



Alpha Chi Newsletter

Alpha Chi Chapter, Texas State Organization
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



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 Education Worldwide

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Burnet-Llano-Marble Falls, Texas

Area VII No. 46

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has come and gone and some of us have been back in school for four to five weeks. This year begins a new biennium for the officers of Alpha Chi. I am excited and a bit anxious as I begin my term as your president. Your officers and committee chairs have been meeting and planning for the coming year. We hope that you will enjoy the programs, participate in the service projects, read the newsletter and enjoy the fellowship of your Alpha Chi sisters.

In June, Carol Young, Myrna Mund, Marilyn Curtis, Lorine Kuhn and I attended the state convention in Las Colinas. Along with other awards, Alpha Chi was named a PACE winner. We were well represented at the state level as Myrna and Marilyn are on the state Yearbook Committee and Carol is on the state Ceremony Committee. We were very proud to have Carol participate in the ceremonies during the Presidents' and Founders' Banquet on the final evening of convention. You can find a picture of Carol on the State website www.alphastatetexas.org. The Unifying Project was a huge success. The final count was 1,982 books, 1,928 DVD's, 1,999 cases and \$325.

State convention next year will be in Austin June 20-22, 2013. There will be many opportunities for Alpha Chi members to volunteer at the convention. More information will be coming.

November elections are just around the corner. Campaigns can be confusing, and sometimes it is difficult to determine which candidate best represents you. Take the time to review the voting records for candidates. Remember that your vote is important.

We have all mourned the loss of Patsy McDonald this month; please read Marsha Neel's tribute to Patsy in "The Spotlight" section of this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our first meeting in Burnet on October 8th. Give another member a call and invite her to go with you.

Diana Virdell – President

IMPORTANT DATES

October 8, 2012 – 6:00 pm - Alpha Chi meeting at
First Lutheran Church - Burnet

November 12, 2012 – 6:00 pm – Alpha Chi meeting
at Methodist Church in Llano

June 20-22, 2013 – Delta Kappa Gamma State
Convention at the Renaissance
Hotel in Austin

MEMBER NEWS

Prayers and condolences go out to the following Alpha Chi members: Darlene Hargett on the loss of her mother and Mary Kneese on the loss of her mother. Speedy recoveries to the following; La Dawn Baker's husband, Faye Creel's husband, Gay Galey, Shirley Goerdel's husband, Bobbie Sue Petrick's husband, Margaret Smith's husband, and Diana Virdell's mother.

BIRTHDAY GALS

September

Margaret Fry – Sep. 4

Kris Mund – Sep. 4

Linda Cullinane – Sep. 8

Susan Griffith – Sep. 12

Faye Creel – Sep. 15

Susan Nye – Sep. 26

October

Debbie Engler – Oct. 10

Diana Virdell – Oct. 11

Carol Young – Oct. 11

Linda Dyke – Oct. 16

Genevieve Berglund – Oct. 30

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sheralyn Nobles and Lenore Weihs who became grandmothers this summer.

Congratulations to Euneen Wendt for being named "Artist of the Month" by the Llano Fine Arts Guild this summer. Euneen crafts colorful and vibrant pieces of fused glass into a style all her own.

Congratulations to Debbie Engler, her students at Llano High School won the 3A State Champions in UIL Academic Spelling and Vocabulary Team (2 freshmen boys, 1 sophomore (second Language Learner) female and 1 junior boy. The second State

Championship was the individual 3A title in Spelling and Vocabulary (that student was a freshman male).

"IN THE SPOTLIGHT"

Patsy Ann McDonald

Patsy, growing up, moved often during her childhood because of her father's ministry. During her junior and senior years of high school, he was pastor at the Methodist Church in Art, Texas. During this time Patsy went on family trips with Clifford and Rita Jordan. Patsy went along to help with the driving and they went any place that had mountains. Patsy would have preferred to drive all the time because Clifford, as he was driving in the mountains, liked to point out things and that made Patsy nervous. Clifford and Rita had a son name Roger and he performed Patsy's graveside services. Patsy in her youth was already a teacher because when she and Roger were riding the school bus to school, Patsy tutored him in his math classes.

After high school, Patsy attended Southwest Texas State University where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Mathematics with a minor in Physics. At Southwest Texas State University she was a teaching assistant for two years. She was also a teaching assistant at University of Texas at Austin for one year. At that point, she was hired at Marble Falls High School where she taught for 28 years. During that time, she also taught classes for Austin Community College and Central Texas Community College.

After her years in Marble Falls, she worked for the University of Texas in the Instruction Technology department with QUEST, a tutoring and homework program. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of the QUEST program where she worked until her death. Through this program, Patsy touched and worked with over one million students worldwide and over 20,000 teachers.

Patsy was a valuable part of the Technology Department at UT. Over 60 Staff members from that department attended her visitation. One man stated that he was not sure how they were going to make it without her as she was always the 'go to' person.

Patsy was always helping people, family, and friends. She loved photography, tennis, gardening and computers. She worked at all of these with a loyalty and passion that was inspiring. She was generous in her donations to places such as the Crisis Center and the Capital area Food Bank.

Patsy was an active member of Alpha Chi joining in 1995. Her work on the Alpha Chi newsletter enabled our chapter to win numerous awards at the state convention. Patsy also designed our Alpha Chi website and was instrumental in helping other chapters develop theirs. She worked on chapter activities and projects with her usual passion.

Patsy passed away on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2012 and is buried with her Mom and Dad at the Methodist cemetery in Art, Texas.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Summary for October 8th meeting

Look for your name on one of the lighthouse beams to know where to sit. Committee chairmen will meet with their committee members during dinner. You will learn how you can help Alpha Chi have a successful year. Also be thinking of five things what DKG means to you and why you enjoy being a member.

The Program of Work committee will present a short skit honoring our Founders. Do you know the names of our twelve Founders? Do you know which Founder enjoyed sewing, music, sports or hiking mountains? The paper quilts displayed on the tables will show other interests of our twelve Founders and the placemats will contain their photos.

Area Workshop and Convention highlights from Alpha State as well as International will be on the agenda. So please join us for our first meeting of the year in Burnet on October 8 at 6:00 pm.

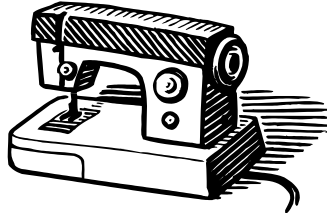
CHAPTER PROJECTS

Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center

Hygiene products (shampoo/conditioner, razors, soap, feminine products)
Baby wipes
Diapers (6 months to 18 months)
Twin sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets (these can be gently used)
Children and women's underwear (new)
Canned and dried food
Cereal
Chips
Simple toys (toddler to early elementary)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

If you are a seamstress and not on this list,



please notify Lorine.

Your talents are needed for the community service project for November.

Jane Knapik
Beulah Holland
Jan Graves
Diana Virdell
Diana Collins
Doris Phillips
Lorine Kuhn
Cissy Butler
Charlsie Bremer
Susan Griffith

Membership

If you needed to update or complete a member profile, please bring it to the October meeting.

The Quilt by Dorothy Blair, Zeta Xi, Midland

The quilt lies peacefully upon the bed,
The story it tells has all been said.

Each square brings back a special memory,
Every patch a piece of our family's history.

There's Grandma's dress she wore to church,
Grandpa's favorite worn out shirt,
Brother's pants still scuffed with dirt,

A strip from Sister's wedding gown!
I bought this blouse one day downtown.

Mom always loved this shade of blue,
Dad's plaid shirts are patched here too,
Ribbons of Baby's blanket our dog chewed on.

I cuddle down and reminisce of memories and
wisdom of loved ones gone.

Now, the warmth of my family completely
surrounds me.

I go to sleep and dream of my box of scraps,
And of the next quilt waiting to be.

WHAT'S COOKING

Dr. Annie Webb Blanton's Patience Candy

Dr. Blanton loved to cook and was noted for her delicious hot biscuits, apple pies, sugared pecans and Patience Candy. It does take patience!

1 cup milk
2 cups sugar
1 tablespoon butter
¼ cup Karo syrup
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chopped pecans

Mix milk, 2 cups sugar, butter and Karo syrup in pan to boil slowly. Melt 1 cup sugar in a heavy skillet, stirring constantly, letting it brown slowly. Combine the two mixes and cook until mixture forms a soft ball (234-240 degrees). Remove from heat; beat until cool, adding vanilla while beating. Add pecans, pour into buttered dish. Cut in squares when cool.

Source: *A Texas Collection: East Texas*, 1980

@1998 The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International March 1, 1999

“BOOK CORNER”

A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean

by Tori Murden McClure 2009

Tori McClure was a featured speaker at the July DKG International Convention in New York. Carol Young and I heard her on the topic “Dare Mighty Things”. As she spoke I wrote in my convention program, “Get her book!” The Burnet Public Library has a copy. It is a must read!

She recounts her 1998 quest to become the first woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. It turned out to be the worst hurricane season in the Atlantic. McClure details her harrowing voyage in a 23 foot boat. Her experiences force her to confront her personal demons and later find love, enlightenment, and, finally success.

There is so much more intertwined into this story. It is an exploration of heart and spirit. You will be caught up in the danger, laugh out loud, and be in awe of the beauty of the ocean and its creatures. Did I mention that she was also the first woman to ski over land to the South Pole? Her courage and humanity are an inspiration.

Marilyn Curtis

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN, SEPTEMBER 17,
2012

“NO NEED FOR PENSION OVERHAUL”

summarized by Faye Creel

Members of the House Pensions, Investments and Financial Services committee have said the guaranteed pension benefits serve both the employees and tax payers well. State Rep. Robert Orr noted that state pension funds are in good financial shape, having more than 80 percent of the assets they need to cover long-term benefits. Under the current plan, the state would only have to increase contributions by \$259 million per year to make the fund “actuarially sound”.

A recent analysis from the Teacher Retirement System showed that the alternative plans under discussion would cost 138 percent more to keep the current benefits level. Closing the system to new hires would drain the fund in 27 years then cost 3 billion a year afterward. House Pensions, Investments and Financial Services committee member State Representative Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, opposes doing away with the guaranteed pensions. Vicki Truitt, who lost her reelection bid, is urging her returning colleagues to focus on Texas where state wide funds are in good shape.

Some conservative interest groups such as the Texas Public Policy Foundation advocate moving to a retirement account akin to a 401 (K). In a report due out in November, Talmadge Heflin of this group plans to show how the transition away from guaranteed pensions can be done in a way that saves money. Heflin claims that the change will give predictability for the state, the taxpayers, and the employees. The employees will share in the risk but the will also share in additional rewards if their fund performs better than the current plan.

* Nowhere in the article does he address what will happen to your retirement check if the plan performs poorly. I guess that’s what he means by “share in the risk.”*

LONE STAR NEWS

The fall Lone Star News is now available at

<http://www.alphastatetexas.org/pdfs/lsn.fall.2012.pdf>

MINUTES

Minutes

Alpha Chi Chapter

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

April 2, 2012

The Alpha Chi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met in regular session on April 2, 2012 at the Marble Falls Church of Christ.

President Carol Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Secretary Sarah Sultemeir was absent, minutes were taken by 2nd Vice President Susan Griffith.

Carol Young gave the Welcome and Jan Graves gave the Invocation.

Carol Young introduced Joanne Davis, Texas State President, who presented information on the state convention and projects the organization is involved in.

1st Vice-President, Sheralyn Nobles introduced Ceremonies Chair Faye Creel who along with her committee and Joanne Davis initiated new members; Linda Arbaugh, Diana Collins, Debbie Engler, Cathy Frioux, Elisabeth Garrett, and Fran Urbanovsky. Carol Young announced that Dr. Alice Smith and Annette Nolen were being reinstated as members,

and Linda Wilson was transferring her membership from Odessa to Marble Falls.

Faye Creel, Joanne Davis, and the officers from the 2010-2012 biennium then installed the new officers for the 2012-2014 biennium. They are President, Diana Virdell; 1st Vice-President, Lorine Kuhn; 2nd Vice President, Carol Young; Corresponding Secretary, Bobbie Sue Petrick; Recording Secretary, Sharon Rivers, Treasurer, Lynda Jackson and Parliamentarian, Euneen Wendt.

A reception was then held for the new members and new officers.

Business Meeting: The minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting were approved as printed. Gloria Haley gave the treasurer's report.

Balance brought forward	\$2,303.99
Deposits	\$ 146.00
Disbursements	\$ 673.19
Balance (4/02/12)	\$1,775.80

Gloria reminded members that they could pay half of their dues (\$35) tonight and the other half at their local meetings in August, or that they could pay the full amount (\$70) at their local meetings in August.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Professional Affairs: Diana Virdell recommended that Jennifer Blair be the recipient of the Velma Elliott Grant in Aid. Diana made the motion and Gloria Haley seconded. Carol Young asked for a vote on the motion and the motion passed.

Legislation: Ann Hunter presented information on the upcoming hearings on the discussion of the different types of retirement plans. Legislative committees are also looking at charter schools and state mandated testing.

Music: Sue Hosterman read a song to the membership that tells about the rose and initiation.

Personal Growth and Services: Euneen Wendt thanked everyone for their donations to the Rainbow Room which assists children who have been removed from their homes.

Achievement and Recognition: Penny Tanner presented Marsha Neel with the Alpha Chi Achievement Award for 2012 for her outstanding service to Delta Kappa Gamma and the community.

Old Business: Carol Young announced that there was no old business.

New Business:

Correspondence: Susan Griffith read two pieces of correspondence; the first was from UNICEF for our contribution to "Schools in Africa" and the second was from Area Coordinator, Joan Hester, thanking the chapter for her visit at the January meeting.

Membership: Sarah Allen presented certificates of Perfect Attendance to: Toni Garner, Sharon Tays, Doris Phillips, Diana Virdell, Carol Young, Ann Hunter, Marilyn Curtis, Myrna Mund, Faye Creel and Gloria Haley. Attendance for the meeting was Burnet – 13, Llano – 9, Marble Falls – 19, Guests - 8 for a total of 49 people.

Programs: Both Lorine Kuhn and Sheralyn Nobles said that there were forms on the table to make suggestions for programs next year.

Committees: Diana Virdell encouraged everyone to fill out the form for which committees they would like to be on for the next biennium.

Announcements:

- Carol Young reminded everyone that May 7th was the deadline to register for the Las Colinas state convention
- Carol thanked everyone for contributing to the United Through Reading Project
- Carol told members that there was a technology handout at the sign in table with good computer applications to use at the elementary or secondary level
- Carol asked if anyone was retiring and Sharon Rivers announced that she was and the membership congratulated her
- Susan Griffith announced that Alpha Chi had received the state Exemplary Award for the chapter's yearbook
- Carol encouraged everyone to read their Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin and the excellent articles on professional development
- Carol then discussed with the membership that she and Marilyn Curtis were considering whether or not to be a vendor at the International Convention and if they chose to be a vendor the cost would be \$87. Lorine Kuhn suggested that they not because the time used in the market would take away from them attending the excellent sessions.
- Carol asked those members who would be attending the Area Workshop in Austin on August 4th to pay their \$10 to Gloria before they left the meeting

- Carol made an announcement concerning the WOW Luncheon to be held at the Church at Horseshoe Bay on April 19th
- Carol thanked Jan Graves and Jamie Horn for the cake and lighthouse cookies
- Carol announced that the following people were ill; Margaret Dotson, Gay Galey and Barbara Johnson
- Carol thanked the chapter for their assistance during her presidency and that the next meeting would be in October in Burnet

Faye Creel closed out the meeting with a special Birthday Celebration of the contributions of our Founders.

The meeting adjourned with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Minutes
Executive Committee
Alpha Chi Chapter
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Tuesday July 31, 2012

The Executive Committee, Alpha Chi Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at the Church of Christ, Marble Falls, Texas.

President Diana Virdell called the meeting to order at 9 AM Present were Carol Young, Bobbie Sue Petrick, Euneen Wendt, Loraine Kuhn, and recording secretary Sharon Rivers.

A state convention summary presented by President Virdell emphasized Alpha Chi's accomplishments and the need to maintain standards of excellence. Virdell reported the five members attended the gathering where the following awards were earned. The Early

Bird Award for Chapter Yearbook, Exemplary Award for Chapter Yearbook, Five Star Award for an Outstanding Newsletter, Recognition for Chapter Website, Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund Contributing Chapter, Rosebud Award for maintaining membership, Annie Award, PACE Award.

Budget discussion included a motion by Lorine Kuhn and a second by Euneen Wendt to as members who do not receive newsletters via email, to connect with a buddy who will print a copy for them, or provide five self addressed stamped envelopes to have newsletter mailed. Raffles, sales of items at State and Area Conventions and a possible spring garage sale are upcoming sources of chapter income.

Travel details were organized for the Monday, August 6, 9-1 pm Area Workshop to be held at Cedar Creek Elementary, Austin, Texas.

Chapter meeting dates were confirmed as Oct. 8, Burnet 6 PM supper meal; Nov. 12, Llano 6 PM supper meeting; Jan 14, Marble Falls, 6 PM supper meal; Feb. 11, Burnet, 6P desserts; April 8 Llano, 6 PM desserts.

Local Meetings were set at Aug. 6 - Marble Falls 4:30 PM – Diana Virdell, chairs meeting; Aug. 6 - Llano 2 PM, Sharon Rivers, chairs meeting; Aug. 20 – Burnet 5 PM, Bobbie Sue Petrick, chairs meeting.

Local chairmen were reminded to collect chapter and local dues and submit to Lynda Jackson, update local chapter profiles, member information for yearbooks, sign release forms for Alpha Chi Newsletter, and newsletter email/postal service options. Chairmen were also asked to inform members that yearbooks will be emailed, encourage carpooling, and create awareness of upcoming deadlines:

Oct. 1 – Mini Grant Application; Oct. 15. – Alpha State Leadership Seminar applications; Oct. 31 – Membership dues paid by all members.

The meeting closed with discussion regarding committees meeting at first meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM by President Virdell, with Program of Works Committee meeting to follow.

TREASURER’S REPORT

October 8, 2012

Balance brought forward: \$1,776.80

<u>Date</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Deposit Amount</u>
4/14/12	Proceeds from sales	\$296.00
4/14/12	Initiation, pins, dues	\$369.70
4/14/12	2012-2013 dues	\$430.00
4/14/12	Area Workshop	\$130.00
4/28/12	Proceeds from sales	\$100.00
7/1/12	Proceeds from sales	\$611.00
8/8/12	2012-2013 dues	\$420.00
8/8/12	2012-2013 dues	\$1,220.00
8/8/12	2012-2013 dues	\$107.00
8/13/12	Area Workshop fundraiser	\$240.00
8/23/12	2012-2013 dues	\$70.00
8/23/12	2012-2013 dues	\$70.00
8/23/12	2012-2013 dues	\$770.00
9/13/12	2012-2013 dues	\$70.00
	Total Deposits:	\$4,903.70
	Balance brought forward:	\$6680.50

<u>Date</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4/2/12	Sarah Allen	\$9.73
4/2/12	Susan Griffith	\$35.56
4/2/12	Patsy McDonald	\$9.00
4/2/12	Faye Creel	\$58.44
4/10/12	Jennifer Blair	\$500.00
4/12/12	Myrna Mund	\$150.00
4/14/12	Texas State Org.	\$40.00
4/15/12	Awards Concepts	\$97.45
6/17/12	Epsilon Kappa	\$130.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6/24/12	Lorine Kuhn	\$286.83
6/25/12	Carol Young	\$127.00
6/25/12	Diana Virdell	\$154.58
7/1/12	Myrna Mund	\$210.00
	Total Disbursements	\$1,808.59

Balance brought forward \$4,871.91

Editor – Carol Young, cyouhb@tstar.net

Assistant Editor – Marsha Spinner, spinner@tstar.net