



Alpha Chi Connection

Alpha Chi Chapter, Texas State Organization
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.

Vision Statement: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

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Burnet-Llano-Marble Falls, Texas

Area 7 No. 46

Editor – Carol Rose, carosetx@gmail.com

Co-Editor – Becky Robertson



ALPHA CHI OFFICERS – 2022 - 2024

President – Dr. Alice Smith

1st Vice-President – Faye Creel & Lorine Kuhn

2nd Vice-President – Vickie Morrison

Recording Secretary – Becky Reed

Corresponding Secretary – Lisa Newby

Treasurer – Lynda Jackson

Parliamentarian – Cathy Frioux

Past President – Sharon Tays

YOUR TSO PRESIDENT FOR 2023-2025

Bonnie Moore

Bonnie's Goals For Her Biennium

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



IMPORTANT DATES

All Meetings Start at 5:35

November 13, 2023 – Burnet

December 9, 2023 – **Alpha Chi Christmas Party** –
Cathy Frioux's home. 10:30-1:00, more information
to come.

January – NO MEETING

February – Local Meetings

March 4, 2024 – Birthday Celebration at Le
Sturgeon Restaurant

April 8, 2024 – Marble Falls



ALPHA CHI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The last three president's messages have centered around excerpts from a keynote speech presented in McAllen by Beverly Hall-Maughan entitled the Power of Unity-The Power of One. My hope was, and is, that the theme, "Unity starts with one person-Unity starts with me!" resonated with many sisters. On a personal note, I have taken the "meat" from the speech and applied it to several areas of my life and organizations I am affiliated with in and out of the United States.

In the last newsletter, there was a list of questions that pertained to our chapter. Did you have a chance to answer those questions in your mind? Not only did I have an answer for each, but other questions came to mind. Alpha Chi consists of a strong and powerful group of educators who not only care about each other, but also choose to guard, support, pray for, share thoughts and words of encouragement, and inspire one another.

At the October meeting, I saw arms around necks, support being given, laughter, tears and the all important words being said, "I'm here for you!" Do you have any idea how calming and peaceful those actions are as they create unity among the sisters and each community we represent? Thank you for being you! Thank you for caring for others! Thank you for caring about educators still working today! Thank you for participating in Alpha Chi Cares! Thank you for participating in all of the different service projects! The world is touched by your generous spirit.

Keep in mind, the world owes us nothing, but we owe the world everything. The world needs to know who you are and what you have to offer. The world needs to listen to common sense and words of wisdom that tumble out of the mouths of educators. The world needs you to take younger women and mentor them, sharing all the lessons you have learned along the way. I read something this week that caused me to stop and think, "The people of the

world have not changed over the centuries. What has changed is the way we reach out to people, talk to people, and react to people. We need to stop reacting and simply listen to each other."

Thank you for being a unified group of educators. Thank you for "coming to the table" with genuine emotions and convictions. Thank you for staying active in the lives of educators as they teach our precious future.

Unity starts with one person-Unity starts with me!

Sincerely, Dr. Alice Smith

BIRTHDAY GALS

November

Charlotte Broadway - 1
Lynda Jackson – Nov. 2
Cathy Felan – Nov. 4
Darlene Hargett – Nov. 15
Lisa Newby – Nov. 20
Alice Smith – Nov. 20
Mary Beth Beale – Nov. 25

December

Nancy McDougall – Dec. 3
Bobbie Sue Petrick – Dec. 6
Kim Timmons – Dec. 12
Vickie Morrison – Dec. 15
Doris Phillips – Dec. 16
Jane Knapik – Dec. 18
Sarah Scott-Vanderberg – Dec.19
Cissy Butler – Dec. 21

January

Mary Kneese – Jan. 13

February

Annette Nolen – Feb. 8
Ann Schmidt – Feb. 8
Gloria Haley – Feb. 13
Andra Harris – Feb. 17
Carrie Rice – Feb. 20
Becky Reed – Feb. 24
Nancy Light – Feb. 26



MEMBER NEWS

Prayer Requests — Please keep Nancy Allen, LaDawn Baker, Cissy Butler, Debbie Engler, Cathy Frioux's family, Andra Harris, Lynda Jackson, Laura Lalman, Nancy McDougall's granddaughter, Bobbie Sue Petrick's daughter and Becky Reed in your prayers.

PROGRAM

Educational Excellence Committee

"Let Your Creativity SOAR"

Will your creativeness soar at the November meeting? Our very own Kim Timmons will share her glass blowing and painting talents as she leads us in discovering joy in our creativeness. We will create cards to be included on Meal on Wheels deliveries.

SERVICE PROJECT

Alpha Chi Cares- Ongoing 2023-2024

The goal is to continue our volunteer program with all the local public elementary schools in our three communities. Groups of members will volunteer twice a month on each campus.

Alpha Chi volunteers will perform tasks for the teachers which include copying, laminating, making displays, die-cutting shapes, creating packets and performing other support activities. In this way, Alpha Chi Cares volunteers introduce DKG to fellow educators!

All Volunteers will need a background check, and the form for that is on the school districts websites:

Burnet CISD—

https://www.burnetcisd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=460114&type=d&pREC_ID=1461168

Marble Falls ISD—

<https://www.marblefallsisd.org/Page/13349>

Llano elementaries will have volunteer forms but are not online.

Sign-up sheets will be at the October meeting for each elementary campus. You may sign up for any school you choose.

Meals On Wheels

By providing hot, nutritious meals to senior home bound clients, Meals on Wheels enables them to live independently longer, and they can "age in place". Through good nutrition, client conditions are sustainable and continued independence is achieved. Meals on Wheels also provides hot, nutritionally balanced meals to seniors at senior centers, as well as activities, socialization opportunities and well-checks. The program, along with local partners, not only provides meals but also referrals to, and resources from, other senior services.

Alpha Chi will collect monetary donations and create cards at our meeting to go to clients with their meal delivery. Alpha Chi Convention merchandise will be sold to members with funds to go to Meals on Wheels.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Music - How well do you know the Delta Kappa Gamma song? At our next meeting you will get to fill in the missing words on your song sheet from a word list.

Legislation —November 7th is Election Day, and we need everyone's vote on Proposition 9 which will give public school retired annuitants a much needed Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). More information can be found by visiting www.trta.org. More information concerning the other 13 propositions can be found at the Texas League of Women Voters, <https://www.lwvtexas.org/voters-guide#gsc.tab=0>.

Chapter Rules — Please see the attached copy of our updated Chapter Rules. They will be discussed at our meeting.

HONORING ALPHA CHI'S FOUNDERS

Information prepared by Darlene Hargett, Program Chairman, 2020.

Gail Brown Kolberg was born on November 7, 1885, in Glyndon, Clay County, Minnesota. In 1913, she married Olaf Gustav Kolberg. They had two children, Donald, and Winifred. Gail taught seventh and eighth grade in the Eagle Lake public schools. Her outstanding instructional programs and colorful promotion exercises will be remembered by many. She passed away in her home in Austin, Texas on January 20, 1968, at the age of 82.

Laura Valree Bible Nanney was born May 4, 1901. In 1926, she married Dr. Audie Leslie Nanney. They had two children, a daughter Betty Jean, and a son Carroll. She taught in several of the small schools in the county: The Hill School west of Oatmeal (1921), Tobey School (1922-23 & 1929), and Mormon Mill School (1931, 33-34). Valree was president of Alpha Chi during the 1937-39 biennium. After that, she and her family moved to Austin where she joined Alpha Chapter. She passed away on August 16, 1993, at the age of 92 and was buried in Marble Falls.

Leona Ward Ulbricht Senter was born March 7, 1902. Leona was Alpha Chi president from 1935-36. She married Fred Senter and moved to El Paso. Leona was a founding member of the Faith Presbyterian Church in El Paso at its charter in 1955. In 1991, she was named Outstanding Churchwoman of El Paso. She had a daughter named Janel. Leona passed away April 16, 1993, at the age of 90.

90TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR

ALPHA CHI

90th Anniversary Highlights for Alpha Chi

List prepared by 2009 Archives Committee

1970's

Members nominated Gertrude Suggs as a State Honorary Member. In 1978, to meet a State requirement, chapter president Doris Phillips asked Grace Herbort to chair a committee to write the chapter history. The Grant-in-Aide for prospective teachers could give as much as \$225. A new scarf was purchased for ceremonials. A member who didn't wear her key pin to a meeting was assessed a fee of 25 cents. From Norma Jones' scrapbook: Dec. 13, 1979- The traditional joint Christmas meeting with Eta Omicron was held Sunday afternoon in the foyer of Marble Falls High School. The chapter held a breakfast meeting at the Culture Club in Llano. Members gave one dollar a year for five years to celebrate the Society's Golden Anniversary. The chapter paid 15 cents per mile for out-of-town speakers' travel. Donation was made to the Stillwell Retired Teachers Home.

1980's

In 1982, the chapter began meeting on second Mondays of each month. Sometimes separate meetings were held in the three towns, Burnet, Llano, and Marble Falls. The cost of a dinner, used as a fund raiser, was up to \$3.50. Gertrude McMillan was chairman of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, made up of past chapter presidents. Margaret Dotson and others honored Velma Elliott and Valree Nanny, the remaining charter members, at the celebration on April 9, 1984. Velma was ill, but some of the birthday cake was delivered to her. The final payment came from Alleen Yett's estate and discussions began to decide how to use the interest

from the fund. In 1987, Grace Herbolt had been a Society member for 50 years. On April 11, 1988, the chapter named the Grant-in-Aid to honor Velma Elliott, then deceased.

MEMORIES OF ALPHA CHI THROUGH THE YEARS!

I was a member of a DKG chapter in Houston for a period of time, but because of my having to travel so far from my home to my school, I dropped my membership. When I moved to Horseshoe Bay and started working at Marble Falls High School, two women encouraged me to join Alpha Chi and that was Beulah Holland and Diana Virdell. I felt welcomed from the time I started attending meetings. We are so blessed to have so many outstanding women in our chapter. Thank you Alpha Chi for starting my involvement in DKG. *Carol Rose*

MINUTES

Minutes for Alpha Chi Chapter of DKG October 9, 2023, at Marble Falls Church of Christ

Opening Ceremony

We gathered for pizza, salad, and desserts at 5:35. The meeting was called to order at 6:14.

Patsy's Legacy Grant recipient, Jennifer Rose who works at Marble Falls Elementary, was here to tell us a bit about how she has used her grant funds. She received a grant last year which she used to go to a two week training over the summer. Mrs. Rose is a music teacher. She gained a lot of insight from the summer training. The training inspired her to write for another grant which she was awarded in September. This grant will go toward the purchase of drums. These drums are smaller and are used to create dancing and movement. She sees application not only for music, but also for Social Emotional Learning as these drums can draw kids out of their

comfort zones and teach them to move through shared space.

The welcome was given by Darlene Hargett. Guests were Jennifer Rose and Pat McBurnett.

Jan Graves led us in prayer.

Business Meeting

Minutes were approved from the last meeting with a correction to the name of the church that donations went to.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Claressa reported that we had 39 present: 11 members from Burnet, 8 members from Llano, 19 members from Marble Falls, and 2 guests.

Door prizes were drawn, and the winners were Darlene Hargett, Lois Laxon, and Sharon Tays.

Ruth Reed, Dawn Shanks, and Denae Bates, who were inducted last spring, were given their pins and certificates.

The Legislative Committee reminded everyone about the November election. Early voting starts October 23rd. Election day is November 7th. Valuable information on all the propositions can be gained by going to The Texas League of Women Voters' website. This website goes over the pros and cons of each amendment. A reminder was given to continue to spread the word to vote **yes** on Proposition 9. This is the amendment that will give a COLA to retired teachers. They reminded us that the Texas Legislature was again in session over vouchers. Contact your representatives!

Dr. Alice shared her position on vouchers. She is retired from public education, but we all know she works for a private Christian school. She does not

believe the voucher system is in the best interest of education.

Susan Nye announced which schools had received grants from each of our three cities.

Darlene reminded us that tonight's special project donations were going to The Rainbow Room which is associated with the Burnet County Child Welfare Board. The Rainbow Room is an in-house emergency resource center that distributes new items, such as clothing, diapers, and formula, to clients of CPS caseworkers. One hundred percent of any money or items donated go directly to the children and/or family. The most basic needs of a family in crisis are often unavailable, and caseworkers typically cannot provide the necessities. The Rainbow Room is located at the CPS office and serves Blanco, Burnet, and Llano counties. Our table was full of donation items!

We were also reminded to sign up for Alpha Chi Cares if we had not already done so.

Since our program tonight centered on using apps, Myrna read us a humorous selection on technology. The Recognition Committee had little journals with a glittery red rose on the front that we can carry with us. Denae gave us our second wooden token tonight which featured a smart phone and the words, SOAR with Apps. This token can be added to your collection.

Diana Virdell recognized Jan Graves. Jan was selected by the Marble Falls Education Foundation for the Excellence in Education Award. Diana told us that Jan started out as a Burnet County Home Demonstration Agent and went on to teach Kindergarten at MFISD. She retired from teaching after 18 years, but she never stopped teaching. Jan has taught Bible Study for over 50 years. She has

served as a Reading Buddy. She works with the Back to School Bash. She has been on the HLCC Prayer Team. She has also served on the Burnet County Welfare board for 18 years. Jan still supports the youth of Marble Falls by attending sporting events, choir concerts, and theater productions. She is also a member of The Button Club, and an avid collector. Congratulations to Jan on this recognition! It is well deserved!

Mary Ann Stanton was also recognized! Mary Ann was in the Sub Spotlight for Spicewood Elementary School. She has been subbing for 8 years, and she loves spending the time with the kids.

Lorine awarded the Reliable Rose to Faye Creel. Faye is well deserving of the Reliable Rose!

There was no Unfinished Business, and there was no New Business.

Dr. Alice told us we would be celebrating Alpha Chi's 90th birthday on March 4th. It will be held at LeSturgeon in Cottonwood. The menu will be varied to fit all tastes. She is still looking for an underwriter. Our state president, Bonnie Moore, and our Area Coordinator will be present. We will gather at 5:15 and eat at 5:30. More information will be coming.

Program

Frances Lachance and Cathy Frioux led us in singing *The Technology Song*. The song came from the music archives and was written by Cathy Frioux to the tune of the ABC Song.

Our program was given tonight by Denae Bates, a new member! It was over apps. Denea shared some important pointers with us. She had a wonderful handout that went with her presentation that will be a handy reference. Some key points of her

presentation were: Look carefully at apps before you download them. She encouraged us to look at customer reviews and to choose apps created by a well-rated developer. She strongly suggested getting apps from the official apps stores. She reminded us to keep our apps updated. An outdated app can be susceptible to security issues. She told us to be sure to pay attention to permissions the apps request. They should make sense for what the app's purpose is. She encouraged us to install antivirus software on our devices. She suggested some apps to us and suggested some apps we may want to avoid.

We closed with the singing of our Delta Kappa Gamma Song at 7:26.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Reed

TREASURER'S REPORT

The current Regular Checking account balance is **\$6,010.56**. The balance in Patsy's Legacy Edward Jones Account is **\$25,572.30**. The full treasurer's reports can be found on our website under newsletters, <http://alphachitxdkg.weebly.com/>.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Jan Graves for receiving the Marble Falls Educational Foundation "Excellence in Education" Award.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Mary Ann Stanton for being in the Sub Spotlight for Spicewood Elementary.

PHOTO GALLERY

RELIABLE ROSE



Lorine Kuhn presents the Reliable Rose to Faye Creel.

ALPHA CHI CARES



Diana sharpening those pencils and Jan and Roxanne putting together packets at Marble Falls Elementary.



Mary Ann and Lorine are busy working at Highland Lakes Elementary.

