



## TSO honors sisters' service

### State Achievement Award Honorees

Seven TSO members were honored at the 94<sup>th</sup> TSO Convention in McAllen and at their homes this summer.



State Achievement Awards went to three ladies. **Donna Morehead** of Area 11's Pi Chapter, **Brenda Pearson** of Area 18's Mu Pi Chapter and **Rene Pittman** of Area 11's Zeta Delta Chapter are this year's honorees.

**Vickie Allen** of Area 9's Nu Delta Chapter, **Lou Brown** and **Katherine Bunce** of Area 1's Kappa Pi Chapter and **Ann Mahan** of Area 8's Lambda Chapter have been awarded with our Golden Rose.



Once each year the Achievement Awards Committee solicits nomination forms, then selects and recognizes members who have rendered outstanding service to Texas State Organization. Two awards, the State Achievement Award and the Golden Rose Award, can be given, depending on the contributions made by the nominee. Complete information and nomination forms can be found at [www.dkgtxas.org](http://www.dkgtxas.org).

Nomination forms for both awards are available for submission on the *Forms page*. Although the forms are not due until February 1, 2024, it is helpful to start early collecting the necessary information. All submissions must be electronic and emailed to the Achievement Awards Committee chair, Connie Hernandez at [tsoawards@gmail.com](mailto:tsoawards@gmail.com).

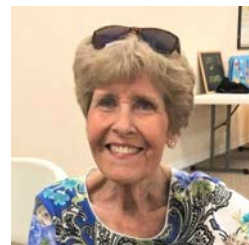
Chapters are also encouraged to recognize members regularly through various ways, such as the Chapter Achievement Award rose guard, certificates, roses, small gifts and newsletter articles. These types of recognition make members feel special and appreciated. Remember these words by William Arthur Ward: "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." Saying "thank you" for a job well done brings smiles to everyone.

## ASTEF honors Davis with Advocate for Education

Sherri Davis, founder and chief executive officer of Special Hearts in the Arts, is ASTEF's seventh Advocate for Education. For more about Sherri, go to [astef.org](http://astef.org). See page five for more from ASTEF.



### Golden Rose Award Honorees



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## 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.

**Seek** new members and opportunities  
**Open** your heart, mind, and attitude  
**Act** to serve and share  
**Reach** to renew, respond, and relate

How will TSO **SOAR**? Each member should **Seek** and invite one member to join us. It is easy. Find one member in 365 days. Be open to other ideas, thoughts and possibilities. On June 22, 2024, we will be holding our first Regional Area Workshops. Seven regions holding the same event on the same day. This is new—let's try it with an **Open** mind and attitude. Every chapter should **Act** to serve their members and community. Plan and do programs or projects that add value to both. Relationships are absolutely the key to gaining and retaining members. Are you **Reaching** out to renew relationships? Are you **Reaching** out to respond to the needs of your members?

All of this can be done if each member will communicate and share their ideas, thoughts, concerns, and challenges. Communicate with your Area Coordinator and the Executive Committee. Have questions or want to share ideas, contact the TSO president, and together we will **SOAR**.



Bonnie Moore  
Texas State President  
2023 - 2025



### **Breaking News From Bonnie**

Our next two TSO conventions have been scheduled. Mark these on your calendars.

2025 TSO Convention at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in Denton, Texas June 23-27

2027 TSO Convention at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in San Marcos, Texas June 14-18

Bonnie

# Tips from TSO HQ: Fall checklist for chapters

Welcome to the new 2023-25 biennium for DKG TSO. Below is a checklist that will help chapter leaders ensure that important deadlines are being met. Check off those completed and make time for those not yet completed.

- Dues for 2023-24 collected from chapter members.  
Paid chapter members processed in the Dues Portal.  
Payments mailed to DKG International & DKG TSO headquarters.
- Download updated forms from DKG International website at Chapter Connect.
  - Form 18A Report of Dropped Members submitted for members not renewing.
  - Form 6 Report of Death submitted for deceased members.
  - Form 110 submitted to report changes in Chapter Officers.
  - Form 87 submitted to report a change in Chapter Treasurer (IRS requirement).
- Chapter member contact information updated in the Dues Portal.
- Explore the DKG Texas Treasurer's Page for support documents and timely information. <https://www.dkgtexas.org/treasurers-page.html>
- Add to chapter calendar the deadlines noted on the dynamic calendar in the President's Kit.
- Submit the annual IRS 990n e-Postcard filing
  - GOAL: file by Oct. 1 to avoid reminder calls and emails.
  - TIP: 2-factor authentication ID.me sign-in is now required.  
Allow extra time if this sign-in was not created last year.  
Support documents are on the DKG Texas Treasurer's Page.
- Reach out to the area Finance Mentor as needed (TSO Finance Committee Member):  
Ellen Laughlin, Chair: Areas 2, 3, 18 [FinanceTSO@gmail.com](mailto:FinanceTSO@gmail.com)  
Libby Horton: Areas 1, 9, 17 [HortonRanch@yahoo.com](mailto:HortonRanch@yahoo.com)  
Susan Duke: Areas 4, 5, 6 [DukeSusan2@gmail.com](mailto:DukeSusan2@gmail.com)  
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## Dates to Remember

### September 1

Cornetet Application  
Window Opens  
([dkg.org/DKGIEF](http://dkg.org/DKGIEF))

### September 15

990n Filing Soon  
Arts & Humanities Submissions Due  
International Officer/Elected Committees  
Endorsement Forms Due

### October 1

Bulletin: Journal Submissions  
Amendments to the Constitution &  
International Standing Rules

### October 2

International Drops  
Members for Non-Payment

### November 1

Cornetet Applications Due  
STAR Registration  
TSO Fall Mini-Grant  
Application  
LSN Winter Edition Article  
Submission Deadline  
Early Bird Yearbook

### November 15

IRS 990n Filing Due

### December 1

State Personnel Expense & Travel  
Reports

### December 15

Bulletin: Collegial Exchange  
Submissions  
Delta Kappa Gamma Ignite Application

## Workshops & Conventions

### June 22, 2024

TSO Regional Workshops

### July 9-13, 2024

International Convention  
National Harbor, MD

## TSO Headquarters' Holiday Closings

October 9-Columbus/Indigenous  
Peoples' Day

November 20-24-Thanksgiving

December 19-January 2-Christmas

## LEGISLATION TRS COLA 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.

What needs to be done?

1. Be ready. The deadline to register to vote in this election is October 10. Early voting begins October 23 and ends November 3. The general election is November 7.
2. Be informed. To learn more about the COLA, go to [trta.org/cola-faq](http://trta.org/cola-faq).
3. Get involved. Share information at chapter meetings. Inform friends and family outside of education of the importance of Proposition 9.

For more information on all fourteen propositions, visit [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov) or [vote411.org/Texas](http://vote411.org/Texas). On the TSO Legislation Committee page there is a handout on election dates, ID requirements and how to vote by mail.

## Recommit to DKG

As the new year begins it is the perfect time to consider having a recommitment ceremony. What a perfect way for members to reflect on their membership and what DKG means to them. Ideas for a recommitment ceremony are located on the DKG Texas website under Ceremonies. There is even a virtual ceremony. More ideas can be found in the DKG Ceremonies book (2011) and on the international website under Resources/Ceremonies. Take time to conduct this meaningful ceremony and allow members to reconnect and renew their passion to DKG on all levels. Recommitment will lead to more engaged members and thus a stronger chapter. For questions, contact Ceremonies Chair Dr. Barbara Derrick or any of the members of the Ceremonies Committee.

CEREMONIES

## WOMEN IN THE ARTS Come sail away to celebrate 10 years of



The Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat will be TEN years old in 2024. To celebrate, a summer cruise has been planned. STAR at SEA will happen July 18-22, 2024. The Royal Caribbean ship will leave Galveston with a stop in Cozumel. Come participate in sea-worthy arts and crafts, or come for the fellowship! To book your room please call LuAnn Harden at Frosch Travel at 332-223-6857 or email her at [luann.harden@frosch.com](mailto:luann.harden@frosch.com). Be sure to tell her you are with STAR. For more details, visit the STAR website at <http://spectaculartexasartsretreat.weebly.com/>.



# Convention events raise funds; stipends awarded

ASTEF Directors are proud to announce an unaudited total of \$21,341.65 raised at the McAllen convention through the ticketed event, registration donations and the various fundraising activities on site. Our TSO members continue to show their passion for Project Stipends and Aspiring Educator Grants. This year, ASTEF Awarded \$12,000 in Aspiring Educator Grants and \$36,703.90 in Project Stipends. All money raised through the convention goes into the “projects” fund supporting ASTEF Project Stipends and Aspiring Educator Grants. Thank you for contributing to the efforts of ASTEF to continue to fund TSO Leadership, Scholarship and Projects. Keep in mind, a donation to ASTEF is a great way to honor a friend in DKG or memorialize someone. Go to [astef.org](http://astef.org) to donate online or to download the donation form.



## ASTEF elects new leaders



**Janet Helmcamp**

As part of the ASTEF annual meeting in McAllen, the new slate of leaders was announced. **Janet Helmcamp**, Alpha Gamma (10), was named as the new president. Joining the team are Immediate Past ASTEF President **Dr. Rosemary Morrow**, Alpha (7); Vice-President for Programs **Connie Hernandez**, Mu Kappa (15); Vice-President for Marketing **Trudy Matus**, Mu Upsilon (2); Vice-President for Advancement **Pat Bumpus**, Omicron (3); Vice-President for Finance and Administration **Suzanne Stidom**, Beta Phi (10); and Secretary **Janie Wigley**, Gamma Beta (9).

Also elected were new directors. The ASTEF Directors Class of 2023-2029 are Kimbra Bishop, Sherri Davenport, Dr. Cynthia Hopkins, Cooke Johnson, Donna Morehead and Nancy Varljen.



**Dr. Rosemary Morrow**



**Connie Hernandez**



**Trudy Matus**



**Pat Bumpus**



**Suzanne Stidom**



**Janie Wigley**



ASTEF raised funds with their Silent Auction, Mystery Mania, Arm Length of Tickets and a Kendra Scott Pop-Up Shop

# McAllen Convention Center brings TSO together

Convention volunteers welcome attendees.



The temperatures were over the century mark outside, but the air conditioned comfort of the McAllen Convention Center welcomed sisters from all over Texas to meet and reunite as they took care of the business of the Society while having fun.

When not in break-out sessions, attendees browsed and shopped with the vendors, supported ASTEF by playing Mystery Mania and bid at the silent auction, admired the artistic talents of the youth artists and members in the two displays, ventured out into the city seeking new culinary adventures and spent time catching up.

Convention center staff welcomed sisters to the Opening Session with pitchers of Border Buttermilk—a concoction that included pink lemonade. Chapters and individuals were recognized for scholarships, leadership, yearbooks, newsletters and publishing original works. Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan, International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, gave attendees greetings and updates from International during the Business Meeting.



Xavier Villalobos, Mayor of McAllen, and Dr. J.A. Gonzalez, McAllen ISD Superintendent, welcomed TSO.



Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan grasps the gavel gifted to TSO by Dr. Annie Webb Blanton.

The ASTEF business meeting ended with the presentation of 24 project stipends!

Check out the listing of the recipients at [astef.org](http://astef.org). Following the meeting, Fascinating Fashion Journey, the ASTEF ticketed event, entertained with a fashion show. Featured was Annette Becker, Director of the College of Visual Arts & Design and the Texas Fashion Collection at the University of North Texas. She shared some of the history that has influenced fashion choices and transitions.

**Continued on page 7**



Sipping Border Buttermilk and awaiting the Opening Session.



Ellen Laughlin and Ella Gauthier tally quorum for the Business Meeting.

Socializing while waiting for the ASTEF event to start.



ASTEF's model directors

Annette Becker from Univ. of North







TSO Executive Board, 2021-2023



Bonnie Moore receives the gavel from Shalan Inmon



TSO Executive Board, 2023-2025

### Continued from page 6

Friday ended with the Presidents' and Founders' Banquet. The Ceremonies Committee used clues and costuming to quiz the crowd on their knowledge of the Founders. The highlight of the evening was the installation of the 2023-2025 TSO Officers. Incoming President Moore presented her theme **SOAR** to New Heights.



Ceremonies Committee

Saturday was a morning of celebration. The day started with the Ceremony of Remembrance honoring those sisters we have lost in the past year. Following the service, there was a reception to meet and honor the members with membership of 50 years or more. The final event of the 94<sup>th</sup> TSO Convention was the Celebration Brunch where selected members were awarded the Golden Rose and State Achievement Awards.

### Members with 50+ Years of Membership



Bobbie Duncan



Elva Garcia



Mary Kevorkian



Judy Norris

The TSO Chorus entertains at the Celebration Brunch.



Betty Paul



Betty Vines



Dr. Mary Ann Waldon



Kathryn Wright

Folklorico dancers entertained before the Brunch.



## Texas State Organization Remembers

*We mourn the passing and celebrate the lives of those cherished members of the Society whose deaths have been reported to the Texas Necrology Chairs Robyn Rucker and Dianne McCorcle, between April 1, 2023 and August 22, 2023. They are reported by their chapter and place of residence at the time of death using Form 6, Report of the Death of a Member, found at [www.dkgtxas.org](http://www.dkgtxas.org) under Committees - Necrology.*



Ruby L Cook, Gamma Eta - 12, Amarillo  
Melissa L Tubb, Eta Delta - 3, Spring  
Jewel Richardson, Iota Psi - 2, Livingston  
Carol Hernandez, Kappa Beta - 6, San Antonio  
C. Jean Bailey Campbell, Theta Phi - 2, Paris  
Claudia Mae McBride, Theta Alpha - 9, Dallas  
Allene Joyce Porter, Gamma Omega - 7, Bellville  
Joy Ann Kroeger, Gamma Omega - 7, Bellville  
Margret A Bates, Beta Tau - 6, San Antonio  
Marilyn L Curtis, Alpha Chi - 7, Bertram  
Judy S Fincher, Beta Omega - 1, Canton  
Patricia E Jaime, Epsilon Rho - 3, Deer Park  
Leila Dumas, Epsilon Kappa - 7, Wichita Falls  
Carole J Campbell, Epsilon Eta - 14, Midland  
Laura A Zito, Iota Rho - 2, Nederland  
Helen Ruth Mock, Zeta Lambda - 12, Colorado City  
Geraldine E Manlove, Eta Delta - 3, Houston

## Member News



**Hillary Terry**, Mu Epsilon (Sanger-16) and Area 16 Area Coordinator, has been selected to represent TASP as a Region 11 Outstanding Principal of the Year. Hillary is the principal of Valley View High School in Valley View, TX.

**Stefanie Wright**, Mu Epsilon (2) was awarded the \$10,000 Wayne A. Reaud Excellence in Education Award.

**Cheryl Roberts**, Eta Omega (Lake Jackson-4) has been recognized as the Region IV Assistant Principal of the Year.

**Dr. Elaine Wilmore**, Alpha Gamma (10) received the 2023 Living Legend Award for the International Council of Professors in Educational Leadership (ICPEL).

**Cynthia Hopkins**, Delta Psi (Corpus Christi-5) has received a Cornet Individual Professional Development Award to attend the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching by Science Teachers Association of Texas.

**Cynthia Hopkins**, Delta Psi (Corpus Christi-5) was chosen Region 2 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

## Hello from the new LSN editor

I wanted to take a little bit of space in this first issue to introduce myself. I am Pamela Burge of the Gamma Omicron Chapter in Area 4. I taught for 17 years at Kenedy Elementary in Kenedy, TX. Teaching was not my first career path. I have a BFA in Journalism from Southwest Texas State University. So by taking the helm of the *Lone Star News*, I am finally using my degree! I live in Yorktown and have for almost 50 years. I look forward to the adventures editing this publication and photographing our TSO events will bring. I would like to apologize in advance. This publication follows the AP Stylebook. BUT I am addicted to the Oxford comma, and that little bugger just may slip in here and there.





# TSO planning Regional Area Workshops

In the Winter 2022 *LSN*, IPSP Shalan Inmon presented the results of the surveys taken at the area workshops regarding attendance at conventions and workshops. The membership showed a willingness to try something new. That something new will be the Regional Area Workshops on June 22, 2024.

Seven Regional Area Workshops will take the place of both the TSO Convention and Area Workshops next year. The steering committee for each of these workshops is composed of the Mentors for the areas in the region, Area Coordinators and outgoing chapter presidents. Those mentors will appoint a Treasurer and a Registrar. All chapters will be asked to assist.



What will the Workshops look like? All seven workshops will perform the duties that convention and area workshop usually cover and follow the same agenda.

Trainings will be available for

- Presidents
- Treasurers
- Secretaries
- Membership
- Programs and Projects
- Communications: Newsletters, Yearbooks, Websites, Social Media
- Technology: Using Zoom, Google Docs, Website, etc.
- ASTEF

What about awards and recognitions? All of the honors that are announced and bestowed at convention will still happen. ASTEF project stipends, Golden Roses, State Achievement Awards, Members in Print, Media Awards and 50+ year members will be announced and recognized.

A Ceremony of Remembrance will also take place at each Workshop. The programs will list all TSO sisters who have passed with each region focusing on the members from that area who have been lost.

Registration will cost \$50 for the day. Lunch is included. For Chapter Presidents, or their designee, the registration fee will be waived.

The deadline for on-time registration is May 15, 2024. Registration on the day of the Workshop will be \$65, but there is no guarantee of a meal for late registrants.

To review all the details as they stand now, go to [dkgtexas.org](http://dkgtexas.org), click on Resources, choose Convention Resources, then choose 2023 McAllen Convention. The presentation given by Shalan Inmon, The Regional Area Workshops 2024 is available for viewing and sharing.

# Summertime and the plannin' is easy

Or at least it is cool thanks to air conditioning!

Area Coordinators and Committee Chairs gathered at the Hilton in Waco July 23-25, 2023 for the Leadership of State Personnel (LOSP) training. These women who answered President Bonnie Moore's call with a "yes" were lead by Chair Jo Murphy and the LOSP committee. They took TSO's Officers and staff through informational sessions and discussions to help kick off the new biennium.

The Area Coordinators started their team building on Sunday, July 23. Committee Chairs and other personnel joined the coordinators on Monday. Those attending spent all their time together either as a whole group or in small break out groupings. New friendships are built and longstanding ones were strengthened as these key women work together to learn new posts and responsibilities.

The newly installed TSO Executive Committee met during the summer to plan the new biennium. They attended international training in Dallas for all state leaders then had their own time with just the Texas team.



Mellie Smithwick, Bonnie Moore, Leesa Cole, Lynda Anderson, Judy Mezick, Stacy Arnold, Shalan Inmon and Janet Helmcamp zoom Jeanette Rhyan into the planning at the TSO Executive Committee's retreat.





# McMillan medals; meets her Fans

In honor of Carol McMillan's stepping down from her position as editor of this publication, Mary Claire Welch is sharing this with TSO.



Among Carol's Fans are TSO Past State Presidents:  
Patti Belknap, JoAnn Brooks, Marilyn Gregory, Dr. Mary Ann Waldon, Carol McMillan, Joanne Davis, Dr. Jo Murphy, Carolyn Adkins and Nancy Newton



*Learner*. Collaboration with Carol to contribute to the *Lone Star News* yielded descriptors from fans such as an *Encourager*, *Someone Who Possesses a Good Sense of Humor*, *Patient*, a *Good Friend* and *Pearl of a Friend* and *DKG Sister*.

One of the honors and privileges of membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is meeting new members, collaborating with them to accomplish projects, enjoying their achievements and discovering the gift of friendship that emerges through shared commitment. Carol McMillan deserves to be honored by a "Fan Club" of grateful Texas State Organization members who have been blessed by her best and most excellent qualities. Thank you, Carol, for your time, work, expertise, and grace. You have been our gift!

It is an honor to be a member of the "Carol McMillan Fan Club." At the Texas State Organization Convention held in McAllen, Texas, Carol McMillan was honored for being an outstanding DKG woman educator who has served as the *Lone Star News* Editor/ Photographer for the past ten years. The "Fan Club" of approximately two hundred members raised handheld fans with Carol's picture to their own faces waving them enthusiastically to celebrate Carol's generous contribution. Carol was honored with medals listing the attributes her fan club used to describe her.

They included *Educator of Excellence*, *Curious* and *Kind*. More fans described Carol as being *Diplomatic*, *Professional*, *Artistic* and a *Lifelong*



Peek-a-boo, Carol! Your fans see you.



Shalan Inmon, TSO President; Mary Claire Welch, TSO Personnel Chair; Carol McMillan, TSO Editor/ Photographer; and Cindy Neander, Personnel Committee Member during the "Carol McMillan Fan Club" Award Ceremony.



Gretchen Dupnik, Leesa Cole, Mary Claire Welch and Dr. Gloria Crum got honoree Carol McMillan's autograph.



# Kiitos Finland (Thank you Finland)!

Contributed by Connie Rinsink, International 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

The DKG International Conference in Tampere, Finland provided a dynamic balance of speakers, cultural experiences, and networking time. In addition to the theme of *Moving Forward with Vitality, Relevance, & Sustainability In Our Changing World*, there was an emphasis on making meaningful connections.



Above:  
Past, Present  
and Future  
Teachers

Below:  
Hopping Shoes  
Dancers



The opening night session included welcome messages from Tampere dignitaries and DKG leaders as well as a delightful performance by a local female musical trio. Members then traveled via bus to a reception and tour at the Vapriikki Museum Centre in Tallin. In addition to enjoying native appetizers and drinks, they reconnected with friends from other countries and visited the *Once Upon a Time, a Story of the Origins of Fairy Tales* exhibit.

European conferences focus on academic excellence, and the following two days were filled with keynote speeches and panels with experts in international education, neuroscience, sustainability, children's literature, and teacher models for the future. Awards and recognitions were interspersed within these general sessions. Over 25 workshops gave members the opportunity to engage with personal interests, DKG initiatives, and professional development. The topics included Teaching History for Russians in Estonia, Hexagonal Thinking, Diversity

Equity & Inclusion, Finnish Language Practice, A Common Reading Program, Sustaining Chapters, and many more. The Educators Book Award recipient, Denise Ammeraal Furlong, Ed.D., was there in person to offer a breakout session on her book *Voices of Newcomers: Experiences of Multilingual Learners*.

Thursday night at the park, the Friday grand dinner, and the Saturday final farewell luncheon gave participants a chance to interact with the active culture of Finland. Music, dancing, traditional food, and country trivia were presented by

both Finnish DKG members and members of the community. Some special highlights were a student accordion player, a dance group on hopping shoes, and a skit featuring past, present, and future educators in Finland.

Coffee breaks between sessions were planned with activities to help members meet someone new. In breakout sessions, time was given at the end for questions and conversation. The Forums met independently (US, Canada, and Europe) for one hour and then gathered together to have an interactive discussion on Happy Teacher, Happy Student and how the two intertwine. Tampere Hall was a beautiful venue connected to the conference hotel that made it easy for people to continue conversations at the end of each day. Throughout the conference people exchanged ideas, contact information and a lot of hugs. Meaningful connections were definitely made!



Above:  
Texas Members  
in Finland

To the Left:  
American  
Members in  
Finland

