



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 45 Number 4 December 2021 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?

positive spirit to face the world. They believe in the goodness of others. What happens to that spirit, to that hope? Somewhere along the line in our trials and tribulations we lose it, it is harder to believe. Christmas is our reminder... Jesus is the reminder to believe in all things good. It is our job to continue that hope and belief throughout the whole year!

“We have finally mastered the meaning of Christmas when Christmas becomes a way of life.” Anonymous

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday...a holiday that will last all year long. Stay warm and healthy and may all your Christmas wishes come true. Most of all...Believe!

In Love and Sisterhood,
Lori Jackson

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



“It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.” -Charles Dickens

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” Can you believe we are closing in on the end of 2021. Sometimes, I think Christmas was put at the end of the year to bring hope back into our lives into a new year. Especially now with all the negativity in our world. Jesus was born to give us hope, to give us something to believe in. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we had that hope and the spirit of Christmas all year?? If you think about kids, they basically do. They wake up each morning with a smile and that

DECEMBER MEETING

Program: Let’s Shop til We Drop on the Polar Express!

December 4, 2021. 9:30 A.M.

St Paul’s Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Phillipsburg, Texas

Hostesses: Bellville

Cost: \$1.00

Meditation: Cheryl Pritchett and Group - Polar Express

Collect: Melanie Ueckert

Pledges: Susan Massey

Mission Statement: Kathleen Lackey

Prayer: Carolyn Golan

Door Prize: Sharon Spiess

Perfect Attendance Prize: Sharon Lange

Replies to: Sue Wieprecht by Monday, November 29, 2021

swiep@sbcglobal.net

The theme for the meeting will be based on the book **Polar Express**. In keeping with the theme, hot chocolate will be served. Pajamas is the donation this month for Focusing Families. The Bellville group thought it would be fun for us to dress in lounge wear or pajamas. This is just an option. If you really don't want to drive with your pajamas on, throw a robe on and some fuzzy slippers when you arrive. For all you lower elementary teachers, it is like pajama day at school!!

Don't forget your silent auction item. Shopping will be held as usual to raise money for all of you lovely ladies attending the Convention this next June!!! If you are not able to be here and would like to help, send your auction item with a fellow DKG sister. Thank you for participating in this fun activity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Legislative - Lou Pruett

Yearbook - Gail Schroeder/Linda Braun

Scholarship - Carole Fry

Membership - Adriana Mendoza

NOVEMBER RECAP

It was a beautiful Fall day and it was exciting to see 40 of our members present. The Brenham ladies did a wonderful job providing yet another lovely brunch. It was exciting to have our newest members officially inducted. This is always a meaningful ceremony. Focusing Families gave us an update on how their year is going and emphasized how important and appreciated we are for everything we continue to do for them. The regular business meeting was held along with reports from the Achievement, Yearbook, Scholarship, Legislative, and Membership Committees. Please read the upcoming minutes to see all the details! Jessie Kokemor acknowledged November Birthdays and gave a shout-out to P.E. teachers and librarians. Cheryl Pritchett did "In the Spotlight" and recognized the three new members, Lisa Bocerek, Carol South and Kelly Frank. Just a wonderful and enlightening meeting.



Cheryl spotlights the first of three inductees – Lisa



Then Carol is spotlighted



And now Kelly

NEW NEWS

- New **Yearbooks** were handed out. There are more left if you have not picked one up. If you are not going to be in attendance, ask a friend to pick one up for you.
- **Janette Mathis** from Burton will be the scholarship recipient this year. She is getting her masters from UT Arlington. Since there is only one recipient, she will get \$1,500. ☀
- **Lend -A-Hand** money will be given to the CPS Department in Bellville. The money will go to

supplies they may need for children they are working with.

- A big Thank You from **Evelyn Turlington** for the birthday cards she received
- Prayers were asked for **Letha Dillion and Ernestine Seals** for health reasons, and **Staff Sergeant Phillip Mullins** in the army reserve being deployed to the border.
- **Two emails** that have changed: melanieueckert54@gmail.com and lynda.york40@gmail.com
- **Address change.** Elizabeth Jurica
1425 FM 1948 N
Burton, TX. 77835
- Member News: **Carole Fry's** son, Cody and his family have move from south Texas to a ranch close to Abilene. **Susan Massey's** daughter, Sara, was chosen as Texas Art Educators Middle School Teacher of the Year. Sara teaches art in Austin.
- **Letha Dillion** has requested that her membership in Gamma Omega to change to reserve status due to health issues. This was approved and we wish Letha all the best so she can join us once again.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Carol Ann E.
12 Jessie K.
12 Rebecca F.
14 Linda H.
19 Myra D.
22 Cheryl P.
25 Lura C.
28 Mary Anne W.



SERVICE PROJECT

As you well know, our service project this year is Focusing Families. Thank you, thank you for the generosity you have shown thus far. Our donations make an impact and do not go unnoticed. It was nice to recognize the staff with a goody bag, but this month we will go back to the clients. (Bags were

decorated by Adriana's class.) We will be collecting **pajamas for kids and moms**. They can be new or gently used. All ages need to be considered. Thank you!

TRIED AND TRUE SCHOOL LUNCHEON RECIPES

Easy Holiday Crockpot Candy

Joan Buenger - [St. James Lutheran Cookbook](#)

16 oz. dry roasted peanuts salted
16 oz. dry roasted peanuts unsalted
1 (8 oz) pkg. German chocolate
1 (12 oz) milk chocolate chips
18 bars white almond bark

Layer in order in crockpot. Cook on low for 2 hours. Do not lift lid. After 2 hours, stir well and drop by teaspoonful onto wax paper. Cool completely. Makes a lot!

Holiday Spritz Cookies

Lou Pruett

½ cup butter, softened
1 cup sugar
1 egg
2 tablespoons milk
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
2¼ cups cake flour
½ teaspoon salt

Food coloring/almond flavoring optional
Holiday sprinkles and colored sugars to decorate

1. In a small bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, milk, and vanilla. Combine flour and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture just until combined. Stir in food coloring if desired. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours.
2. Fill cookie press and form into desired shapes on ungreased baking sheets. Decorate with sprinkles and colored sugars.
3. Bake at 400 degrees for 8 minutes or until edges just begin to brown. Cool on wire racks.
4. Yield about 5 dozen ENJOY!

SAVE THE DATE

February 5 - DKG Meeting Lee County Members

June 14-18 TSO Convention in Lubbock Mark your calendars now and make plans to join me in attending!!! Let's make a "big Gamma Omega presence" at the state convention!!!!It will be a rootin-tootin time I know!!

I'M BAAAAACK....

Remember me – that little symbol you were always looking for in the Focus?? Well, I look like this now ☼ I will be hiding again. Find me, email my location to Lou and she will add you to the drawing. I am already in this edition. Have fun!

JUST A THOUGHT...

Based on - Oh, the Places You'll Go by Dr. Suess

"I'm sorry to say, but sadly it's true, that bang ups and hang ups can happen to you... You'll come down from your lurch with an unpleasant bump, and chances are then that you'll be in a slump. And when you're in a slump you're not much fun, unsleeping yourself is not easy done."

As we all know the journey is not without its bumps and bruises. We just experienced a huge pothole this past two years in the name of Covid. In teaching, not every lesson is a hit, I know I had a few failures in my career... When trying a new recipe, it may not turn out like the picture in the book or worse, taste like cardboard! Life is full of the unexpected. The key is how do you approach the bumps along the way. Just like they say, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!" Sometimes it is extremely difficult to find a positive, but if you look for the positive long enough you will find it! Covid and other illnesses may leave a mark, however, look at the hope in the recovery. As we get older and survive the obstacles, we recognize more of our blessings! We appreciate friends and family a little more. May we always look for the bright side!

This poem read at the meeting sums up the great attitude. After you read through it, read the lines from bottom to top, starting with A GOOD DAY. An amazing share, thank you Brenham ladies!! Thought I needed to share with all of you

WORST DAY EVER

Today was the worst day ever
And don't try to convince me that
There's something good in every day
Because, when you take a closer look

This world is a pretty evil place.
Even if
Some goodness does shine through once in a while
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.
And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and heart
Because
True happiness can be obtained
Only if one's surroundings are good
It's not true that good exists
I'm sure you can agree that
The reality
Creates
My attitude
it's all beyond my control
And you'll never in a million years hear me say that
Today was a good day

A GOOD DAY

I will miss you at the next meeting. Mary will be stepping in and leading the meeting. My niece is getting married that day and I am hosting the bridal luncheon. I hate missing the December meeting... it is always a fun time. (And I really was looking forward to wearing my Christmas pajamas) Have a wonderful December and a very Merry Christmas. I am looking forward to seeing you again in February!

Society Websites

Gamma Omega

www.gammaomegatx.weebly.com

Delta Kappa Gamma International

www.dkg.org

Texas State Organization

www.dkgtexas.org

FOCUS COMMITTEE

Lou Pruett, Editor
Pruett6468@outlook.com

Lori Jackson
Bellville Members