



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

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Co-Editor – Dawn Shanks



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

October 9, 2023 – Marble Falls

November 13, 2023 – Burnet

December – Alpha Chi Christmas Party – TBD

January – NO MEETING

February – Local Meetings

March 4, 2024 – Birthday Celebration at La Sturgeon
Restaurant

April 8, 2024 – Marble Falls



ALPHA CHI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dearest Sisters,

Please allow me to start with a compliment for Alpha Chi. My heart was singing as I saw sisters walk into the St. James Hall and greet each other. The smiles, hugs, and laughter were amazing. Thank you for supporting each other, loving each other, and sharing each other's lives.

I want to continue with another excerpt from Beverly's speech in McAllen.

"Let's look at these two scenarios – A chapter with 6 members and a chapter with 25 members? Which is the stronger chapter? How can a chapter with only 6 members be strong and continue, when a chapter of 25 members dissolves because no one wants to be president or be a leader? What is the difference? I think it is the outlook and attitude of the chapter and the power of unity.

Which chapter will flourish – the one with 25 members who say "I have been there and done that and it is someone else's turn to lead – it's not my problem; I've done my time? Or the chapter with 6 members who say, "I have been there and done that and now I can help further the growth and potential of another member"?

Consider Your Chapter –

Do members encourage one another?

Do members wait for others to do?

Does your chapter foster personal growth or do your chapter leaders keep their position year after year and fail to encourage and train others?

Do your chapter members listen to one another?

Do a few members make all the decisions?

Does your chapter meet the expectations of all members?

Is your chapter membership diverse? Or do we see members who all resemble one another?

Do we have a majority of retired members? A

majority of librarians? Or English or Math teachers? A majority of middle school or elementary educators? Do we have any collegiate members? Are we all the same skin tone or the same religion? Or do we have a variety of members who represent the entire diversity of education?

We need to welcome and celebrate our differences. We need to value others and see their differences as an advantage.

We need to believe that two people who think differently can achieve more than two people who think exactly alike.

We each bring power to the unity.

Remember - Unity starts with one person. Unity starts with me!"

In all of my years of being a member of different groups, I feel the closest to the Alpha Chi members. We genuinely care for each other and welcome all visitors and new members with open arms. Our collective voices are loud and strong. With unity, we can change our little part of the world!

God bless and keep you, Alice

BIRTHDAY GALS

October

Diane Shubert – Oct. 1

Jennifer Berry – Oct. 3

Susan Brown – Oct. 9

Debbie Engler – Oct. 10

Carol Rose – Oct. 11

Diana Virdell – Oct. 11

Lissa Nichols – Oct. 31



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

"SOAR with Apps"

Bring your cell phone or tablet to the October meeting. Denae Bates, a new member, will introduce us to Apps and how we can use them in our classrooms and in our personal lives. Bring a friend or fellow teacher to enjoy this hands-on learning experience!

When you arrive, you will receive a card with a sticker on it. Please find the table with matching sticker and enjoy visiting with your Alpha Chi sisters. Learn about their family and memories they have made.

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 do tasks for the teachers which include copying, laminating, make 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.burnetcisid.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.

RAINBOW ROOM

The Rainbow Room is a 24/7 resource that is located in the CPS office in Burnet and serves Blanco, Burnet, and Llano counties. In the Rainbow Room, CPS caseworkers can get supplies for children who are victims of abuse and/or neglect. These items include clothing, school supplies, diapers, and much more. It is important to note that all items donated should be brand new, as these children have already endured challenging experiences and do not need to receive used clothing or other items.

Too many children that were removed from their home were having to put all of their possessions in a trash bag. To make sure that does not happen, a child receives a Blue Bag. This is a large duffle bag that is filled with items from the Rainbow Room that will be needed as they go to their new placement.

Items needed: newborn diapers, size 1 diapers, Similac infant formula, travel pillows, travel pillow covers, stuffed animals – under 3 years, stuffed animals – teen, infant bath towels.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives

Marilyn Curtis's legacy will remain in Alpha Chi. The Archives/Research Committee sorted through her DKG collection and found valuable information to help several committees perform their duties. She was quite organized and took meticulous notes from meetings and state convention sessions. Her files contained many ideas for inspirations, programs, songs, and committees. These will benefit our leaders in the future to continue to make Alpha Chi an outstanding chapter.

Women in the Arts

A table will be available to display your talent! Remember it can be in **Writing** (poems, essays, short stories, books) or **Visual Arts** (photography, painting/pastel, drawing, crafts, mixed media, sculpture).

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. For more information concerning the other 13 propositions can be find at the Texas League of Women Voters, <https://www.lwvtexas.org/voters-guide#gsc.tab=0>.

HONORING ALPHA CHI'S FOUNDERS

Information prepared by Darlene Hargett, Program Chairman, 2020

Velma McFarlin Elliott was born January 21, 1903. She was married to Sanford H. "Pete" Elliott. They had no children. Velma was the first president of Alpha Chi and was an active member for many years. She taught at Prairie Point School northeast of Bertram in 1920 and at the Fairland School in 1921. Later she was an English teacher at Burnet High School and then at Burnet Junior High. Velma passed away on March 28, 1988 at the age of 85. On April 11, 1988 after Velma's death, the chapter named the Grant-in-Aid to honor her.

Christine Lane Hawkins Grace was born February 17, 1889 in Greenville, Hunt County, Texas. In 1910, she married Oscar Earl Hawkins, and they had one child, Oscar Earl Hawkins. Her husband passed away in 1918. In 1924, she married Henry Barney Grace, and they had one child, Doris Christine Grace. Christine passed away November 12, 1978 in Waco at the age of 87.

Lorena Draper Hughes was born December 24, 1904 in Llano County. She was married to Allie Thomas Hughes, and they had one child, Michael Thomas, who passed away as an infant. As a child, Lorena attended the Field Creek School. In 1930-31, she taught at Hickory Grove School and at Pontotoc in 1932-33. In 1936, Lorena was 1st Vice President of Alpha Chi and assumed the duties of president when Leona Senter moved away. Lorena passed away on December 6, 1998 in San Angelo at the age of 93.

90TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR ALPHA CHI

List prepared by 2009 Archives Committee

1950's

The chapter bought the book Pioneer Women to be kept in the files. (Does anyone know where it is?) Eula Lee Carter and Phyllis attended a chapter meeting.

Alpha State worked hard to get Society headquarters placed in Texas. Money was given in honor of Velma Elliot and the chapter name was to be placed in the cornerstone of the building.

There was much involvement with Future Teachers. Chapter hosted the County Teachers' Association. Members sometimes asked for a "leave of absence." A legislative committee wanted more pay and five days of leave for teachers and wanted every school budget to provide for substitute-teacher pay. The president's expenses to State Convention amounted to \$30.00.

Money was sent to an education project in Korea and \$1.00 to be applied for the purchase of Bibles for the Japanese.

1960's

Alpha Chi expanded to Eta Omicron and divided chapter funds and possessions. The expansion meeting was held at the Burnet Methodist Church

under the direction of Eula Lee Carter and Phyllis Ellis. Miss Carter was the one who decided that Burnet and Llano counties would keep the original name, Alpha Chi. Then Eta Omicron was set up for Lampasas and San Saba counties.

The Society history book, *Our Heritage*, was published.

A meeting was held at Austin Women's Club.

For several years, members sent bags of old nylon hosiery to Japanese widows.

MEMBERS MEMORIES OF ALPHA CHI THROUGH THE YEARS!

Lorine Kuhn- Beulah Holland's greeting when I came to my first Alpha Chi meeting. She wanted to know about my family and made me feel truly welcomed at that meeting, as well as many others. Carole Horne Hughes and her husband rescuing me when I had a flat tire on my way to a meeting in Austin.

MINUTES

September 11, 2023 at St. James Lutheran Llano, TX

OPENING

We gathered at 5:30 and had time to eat and visit with our sisters as we pleased. The meeting was called to order at 6:05.

Lisa Newby gave the welcome which tied into our program topic of self-care very well. Claressa Cockrill introduced her guest, Pat, who is a prospective member. Cathy Frioux asked us for a moment of silence. Then she gave the invocation.

Dr. Alice welcomed all to St. James Lutheran Church which will be our new location in Llano this year. We all thanked the ladies of Llano for the wonderful meal.

Dr. Alice called Sharon Tays forward to award her with a Past President's pin.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the April meeting were in the last newsletter. Lorine Kuhn asked that the last line of the minutes be corrected to...*The meeting concluded with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song*, not *the Alpha Chi* song as was written. It was noted that the minutes would be changed. The minutes were passed.

The **Treasurer's Report** was in the newsletter also. It was approved with a show of hands.

Attendance-Claressa reported that we had 41 people present tonight; 12 from Burnet, 12 from Llano, 15 from Marble Falls, and 2 guests.

Door prize winners were: Toni Gardner, Cathy Frioux, and Denae Bates

Recommitment Ceremony-We recommitted to the 7 Purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma, in a ceremony led by Claressa Cockrill.

Legislative update-Carol Rose asked members to spread the word about Proposition 9. Prop 9 will give all employees who get a pension from TRS with a COLA, (Cost of Living Adjustment.) She presented a flyer that she got from the TRTA website where much helpful information can be found on Proposition 9. She reminded us that the COLA will only be given if Proposition 9 is approved by the voters of Texas.

Susan Nye announced that we had many grant applicants for **Patsy's Legacy Grant**. There were 9 from Marble Falls, 9 from Burnet, and 5 from Llano. The local committees will be meeting very soon to decide who will be awarded the grant money.

Special projects this year-Ann Schmidt pointed out all of the things collected on the table for tonight's special project for the Pittsburg Ave Baptist Church Food Pantry. The table was overflowing! She thanked us for participating.

She urged members to sign up for the Alpha Chi Cares Program which was a big success last year.

Recognition Committee- Myrna went over the cards made by the committee. The card shows a hot air balloon and the acronym SOAR. Our new President Bonnie More has chosen the theme of SOAR to New Heights. A symbolic balloon was also given. Denae Bates then spoke to us about the wooden tokens found on the tables tonight. Since Alpha Chi will celebrate its 90th year, the committee will present a different token at each meeting. Members who collect all five tokens will receive a prize! The token given has a lotus flower on it to represent tonight's program on Self-Care.

Reliable Rose- Ann Schmidt gave the Reliable Rose to Lorine Kuhn.

Archives- Lorine told us the Archives committee would continue to stay busy going through our many boxes this year as they did last year. She also noted special things in the newsletter in honor of Alpha Chi's 90th birthday. In each newsletter this year, there will be a section to honor our founders. There is also a section of 90th anniversary highlights. Lorine also stated that she is collecting memories of Alpha Chi from current members. Members are invited to write down memories to share with the group. There will be a box at all the meetings that the memories can be collected in, or they can be emailed to Lorine. The memories will also go into the Newsletters this year. We will celebrate our members Birthdays at each meeting this year. Tonight, we honored those

with birthdays in July, August, and September with a round of applause.

Necrology for Marilyn Curtis-Jamie Horn and Sharon Tays led a meaningful ceremony honoring Marilyn Curtis. The ceremony included Marilyn's obituary, and poetry. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a white rose was laid on our Alpha Chi registry where Marilyn signed in 1997. Dr. Alice completed the ceremony with a prayer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-NONE

NEW BUSINESS- All of the locals approved the Audit report. Tonight, we voted a final approval with a show of hands.

10 MINUTE RECESS

PROGRAM-Lorine introduced Dr. Alice who gave a wonderful program on Self-Care. She told us that Self-Care is simply putting your own needs ahead of others. This is something that most of us agreed was very hard to do. Self-Care involves taking care of your whole self. Dr. Alice went over the Pillars of Self Care with several suggestions for each.

Mental State/Healthy Mindset- (Be curious. Try new things. Start a journal.)

Emotional Needs – (Create a coping strategy, Watch a movie. Listen to music. Try positive affirmations.)

Physical Needs-(exercise, vitamins, plenty of rest)

Environmental Needs-(Go to your happy place. Try to appeal to all 5 senses when there.)

Spiritual Needs- (Spend time with God. Find a new community or invite someone to yours. Volunteer!)

Recreational-(You can play games, take up a hobby, relax and do nothing!)

Social-(Write a letter. Talk to a support group. Call a friend or relative.)

She gave us a copy of a Self-Care Wheel which was designed by the University of Texas. The wheel has six areas. We should try to do something from each area each day.

She also gave us a jar with wooden ice cream spoons. The spoons are blank. Try writing something on each spoon you would like to try. Don't write what you already do every day.

Dr. Alice shared a personal story about her battle with Emotional Eating. She is trying something called **Habit Stacking**. She went over this idea with us also. She literally had boxes that she stacks every day. Each box represents something she needs to do daily to help her achieve the healthy lifestyle that she is striving for. Sometimes a visual/physical connection is what we need to get on track.

She recommended two books: ***The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*** by John Mark Comer and ***365 Day Thank Yous*** by John Kralik.

Music and Closing-Frances Lachance asked us to sing a song that was written years ago by Myrna and Harriet to the tune of ***You Are My Sunshine...You are a Diamond***. The group sang the song then we rose, joined hands in a circle and closed with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma Song.

Meeting adjourned 7:25.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Reed

TREASURER'S REPORT

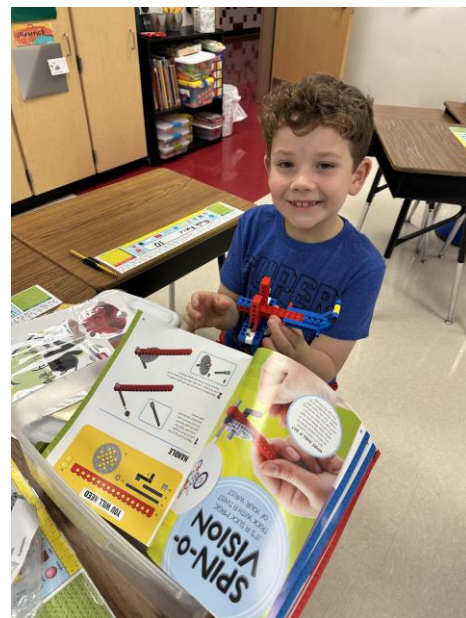
The current Regular Checking account balance is **\$5,964.54**. The balance in Patsy's Legacy Edward Jones Account is **\$25,651.14**. The full treasurer's reports can be found on our website under newsletters, <http://alphachitxdkg.weebly.com/>.

PHOTO GALLERY RELIABLE ROSE



Ann Schmidt presenting the Reliable Rose to Lorine Kuhn. Lorine started the Reliable Rose in 2016.

PATSY'S LEGACY GRANT RECIPIENT



Heather Cotter's 2nd grade class at Marble Falls Elementary. This student built a catapult from a building kit purchased with grant funds. He read the instructions and built it himself.

YETT SEMINAR PICTURES AND CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY LIGHT



The special DKG plaque was placed on Patsy's grave.



Myrna Mund talking to a docent at the Museum on the Square in Mason.



Having lunch at the Wildflower Café in Mason.



Jamie Horn, Sharon Tays, Cathy Frioux, Lorine Kuhn, and Dr. Alice Smith staying cool during the ceremony.



Congratulations to Nancy Light for being honored at the Cherokee homecoming. Recognized for Being the Most Innovative and Influential Educator at CISD.