the Area 3 Fall Workshop at Crosby Middle School in Hitchcock. **Jane Flinn, Bonnie Moore, Dede Drexler, Carol Gillingham, Debbie McCart, Nancy Malone, Elizabeth McDowell,** and **Donna Patch** attended various workshops to learn more about duties and responsibilities to the chapter and the Society, and **Ann Mahan** also gave a presentation. Illness prevented Debbie Elrod from attending.

Dedicated to improving educational possibilities, Eta Delta members filled a huge basket overflowing with school supplies for middle school students and teachers.

Members came away from the workshop renewed and rejuvenated.



Ann Mahan, Bonnie Moore, Jane Flinn, Nancy Malone, Elizabeth McDowell, Carol Gillingham, Debbie McCart, and Donna Patch. Dede Drexler arrived after the photo.

## Join the Piggy Posse



Remember as a kid when filling a new piggy bank was exciting as you dreamed of ways to spend the pennies? ASTEF remembers, too, and is sponsoring a **Piggy Posse fundraiser** that will replace a convention raffle next year. Our Area Coordinator will bring a piggy bank to every Delta Kappa Gamma event she attends throughout the coming year.

We want fat and happy pigs, so save your loose change (folding money will fit, too) and help keep our pigs well fed. Feed the Eta Delta pig at each meeting. All contributions to ASTEF pigs will go to the ASTEF Projects Fund to be used for project stipends benefitting Texas educators and students. The promotion will culminate at the TSO convention next year in San Antonio. Awards will be given, and you may even win a pig! (surely *not* a real one!)

We need to "break the bank" by feeding our piggy lots of nickels, dimes, and quarters at each meeting starting October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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## Mentoring a Must

by Debbie McCart

I believe in maintaining good health to enjoy all that life brings, but "good health" too often focuses on our physical condition, ignoring the importance of mental health. The taboo of discussing one's mental health is an inheritance that harms us all, and it may be one of the biggest factors in teacher turnover.

Who doesn't remember their early years of teaching, suffering through times of self-doubt while wondering—alone—at the end of the day "am I doing it right?", "why won't the students listen to me?", and "is this what it's supposed to feel like to be a teacher?" Sources from the Mayo Clinic to Sonia the psychic agree an antidote to the depressive episodes caused by the stress of work life is having a friend.

Maintaining supportive relationships is a key to sound mental health. Whether it is a friend, religious leader, peer, counselor or mentor, having someone to listen without criticizing is integral to one's ability to cope with whatever comes. And isn't that what Delta Kappa Gamma is all about? My monthly Eta Delta meeting always lifts me up.

Did you have a trusted listener when you were a novice teacher? Are you *now* that important friend to a young educator now?

Recently, I received a Friday afternoon email: "can I call you after school today please? I need to talk. . . " Twenty minutes spent just listening—no criticism or advice—may give a young professional the emotional support she needs to stay in our honorable profession.

It's worth the time.

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## Just a thought . . .

More is experienced in one day in the life of a learned man than in the whole lifetime of an ignorant man. *Seneca*

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***Women in Texas: “Texas’s Foremost Woman  
Educator Annie Webb Blanton”***

Ann Fears Crawford  
Crystal Sasse Ragsdale

Legend has it that Davy Crockett had a saying—“Be sure you’re right, then go ahead.”

Women who make history books share several characteristics—they do what they believe to be the right thing and they have the courage of their convictions to do it their own way.

First published in 1982, then revised and expanded in 1992, ***Women in Texas*** by Ann Fears Crawford and Crystal Sasse Ragsdale is a collection of biographies of outstanding women who have shaped Texas politics, sports, education, arts, and business, from Jane Long, the mother of Texas, to Ann Richards, governor (at that time) of Texas. Embedded in the long list of luminaries is **Dr. Anne Webb Blanton**, the founder of Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional society of women educators, that set out to “combat the discrimination that existed toward women in the educational field by endowing scholarships to aid outstanding women leaders in pursuing graduate study.” (One thing that would make Dr. Annie Webb Blanton cringe is the authors’ use of the word “sorority” to describe DKG!)

As the first woman president of the Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA), Dr. Blanton worked “to establish both a permanent fund for the organization and a retirement fund.” As state superintendent of schools, Dr. Blanton initiated, supported, and advocated changes to improve conditions in education by improving rural schools, and “raising the scholastic and professional requirements of teachers.”

She was well ahead of her time in her views regarding educational excellence for students and teachers. As the woman “who had opened the doors of educational opportunities,” Dr. Blanton was declared “Texas’s foremost woman education of the early twentieth century” and “a woman whom time will call great.”

Out of office, Dr. Blanton kept education issues before the legislators. She knew true change had to have the strength of the law, so she “actively pushed for progressive legislation, many times writing the bills herself, and then lobbying for their passage through the legislature.”

Today, being informed and supporting legislation is just as important. Dr. Blanton’s legacy is ours to protect and expand.

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I apologize for misspelling the name of Donna Patch’s daughter in the last newsletter. *Stefani*, not Stephani.

**ETA DELTA 2014-2016 OFFICERS**

<i>President</i>	Jane Flinn
<i>First Vice President</i>	Debbie McCart
<i>Second Vice President</i>	Martha LaRue
<i>Secretary</i>	Debbie Elrod
<i>Treasurer</i>	Nancy Malone
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Donna Patch

Eta Delta Website

[dkgalphastateetadelta.weebly.com](http://dkgalphastateetadelta.weebly.com)

Alpha State Headquarters in **Dallas**

[alphastatetexas.org](http://alphastatetexas.org)

International Headquarters in **Austin**

[dkg.org](http://dkg.org)

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**LOOKING AHEAD**



*Here we come!*

**86<sup>th</sup> Texas State Convention**

June 24-27, 2015  
Grand Hyatt San Antonio  
San Antonio

**87<sup>th</sup> Texas State Convention**

Dallas

**88<sup>th</sup> Texas State Convention**

Houston

**Southwest Regional Conference**

July 22-25, 2015  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Wichita, Kansas

## May 3, 2014, Meeting Minutes

Eta Delta Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International held its regular meeting on Saturday, May 3, 2014, at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. Following the Initiation Ceremony for our three newest members – Kirby Gor, Elizabeth McDowell, and Dede Drexler --, President Bonnie Moore called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Recording Secretary Shirley Moan was also in attendance.

### THANK YOU

1. Bonnie welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Debbie McCart for arranging for us to meet at St. Christopher's today and presented her with a monetary collection from our members. Since we have met at St. Christopher's several times over the past two years, Toni Maheshwari had suggested that we take-up a voluntary collection to be donated to St. Christopher's. Debbie announced that she would like to donate the money to the Roof Repair Fund. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that Debbie donate the money to the Roof Repair Fund.
2. Bonnie also thanked our hostesses for today – Debbie Brand, Debbie McCowie, Leigh Elizondo, and Trish Jenkins for preparing our luncheon.
3. Bonnie, once again, welcomed our new initiates – Kirby Gor, Elizabeth McDowell (Kirby's mother), and Dede Drexler.
4. She also welcomed Jo Ann Miller, a former member, who is here for the installation of our President for 2014-2016, Jane Flinn. Jo Ann recommended Jane for membership into Delta Kappa Gamma. Everyone enjoyed visiting with Jo Ann.

### INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

Donna Patch presented our Inspirational Message. She read a lovely poem about friends from a collection of poems called *Garden of Friends*. We all know the importance of friends and the love and beauty of friendships such as those shared by Eta Delta members.

### MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

Bonnie asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the April meeting that were mailed. Since there were none, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes be approved as mailed. The motion was approved.

Secretary Shirley Moan read a thank you letter from UNICEF thanking the chapter for its contribution to Schools for Africa.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Treasurer Nancy Malone reported a balance on hand as of April 30, 2014, to be \$6191.45. The report will be filed for audit.
2. Nancy also passed out Birthday Luncheon refund checks to those who had to cancel their reservations.

3. She also gave Bonnie and Jane Flinn their checks to cover State Convention expenses since they are our Out-going and Newly-Elected Presidents.
4. Trish Jenkins will receive the chapter's \$100 scholarship to attend her first convention.
5. Nancy also said she will bring order forms for DKG jewelry to the September meeting for anyone who is interested in ordering.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Convention Report – Bonnie reported that she will be joined by Jane Flinn, Debbie McCart, Ann Mahan, Brenda Paulk, Nancy Malone, and Trish Jenkins (first convention) at the State Convention in Lubbock. Eta Delta will be making a motion to have the 2017 State Convention in Houston. State President Nancy Newton is excited that Eta Delta is making the motion.
2. PACE Award – Our application for the PACE Award was filed on time. Bonnie thanked Donna Patch and Ann Mahan for reformatting the Chapter Rules so that we are a "Certified Rules Chapter".
3. Bonnie acknowledged Brenda Paulk's presence at today's meeting after having lost her beloved husband to a heart attack. Brenda thanked everyone for their prayers and messages of support and for the future support she will be needing. She thanked us for the donations that had been made in her husband's memory.
4. Bonnie also announced that Michelle Smith is retiring from Houston ISD and is moving to Maryland in June. Michelle told Bonnie she was sorry that she would not be able to say goodbye to everyone before she leaves, but that she will miss everyone. She will contact us once she has gotten settled in Maryland.
5. Bonnie thanked us all for the food, books, etc. that was collected at the April meeting for the Wesley Community Center. She said she was amazed at the amount of food (about 1,000 pounds) that was contributed for the summer food pantry!
6. In her Presidential Farewell message, Bonnie read from the President's Goals for the PACE Award. She said that the members of Eta Delta had met or surpassed all the requirements for the PACE Award. She thanked all of us for working together to make Eta Delta the outstanding chapter that we are. She said she is humbled and thankful to have been our President for the past two years. She encouraged everyone to continue on the path that we've begun.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **PROGRAM FOR 2014-2015:** Jane Flinn and Debbie McCart announced that we will be receiving a survey about the kinds of programs we would like for next year. Debbie Brand asked that we continue Rose Sisters and E-mail Buddies next year. Everyone agreed that we would like to continue these two programs.
2. **PROGRAM FOR 2013-2014:** Bonnie announced that Eta Delta will receive the Annie Award at State Convention.
3. **SOCIAL FOR 2014-2015:** Martha LaRue said she has completed the Hostess Schedule, and we have a reservation for March 7, 2015, at the Junior League for our Birthday Luncheon.
4. **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership Chairman Debbie Brand made the following report:
  - a. Our attendance for today's meeting is 22 present and 12 absent. Our current membership is 34 active members and 4 reserve members.
  - b. Debbie welcomed our newly initiated members, Kirby Gor, Elizabeth McDowell (Kirby's mother), and Dede Drexler.
  - c. Helen Shoup will be changing chapters at the end of July. She has found a chapter in her new hometown.
  - d. Nancy Malone asked that all members check their personal information on Delta Kappa Gamma's website.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Toni Maheshewari thanked Ann Mahan for including in the newsletter a tribute to Charter Member Mary Lois Barden who passed away recently. There will be a memorial service for her at St. Matthew's UMC later in the month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2014-2016** – The following slate of officers was installed by President Bonnie Moore and her Executive Board:

President – Jane Flinn  
First Vice President – Debbie McCart  
Second Vice President – Martha LaRue  
Secretary – Debbie Elrod  
Parliamentarian – Donna Patch  
Treasurer – Nancy Malone

**PROGRAM** – Founder's Day – Jane Flinn presented the program about the outstanding women who founded Delta Kappa

Gamma on May 11, 1929. Jane introduced us to each of the founders through a packet of information on each of these exceptional women. Each had her own unique qualities that enhanced Annie Webb Blanton's vision of Delta Kappa Gamma.

### **NECROLOGY SERVICE FOR MARY LOIS BARDEN**

The chapter held a necrology service for Mary Lois Barden, the first President of Eta Delta. Members who knew her personally shared special memories of Mary Lois with those who didn't have the privilege of knowing her.

**RECOMMITMENT CEREMONY** – The members of Eta Delta participated in a Recommitment Ceremony in which we vowed to renew our promises to uphold the ideals of DKG as we go forth to a new year.

**AWARDS** – Chairman Kathy Froehlich presented awards for our accomplishments. As usual, Kathy's presentations were both meaningful and fun!

1. **Perfect Attendance** – Ann Mahan, Debbie McCart, Shirley Moan
2. **Laid Back Leigh** – Leigh Elizondo (Webmaster)
3. **Nice Newsletter** – Ann Mahan
4. **Party Planner** – Debbie McCart
5. **Perfect President** – Bonnie Moore (Bonnie was presented with the Delta Kappa Gamma Bell necklace since she already had a President's Bar pin.)
6. **Positive Programs** – Jane Flinn
7. **Reaching Out Award** – Debbie Brand
8. **Growing Award** – Debbie Brand, Jane Flinn, Shirley Moan
9. **Compassion Award** – Debbie Brand, Ann Mahan, Shirley Moan
10. **Money Lady Award** – Nancy Malone
11. **Super Secretary** – Shirley Moan
12. **E-mail Pop Up Award** – Helen Shoup
13. **Noteable News** – Michelle Smith
14. **ETA DELTA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** – Debbie McCart

After receiving our awards, we all enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared by our hostesses – Debbie Brand, Debbie McCowie, Leigh Elizondo, and Trish Jenkins.

