



Gamma Nus

Gamma Nu Chapter 85, Area III, Alpha State, Texas
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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Baytown, Texas



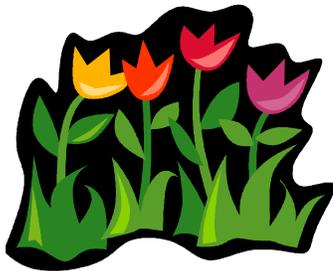
Co-President's Message

Dear Gamma Nu Sisters,

As I look back at the two years since Kathy and I became Co-Presidents of Gamma Nu, it brings up such wonderful memories of bonds of friendship that have been strengthened, lessons learned, skills developed, and many fun times. What a blessing it is to work with Kathy and with all of you in this society. I cannot imagine a more educated, talented, and interesting group of people than members of Gamma Nu and Delta Kappa Gamma.

I am so excited that this month we will be installing an excellent group of women as our new officers. They will continue to make this organization a place to unite and honor women educators. As they take their place of leadership in the coming months, may we all pledge to support their efforts, be ready to offer our help, and make attendance at meetings a priority. As possible, try to attend area workshops, state conventions, and international meetings. As your vision of Delta Kappa Gamma widens, you will see even more ways that the society can enrich your life. Thank you for the opportunity to serve these last two years.

Margaret Ehlig



Red Roses to...

- **Delores Ellis** and the Necrology Committee for a beautiful ceremony celebrating Alice Swain's life
- **Carolyn James** and the Music Committee for providing music at the Necrology Service and before the Love INC program with the song, *Lean on Me*
- **Susan Passmore** for arranging for the informative Love INC program
- Gamma Nu Sisters for bringing donations for Love INC
- Everyone who participated in the raffle designated for Love INC
- **Sherry Otahal** for presenting the meditation
- **Anna Whiteley** for leading the Chapter Collect
- **Kay Hill** for a legislative update
- **Pattie Maltzberger** for recognizing 25-year member **Yolanda Irby-Smith**
- **Pat Thomas** and the Membership/Achievement Committee for the delicious refreshments
- The Ceremonials; Auditing; Finance/Budget Committees for providing exciting raffle items



White Roses to...

Sharon Peebles upon the passing of her father, R. P. Hill



Mission Statement

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



March Meeting



Susan Passmore gives donations to Beth Thompson of Love INC.



Patty Maltzberger congratulates Yolanda Irby-Smith for her 25 years of membership in DKG.



Attendance Data

March.... 27 members + 2 guests



April Birthdays

4 Catherine Rangel

13 Monteze Botkin

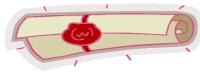
Delta Kappa Gamma
Vision Statement



Leading women educators impacting
education worldwide.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

GAMMA NU SCHOLARSHIPS



The purpose of the Gamma Nu Chapter local scholarship is to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate studies, professional development, or personal growth and study. Any active chapter member is eligible.

Deadline to apply: **April 27, 2012.**

Send completed application to **Yolanda Irby-Smith.**

Mail-in information is on the attached application. Scholarship application on the Gamma Nu Website is interactive. Members can type on this form, save it, and print or email it. –Yolanda Irby-Smith

GIVE ME 5—WHAT DOES DKG MEAN TO YOU?

When you reflect on your membership in Delta Kappa Gamma, what words come to mind? The Society vocabulary we all associate with our organization are words like *key women educators, worldwide, professional, excellence, education*, and many more. We want to hear your words. We will be video-taping members in 1 minute segments as they hold up and tell about their 5 words. If you'd like to participate, bring your words to the March or April meeting. These Gamma Nu videos will be sent to the state membership committee to be compiled along with other Texas DKG chapters. They will be shown at the convention at Las Colinas in June.

Are you planning to retire this year? If so, please let us know so that you can be honored at the banquet in May.



Join Us



Annual Founders' Day Banquet

Thursday, May 10

This year's Founders' Day Banquet will be at the Goose Creek Country Club on May 10 at 6:00. You may turn in your money (\$25) and reservation form at the April meeting or mail it to Carolyn Francis at 2104 Buchanan Drive, Baytown, TX 77520-5607 by the Monday, April 23 deadline.

April Meeting

Explore: Educational, Social, and Travel Possibilities

Presentation by Lynne Foley of Lee College

Installation of Officers—Ceremonials Committee

Thursday, April 12, 2012 5:00 p.m.

First Christian Church

201 Forrest Ave

Raffle Items: Scrapbook/Archives; Yearbook Committees

Snacks: Communication/Newsletter; Legislation

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ella Moreaux and the Yearbook Committee for receiving the *Exemplary Award for Chapter Yearbook* for 2011-12 from the Texas State Yearbook Committee. Well done!!!!



Done that, ' bean' there in first grade
By Wanda Orton**

With school starting again, we sentimental souls have a tendency to look back on our first day in the first grade.

I don't remember much about Day One at San Jacinto Elementary School – it's been a while – but I do recall how happy I was to be placed in Ruth O'Grady's class. By Day Two, however, I was told to relocate to Alma Miller's class.

Oh no!

While I had nothing against Mrs. Miller, I happened to be acquainted already with the sweet Mrs. O'Grady and I planned to stay right where I was, thank you.

In Sunday school I had played the triangle in Mrs. O'Grady's rhythm band and was anxious to renew this musical connection. Reading, writing and arithmetic would have to play second fiddle to my first love, the triangle. I couldn't wait to pick up that special stick and clink, clank, clunk, making a joyful noise on the three-prong instrument. This was my vision of life in the first grade.

Come to find out, Mrs. O'Grady's first-grade class was not a rhythm band. She was there to teach reading, writing and arithmetic. Furthermore, the head count in her class went over quota and a certain number of pupils had to be transferred to the other first-grade class.

I threw a fit, stomping my feet, crying, staging a performance remindful of a Bette Davis movie tantrum.

The CEO of San Jacinto Elementary was not impressed. "She goes whether she likes it or not," Principal A.N. Foster said -- or words to that effect.

Even though Mrs. Miller never conducted a rhythm band, she turned out to be an excellent teacher, and we were blessed to have this dedicated educator presenting the basics, preparing us for academic years beyond the first-grade horizon.

Most important, however, was learning an essential lesson in life, and that is -- news flash! -- we can't always get our way. The lesson, in my case, began with the class transfer controversy and culminated a few months later on stage in the school auditorium.

Classes at San Jacinto took turns presenting plays for assembly programs, and we were next in line.

But did I win the role I wanted, that of a lovely fairy princess gowned in taffeta and net, wielding sparkling wand?

Nope. I was a lima bean.

I can't recall what my costume looked like, only that it was green. You know -- lima green.

At the time I didn't realize that this veggie tale was preparing me for future roles I didn't like but had to do anyway.

For example, in a Robert E. Lee High School Spanish Club play, directed by teacher Mildred Harrell, I played the rear end of a donkey. The front end was Cathy Pyle. I don't remember other actors in more visible roles, but, whoever they were, they kept shouting at us: "Arre, burro, arre!" It was a bad scene but it could have been worse. Cathy and I could have been lima beans.

Later on at REL, in a one-act play for an assembly program, drama teacher Clare Farrar cast me in the role of a cleaning woman in rags, dragging a mop, broom and bucket. Again, it could have been worse, if you know what I mean.

So listen up, first graders. Life is not always a bowl of cherries.

Sometimes it's one big green lima bean.



**Wanda Orton, honorary member of Gamma Nu since 1984, was my neighbor on Elmwood Street for many years. Until she retired in 1994, she was managing editor of the *Baytown Sun*. She now lives in Fredericksburg but still pens two columns for the paper each week. She also writes for *Texas Escapes Online Magazine*. I asked her if she could share with us some of her articles about education. I especially enjoyed this article since I am the librarian at San Jacinto. This piece first appeared in the *Baytown Sun* on September 4, 2011. -- Margaret Ehlig

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Gamma Nu Chapter
Baytown, Texas
Minutes for Thursday, March 8, 2012

A necrology service was held for Gamma Nu charter member Alice Swain in the sanctuary of First Christian Church.

The meeting was held at First Christian Church. Refreshments were provided by the Membership/Achievement Committee.

Program.

The program began with the song "Lean on Me" presented by the music committee.

Susan Passmore introduced Beth Thompson of Love INC. Beth presented an interesting program about this organization and its purposes and needs. Gamma Nu members brought various items to donate to Love INC. Margaret Ehlig announced that proceeds from the March raffle will also be donated to Love INC.

Call to Order/Welcome

Margaret Ehlig called the meeting to order. There were 27 members present and 2 guests.

Opening Ceremonies

Sherry Otahal presented the meditation. Anna Whiteley led members in the Chapter Collect and Carolyn James led members in the Chapter Response.

Business

Minutes from the February 2012 meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Reports

Presidents' Report

GIVE ME FIVE - Kathy told about a project that has been requested for the state convention. Members are asked to highlight, in five words, their feelings about Delta Kappa Gamma. An opportunity was provided to videotape Gamma Nu members after the meeting and will again be offered at April's meeting. These will be shown at the convention in June.

Kathy reminded members about the banquet on May 10, 2012 at Goose Creek Country Club. Epsilon Psi will be hosting the banquet. When reservation forms are available, they will be sent out to members via email.

Kathy asked members to inform her if they are retiring. Roseanna Henrichsen and Mona Bonds stated that they are retiring.

The Area III Workshop will be held September 15, 2012 at Berry Miller Jr. High School in Pearland. A sign up form was passed around at the meeting. Cost per person is \$20. Members should give their registration check to the treasurer.

Support Early-Career Educators. The Educational Excellence Committee has established an initiative to support early-career educators. This committee has recommended a program as a model for chapters across the Society called Teachers Helping Another Teacher (THAT). The program encourages chapters to be creative in support of early-career educators. All chapters are to keep a record of the hours and the money that we contribute. Then a (phony) check representing the total value of members' support will be presented to a government official in 2012. This will be a concrete way to show how much our Society contributes to education.

The state convention in Las Colinas will be June 21-24. Kathy encouraged members to attend the convention. Three rooms have been reserved. Registration forms for the convention are available. Chapters are asked to bring new books, along with writable DVDs in clear cases, to the convention. This is a TSO project that helps keep deployed military families connected through their participation in United Through Reading. The United Through Reading website www.unitedthroughreading.org has book lists from which to choose appropriate books for the program for those who are interested in participating. Next month our raffle proceeds will allow us to purchase books to take to the convention to help support this project.

Corresponding Secretary - Karen Stephens. Karen read correspondence from Willie Terry and a thank you note from Barbara Culp.

Treasurer - Mona Bonds. The treasurer's report was approved and will be filed for audit.

Legislation - Kay Hill. Kay talked about possible changes in the Teachers' Retirement System. Teachers receive a standard annuity now, but there is talk about changing to a "defined pension plan." Each teacher would be responsible for putting funds into an IRA or a retirement program. If this new change is implemented, retired teachers would not be guaranteed a fixed annuity each month. There is information about this on the Alpha State website. Those teachers several years away from retirement should be concerned about this proposed change.

Local Scholarships - Yolanda Irby Smith. The local scholarship application is on the Gamma Nu website. \$300 scholarships will be awarded at the banquet.

Unfinished Business

New officers for 2012-2014 were voted upon. Those newly elected officers are:

President: Pam Ansley

First Vice President: Karen Stephens

Second Vice President: Adela Pirzadeh

Recording Secretary: Lori Janick

Corresponding Secretary: Marie Drewnowski

The nominating committee was also voted upon. Those elected to the nominating committee were: Barbara Culp (hold-over member), Marie Drewnowski, Pattie Maltsberger, Pat Thomas and Adela Pirzadeh.

New Business.

There was no new business.

Announcements.

Pattie Maltsberger presented kind words to Yolanda Irby Smith for her 25 years of membership in Delta Kappa Gamma. Margaret Ehlig added that Yolanda will be recognized at the Area III workshop.

Relay for Life - Pat Thomas. We received \$185 in luminary sales at the meeting. Gamma Nu is now a bronze member of Relay for Life.

Margaret reminded new members to get their DKG membership pins from Mona Bonds.

Thoughts of Others.

Students of Carlos Pages

Margaret Ehlig - new grandchild

Barbara Wilson's father passed away

March Birthdays - Carolyn James led members in the Birthday song for Katherine George, Yolanda Irby-Smith, Patty Russell, Meg Galloway, Precious Reimonenq, Kathy Littlefield, Ella Moreaux, and Jan Cobb.

Raffle: \$82 was raised. Proceeds will be given to Love INC.

Adjournment

Susan Passmore announced that the next meeting will be held at First Christian Church on April 12, 2012. Lynne Foley of Lee College will give the program. Snacks will be provided by the Communication/Newsletter; Legislation Committees, and raffle items will be provided by the Scrapbook/Archives; Yearbook committees.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song led by Carolyn James.

Nedra Bradley

Margaret Ehlig & Kathy Littlefield

Recording Secretary

Co-Presidents

International Website

www.deltakappagamma.net

Alpha State, Texas Website

www.alphastatetexas.org

Gamma Nu

www.gammanutexas.weebly.com

Gamma Nus

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