



Gamma Nus

Gamma Nu Chapter 86, Area III, Alpha State, Texas
Volume 72 Issue 5

January 2012

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Baytown, Texas



Co-President's Message

Dear Gamma Nu Sisters,

Acts of Kindness.

It made my heart sing over the holidays to hear positive news. A few complete strangers anonymously paid off layaways for parents who had been unable to keep up with payments for their children's Christmas toys and clothing. Word of this phenomenon spread rapidly on the Internet and through posts on Facebook. Then across the country, similar random acts of kindness followed.

I thought about our last few months in Gamma Nu. Together we gave treats to teachers on a busy week, supplied Christmas books for first graders, donated storybooks which will be taped by incarcerated mothers and sent to their children to hear their mothers' voices read to them, funded Christmas for a needy Baytown family, and gave a boost to two new teachers in the form of grants-in-aid. Gamma Nu Sisters have offered "planned acts of kindness."

I love this quote by Edith Lovejoy Pierce. "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

I'll see you at Nedra's home for our January meeting.

Happy New Year,
Kathy Littlefield



Red Roses to...

- **Carolyn James** and the Music Committee for the delicious, Italian dinner
- **Delores Ellis** and the Necrology Committee for festive raffle items
- **Kathryn George** for delivering donated Christmas cards to nursing home residents
- **Susan Passmore** for coordinating and delivering Christmas gifts to a needy family
- **Yolanda Irby-Smith** and Gamma Nu past presidents for choosing two grant-in-aid recipients
- All Gamma Nu sisters for their generosity in supporting Gamma Nu projects
- The Nominating Committee - **Carolyn James, Susan Passmore, Laura Reyes, Barbara Culp,** and **Sherry Burr** for beginning the process of asking members to hold offices for the next biennium.



Mission Statement

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

December Meeting



Southeast Texas Choral Society performs for Gamma Nu Sisters on December 8, 2011

The recipients of Gamma Nu's grants-in-aid will be in attendance at our meeting and will be recognized.

January Meeting

"Explore: A New Year—A New You!!! Health & Fitness Presentation by Michelle Carlson, personal trainer"

Joint meeting with Epsilon Psi

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

Home of Nedra Bradley

5103 Colson Lane

Raffle Items: A Storybook Christmas Committee

Snacks: Social Committee

Let's all attend this meeting and be ready to welcome our sisters from Epsilon Psi!!!!

Attendance Data

December.... 33 members
+ 10 guests



January Birthdays:

1 Jean Follis

10 Ann Barrios

17 Mary Elizabeth Wilbanks

18 Julia Retz

19 Carol Mitchell

White Roses to



The family of Gamma Nu charter member Alice Swain who passed away on December 18, 2011 at the age of 106.

Delta Kappa Gamma
Vision Statement



Leading women educators impacting
education worldwide.

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!!!

On **February 9**, we will have our annual auction. Be there to see our famous auctioneer, Mary Jane Ethridge, in action! This is always a fun-filled meeting and a great place to purchase gifts for Valentine's Day.

What can you bring?

- A friend (someone who is not a member of Gamma Nu)
- Item(s) for the auction
- Your checkbook or cash



SALE



We hope everyone can be there, but if you cannot attend, please send a donation or send cash or a check with another member and ask them to purchase an item for you.



The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society

Gamma Nu Chapter

Baytown, Texas

Minutes for Thursday, December 8, 2011

The meeting was held at First Christian Church. Dinner was provided by the Music Committee. Raffle items were provided by the Necrology Committee.

The Southeast Texas Choral Society presented a program entitled *Light Up Your Life with Music*. The choir performed several folk and holiday songs. The program concluded with a Christmas carol sing-a-long with Gamma Nu members.

Call to Order/Welcome

Kathy Littlefield called the meeting to order. There were 33 members present and 10 guests. Kathy thanked the Southeast Texas Choral Society for their wonderful program.

Opening Ceremonies – Pat Thomas gave the opening prayer. Carolyn James led members in the Chapter Collect and

Response.

Business

Recording Secretary. The November minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Reports

Presidents' report. Kathy called on Margaret to give the Presidents' report. Margaret reminded committee chairs that committee reports are due February 1, 2012. Margaret provided forms for the reports at the meeting. The forms are also available on the DKG International website. Committee chairmen should send a copy of their report both to their state counterpart and to Kathy and Margaret.

Corresponding Secretary – Karen Stephens. Karen read thank you notes from Sue Weir and Sandra May.

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

A Storybook Christmas – Patty Russell. On December 6, seven members of Gamma Nu and members of Epsilon Psi met at Travis Elementary to pack books for *A Storybook Christmas*. Students will receive their books on December 14. A Baytown Sun photographer came to Travis to photograph members of Gamma Nu and Epsilon Psi members while they were packing the books. The photos will appear with an article the Baytown Sun is writing about the project. Patty also mentioned that Travis Elementary raised \$512.50 for the *Storybook Christmas* project from their auction. Wynona Montgomery said that the Thursday Book Review Club donated \$191 to *A Storybook Christmas* project. (Update – The total is now \$201.)

Grants-in-Aid. Yolanda Irby-Smith announced the names of the recipients of the grants-in-aid. The first recipient is Mallery Kerr from Travis Elementary, a first year kindergarten teacher. She plans to use her grant to purchase materials to organize Writer's Workshop lessons and activities, literacy stations, and student files and supplies. The second recipient, from Gentry Junior School, is David Clarke. David teaches social skills to students in grades 6-8 on the Autism Spectrum. He plans to purchase a Promethean ActivPen or ActivWand with his grant. Each of these recipients will receive a grant of \$300.

Yolanda suggested three recommendations for next year's grant-in-aid application process:

1. The application needs to be updated.
2. More effort should be given to recruiting applicants.
3. More emphasis should be given to applicants' creativity and interaction with students.

Wynona mentioned that we need a more definitive list of grant-in-aid eligible teachers.

Relay for Life – Pat Thomas brought luminary forms to the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Christmas Cards for Nursing Home Residents. Kathy Littlefield thanked members for bringing Christmas cards to the meeting. Katherine George will deliver the cards to nursing homes. Forty eight cards were donated.

Donations for Needy Family. Susan Passmore gave an update on apparel that will be purchased for the needy family. Gamma Nu members contributed a total of \$350.00 for the project. This will be enough money to buy clothes for the family and to purchase a \$75 gift card from a grocery store.

New Business

Announcements

Melissa Contreras decided not to join Gamma Nu at this time. Brenda Miller will be initiated in March.

Women's Storybook Project – Wynona Montgomery thanked members for bringing 72 books to the December meeting. An additional donation of \$12 will enable Wynona to purchase two more books. Wynona spoke to Judith Dullnig, director of the Women's Storybook Project of Texas. Judith thanked Wynona for Gamma Nu's support.

STAR Award. The Star award will be given at the next meeting.

Scholarship Auction. Kathy gave a reminder from Jan Cobb for members to take advantage of Christmas sales when shopping for the February auction. Pattie Maltzberger suggested that members invite non Gamma Nu members to the auction.

Raffle Winners: Katherine George announced winners of the raffle. Proceeds of \$61 from the raffle will go to the Women's Storybook Project of Texas.

December Birthdays: Pat Thomas, Nedra Bradley, Kay Hill, Brenda Miller, Jeanette Edmiston

Thoughts of Others: Precious Reimonenq's son, Myles, Pat Thomas, and Sue Weir

Adjournment.

Susan Passmore announced that the next meeting will be held at the home of Nedra Bradley on January 12, 2012. This will be a joint meeting of Gamma Nu and Epsilon Psi. The program will be a health and fitness presentation by personal trainer Michelle Carlson.

Refreshments – Social Committee

Raffle – *A Storybook Christmas* Committee

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

Nedra Bradley

Recording Secretary

Margaret Ehlig & Kathy Littlefield

Co-Presidents