

Theta Lambda News

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

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Editor: Carol TenBrook
ctenbrook@pwarch.com

President's Message

Dear Theta Lambda Sisters,

"Expand Our Vision," is the new theme for our Alpha State President, Nancy Newton! On Saturday, October 26, four of our members, Catherine Hague, Mary Herlitz, Jan Randolph, and I attended the GHACC reception luncheon. At each place setting were uniquely decorated eyeglasses so we could expand our vision of DKG. With her great sense of humor and her "can do" attitude, I totally enjoyed the president's meeting plus this beautiful celebration luncheon with Nancy! Both Mary and Jan have belonged to Theta Lambda for twenty-five years! What a commitment and how thankful we are to have them with us.

Any time I have the opportunity to work with or listen to Sheri Walters, I know I will walk away with a new vision and will leave energized once again. Sheri is our guest speaker on November 18th at Nancy Dobbs' lovely home. Robin and Mary will provide a fabulous simple meal for us! My Thanksgiving prayer is that everyone can attend this meeting.

What a lovely time we had in October at Lillie Beth's home! A big thank you to Jan and Miriam for the delicious food! Mark Spilman, our guest, updated us on the status of Open Gate and he was truly moved by the generosity of our chapter...there was a huge pile of coats, jackets, and blankets for him to take to Bering Methodist church! Mark also shared with us a vision for his school's library. At this time, the space is there for a library, but the room is empty. Mark needs manpower, or should I say "woman power" to get this library moving. Are you willing to "expand your vision" and volunteer some time? If a group of us go together...what a fun outing plus we could help someone in need. You know I have a special place in my heart for libraries and librarians! We will discuss this at our meeting this month!

I know I have many blessings in my life to be thankful for every day. Yes, being a member of Theta Lambda is one of those blessings as I think of the powerful, talented women within our chapter and I am blessed!

Faithfully,
Laura Downes
Theta Lambda President

Come join us for

Theta Lambda's November meeting!

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Where: | Home of Nancy Dobbs |
| When: | Monday, November 18, 2013 5:30 Refreshments 6:00 Business meeting |
| Hostesses: | Robin DeLaRosa Mary Herlitz |
| Inspiration: | Teri Marrow |
| Program: | "The Changing Student" Sheri Walters, guest speaker Head of Grace Middle School |

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

Meeting Highlights

Theta Lambda Minutes, October 21, 2013 meeting

Members gathered in the home of Lillie Beth Wilson on Monday, October 21, 2013. Laura Downes, president, welcomed members and guest and thanked the hostesses, Miriam Watson, Jan Randolph, and Lillie Beth Wilson. Following a light dinner, Stacy Frenchwood led the energizer and discussed the rose, flower of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Sandra McConnell gave the treasurer's report. It was posted in the newsletter. Catherine Hague made the motion to accept the report and Michelle Glick seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Sandra reported that Alex Velasquez did not renew her membership due to other professional commitments this year. The minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Mark Spillman. He told how much the Open Gate program directors and volunteers at Bering Methodist Church appreciated the generosity of the clothing, blankets, backpacks and daily care items and foods collected last year. Also, he expressed gratitude for the blankets and clothing collected for this meeting. Open Gate continues to serve 18-24 year olds who live on the streets of Houston in the Montrose area. He described services that Bering and one of their partners, The Salvation Army, provided the homeless on a regular basis.

The Woodson Leadership Academy is the workplace for Mr. Spillman this year. It is a pre-k through 8th grade campus. There are many challenges in improving the campus; one of the greatest is the fact that there is no library. Members discussed possible ways of providing support to this Houston Independent School campus. Family resources are limited and the diverse student population needy.

Laura provided early career educator tid-bit treats. The January workshop will be used to create support items for these first year teachers in the spring.

Catherine collected many coins for the "Change for Africa" project to support education in Africa. Members will continue to save coins and bring them to meetings throughout the year.

Stacy Frenchwood presented a Texas Education Agency overview and resource guide for meeting the needs of students in foster care. A handout was provided. A silent auction will be held at the December meeting. Clinic items of socks and underclothes were collected and will be delivered to a Fort Bend area school campus.

The Greater Houston Area Coordinating Council reception and luncheon was discussed.

The November meeting will be in the home of Nancy Dobbs.

The "Annie Calls" program was discussed. Members reported the positive and delightful conversations with former members, but they are not interested in rejoining due to other priorities at this time. Reserve members, Ramona Nance and Noni Ripley continue to send their regards.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT November, 2013

Checking balance reported in October.....\$2065.20

Receipts + \$97.57

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Fall Luncheon (2 x \$30)) | 60.00 |
| Reserve Dues (1 x \$28) | 28.00 |
| Raffle | 9.00 |
| Dividends for October | .57 |

Disbursements - \$105.00

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| GHACC Luncheon (3 x \$30) | 90.00 |
| Stamps | 9.20 |
| Yearbook Mail-outs | 5.80 |

Current checking account balance \$2057.77

Current Savings Balance \$1048.16

Current CD Balance \$1554.75

Total assets of chapter \$4668.11



Reminders!!

Can you bring some of these items to the meeting? We will continue to collect these at our meetings. Below is a list of what we are collecting to support various service projects this year. Thanks for your generosity!

- New or gently used coats, jackets, hoodies or blankets
- New packages of underwear and socks for elementary schools
- Spare change for schools for Africa



Upcoming Attraction—

Silent Auction !!

Last December we carried off the best **silent auction** ever! To date, this was one of our largest fundraisers! Let's do it again!

Your challenge: to create something handmade to put in the auction! Food, arts, crafts, services...can all be in the auction. *Again, we ask that these special items be handmade!* So, get those creative juices flowing and come up with something original as well as a "little something" for members and guests to purchase for those last minutes gifts!



Please invite guests to our **December 16** meeting! Miriam's home is always beautiful and special this time of year! So bring friends and family! Let's "bring it on!"



UNUSUAL NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

November 7th: International Tongue Twister Day

How much wood could a woodchuck chuck, if a woodchuck could chuck wood? Whether you're in unique New York or selling seashells by the seashore, show off your impressive command of diction today.



November 15th: Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day

Or as we like to call it, "Discover the science project you didn't know you had growing in your refrigerator Day."



November 18th: Use Less Stuff Day

Although the advertising industry works terribly hard to convince us that we never quite have enough stuff, many of us probably use way more stuff than we need. Take the day to reflect on exactly which kinds of stuff are excessive in your day-to-day life, and how you might reduce using said stuff.

November 19th: International Men's Day

You may be hard-pressed to find anyone who believes men are internationally underrepresented, but someone still deemed the male gender worthy of a world-wide holiday. **The theme of this year's men's day** is health, more specifically "Helping Men and Boys Live Longer, Happier, and Healthier Lives."



November 23rd: National Day of Listening

Sponsored by oral history nonprofit StoryCorps, this year's **National Day of Listening** honors teachers. The organization has asked everyone wanting to participate to take a few minutes to thank a teacher (or two).

November 28th: Red Planet Day

The fourth planet from the sun, and home to a future dystopian civilization according to *Total Recall*, gets its own day of honor in November. And what a year to celebrate, after NASA's successful landing of the rover on Mars this past August! Plot out your dream Mars colony, wear all red, or perhaps read stories of the Roman God of War—whatever Red Planet activity suits your fancy!



November 29th: National Square Dance Day

Despite its close association with cowboys and honky-tonk bars, the square dance actually originated in Europe in the 17th century. However, the United States has since taken over its cultural reins, so much so that 19 states have declared it their official dance.