



**THETA EPSILON NEWS**  
**TEXAS STATE ORGANIZATION**  
**THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL**  
**AREA 12**

Hockley/Cochran Counties

Chapter 197

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**Theta Epsilon Chapter**

**October 2023**

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**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



**Editor's Note:** All clipart is from Microsoft Office®, Alpha State Texas Website and from DKG website; photos are provided by Theta Epsilon members.



invite 25 people, 15 will say they will attend. Of those 15, usually eight to 10 will attend the event; of those, only five to seven will regularly attend after a month.

That is a lot of work for one person! Thankfully, we have a whole chapter of incredible women to take on this challenge!

We often talk ourselves out of inviting a new member because we decide for them by not asking them to join. We justify not asking women to participate by making excuses about our colleagues being “too busy” or that we do not know them well enough to invite them. However, it is a tremendous honor to be recognized as an excellent woman educator and is encouraging to be told that you are one in the eyes of others in your field. Asking women to join takes courage, but we must allow them to decide whether to join.

Remember Patti Belknap’s story about an extraordinary educator she worked with for years and was never invited to be a member of DKG. She made the excuse that she had young kids and would not want to join their chapter. After several years, the young woman confessed that she would have loved to have joined DKG. She is now an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma. Is there an extraordinary educator you are hesitant to invite to our chapter? What if she



***SOAR to New Heights***

Hello Ladies,  
 I encourage you all to invite an extraordinary woman educator to our next meeting on October 5th! You may have new members in mind, or perhaps there are members we last saw a while ago that you would like to reconnect with at the meeting; either way, I encourage you to reach out and invite them to come. During the August meeting, our Executive Council charged our chapter with continuing to grow our members by five women this year. This accomplishment only occurs when all our members strive to grow our chapter.

Growing our chapter is truly a team effort! While developing a student group in college, I was exposed to the statistic that if you personally

is waiting to be asked to join DKG?

Our next meeting will be at the Levelland High School on October 5th at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP for this meeting and provide a list of food allergies to our First Vice-President, Joanna Runkles. This is a beautiful event to invite potential members to attend! With the combination of delicious food, community, and highlighting a local educational program, it is sure to be a great time! At this meeting, we will collect \$1 per member to contribute to the Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund. We will also have a Hobo Basket provided by Kelly Kelley. You may want to bring \$1 for that, too!

Respectfully,  
Ashley Davis

[Adavis@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:Adavis@southplainscollege.edu)

**Area 12 Coordinator:** Terri Egerton  
**Area 12 Mentor:** Shalan Inmon

#### **Service Projects:**

International Service Project: Schools for Africa  
Local Service Projects: Blessing Boxes, Books for CHART, Bill's Backpacks



**When:** Thursday October 5, 2023  
5:30 P.M.  
**Where:** Levelland High School  
**Program:** Culinary Arts  
**Community Service:** Eula lee Carter Memorial Fund



### **Delta Kappa Gamma Minutes Theta Epsilon Chapter August 2023**

Ashley Davis called our DKG Chapter meeting to order at 10:30am. The meeting was held at Capitol Elementary School. Guests were welcomed.

Ashley introduced our DKG scholarship recipient, Jaden Posades. She is a recent Sundown High School graduate. She shared her plans to attend South Plains College and her interest in teaching school, she thinks that she will prefer elementary or early childhood education.

The Chapter minutes from the April 15, 2023 meeting along with the Treasurer's report were included with the agenda. One correction needs to be made, Juanice Tyson was a previous Vice-President and Newsletter guru.

We have 2 of our new members attending this morning: Kristy Sanders, PE Teacher at Capitol Elementary and Brittany Dagley, Computer Teacher at ABC Campus.

A resignation letter from Nancy Keeling was received and the Chapter accepted it with regrets. There were 4 other members who were dropped from membership due to nonpayment of Annual Dues. A Thank you card was received from Deb McVay acknowledging the gift card she was given for her service in providing refreshments for our meetings. Deborah Payne and Terry Reynolds recognized as having represented Theta Epsilon Chapter at the State Convention in McAllen this past summer.

Suzy Polk, a former 6th grade Science teacher at Levelland Middle School, provided the Program. She is currently living and teaching in Red River, New Mexico. She was able to 'Zoom' in to share her mission work in a small rural community in South Africa. Her work began in 2017. She has been instrumental in establishing a Christ-centered English-speaking school. The student population is approximately 50-60, ranging in age from 18 months to 10 years.

Following the presentation, Members and guests enjoyed a luncheon of stuffed baked potatoes and dessert.

Liz Brandt provided a dog-themed Hobo basket which generated \$6 to add to our general fund. Members made a \$81 donation to the Change for Schools in Africa.



## It's time for us to fly!

We have completed the 2021-2023 biennium and begun the next for 23-25. Thank you to Immediate Past State President Shalan Inmon for her vision, leadership and being our guide on our Journey. Thank you to the TSO Executive Committee, Area Coordinators, Committee Chairs and each committee member. Your dedication, time and talents have allowed TSO to add members, listen to members and try something different as we begin to SOAR. This biennium we want to continue to learn, grow, lead, and succeed. To do this, these goals will be our guide.

- S**eek new members and opportunities
- O**pen your heart, mind, and attitude
- A**ct to serve and share
- R**each to renew, respond, and relate

### Bonnie Moore

#### Texas State President 2023 – 2025

(Taken from the Fall 2023 edition of the Lone Star News, page 2)



## It's time for us to vote!

### TRS COLA is on the November 7 ballot !

During the legislative session this year, the Texas Legislature approved a cost-of-living adjustment for TRS annuitants. But for this to be put into action, **Proposition 9, House Joint Resolution 2**, must receive the approval of Texas voters creating an amendment to the Texas Constitution to release the funding. Annuitants in the Teacher Retirement

System have not received a cost-of-living adjustment, COLA, in ten years. Approving **Proposition 9** will not increase taxes because funds for this have already been set aside by the Legislature. (To learn more about the COLA, go to [trta.org/cola-FAQ](http://trta.org/cola-FAQ))



October is **National Book Month!** This annual month-long event is celebrated by authors, booksellers, publishers, and readers.

Since 1950, the National Book Foundation has highlighted the best fiction, nonfiction, poetry, translated literature, and YA literature. In 2003, the organization created the first National Book Month.

This themed month is the perfect opportunity to read books, support others' rights to read books, make the choice to support independent bookstores, and maybe even chip away at a book of your own.



**Hispanic Heritage Month** (September 15 - October 15) is an annual celebration in the United States that honors the history, culture, and contributions of Americans whose ancestry can be traced to 20 countries and one territory — which includes Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Spain.

September 15th was chosen as the kickoff date since it coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of five countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua), followed by Mexico on September 16th, Chile on the 18th, and Belize on the 21st.

**Calendar**

Date	Time	Location	Community Service	Program Title
Thursday October 5, 2023 <i>"Invite potential new members"</i>	5:30 p.m.	Levelland High School	\$1 for Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund	<b>Khris Oaks and students: Culinary Arts Showcase: Let's Eat Cake!</b>
Saturday December 2, 2023	10:00a.m.	Lubbock Women's Club	Area 12	<b>Christmas Brunch/Tea</b>
Saturday January 27, 2024 <i>(Please make plans to pay \$86 dues in March)</i>	10:30 a.m.	Capitol Elementary	Shelby's Bridge	<b>Shelby's Bridge "Creating Paths Toward INDEPENDENCE for Adults with disABILITIES"</b> Happy Birthday DKG! Election of new officers
Thursday, March 7, 2024 <i>(Please pay your dues now)</i>	6:00 p.m.	Studio K, Levelland	ASTEFL chapter donation	<b>Let's Get Crafty!</b> <b>Please bring \$30 to create</b>
Saturday, April 6, 2024	10:30 a.m.	Capitol Elementary	Bill's Backpacks (\$ or food items)	<b>Don't be a Victim – Self Defense Induction Ceremony</b>
Saturday May 4, 2024	11:30 a.m.	Lubbock Women's Club	N/A	<b>Founder's Luncheon, Lubbock</b>
Saturday August 24, 2024 <i>(New member nominations)</i>	10:30 a.m.	Capitol Elementary	Change for Schools for Africa	<b>What's Happening at the Salvation Army?</b>
Thursday, October 5, 2024 <i>(Invite potential new member)</i>	6:00 p.m.	SPC Library	Little Libraries Donation (\$ or books)	<b>Let's SEE the New SPC!</b>



- 10-18 Deborah Payne
- 10-22 Carrie Young
- 11-14 Heidi Blair
- 11-14 Deb McVay
- 11-18 Catherine McMahan
- 11-29 Kristy Sanders

Ashley Davis	President
Joanna Runkles	First Vice President
Liz Brandt	Second Vice President
Kelly Kelley	Corresponding/Recording Secretary
Shannon Copeland	Treasurer
Ashley Davis	Webmaster
Jayellen Wilson	Newsletter Editor
Terry Reynolds	Parliamentarian
Donna Pugh	Immediate Past President

**Remember our goal: Invite extraordinary women to join Delta Kappa Gamma!**