

## Eta Delta Data



Eta Delta Chapter 172 Area 3, Houston

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Texas State Organization

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



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September 2015

### President's Message



Jane Flinn

Dear Sisters,

The new school year is always filled with hope, anticipation, and optimism for teachers and students. It is a time for renewal and recommitment. As Eta Delta sisters we can use this as an opportunity to reflect on what we, as individuals or as a chapter, can do to support teachers and students.

With a new year of chapter meetings and area/state events we have the opportunity to renew and recommit to Eta Delta. How can we keep the energy in Eta Delta? How can we improve the relevance of Eta Delta for members, new teachers, young teachers, and veteran teachers so all members feel included? This year, we want to hear your ideas at meetings, by email, through text, in small group meetings, at any time you want to share your thoughts/ideas/suggestions.

At the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention in San Antonio this summer standing for the recognitions Eta Delta received became an aerobic exercise. This was possible through the energy, commitment, and work by each of you. Eta Delta is an awesome chapter. Let's commit this year to maintaining our standard of excellence and improving the relevance for all members and potential members.

*Sincerely,  
Jane*

### Next Chapter Meeting

When: September 12, 2015

Where: Martha LaRue's home  
5203 Valley Bluff Lane  
Katy, TX 77494

Hostesses: Chapter Board Members

Inspiration: Dede Drexler

(directions to Martha's home are on the last page of the newsletter)

### TSO Awards & Recognitions

Below are the recognitions and awards Eta Delta received at the Texas State Organization's 86<sup>th</sup> State Convention:

Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund Contributing Chapter  
TSO Certified Chapter Website  
Communications Awards 5 Star and Seal of Merit  
Exemplary Yearbook and Early Bird Award  
Annie Award for Outstanding Program  
Tudor Rose Award for Membership  
ASTE F Individual and Group Contributor  
ASTE F Chapter Donations to Scholarships – Double Honors  
ASTE F Chapter Donations to Leadership Trailblazers  
ASTE F Chapter Donations to Projects Project Builders  
Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence P.A.C.E. Award

### Texas Convention 2015

Held on the San Antonio River Walk, the 86<sup>th</sup> TSO Convention was attended by Jane Flinn, Nancy Malone, Debbie McCart, Brenda Paulk, Leigh Elizondo, Bonnie Moore, Martha LaRue, Donna Patch, Trish Jenkins, and Shirley Moan.

Numerous presenters have shared their handouts from the conference sessions—<http://www.dkgtxas.org/resources.html>—and photos from the convention have been posted for viewing at <http://dkgtxasphotos.weebly.com/>.

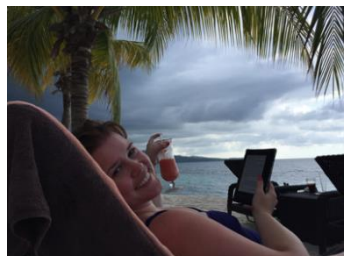
## Eta Delta 2014-2016 Officers

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

As the chapter starts a new year, Eta Delta *Data* starts a new chapter with Debra Rockefeller serving as Editor working alongside Carol Gillingham, Lindsey Krumrine and Leigh Elizondo.

The newsletter will continue to acquaint members with the purposes and activities within the Chapter and Society and provide opportunities for members to share their experiences and insights.

*Be thinking about how you can contribute to the newsletter with articles or ideas.*



*Kirby Gor on a beach in Jamaica.*

## Summer Fun & Learning

Kirby Gor and her husband spent a week in Jamaica. What could be better than a book at the beach?

Donna Patch traveled in July for 16 days with another teacher and 5 students who had taken Japanese for 1 or 2 years. Donna spent 1 week with a host family and went to a Japanese school with her host student. Besides learning to use chopsticks, Donna learned that the Japanese are the most polite people she has encountered in a long time.

Another Eta Delta world traveler this summer was Jane Upton Hall who visited Italy and Greece in June with four students.

Christina Hughes created a staff development day for the special education department at her campus. The day was an opportunity for teachers to train and refresh on matters requiring follow through among the department's teachers.

Debbie McCart conducted three "Transition Boot Camp" workshops for secondary special education teachers in CyFair ISD this summer. Her last day-long boot camp is scheduled for Saturday, September 12—We'll miss you, Debbie, at our meeting!

## Chapter By-Laws

Over the summer, Dede Drexler, Elizabeth McDowell, Tonie Maheshwari, Nancy Malone, and Jane Flinn reviewed the Chapter By-Laws and drafted revisions. These revisions will be voted upon during the upcoming September meeting. To review the proposed By-Laws, please see Jane's email dated August 7 or send Jane a note.

## Donation to Lord of the Streets

Two bags of travel-size toiletries were recently donated by Eta Delta to Lord of the Streets (LOTS) Episcopal Church – an organization offering spiritual, physical, emotional and social ministry to Houston's homeless and disadvantaged. Details of their ministry can be found at <http://www.lordofthestreets.org/>.



*Myra Mitchell, Th.D., LOTS Director of Volunteer Ministries and Women's Activities and Thana Hernandez, Administrative Receptionist*

## Most Memorable First Day as a Teacher

by Nancy Malone

**During the summer of 1970**, Houston ISD notified me that I had been transferred to M.C. Williams Jr. - Sr. High School in Acres Homes in its effort to comply with the federally-mandated laws concerning desegregation of public schools. We Houston teachers called it The Big Crossover. Although I had taught for eight years in the district, the interpretation of seniority that one year was determined to be years within individual schools and within individual departments.

Resigned to the fact that this was my new assignment, I reported to my new school for the first faculty meeting, not knowing a soul there—but then, neither did a third of the other teachers there. Even though I missed the usual warm camaraderie of first day greetings among co-workers of past first days, I settled in my seat in the library for the meeting, which began with perfunctory welcomes, introductions of staff members, etc. Then a minister from the community addressed us in a shocking rant. He began by telling us not to come there like missionaries trying to save them from ignorance and eventually advising us to carry a butcher knife beside us on the seat when we drove back and forth to school with the doors locked and the windows rolled up. At that point, we “new” teachers sat up in our seats and looked at each other, as if to say, “Did he just say what I think he said?” It was obvious that he did not like the change of course for his neighborhood school and wanted to intimidate us “new” teachers to the point of not returning. His

attitude was that too many of the school’s *most experienced* teachers had been lured away and then replaced with us *inexperienced* teachers. From that moment, I sensed that it was going to be a very long, grueling year.

Chaos and defiance are etched in my memory of the first day there with students. Just trying to get them to come into the classroom and sit down was a monumental task. The students wanted to see the familiar faces of their previous teachers and made sure we “new teachers” knew it. My previous experience had been with grades 7-10, but this year I was teaching juniors and seniors and had a senior homeroom. The guys loomed over me, as did some of the girls. But having dealt with seven brothers growing up, I was determined to assert myself from the start. I was a bit uneasy though when that minister’s son took his seat in my homeroom and in my English class; however, to my surprise he was not only smart, but respectful. He was the least of my worries!

That year was filled with many extreme ups and downs. Among the ups, while there I met some of my brightest students and some of the most compassionate, dedicated teachers of my forty years as a teacher. Looking back, I have no regrets of my six years there because experiences there helped shape me into being a better person and a better teacher.

**May 2015 Minutes**

Initiation: Sue Ayers was initiated at 9:30 a.m.

Call to Order: Jane called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Inspiration: Tonie Maheshwari

Thank You for Today: Jane thanked Nancy Malone for the use of her home. She thanked Debbie Brand, Tonie Maheshwari, Kathy Froehlich, and Jane Hall for providing the lunch.

Program: Taking Care of the World: Honoring the Founders through Cyber Conversation with an International DKG Sister

Minutes of April Meeting: The minutes were corrected and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was submitted for audit.

President's Report: The World Global Awareness Committee is planning to expand some possible projects for next year in Kenya and Ghana. There may be possible speakers from exchange students. The Pace Award is being awarded during the state convention. Nancy gave the expectations of the Pace Award. Change for Africa has spread to other chapters and has been recognized as a worthy project.

Jane welcomed Lauren Ayers, a new teacher honoree from Durham Elementary School in HISD. Jane also shared a video done by another new teacher honoree, Rachel Blake from Labay Middle School in CFISD.

**Committee Reports**

Membership: There were twenty-one present including one reserve member. Twelve members were absent. There were two guests: Ann Mahan and Lauren Ayers. There are 5 reserve members for a total of 6 reserve members.

Social Committee: Martha needs people to sign up for hostesses and homes for next year.

Scholarship Committee: Trish Jenkins was given the First Timers incentive for the State Convention.

Awards: Jane Flinn received the Chapter Achievement Award. Nancy Malone, Debbie McCart, and Shirley Moan received the Perfect Attendance Award. Donna Patch, Nancy Malone, Ann Mahan, Martha LaRue, Gerri Manlove, Tonie Maheshwari, and Jane Hall received the Veterans Award as they continue to serve as our veteran members who ensure that keep our traditions. Dede Drexler, Leigh Elizondo, Debbie Cowie, Debbie McCart, Kirby Gor and Elizabeth McDowell received the Beacons of Light Award for attracting new members into our chapter. Bonnie Moore, Debbie Brand, and Brenda Paulk received the Songbird Keeping Us on Key Award as we sing the DKG song. Bonnie Moore and Shirley Moan received the Personal Angels of Inspiration Award. Kathy Froehlich received the A Whole Lotta Fun Award for making the most daunting tasks and situations fun. Jane Flinn received the Caring Character Award for being kind and having soothing touches. Martha LaRue received the Social Butterfly Award for ensuring the hostesses are secure in their duties and helps with reminders. Ann Mahan, who writes and publishes our newsletter, was given the Newsworthy Award.

(May 2015 minutes continued)

Trish Jenkins was named Ceremonial Superintendent Award for leading us in the ceremonies. Nancy Malone received the Money Matters Award for keeping track of our income and spending. Deborah Elrod was awarded Meticulous Minutes for taking the minutes.

Unfinished Business: The bookplates for the Durham Library were provided by Bonnie Moore. They were put in the books and were distributed by Nancy Malone.

New Business: none

Adjournment: 11:17 a.m.

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### Chapter Dues & GHACC Luncheon

Hopefully, you are ready for all of the upcoming activities of Eta Delta Chapter! The opening days of school signal that it is time to pay DKG dues. The good news is that the dues for active members remain the same as last year, \$98, and the dues for reserve members this year are \$40, which is \$6 less than last year since these members are now exempt from assessments. Anyone choosing to have her chapter newsletter mailed, rather than e-mailed, should add another \$5. (See form at end of newsletter.)

Since there will be only ONE chapter meeting before dues must be paid, please pay your dues at the **September 12 meeting** or mail them along with the attached form **before October 15, 2015**. If mailing your dues, please send your check and the completed form to:

Nancy Malone  
6158 Doliver Dr.  
Houston, TX 77057

You may also want to add the cost of the **GHACC Luncheon** (\$35) at the Houston Racquet Club on October 24 to your check. If you choose to do so, I must receive your **check by September 21**, to meet the deadline for making reservations for the chapter members. Please make checks payable to Eta Delta Chapter. More details about this luncheon will be provided in the newsletter and at the September 12 meeting.

Please contact Nancy at [nmalone@swbell.net](mailto:nmalone@swbell.net) or phone 713-783-9559 with any questions or concerns you may have about chapter dues.

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**Next Meeting**

September 12, 2015  
 Martha LaRue's home  
 5203 Valley Bluff Lane  
 Katy, TX 77494

**Directions From Houston**

- Take **I-10 W**  
 Merge onto **S Highway 99 (Grand Parkway)**  
 Exit **Cinco Ranch Blvd** and turn **right** onto **Cinco Ranch Blvd**

**-or-**

Take **WestPark Tollway** westbound  
 Merge onto **N Highway 99 (Grand Parkway)**  
 Exit **Cinco Ranch Blvd** and turn **left** under Highway 99

- When on Cinco Ranch Blvd, you will cross over Westheimer Parkway and continue on Cinco Ranch Blvd. Cross over two short bridges and take the first left-hand turn after the bridges (should be Heritage Grand Lane).
- Turn **left** onto **Heritage Grand Lane**
- Turn **right** onto **N Heritage Grand Circle**
- Take the 2nd **right** onto **Marsden Park Lane**
- Take the 1st **left** onto **Valley Bluff Ln**
- **5203 VALLEY BLUFF LN** is on the **right**.

**Year at a Glance**

In addition to our monthly Chapter meetings, consider participating in these upcoming events!

October 24, 2015  
 Greater Houston Area Coordinating Council Luncheon  
 Houston Racquet Club  
 10709 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77024  
 Phone:(713) 464-4811

October 11-16, 2015  
 ASTEF/Road Scholar Trip  
 Savannah, Georgia  
[http://www.dkgtexas.org/uploads/4/2/8/3/42835841/astef-dkg\\_savannah\\_2015\\_apr15.pdf](http://www.dkgtexas.org/uploads/4/2/8/3/42835841/astef-dkg_savannah_2015_apr15.pdf)

June 23-25, 2016  
 87<sup>th</sup> Texas State Convention  
 Frisco Convention Center

July 5-9, 2016  
 2016 International Convention  
 Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center  
 Nashville, TN  
<https://www.dkg.org/content/2016-international-convention>



