



# GAMMA OMEGA FOCUS



Gamma Omega Chapter  
Texas State Organization  
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
*Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide*

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

Volume 46 Number 1 August 2022 Area 7 No. 96 Austin, Burleson, Lee, Waller, and Washington Counties  
Editor: Lou Pruett Focus Contact: Lori Jackson

**DKG 2020-22 International Theme:  
Leading Women Educators Impacting Education  
Worldwide**

**2021-2022 TSO Theme  
Journey: Which Way Will You Go?**

to support her and cheer her on or to cry with her when things don't go well. A quote from Mary Poppins says it best; "Open different doors, you may find a "you" there that you never knew was yours. Anything can happen." Hopefully, Jenna will continue to choose the right doors!

The magic of new beginnings...open new doors...I don't know about you, but no matter how many years I had taught, each year was a new beginning. New curriculum, new bulletin boards, new themes, new room setups, etc., very rarely did I repeat from previous years. Exciting, yes, but also hard. This year, we are working to make slight changes in our Gamma Omega meetings, as well as keeping beloved traditions and order. We will continue to give to others, promote the purpose and mission of DKG to others, Dream, Ask, and Reflect. But most of all, I want us to grow as a group, continue to learn about each other and develop our relationships with each other and the educators in our area. We are a talented and wonderful group of women. Together we can do great things, we just need to open some doors and have fun while we are at it.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"And suddenly you know...It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings."  
Meister Eckhart

Nest Sunday I will begin a 2-week journey moving my youngest daughter, Jenna, to California. She is my inspiration; she is what I need when it comes to starting new things or trusting in new beginnings. It is something about her generation, they embrace change, they have no fear when making changes in their lives. I am excited and happy for her, but my mama heart is also apprehensive, a little worried, and yes fearful. California is a little far! However, I must have faith in **her journey** and the values and lessons we have instilled in her! My role will not change, I will still pray for her each day, and I will be on the other end of the phone when she calls...either

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon!  
In Love and Sisterhood,  
Lori Jackson

### Society Websites

**Gamma Omega**

[www.gammaomegatx.weebly.com](http://www.gammaomegatx.weebly.com)

**Delta Kappa Gamma International**

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

**Texas State Organization**

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

**JOIN US IN AUGUST...**

**PROGRAM: Kick Off the Year Right!**  
**Ladies, you are encouraged to wear the colors of your alma mater or your favorite college. We are looking for team spirit! I believe some friendly competition may be involved!**

August 6, 2022. 9:30 A.M.  
St Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall  
Phillipsburg, Texas  
**Hostesses:** Burton  
**Cost:** \$1.00  
**Meditation:** Elizabeth Jurica  
**Collect:** Kelly Frank  
**Pledges:** Shelly Nies  
**Mission Statement:** Anna Breddin  
**Prayer:** Cheryl DaBera  
**Door Prize:** Bertha Upshaw  
**Perfect Attendance Prize:** Bertha Upshaw  
**Replies to:** Bertha Upshaw by Monday, August 1, 2022  
Email to:  
bupshaw@academicplanet.com  
Cell phone: 979-421-3841

Programs will be presented at the meeting for the 2022-2023 year. They will be listed in the October Newsletter.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

These committees will report at the August Meeting. If another committee would like to add any news or information to the meeting, please do.

Membership – Shelley Nies  
Program - Mary Keienburg  
Finance – Linda Pinkerton  
Newspaper- Adriana Mendoza



Finance committee hard at work....

**SUMMER PLANNING RECAP**

The Summer Planning Meeting was held on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Phillipsburg Church with 24 members attending. The Bellville ladies hosted the lunch with a summer/July 4<sup>th</sup> theme. We played it cool and broke the ice with some July 4<sup>th</sup> and American History trivia. Followed by discussion of future meeting themes and possible service projects, we broke into groups and did some decision-making to jump start and light up the 2022-2023 DKG year. There was a lot of enthusiasm, laughter and buzz with this delightful group! You will be hearing more about the decisions made! A big thank you to those that could attend. We missed those that could not attend, and we hope to see all of you at our Saturday meetings!



Lori opens the planning meeting



Gamma Omega members plan for 2022-2023

## SERVICE PROJECT

This year we will be giving to each of our communities by way of the food pantries in the areas. Now more than ever with the costs of groceries and life in general, we will be helping our own neighbors. Each month we will be giving to the food pantry of the town in charge of the monthly meeting. **For August we will be collecting shampoo and conditioner, canned soup, canned vegetables, or canned fruit for the Burton Bridge Ministry.**

Please let me know what we will be collecting for your town in time for me to put it in the newsletter. If you know at the meeting the month before...that would be even better. We can announce it then. Thank you for being such a generous group of ladies. What a difference we can make in people's lives when we work together!

## NEW MEMBERS

In October, Gamma Omega normally votes on potential new members. Because we do not meet in September, we are crunched for time in the process. Included in this newsletter you will find a copy of a prospect card. If there is someone you would like to nominate to be our next DKG sister, fill out the card and return it to the October meeting. If you know of more than one, make a copy of the card or pick up additional prospect cards at the August meeting. Let's get the ball rolling in membership!

## MEMBER MILESTONES

I am going to be Nosy Rosy or rather Nosy Lori! This year we are going to pass the clipboards around again and I want to know everything about you! Write anything down that is important to you! Let us celebrate you...or in some cases maybe you need us to pray for you. Nothing is ever too big or too little. Celebrating the good and helping if needed...it is all part of sisterhood!

- Prayers to Rebecca French and her family. Rebecca's brother, Tim Otte, passed away recently.

## MYSTERY GAMMA OMEGA SISTERS

Let's get to know our DKG sisters! Each month we will give you information for 5 of our ladies. You will also be given 5 names. See if you can match the right lady to their information! The identities will be revealed at the following meeting! Keep sending in your information! It has been a pleasure learning about all of you so far!

Sister \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) I connected with DKG sisters within a week of moving to the area. Did not know at the time they were DKG sisters.
- 2.) A Special Education teacher for 23 years.
- 3.) My degree and early years were in Deaf Education.
- 4.) I have taught in 6 districts and at least 17 different classrooms.
- 5.) In my family there are 9 current or retired educators in my family. My parents both had education degrees but never taught.

Sister \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) I wear gold and silver jewelry together.
- 2.) My favorite Disney movie is Little Mermaid.
- 3.) I have an ancestor who was a highlander laird.
- 4.) I love to study the Bible and do Bible journaling.
- 5.) I would like to visit the East Coast.

Sister \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) I have gone sky diving, parasailing, zip lining and gone up in a hot air balloon.
- 2.) I have visited all 50 states.
- 3.) I saw and heard the Pope at The Vatican.
- 4.) I shook hands and chatted with Lynda Bird Johnson Robb while President Johnson laid in state at the LBJ Library in 1973.
- 5.) Hanging upside down I have kissed the Blarney Stone on 2 separate occasions.

Sister \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) After graduating from high school, I took modeling classes, planning to be a model.
- 2.) I took Drivers Ed from a Sabine.
- 3.) Blue Bell Ice Cream chose me from about 200 ladies to do a commercial for them.
- 4.) I was stopped and ticketed for driving too fast. I was told I was among many speeding but I was the easiest to catch!
- 5.) A designer fabric co. once awarded me top salesperson of their fabrics in the U.S.

Sister \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) I went to Sam Houston State University.
- 2.) I have two daughters.
- 3.) Cats are my favorite animal.
- 4.) I love to go offshore fishing and travel to other countries.
- 5.) Burton, Texas is my favorite place to be!

Gladys Avis Janyce Beyer Jennifer Hunter  
Elizabeth Jurica Linda Pipes

## FOCUS COMMITTEE

Lou Pruett, Editor  
Lori Jackson  
Members of the Bellville Group

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO... MAY IT BE YOUR BEST YEAR YET!**

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Sue W.
- 5 Mary Jean B.
- 17 Sharon S.
- 17 Shelley N.
- 18 Susan C.
- 18 Linda B.
- 18 Sally E.
- 21 Lisa B.
- 26 Jennifer H.
- 30 Lou P.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 6 Evelyn T.
- 11 Kay I.
- 14 Carol B.
- 17 Linda P.
- 18 Ramah B.
- 19 Karen S.
- 2☼ Laurie P.
- 20 Molly R.
- 21 Anna B.
- 25 Rhonda B.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**August 20** - Area 7 Workshop at Patsy Sommer Elementary in Austin beginning at 9:00 A.M. It is not too late to sign up! Join Cheryl, Mary, Trudy, Shelley, and I for a fun—filled and informative morning! At 12:30 the workshop will conclude with prizes. You will then have the rest of the day for a fun lunch or some shopping in the Austin Area!

**October 1** – Meeting hosted by the Brenham Ladies

**A REFLECTION ON THE STATE CONVENTION.....**

I can honestly say, I have now been to Lubbock, Texas twice in my life. The first experience involved an Aggie football game. I must admit, the DKG Convention was much more pleasant. It is something about the feeling you get when 700ish women get together and sing our DKG song. It is something about the feeling you get when you hear about the founders and their antics from someone that actually knew them. It is something about the feeling you get when you realize how all of you come from such different situations, but you have had the same experiences. We heard some phenomenal speakers, inspirational leaders, met new friends and connected with former acquaintances. We had some informative break-out sessions and an overall great message. There are some great ideas other chapters have to give, but I am so proud of Gamma Omega. We are doing exactly what we should be and we have great ideas to share as well. I am looking forward to next year in as we travel to McAllen, Texas and I am hoping a few more will join us! If you have not been, it is an amazing experience.



Mary, Trudy and Lori

**JUST A THOUGHT...**

This month I leave you with words from our mystery sisters about DKG;

“Gamma Omega is an instant connection and support network of women who understand the joys and the struggles of teaching.”

“Our Gamma Omega group is an amazing, faith-based, loving group of educators who value each other, the service we have provided in the past and that we continue to provide through service opportunities as we move forward together.”

“Why do I love Gamma Omega, let me count the ways:

Meet teachers...who are warm and friendly, new or have taught many years, to share experiences with, from different schools, different towns.

Support teachers...who want to travel, through scholarships, in need, in good times and sad.

Learn...through programs, new respect and pride in our profession, expand our worlds.

Words of inspiration to use when telling others about DKG and Gamma Omega! Thanks girls, I could not have said it better myself! See you soon!!

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THE BELLVILLE MEMBERS FOR THEIR YUMMY SNACKS**



Thank you, Bellville members

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Primary elections are still being held in a few states – Texas has a very early primary (March). We have a very important election coming up this Fall. There are numerous senators and representatives up for election at the Federal level as well as our governor and other state officers. Check out their records and other information about each one so you can be well informed. I will pass on any information as I receive it.