



## Leader, mentor, friend, sister—TSO honors Nancy Newton



**Nancy Newton**, 2013 Past TSO President, died suddenly on November 4, 2023. Nancy pursued her passion for Home Economics at Texas Woman’s University, where she earned her degree. Just before graduating, Nancy met Ed Newton. After they were married, Ed continued his studies, and she worked on an elementary certification because Home Economics teaching positions were seldom open. She began teaching first grade when the couple moved to Mena, Arkansas. Her fellow teachers recognized her potential as a Delta Kappa Gamma member and invited her to join Alpha Kappa.

Ed decided to attend Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth to prepare for the ministry, and Nancy chose to work on a Master’s Degree in Religious Education. After graduating, the couple moved to Crowley, Texas. She transferred her DKG membership from Alpha Kappa in Arkansas to Iota Pi in Texas. Here, she began her successful ascent in the leadership of TSO. Nancy distinguished herself by overseeing an outstanding convention in Las Colinas, a posse of pigs to raise money for ASTEF, and Annie Calling, an initiative to reinstate members.

When Nancy entered a room, the room got brighter. The admiration wasn’t because she chaired many Texas State Organization committees, was a TSO Achievement Award Winner, or served as TSO President. It was because when she entered a room, she approached individual members with a smile and a twinkle in her eye, grasped their hands, asked about them, listened carefully and encouraged them. Each member lit up and added energy to the room. Nancy made many connections at each event, and the room became brighter with each one. Nancy was a caring woman, and TSO embraced her warmth with enthusiasm and was better for it.

There will be a celebration of Nancy’s life on January 27, 2024, at Alsbury Baptist Church in Burleson. It will be a come-and-go with the DKG ceremony at 3:00 pm.

## Regional Area Workshop plans progress

What is on your calendar for Saturday, June 22, 2024? When? Why? Hopefully, the Texas State Organization Regional Area Workshop is on your calendar. You are attending! What is this, you ask? The membership of TSO voted to try a convention every other year in odd-numbered years. This means the next convention will be in Denton in June 2025. We don’t want to miss honoring members and chapters and training chapter officers, so we are piloting the concept of the regional area workshop (RAW). Together, several areas will meet and share the day. Seven regional area workshops will be held across the state —SEE BONNIE’S MESSAGE PAGE 2

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Bonnie Moore  
Texas State President  
2023 - 2025

**BONNIE’S MESSAGE, from page 1**

on the same day. The schedule will be the same and everyone will share the learning, fellowship, and fun of what is hoped to be like a mini convention closer to home. The cost is \$50 and includes breakfast, lunch, supplies, facilities, and everything needed to enjoy the day. For many members, there is no overnight stay. For those living farther, it will be a one-night stay and several chapters have already talked about making it a “sisters’ weekend”.

Awards will be given, members and chapters honored for all their achievements, we will celebrate our birthday, attend sessions for learning and living and our dear, departed members will be remembered. There will be something for every TSO member. The Regionals are set as:

Northeast Career Center	Areas 1, 9, and 17	Rockwall – Dr. Gene Burton College and
Southeast	Areas 2, 3, and 18	Cleveland – Cleveland High School
South Coastal Bend School	Areas 4 and 5	Alice ISD - William Adams Middle
Central	Areas 6, 7, and 8	Austin ISD - McNeil High School
North Central	Areas 10 and 16	Decatur – Church of Christ
Northwest	Areas 11 and 12	Lubbock – St. Luke’s Methodist Church
Southwest	Areas 13, 14 and 15	Odessa – Westminster Presbyterian

Each RAW will begin with registration at 8:00 am and finish the day by 5:00 pm with a beautiful Necrology service. Our statewide project will be ASTEF (Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation). We are asking every member to **“Soar to New Heights by Investing in Education.”** At the birthday luncheon, we hope everyone will bring \$5.00 and invest in education and the projects ASTEF sponsors through the work of our chapters. As your president, I am giving up four trips to Starbucks and will have a \$20.00 bill ready to invest. Consider missing a coffee, a Sonic drink, or any other goodie you choose and invest that money in ASTEF.

Following the RAW, a survey will be done to determine if we want to continue this type of event in the even number years or go back to a convention every year. It’s up to the members. The Area Coordinator newsletter your chapter president receives each month along with the *Lone Star News* will keep you updated on the regional area workshops. Help us reach our goal of 1500 members meeting together and celebrating DKG in Texas.

# TSO HQ Tips, To-Do Items & Deadlines ...

Chapter Connect

## Dues & Membership Portal Tasks (Access the Portal from Chapter Connect)

- Dues orders for 2023-24 membership should be paid to both International & TSO — TIP: contact each HQ office if checks haven't cleared
- Members must have a valid email address in Member Management

## Dues Orders for 2023-24 membership

Dues Portal

- members joining, reinstating, or transferring in November & December pay full dues to International & TSO
- members joining in January & February, pay half-dues to International & TSO — TIP: verify the dues amounts before paying – contact International if half-dues are not calculated properly for **new members**
- TSO collects a scholarship fee for each member paying dues
- March 1-31: annual closing of the Dues Portal for 23-24 membership  
TIP: complete all entries by February 28

## Deadlines for recognition at the Regional Area Workshop on June 22, 2024

- March 1: TSO collects the annual membership snapshot from the Dues Portal data to recognize chapters for membership growth or maintenance
- April 1: Postmark date to TSO HQ for contributions to ASTEF & Eula Lee Carter Memorial Funds



## New from International:

### Finance Committee: Treasurer's Talk Zoom Meetings

- Meeting 1 materials from October 7 are found at Chapter Connect -- Items available: Zoom recording, Dues & Member Management Quick Tip Sheet, Electronic Payment Information
- Next meeting: January 6, 2024  
TSO Finance Committee will share the meeting information with chapters



## Convention July 9-13, 2024: National Harbor, Maryland

- Constitution and International Standing Rules to be discussed — TIP: Membership and Dues amendments will be on the list

## Dates to Remember

### December 15

Bulletin: Collegial Exchange Submissions  
Delta Kappa Gamma Ignite Application

### January 5

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws & Rules Chair

### January 22

Chapter President Survey Due

### February 1

Stare Achievement & Golden Rose Nominations Due  
LSN Spring Edition Deadline  
TSO Honorary Member Application  
Cornet International Scholarship Application  
Educators Book Award Submissions

### February 15

Arts & Humanities Submissions for Spring Gallery Due

### February 16

Regional Workshop Proposals

### March 1

TSO Scholarship Applications  
Spring Mini-Grant Applications Due  
International Achievement Award Recommendations  
DKGIEF Project Applications  
*Bulletin*: Journal Submissions

### March 15

Chapter Officer Slates Due to TSO  
Presidents' Kit Reports Due  
TSO Guideline Updates to TSO President

## Workshops & Conventions

### June 22, 2024

TSO Regional Workshops

### July 9-13, 2024

International Convention  
National Harbor, MD

## TSO Headquarters' Holiday Closings

December 19-January 2-Christmas

The Texas State Achievement Award or the Golden Rose Award are the highest honors bestowed upon a Texas DKG member, recognizing a member's contributions to the Texas State Organization over many years. To complete the Nomination Form for your chapter member, begin collecting your information using documents from member biographical forms, chapter archives, yearbooks, scrapbooks, convention programs, and TSO archives in Denton to complete the nomination. Nominations must be submitted electronically by the deadline. **The deadline is February 1, 2024.**

As the weather turns cooler and the holidays approach, it is time for chapters to look to the next biennium's leaders. March 15, 2024, is the deadline for submitting the new slate of chapter offers to TSO and International. The slate of officers has to be approved by a chapter vote.

The elected positions are president, first vice-president, second vice-president, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary. The new executive board will then appoint a treasurer and parliamentarian. Some chapters may not have both vice-president and secretary positions. Co-presidencies are acceptable, but only one of those names is to be submitted as the president of record for the chapter.

If a potential leader is on the fence about taking on a position, have members who have served in that position share about the duties and their experiences. Each biennium is different, so having more than one past officer share will give a broader idea of the jobs. Anyone considering one of these leadership positions should remember that no one does these jobs alone. There are members at the chapter level, an area coordinator, and state personnel ready to answer questions and give advice.

February 1

Cornetet International Scholarship

Go to MyDKG and click on Apply/Submit to find the details of all open applications.

Before applying, applicants have to have been accepted by and enrolled in an accredited program of graduate studies. To be eligible for the doctoral-level scholarship, applicants have to have been an active member of DKG for at least three years. Those seeking a master's degree have to have been a member for a minimum of one year.

March 1

TSO Mini-Grant \$750

Applicants can be active educators seeking professional development. She may also be retired and working as a consultant or a volunteer who wishes to expand her knowledge and skills base. The volunteer position has to be outside of Delta Kappa Gamma.

The mini-grant can be sought to cover traditional professional development such as workshops and conferences or for research opportunities on topics of professional interest. Other activities will be considered. It is up to the applicant to justify it in her application.

Attendance at DKG events—conventions, conferences and Regional Area Workshop—is not eligible for this award.

# ASTEFL Advancement at Work



The ASTEF Advancement Committee has been super hard at work. This year, we gave thanks to Texas education and educators and gave back and said, "Thanks-A-Latte." TSO/ASTEFL members can contribute by "Trimming the ASTEF Tree" as the holiday season rings in on Dec. 1. As trimming trees begins at home, ASTEF is also trimming our tree. Singing *Deck the Halls* and *O Christmas Tree*, we are hanging our stockings with care to finish out the end of the year on Santa's nice list. Just pick an ornament and give the gift of contribution and support to Texas educators and education.

From the Advancement committee, we send very warm wishes for a restful, blessed, Happy Holiday and a very Happy and Prosperous 2024!

[www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org)

## Alpha State Texas Education Foundation Year in review

All DKG, Texas State Organization members deserve congratulations and thanks. Whether they were inducted 60 years ago, 30, 20, or just last year, DKG members are special! DKG women were invited into membership because someone recognized their dedication to students and the field of education and/or teaching others. For this, all DKG TSO members are doubly honored as they are also members of ASTEF, the Education Foundation for our Texas State Organization.



With the help of our members, over the past year, ASTEF has:

- awarded \$12,000 in competitive stipends for aspiring educators,
- involved 345 women educators in a leadership event at state convention, and
- awarded \$36,703.90 in project stipends to benefit Texas students and teachers
- funded \$20,250 in scholarships, and
- provided leadership training for 30 professional educators.

Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation manages three funds for members: Leadership, Scholarship and Projects.

SEE ASTEF PAGE 6

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- Leadership funds leadership training through Leadership seminars and sponsored speakers at state events.
- Scholarship funds scholarships and lifelong learning opportunities.
- Projects provide stipends for chapter, area, coordinating councils, or individual projects and Aspiring Educator Grants to women enrolled in education classes at the university level.

Our three funds, *Leadership*, *Scholarship*, *Projects/Aspiring Educators*, are all healthy and stable. We want to keep them that way, so please consider visiting the website (ASTEFL.org) and checking out the updates and changes. One change involves the 'DONATE' button. Now TSO members can choose which fund to designate donations to benefit. What a wonderful way to invest in education for students and educators!

## SCAM ALERT! How to be a little more cyber-safe

With the Christmas season along comes a deluge of emails. There are sales messages and charitable requests, and among them are spam or junk messages. Many members have received phishing emails claiming to be leaders within the Society needing assistance. So how can everyone be sure they don't assist these phishing scammers?

First, look at the message. Does the language read in a choppy manner? This could be because the author isn't an English speaker. The word choice will be odd either because of the writer's lack of conversational English skills or the use of a translation app or website.

Second, emails claiming to be from a company may not have any official logos. Anything that comes from a company will have its branding proudly and neatly displayed.

Third, phishers/scammers claiming that a service is going to be cut off immediately if action isn't taken are trying to appeal to the fear factor.

Fourth is the big giveaway. Look at the email address the message came from. Companies have their own domain names.

AT&T isn't going to send messages from a Gmail account.

Netflix won't be using Comcast.

What should be done if you're not sure if the message is a phishing or scam message? Do not click on any link in the message. Type in the web address in the URL line of your browser or use your trusted bookmarked link. Find the Contact Us link and send a message or make a call to confirm the veracity of the email. You can also ask someone else to give the message a look but do not forward it. Either show them the message on your phone or computer or take a screenshot and send that. Forwarding will help the scammer.

Websites are also experiencing some fraudulent activity. James Avery has posted to their social media accounts that there are scammers using their imaging in ads to attract business. Remember that if deals seem too good to be true, they probably are. Don't click on ads that seem to offer prices that don't align with what you know is the norm for a familiar merchant. Again, resort to putting the address into the URL line or using your trusted bookmarks. If the pricing/sale is really what is being offered, it will be featured on the website.



## 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 Chair 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.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org) under Committees - Necrology.*



Lucile Wunsche, Eta Pi - 4, Kerrville  
Margaret Ann Rankin, Lambda Alpha - 18, Houston  
Samve Kay McCorcle, Lambda Xi - 13, Abilene  
Virginia Bryant Rainwater, Alpha Upsilon - 17, Tyler  
Meriam Eakin, Theta Nu - 1, Tyler  
Lou Ethel Brown, Kappa Pi - 1, Tyler  
Doris Cullins, Lambda Upsilon - 9, Heath  
Billie Marian Stevenson, Lambda Upsilon - 9, Rockwall  
Jo Ann Miller, Kappa Mu - 17, Longview  
Sarah Irene Thurman, Theta Beta - 6, Atascosa  
Charlye Worley, Alpha Rho - 8, Corsicana  
Bobbie Jeanette Clemons, Lambda Eta - 5, Harlingen  
Mary Jane Ruhland, Mu Upsilon - 2, Mansfield  
Alicia Viola Hernandez, Theta Iota - 15, El Paso

## Member News



**Wendy Ortiz Pray**, Epsilon Upsilon (5), received The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Lucile Cornet Individual Professional Development Award. She will use this to attend the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.

**Dr. Cynthia Hopkins**, Delta Psi (5), received the Outstanding Science Leadership Award from the Texas Science Education Association.

**Alice Gomez**, Beta (6), accepted an invitation to perform with the Orchestra at the National Women's Music Festival in Madison, Wisconsin. The Festival's Orchestra performed two of her compositions, including a new "Yanaguana: Land of Spirit Waters" arrangement.

**Marilyn Hill**, Gamma Delta (8), received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation.

**Veronica Martinez**, Epsilon Lambda (10), received the Texas Wesleyan Service Award for her contributions toward the success of the Alumni Association and its programs.

**Gail Brekke**, Iota Epsilon (18), received her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership in Higher Education from Prairie View A&M. Congratulations Dr. Brekke!

**Renota Rogers**, Lambda (8), is now Dr. Rogers! She earned her Ph.D. in Executive Leadership from Houston Christian University.

**Amy Bice**, Lambda Sigma (4), received a grant from her local American Association of University Women (AAUW) branch to attend the State Conference in St. Louis, MO.



Ellen Laughlin,  
Virginia Jones, and  
Beta Eta Pres.  
Elaine Wright

**Virginia Jones**, Beta Eta (3), celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with her chapter in November.

## 2023 Handbook of The DKG Society International completed

For many years members have gone to the Go-To Guide for quick answers to DKG questions. After much work, that publication has become The Handbook of DKG Society International. It is available for download at [dkg.org](http://dkg.org) under the Publications | Documents link.



This publication simplifies access to the answers to many questions that come up as the business of DKG is being attended to. At 39 pages, many may want to print to have on hand at meetings and when planning. The glossary is especially helpful!

## International Convention heading to National Harbor, MD, July 9 - 13, 2024

Members from all over the world will be convening at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland, to conduct the business of the Society. Between those business sessions, reunions with sisters will take place, and bonds with new sisters will be built. Featured speakers at this event will be Margot Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures*, and slam poet Andre Bradford, a.k.a. S.C. Says. When not taking care of DKG business, conventioners can venture across the Potomac River to explore Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia. Links for registration for the event and reservations for the hotel will be live on [dkg.org](http://dkg.org) soon. For those who would like to make the trip a little longer and explore the area, a Go Ahead Tour will be available for six days starting on July 14, 2024, that will include many of the historic sites of Washington, D.C. There is an informational flyer available on the International Convention page at [dkg.org](http://dkg.org) under Events.

## TSO sisters honored for creative endeavors

Three of our TSO sisters are featured in the upcoming Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin.

Andrea Fox, Gamma Nu (3), “Membership Mindset: Navigating Mixers, Energizers and Icebreakers”  
Naomi Molina de Wood, Delta Delta (4), “Illiterate Anomaly: Journey of a Different Kind of Teacher”  
Marilyn Nease, Delta Omicron (9), “Want Members? Want to Keep Them? Include Fellowship!”

The DKG Fine Arts Gallery is once again the home to Texas sisters’ creativity in a variety of artistic expression.

Debbi Ball, Gamma Eta (12), photography

Michele Cox, Lambda Omicron (8), photography and stained glass craft

Dr. Vicki Davis, Beta Lambda (17), essays

Marilyn Nease, Delta Omicron (9), poetry and essay

Charlotte Nyman, Alpha Pi (17), photography

Ulana Ratley, Kappa Delta (10), macrame craft and mixed media

Connie Rensink, Theta Chi (10), photography

Jeanette Rhyan, Theta Chi (10), essay and short story

Janie Wigley, Gamma Beta (9), photography

Trish Woodley, Xi (7), photography

## International Speakers Fund adds TSO sisters

Michelle Grandinetti, Theta Alpha (9); Lori Villareal, Nu Gamma (9) and TSO President Bonnie Moore, Eta Delta (3) qualified for the International Speakers Fund. Congratulations to these ladies.



# The Gold Piece

## The Baby in the Tree

by Melody Wilson Drinkard, Theta Mu (14)

We've all heard the nursery rhyme. Perhaps we've held and rocked a little one and softly sung this lullaby as she's drifted off to sleep.

Rock-a-bye baby  
In the tree top When the wind blows  
The cradle will rock When the bough breaks  
The cradle will fall And down will come baby  
Cradle and all

The year was 1900. The date was September 8<sup>th</sup>. The place was Galveston Island, Texas. This was the Great Hurricane of 1900, still the deadliest natural disaster in United States history. The tree was likely a tall, sturdy palm. The cradle was a strong blanket knotted into a sling. At an age estimated to be two months old, a baby girl was found high in a tree as a survivor of the storm. And on that day, the nursery rhyme became a true story.

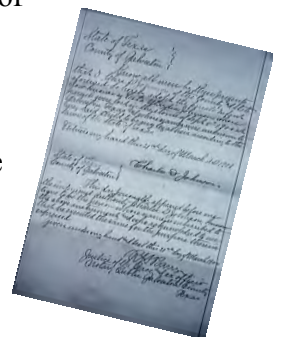
The baby girl's parents were never located and presumed dead. But before they were washed away to an unknown fate, they placed the tiny infant in the safest place left on a flooded island: the tallest tree they could find, perhaps reaching out from a house as it was blown down and floated away. They surely said a prayer as they let her go forever, saving her when they couldn't save themselves. When the waves receded and the winds ceased, she was found and rescued. And because she survived, I am here today. One day she would become my grandmother. No one ever came inquiring about the tiny baby girl. There were many children lost in the storm, but many survived and were reclaimed by their parents. A local convent became a place where these parents could look for their missing children. But many parents never came back, and if they did, the children they found weren't theirs. However, these orphaned children needed families and over time, a wonderful thing happened. These now childless parents and parentless children came together and formed new families. Necessity became the impetus to heal the people of Galveston. They needed each other and God provided a solution.

The infant girl was one of them, but she was far too young to speak up for herself. No one knew anything about her, except that by some miracle she had survived. At some point, a local railroad man, along with his wife and her mother, found out that the baby girl was available for adoption. Charles D. Johnson appeared before Galveston County Justice of the Peace R H Barry on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1901 with a handwritten document to be signed and notarized. Thus the adoption became official and the infant was given the birthdate of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1900, based on her estimated age when she was found on September 8<sup>th</sup>. She became Vesta Maydia Johnson at the age of eight months and joined a happy, loving family as their only daughter. Written in beautiful turn-of-the-century flowing cursive script, the document reads as follows:

State of Texas, County of Galveston

Know all men by these present that I, Chas D. Johnson of the County and State aforesaid do hereby adopt the female infant now known as Vesta Maydia Johnson, whose parents were lost in the storm of September 8, 1900 at Galveston Texas, and whose names were unknown to me, said child to be my legal heir according to the laws of the State of Texas

Witness my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March AD 1901 — Charles D Johnson



# The Delta Kappa Gamma / United Nations Relationship

## Dede Drexler, TSO Liaison to the United Nations

Since 1995, DKG has been actively involved with the United Nations Department of Public Information as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). The Society was also granted Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2003. To be granted Consultative Status, Organizations must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council that they have authentic and sustained contributions to make for the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations. These NGOs must be closely involved with the economic and social life of the people of the areas they represent. Their membership is extensively representative of major segments of society in a large number of countries located in different regions of the world. This definition fulfills the seventh Society Purpose: To inform members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

Our Society has eight representatives who familiarize members with the activities and programs of the United Nations. The representatives attend weekly briefings at the UN Headquarters in New York City. Information from them comes through our newsletter, DKG@UN, as well as conferences held during regional and international meetings.

Most of the Society's NGO representatives are involved with the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations, also known as CTAUN. CTAUN is made up of representatives from various NGOs with an interest in education. Through events and available resources on the website, DKG members can learn about the work of the United Nations and assist teachers in incorporating global awareness into classroom curricula and activities. The website for CTAUN is: [www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org)

CTAUN bestows awards annually. They are the CTAUN Global Citizen Award, CTAUN Excellence in Education Award and CTAUN Poster Contest for College Students.

CTAUN delivered a Webinar on Zero Hunger in March 2023 that I found very interesting. The Webinar highlighted initiatives by the UN and others to address the causes of hunger and find solutions, both globally and locally. Information and links to organizations participating in the Webinar were featured. Excellent resources for teachers were also included. Some organizations relieving hunger were part of the United Nations. They included the UN World Food Programme, UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund, FAO – the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, UN Climate Action Network, and the World Bank. International Organizations included CARE, Concern Worldwide, The Hunger Project, Mary's Meals, Mercy Ships, and World Central Kitchens. Those organizations participating in the United States were Bread for the World Institute, Center for Science in the Public Interest, City Harvest, Feeding America, Food and Water Watch, Heifer International, Oxfam America, Share Our Strength, and Teens for Food Justice. The Global Social Impact Fellowship Program at Lehigh University was listed as an Academic Resource. According to the World Food Program, hunger is predictable, preventable and treatable. Statistics show that there is enough food produced in the world to feed everyone.