



Seguin, Texas

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THETA KAPPA

September 2020



Theta Kappa, Chapter 202, Area 7, Texas State Organization
of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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

Bobbie Maddox, Editor maddox.bobbie@gmail.com

Volume 50, Issue 1

Up and Coming

September 10 This meeting will be on-line only using Google Meet, 5:30 pm, hosted by Diane Gesick.

Invocation by Theresa Casey. **Program: Taking Care of Chapter Business**—installation of officers, budget approval, discussion and voting on service projects and fundraisers, presentation of Chapter Achievement Award. Door prizes will be drawn in a new way. We will meet on-line only and not in-person. For hostesses originally assigned to this meeting, please save any un-affle items you may have collected for a future in-person meeting.

October 8 For now we plan to meet at First United Methodist Church Heirholzer Hall, 5 pm. Hostesses: Beth Parker*, Rhonda Westerfield**, Karen DePalermo, Janice Harvey, Olivia Avitua, and Pam Colvin. Invocation by Rhonda Westerfield. **Program: Catching up on Chapter Business.** Hostesses will bring un-affle items. Tickets are \$1.

November 12 For now we plan to meet at First United Methodist Church Heirholzer Hall, 5 pm. Hostesses: Beth Gerhardt*, Rita Mantooth**, Barbara Effenberger, Gloria Osborn, and Marj Peters. Invocation by Rita Mantooth. **Program: Make Your Own Christmas Cards** presented by Beth Gerhardt. Hostesses will bring un-affle items. Tickets are \$1.

The Presidents Note...

Forward Moving Ever

Delta Kappa Gamma members excel in promoting the first purpose of DKG “To unite women educators...in a genuine spiritual fellowship.” Fellowship is a key part of Theta Kappa chapter meetings, service projects, Area 7 workshops, and state and international conventions. We look forward to renewing friendships, making new friends, and catching up on news.

We now struggle in a world which requires us to balance personal health and safety with how to continue the fellowship we are so used to.

Here is inspiration from June during Leadership Development for Chapter Presidents which was held on-line using Zoom. We were asked to give some facts about ourselves. One of the chapter presidents who logged on said she was a 50 year plus member and first joined a chapter in California. She moved several times and transferred to other DKG chapters along the way. Over the years she held many chapter offices but never served as chapter president, until now. This member is 90 years old. She has been and is forward moving ever.

For Theta Kappa to move forward, we will rely on new technology and settle for fellowship on-line using Google Meet on September 10. For now, we will leave the October 8 and November 12 meetings as shown and adapt as needed.

A big Theta Kappa thank you to Diane Gesick for hosting the June Executive Board meetings on Zoom, for researching the Google Meet on-line platform, and for hosting the chapter Google Meet practices in August.

We are Delta Kappa Gamma.

Your Co-Presidents,

**Beth Gerhardt
and
Beth Parker**



Vision Statement: Leading women educators impacting education worldwide.

Theta Kappa Website: www.thetakappatx.weebly.com

When we last met...

Theta Kappa Executive Board June Meeting

From the minutes of **Karen DePalermo**, *Recording Secretary*

Theta Kappa's Executive Board met on-line using Zoom on June 29 and 30. Attending were Diane Gesick, Janice Harvey, Rita Mantooth, Bobbie Maddox, Anna Bergstrom, Karen DePalermo, Dawn McMillan, Olivia Avitua, Beth Gerhardt, and Beth Parker. Members signed up to attend the on-line August 29 Area 7 meeting via Zoom.

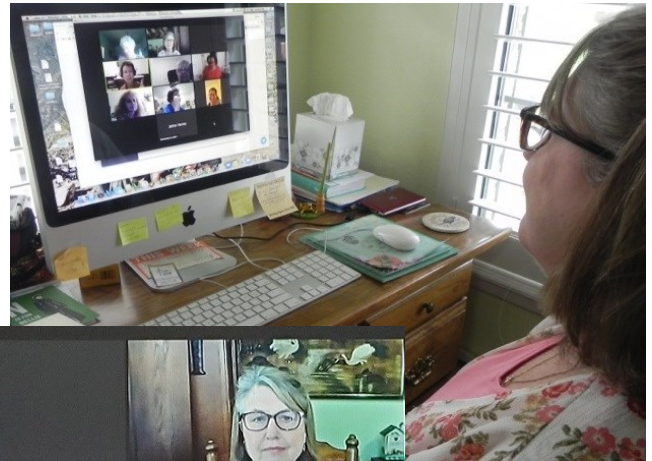
Members were referred to Chapter Rules of Theta Kappa for explanation of officer and committee duties. The Personal Growth and Services Committee was discussed. At the September 10 meeting, a discussion will be presented to change this committee name to "Service Projects". Committee positions for 2020-2022 were suggested and appointed. Updated membership information will be sent to each member of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board discussed goals for 2020-2021. If possible, we will continue with six, in-person meetings. Meetings will start at 5:00, except in September. If in-person meetings cannot continue, we will have to meet on-line and recognize that members will need training. The service project will continue to be donations to the Family Violence Shelter of washcloths with toiletries. Ideas for new service projects will be on the September 10 meeting agenda. The un-affle fundraiser will continue. Ideas for new fundraisers will be on the September 10 agenda. With no May 2020 meeting, attendance prizes will be saved for May 2021 meeting.

Discussion moved to chapter meeting dates, locations, hostesses, and programs. Executive Board members added their names as hostesses and to committees.

For now, the program planned for the September 10 meeting will consist of installation of officers, Achievement Award presentation, presentation of gift to outgoing chapter president Olivia Avitua, and technology instruction by Troy DePalermo.

The other five meeting dates are October 8, November 12, and in 2021, February 11, April 8, and May 13.



Zoom allows those attending the meeting to see and hear each other if both audio and video computer or phone settings are engaged. Above, Bobbie Maddox's computer shows a split screen of those attending. In the larger view to the left, note that each person's name appears in the photo box.

Zoom was our on-line platform when the Executive Board could not gather in-person for the summer planning meeting. Most of those attending had used Zoom at least once during the shutdown. We completed our planning during the second Zoom meeting. Diane Gesick hosted both meetings.

Reflections from the past and contrast with the virus situation

By TK members

Nebraska was my home for the first 30 some years of my life. During the winter, we were blessed or cursed with blizzards that sometimes left the country folks without electricity and telephone service. This outage could last several days or a week depending on how deep the snow drifts were.

Farmers would use their own equipment to clear a path for the repair crews. I remember one time we slept in our basement because it was the warmest place thanks to the furnace pilot light. There was no school, TV, or playmates during this time. In the daylight, we played games, read books, and prayed for the repairmen to get to our house.

After living through those times, this corona virus pandemic was a breeze. Since February there has been electricity for heat, AC, TV, telephone or cell service, and WiFi for computer communication with friends. It was much easier to stay at home once we learned to use our “smart TV” and connect to Netflix and YouTube.

A blizzard is still a difficult occurrence in today’s world and many people may have compared it to the current episode in history. The main differences are the blizzard never lasted for months and eliminated jobs.

—Deanie Knight

I grew up in a sparsely populated Texas county which had just a few persons affected by the 1950s polio epidemic. At the height of the epidemic, swimming pools closed. We had to settle for visiting with relatives in Seguin in the hot, dry summer knowing that we couldn’t go to the Starcke Park pool. I don’t recall school closings. Vaccines came later with painful shots. A Covid-19 vaccine may be in sight with hope that our world can return to normal.

—Beth Parker

A Repeat of the Spring Mystery Member Contest

By Deanie Knight, TK Reporter wandynek@satx.rr.com

Note: These are the same photos from the April/May newsletter since there was no contest winner. See **new clues** below each photo.

1. If you read the newsletter on an electronic device, roll your mouse or cursor over the photos below. **Each** photo is “hot” and linked to my email address wandynek@satx.rr.com. Click on the photos. When my email address box comes up, email me your guesses as to who these Theta Kappa members are.
2. If you print the newsletter to read, email me your guesses at wandynek@satx.rr.com
3. The member whose email reaches me **first** and correctly identifies **all** photos wins a free ‘un-affle’ ticket at the next meeting.

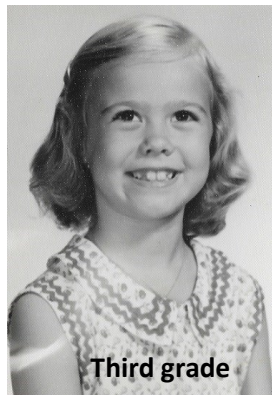
Photo 1



Kindergarten

She hails from the mid-West and was a technology teacher at Briesemeister.

Photo 2



Third grade

This member was born in Seguin, reared in Wilson County, and was a past chapter president.

Photo 3



Almost ready for kindergarten

She was a master journalism teacher and has a great eye for photography.

Photo 4



Early 90s

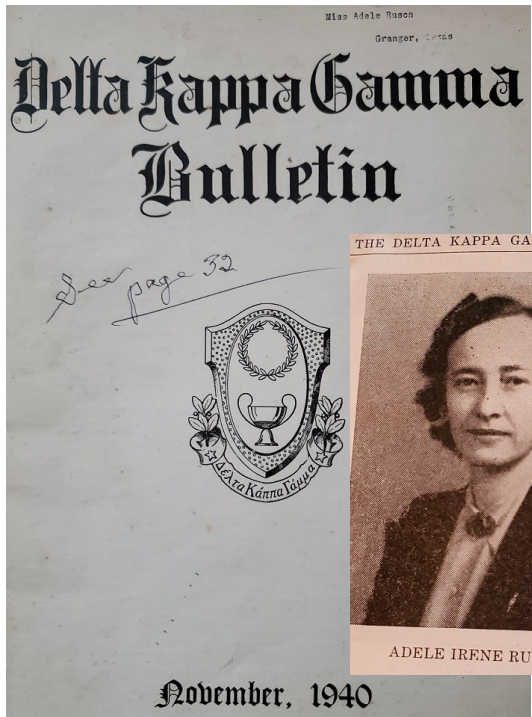
This member loves to sew and cook and was a past chapter president.

Courtesy photos

Sharing Theta Kappa's Archives

by Beth Gerhardt and Beth Parker, *Theta Kappa Co-Presidents*

As we looked over the chapter files, we realized that generally just the chapter president sees this amazing collection of Delta Kappa Gamma history. Thanks to Anna Bergstrom, chapter president 2014-2018, who organized and catalogued the files and made it much easier to select items to share with the chapter.

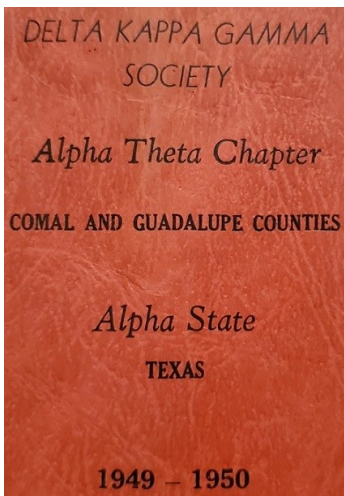


We followed the handwriting on the cover of this 1940 DKG Bulletin. On page 32 we learned that Adele Rusch received one of DKG's nine \$50 summer school scholarships. She completed study toward her Master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin. Adele taught mathematics and physical education at Granger High School. At some point she married and became Adele Schulze.

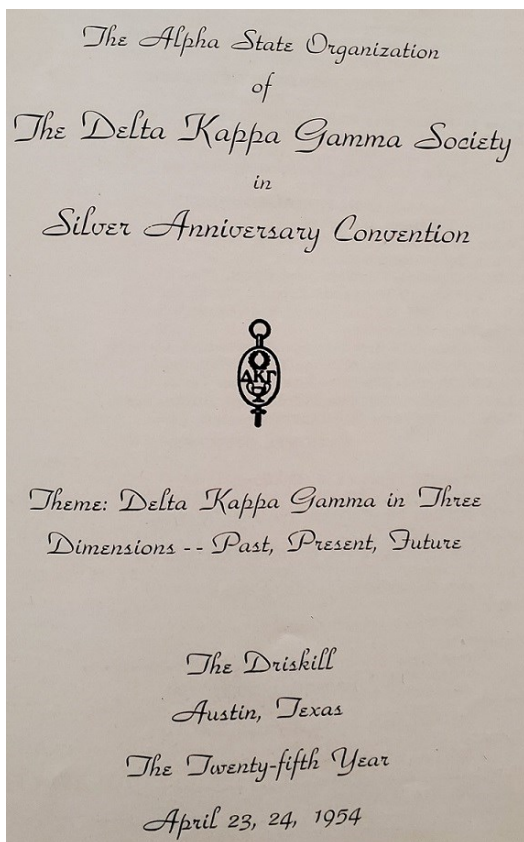
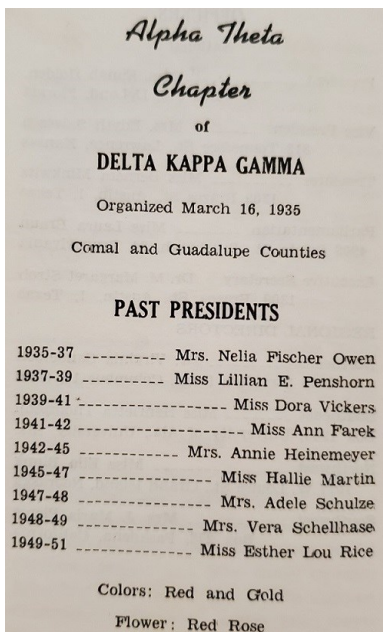


Theta Kappa has an extensive card file of past members. Adele's card shows that she was initiated in 1936 into Beta Zeta chapter of Fredericksburg and then transferred in 1945 to Alpha Theta chapter. Adele lived in the Seguin area. When state level organized Theta Kappa in 1968, Adele became a charter member. She served on many committees over the years and received Theta Kappa's Chapter Achievement award in 1980.

The card file shows that in 1987, Adele received her 50-year Delta Kappa Gamma membership certificate, presented by State President Carolyn Larrison and Theta Kappa's Chapter President Carolyn Westerholm. Adele passed away in 1997.



This cover of Alpha Theta's 1949-1950 yearbook shows that the chapter once served both Comal and Guadalupe counties. The yearbook listed 39 Alpha Theta members. Adele Rusch Schulze served as Alpha Theta chapter president in 1947 and 1948. Theta Kappa chapter was chartered in 1968. Prior to 1968, members were part of Alpha Theta.



The silver anniversary of DKG in 1954 must have been celebrated in fine fashion since Austin's Driskill Hotel was chosen as the venue.

A Bit of Inspiration in These Uncertain Times

By *Theta Kappa Newsletter Staff*

“Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.” (from the writings of Winston Porter)

“We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated.” (from the writings of Maya Angelou)

—Submitted by Glenda Shafer

“May your life be like arithmetic—Friends added, enemies subtracted, joys multiplied and errors divided.”

—Submitted by Deanie Knight, from a cookbook her mother gave her

“Water is the cheapest medicine.”

—Submitted by Beth Parker, from *Cherished Czech Recipes*, 1988

If you are stressed out thinking about what you look like on-line during a Zoom meeting, don't be tempted to check yourself out. Try covering your face on screen with a sticky note or use the Zoom 'hide myself' feature. No one else is really focused on you.

—A summary submitted by Bobbie Maddox

Area 7 Workshop held on-line August 29

By Beth Parker and Beth Gerhardt, *Theta Kappa Co-Presidents*

 **KEY Into DKG**
with
2020+ Vision



The Area 7 logo looks to the future.

Theta Kappa had nine of 160 Area 7 members who registered for the Workshop General Session and follow-on Specialized Training in communications, technology, membership, programs, projects, and for chapter presidents. Outgoing 2018-2020 and incoming 2020-2022 chapter presidents were recognized as well as members who passed away, including Theta Kappa's Esther Beck, Margaret Burges, and Mildred Radtke. Area 7 Coordinator Carole Lowe said that all Texas State Organization (TSO) area workshops would be held virtually this year.

Fundraising by the Alpha State Educational Foundation (ASTEF) which awarded past stipends for Theta Kappa's Books for Babies project was hard hit by cancellation of the state convention. ASTEF has planned alternative fundraisers. The new DKG International Educators Foundation was formed in July 2020 by merging two DKG entities, each of which promoted professional and personal growth of women educators.

The *Lone Star News* Fall 2020 edition is on-line at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/122ed515-905f-4742-94d7-ce4a55040b5b>

TSO 1st Vice-President and Area 7 mentor Judy Mezick urged chapters to “stay connected”.

92nd Texas State Convention

Denton, Texas

June 16-18, 2021

DKG International Conference

San Antonio, TX

July 21-24, 2021

Birthday Greetings

August

Dinah Jaks

Gloria Osborn

September

Anna Bergstrom

Velma Huebner

Deanie Knight

Janet Wolber

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