

Theta Lambda News

Winner of the 2012-2013 Five-Star Award with the Seal of Merit

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September 2013



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Editor: Carol TenBrook
ctenbrook@pwarch.com

President's Message

Dear Theta Lambda Sisters:

I envy those of you in the classroom surrounded by students whom you will know so well by the end of May! For this year, these special students are part of your family and will weasel their ways into your heart and soul! You have the opportunity to make the difference to change their lives. You are the most important tool in your classroom, technology cannot replace you, textbooks cannot teach for you, and your smile might be the only one a child sees all day. Wow!

I cannot wait to see everyone at the home of **Catherine Hague** on September 16th! Not only will you see a video of Catherine's students working their magic at a facility filled with senior citizens, but you will meet our new Area 18 Coordinator, **Brenda Pearson**. This will also be the time to make your reservation (please bring your checkbook) to meet our **President Nancy Newton**! There will be a reception for her on Friday, October 25th and a luncheon on Saturday, October 26th at the Houston Racquet Club. Please join me on Saturday in welcoming Nancy to her new position!

We added three new vital members to our chapter in May. I am thrilled with their enthusiasm and their commitment to our chapter. This meeting is the perfect time to bring along some of your coworkers to see what DKG is all about. I know there are teachers out there feeling all alone just waiting to join in some fun!

The theme for the luncheon in October is: Expanding the Vision! What a perfect theme for our own chapter of Theta Lambda! Your board met in August and after much laughter we settled down enough to think about this year's programs, your needs and interests, and service projects. I am anxious to share our

thoughts with you at our first meeting.

Please send your thoughts and prayers to our sister, Cheri Flick, as she recovers from her surgery! Hopefully she can join us for our October meeting!

Blessings,
Laura Downes

Come join us for

Theta Lambda's September meeting!

Where: Home of **Catherine Hague**

When: Monday, September 16, 2013
5:30 Refreshments
6:00 Business meeting

Hostesses: Nancy Dobbs
Lillie Beth Wilson

Inspiration: Carol TenBrook

Program Rainbow Connection



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

Meeting Highlights

Minutes for May 20, 2013 Theta Lambda Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Laura Downes at 6:00. Sandra MacConnell received a well-deserved "thank you" from our president for her diligent work for our chapter. Carol TenBrook and Nancy Dobbs were congratulated for their timely communications to our chapter members. Lillie Beth couldn't attend out meeting however; she did provide our delicious meal along with Robin De-LaRosa and Sandra MacConnell.

A financial report was given by Sandra along with our Energizer.

New Business:

Catherine Hague spoke on behalf of Habitat for Humanity encouraging members there is a need for volunteering if willing to help! Catherine suggested that our chapter might wish to supply one luncheon to the workers or possibly children's books or magazine subscriptions to the families.

We initiated three new members: Ellen Rothberg, Michelle Glick and Sally Kubiak. Congratulations to these three ladies.

Old Business:

Supporting our New Teacher Initiative: We discussed providing new teachers with a little treat every month from our chapter. We will attach a card to the item with a hotline email so a new teacher feels there is someone outside the school to answer questions or to mentor them. Catherine and Laura will create the first one for September.

Catherine finished the evening with a "Could You Be A Founder?" program. We each wore a special hat connected to one of the founders of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Happy Birthday

Happy belated summer birthday to Lillie Beth Wilson—July 10

October Birthdays:

9 Nonie Ripley

11 Jayati Sengupta

14 DaNell Wikins

15 Cheri Flick

18 Catherine Garcia-Prats

20 Mary Harris



THETA LAMBDA Budget
2013 - 2014

Balance on hand at beginning of fiscal year: **\$1,755.31**

Receipts

Dues/Fees **\$1,865.00**

23 Active Members at \$75.00 =	\$1,725.00
5 Reserve Members at \$28.00 =	\$140.00
1 Honorary Member at \$00.00 =	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$1,865.00

Raffles/Fund Raisers **\$500.00**

Bank Dividends **\$5.00**

Estimated Receipts **\$2,370.00**

Total Available Funds **\$4,125.31**

Disbursements

Alpha State and International Dues **\$1,515.00**

23 Active Members at \$60.00 =	\$1,380.00
5 Reserve Members at \$27.00 =	\$135.00
1 Honorary Member at \$00.00 =	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$1,515.00

Required Scholarship Fees (28 x \$1.00 per active & reserve member) **\$28.00**

Contributions to State Funds

Scholarship Fund - Honors Status	(29 x \$1.00 per active, reserve, honorary member)	\$29.00
Leadership Fund - Journeyer Status	(29 x \$1.00 per active, reserve, honorary member)	\$29.00
Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund		\$10.00
Alpha State Texas Educ. Foundation	(29 x \$1.00 per active, reserve, honorary member)	\$29.00

Contributions to International Funds

Emergency Fund	\$25.00
Educational Foundation, Golden Gift, International Speakers Fund, World Fellowship (\$10 ea.)	\$40.00
Schools for Africa	\$25.00

Yearbook (Mail-Outs to Reserve Members) **\$20.00**

Newsletter (Mail-Outs to Reserve Members and State Personnel) **\$40.00**

Social (Christmas/Birthday Luncheon) **\$60.00**

Chapter Project **\$100.00**

Current President's Convention Expense **\$500.00**

New President's Convention Expense **\$500.00**

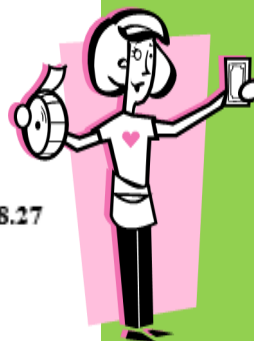
Postage/Supplies/Committee Expense/Miscellaneous **\$150.00**

Estimated Expenses **\$3,100.00**

Projected Year End Balance: **\$1,025.31**

TREASURER'S REPORT
September, 2013

Checking balance reported in May	\$1818.27
Receipts	\$31.48
New member initiation fees (3 x \$10)	\$30.00
Dividends for May, June, July, August	1.48
Disbursements	\$93.70
New member fees sent to TSO (3 x \$5)	\$15.00
Extra key pin & new member folders	33.70
GHACC dues	20.00
GHACC fall reception donation	25.00
Current checking account balance	\$1756.05
Current Savings Balance	\$1047.64
Current CD Balance	\$1553.41
Total assets of chapter	\$4357.10



**“Early Birds Only “
Door Prize**

In order to encourage everyone to bring their dues by the first meeting, I am donating a small piece of original artwork as a door prize. When Sandra MacConnell, our treasurer, receives your check, she will enter your name into the drawing. You do not need to be present to win—BUT....your dues does!!

Carol TenBrook

LONE STAR NEWS—Fall 2013 digital-only issue is available for viewing at:
<http://www.alphastatetexas.org/lonestarnews/2013.fall.pdf>



It's time to renew your membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Please come prepared to pay your dues at our September 16th Chapter Meeting.

The amount is \$75 for active members and \$28 for reserve members.

If needed, you may meet your obligation in two payments by writing two checks and post-dating one for October.

Make checks payable to Theta Lambda Chapter – Delta Kappa Gamma.

If you are unable to attend the September meeting, please mail your dues payment to Sandra MacConnell, chapter treasurer.

Let's be an “early bird” and get our dues sent in to State/International before the deadline. **SEE DOOR PRIZE INFORMATION ABOVE!!!!**



Theta Lambda Committees, 2013 – 2014

*Chairperson

Society Business

Ceremonies	*Miriam Watson, Teri Marrow, Cheri Flick
Constitution/Bylaws/Chapter Rules	*Carol Ann Shipp, Sr. Jane Meyer, Sandra MacConnell
Finance	*Miriam Watson, Laura Downes, Sandra MacConnell (ex officio)
Membership/Necrology	*Lillie Beth Wilson, Mary Harris, Robin DeLaRosa
Nominations	*Sr. Jane Meyer, Carol Ann Shipp, Jayati Sengupta

Educational Services

Achievement Awards	*Jan Randolph, Carol TenBrook, Mary Herlitz
Scholarships/World Fellowships	*Carol Ann Shipp, Laura Downes, Sally Kubiak
Newsletter/Communications	*Carol TenBrook (Webmaster), Sandra MacConnell, Nancy Dobbs, Michelle Glick

Program of Work

Programs	*Catherine Hague (1st VP), Jayati Sengupta, Robin DeLaRosa. Stacy Frenchwood, Sandra MacConnell
Personal Growth and Services	*Jayati Sengupta, Mary Herlitz, Teri Marrow, Cheri Flick, Ellen Rothberg, Carol Hensley(R)
Professional Affairs	*Robin DeLaRosa, Jan Randolph, Jodi Knuppel, Sr. Jane Meyer, Carol Allin, Michelle Glick
Research/Legislation	*Stacy Frenchwood, Lillie Beth Wilson, Carol Ann Shipp, Sally Kubiak, DaNell Wilkins(R)
Music	*Catherine Hague, Mary Harris, Nancy Dobbs, Miriam Watson, Alex Velazco
Yearbook	*Sandra MacConnell, Carol TenBrook, Laura Downes

Special Committees

Social/Courtesy	*Stacy Frenchwood (2nd VP), Nancy Dobbs, Alex Velazco, Mary Harris
Archives (History, Photos, Scrapbook)	*Jodi Knuppel, Jayati Sengupta
Special Projects	*Laura Downes, Mary Herlitz, Carol Allin, Ellen Rothberg

Webwatcher—Bits and Pieces from TSO website and Society Publications



Check out the Publications section of the TSO website located at <http://www.alphastatetexas.org/publications.html> to read the [Technology Tips and Treats-July 2013](#) article. Here is a small excerpt that you might find handy as you are out and about.

Stay Connected

Need to connect to WiFi while away from home? <http://wififreespot.com/> has a comprehensive list of free WiFi spots. Search by state, restaurant, hotel, or airport.

How many of these ideas can we use to make our chapter more visible?

Create the BUZZ!

Your chapter can use these ideas to create the BUZZ to enhance the visibility of DKG in your community:

- 1. Publish at least 5 newsletters with 2 or more pages of pertinent chapter news.
- 2. Submit 3 or more press releases to local media to publicize chapter and member achievements.
- 3. Place Society publications, such as *The Bulletin*, in public places.
- 4. Prepare an elevator speech (a short statement that describes the Society) for use when others inquire about our organization.
- 5. Create a chapter brochure or poster to display in public places, such as the teacher's lounge.
- 6. Assign a chapter "webwatcher" to report on information in the TSO and International websites, as well as other useful sites.
- 7. Write for publication in the *Lone Star News* or *The Bulletin*.
- 8. Nominate a chapter member for the Member in Print award or a local newspaper for the Key award. Interactive applications are on the TSO website under Communications.
- 9. Use the monthly Buzz Tips of the Month from the International Communications Committee.
- 10. Use current State and International themes and logos in chapter publications.

This newsletter, as well as other important Delta Kappa Gamma information can be found at our website: <http://thetalambda.weebly.com/>

September: Out of the Ordinary Celebrations:



September 10th: TV Dinner Day

The TV Dinner was first introduced to consumers in the United States by C.A. Swanson & Sons in the early 1950s. This pre-packaged, frozen meal would not only provide you a whole dinner with the slight flick of an oven -- it was also designed for ease of consumption while parked in front of a television screen. Take a stroll down your local supermarket's frozen food aisle to truly appreciate all the TV Dinner has done for our food options.



September 15th: National Felt Hat Day

You may think Robin Hood, you may think 10-gallon cowboy, or you may think fedora -- but whatever you think, today you have carte blanche to sport your felt-hat-of-choice with pride. Disclaimer: you may still have to remind people the holiday technically prevents them from mocking your accessory.



September 18th: Rice Krispies Treats Day

A whole day!

September 19th: Talk Like a Pirate Day

The establishment of International Talk Like a Pirate Day on September 19th was based on someone's ex-wife's birthday. While the date selection might have been arbitrary, the possibilities of TLAPD are endless. If you want to expand your pirate repertoire, the official website provides lingo in English, German, Dutch, and even a little Mandarin to provide a truly international annoyance to coworkers and family members.



September 24th: National Punctuation Day

"A celebration of the lowly comma, correctly used quotation marks, and other proper uses of periods, semicolons, and the ever-mysterious ellipsis." National Punctuation Day gives you the opportunity to dress up your sentences with all kinds of context and accentuation! Or, take the day to remind yourself what a semicolon actually does.



September 28th: Museum Day

Anyone who has visited the Smithsonian Museums in Washington D.C. knows they are especially awesome because admission is totally free. If you have visited a museum almost anywhere else in the United States, you know they typically cost a pretty penny. On this special Saturday, however, Smithsonian is [partnering with museums all over the country](#) to offer free admission on what they have deemed "Museum Day."

Check out: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/>

Reflections on an Italian vacation



By Carol TenBrook—August 5, 2013

This summer Kevin and I went to the Amalfi Coast of Italy for our vacation. We stayed in the small town of Maiori, not far from the city of Amalfi. The other vacationers in this off-the-beaten path location were mostly Italian, making it a rich cultural experience.

We usually travel without a tour group and make our way among the natives day by day. It is the kind of adventure I cherish.

Here is a story I wrote about an encounter I had with a young boy at the beach.

I have always loved rocks. Sparkly rocks, jagged rocks, and smooth rocks polished by the sea. Our day at the beach in Maiori afforded me the opportunity to really experience rocks. Mediterranean beaches seem to be lacking in shells, but are full of rocks of many sizes.

Some of the rocks that were in the water were quite large, but most of the rocks were the size that are painfully uncomfortable to walk on bare-footed. The smaller rocks would shift under my footsteps making it difficult to keep my balance. I must have looked like a very funny American trying to dodge the bigger rocks, only to find myself flailing about on the smaller ones. The finest of the rocks made for a very course sand that pretty much stuck to any bit of wet skin and annoyingly found its way into bathing suits.

Not a real fan of ocean swimming, I prefer wading at the edge of the water and walking along the beach looking for treasures. Due to the lack of sea shells, I had the great joy of rock hunting instead. I kept my eye out for very small rocks (I did have to lug them home in a suitcase, after all!). I loved the feel of the smooth pebbles in my hand as I sifted through them trying to find as many different colors as I could. I noticed an older lady was also picking up rocks. We smiled at each other and continued our individual scavenging.

After a while I sat down on the sand, digging amongst the rocks when a young boy came up to me to tell me something about a big rock that was near me. I smiled at him and told him, “non parlo italiano,” because I had no idea what he was trying to tell me. He said a few more words in Italian and then went off to swim in the water.

A while later, the little boy comes back holding out his hand to me, and in halting English said, “for you” as he looked back at the older lady (whom I have decided was his grandmother). In his hand were several small pebbles, just like the ones I was collecting. I was so pleasantly surprised by his offering. I looked up and saw his grandmother smiling at us. “Grazie!” I told them.

A couple of words of Italian, a couple words of English. It really doesn't take a lot of words to communicate a lot.

*****If you have a story about a trip you have made and wish to share it, please send it to me with a picture (if you have one) for publication in a future issue.*****