

A Tour of Headquarters

Compiled by Alpha State Archives Chairman Patti Belknap

The original Alpha State brass that can be seen throughout Headquarters was purchased in 1943 by Catherine Young Clack, Alpha State President (1938-1940). Alpha State is the only state to own a brass collection. It was borrowed by International to use at the International Convention held in Dallas in 1998.

THE FOYER

Display Cabinet

The display cabinet is not an antique. It was donated by chapters in Area IX in honor and memory of the current and past Alpha State Presidents from Area IX,

Sarah Tobolowsky (1963-1965)
Bettye Mischen (1983-1985)
Aleene Van de Grift (1989-1991)
Ruth Johnson (1991-1993)
Sheryl Minick (2001-2003)
JoAnn Brooks (2007-2009)

Inside the Display Cabinet

The **rose patterned china** was purchased by Annie Webb Blanton and given to Eula Lee Carter *for her home on Haltom Road in Fort Worth*. Alpha State Presidents Juanita Harmon (1999-2001) and Sheryl Minick ((2001-2003) accompanied by Nelda Landrum, Alpha State Executive Secretary/Treasurer, went to the estate sale of the Haltom Road home and purchased the china for Alpha State.

The **alabaster figurine** was a gift to Alpha State Archives from Maddie Ruth Moore. Chairman of the Archives Committee, Jean Webb, accepted the figurine at the 1991 state convention in Ft. Worth. The figurine has remained at Alpha State Headquarters and never made it to archives.

The society pins displayed are the **International pins** of Sarah Tobolowsky, Alpha State President (1963-1965), International President (1980-1982), and 1984 International Achievement Award recipient.

The **ceremonies scarf** has the label of Annie Webb Blanton.

The **compact** belonged to Delta Kappa Gamma founder Ruby Terrell Lomax and was a gift to her from Alpha State in 1954. It was recently donated to Alpha State by Beta Omega Chapter

The **brass jack-be-nimble candlestick** with the red glass was carried by the chapter presidents when they were presented at state conventions. Several of these "presidential candles" have been sold at state conventions.

Charter Case

Alpha State was under the original charter of the society until 1954 when the organization obtained its own separate state charter. The display case for the charter was donated by the 2007 Alpha State Leadership Seminar Class.

Campaign Desk

This desk was donated in 2006 by the Beaumont Convention Steering Committee, Catherine and George Davis, and Van George. The donation was in honor of Catherine Davis, Alpha State President (2005-2007) and in memory of Carolyn Larrison, Alpha State President (1985-1987).

Altar Candlestick

The candlestick was purchased in 1966 for the state convention in Austin by Jessie Sim who was later an Alpha State President (1967-1969) and International President (1984-1986).

Gavel Case

The official Alpha State gavel is the one that was presented in 1917 to Annie Webb Blanton by the Texas State Teachers Association in honor of her presidency of that organization. It was presented to the Texas State Organization in 1933 and has been used at state conventions ever since. The brass plates in the gavel case list the Alpha State Presidents since 1929.

The case was donated by the Area VII chapters in honor and memory of the Area VII State Presidents Lunelle Anderson (1975-1977) and Laginia Hale (1977-1979).

Bluebonnet Painting

The painting was given to Bettye Mischen when she was state president (1983-85) by Delta Eta in Sulphur Springs. Bettye was later SW Regional Director and International 2nd VP. In 2006, Dave Dunbar, Bettye's husband, donated the painting to the new state headquarters in her memory.

Live plant

The **plant** was a gift from Mary Rowlette, Alpha State President (1979-81), and Laginia Hale, Alpha State President (1977-79) and 1994 International Achievement Award recipient in recognition of the Open House of the new Alpha State Headquarters.

Lamp Table

The **table** was donated by Nelda Landrum in honor of her mother Ruby Francis.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER

The **stained glass panel with a rose design** was donated by Area III in honor and memory of the Area III Alpha State Presidents Mamie Sue Bastian (1930-1934)
Yvette Rosenthal (1950-1953)
Nell McMains (1959-1961)
Ethel, Sloan (1961-1963)
Mary Ann Waldon (1997-1999)

Some of the Alpha State Brass is on display in the office.

HALL

The **plaque** in the hall outside the Executive Secretary/Treasurer's office lists all locations of Alpha State Headquarters and those who have served as Alpha State Executive Secretaries and Treasurers. It was donated by Jean Webb in 2007.

The **rose picture** in the hall was donated by Alpha Omega in honor of Frances White, Alpha State President (1969-1971).

KITCHEN

The large black box houses all the voice and data wiring for the building.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The **framed door with signatures** was the veneer on the back of a closet door in the entry hall of the home of Eula Lee Carter and Phyllis Ellis on Haltom Road in Fort Worth. All guests who spent the night in their home were given the privilege of *signing the door*. At the close of the home's estate sale the door was given to Jean Webb for the Alpha State Archives. Some of the names found on the door are:

Alpha State Presidents

Annie Webb Blanton (1929-1930)
Yvette Rosenthal (1950-1953)
Francis Lowrance 1973-1975)
Eugenia Terry (1953-1955) and first area IX director,
Ruby Lee Lafferty (1965-1967)
Jessie Sim (1967-1969) International President (1984-1986)
and 1987 International Achievement Award recipient

A few of the other names on the door include Edna McGuire Boyd, International Executive Secretary, Militia Hill, SW Regional Director and 1964 International Achievement Award recipient, Catherine Rothman. International Executive Secretary and 1977 International Achievement Award recipient. Yvonne Weber, author of *Beacon to the Future*

The **tall brass candlesticks** are also from the home of Eula Lee Carter and Phyllis Ellis.

The **portrait of Eula Lee Carter** was donated to Alpha State by the Dallas County Coordinating Council in 1985.

The **two paintings** were done by an artist from El Paso named Novak. The painting on the left was given to Alpha State Headquarters in Denton on June 16, 1984 in loving memory of Ruby Lee Lafferty Alpha State President (1965-1967) by Kappa, Zeta Iota, Zeta Pi and Eta Kappa Chapters in El Paso.

The desert painting on the right was given to Bettye Mischen and donated to the new headquarters by her husband, Dave Dunbar.

CONFERENCE ROOM

The Bluebonnet painting by Waco artist Clark Flentge was commissioned specifically for the new Alpha State Headquarters and donated by Katherine Reid of Houston in 2006.

THE BOOKSHELVES HOLD MANY ARCHIVES.

Shelves on left from top down:

- Brass – Vase
- Biographies and Constitution
- Annie Webb Blanton's letter to Eula Lee Carter
- Biographies -The Presidents of Alpha State, Texas
- 1979 SW Regional 50th Anniversary commemorative vase
- Songbooks 1-6 and original sheet music
- Bound Convention Minutes

Center shelves from top down

- Brass – Bowl
- Pictures of signing the documents for the Dallas Headquarters building purchase
- Gavel box for gavel from Annie Webb Blanton.
- Society pins of Frances Lowrance Alpha State President (1973-1975)
- Gavel
- Our Heritage signed by Eunah Temple Holden
- Brass president's candlestick.

Shelves on right from top down

- Brass – initiate candlesticks and tray
- Clock donated by the 3 Waco chapters in honor of Alpha State President Dorothy Stallings (1987-1989)
- Wooden crest bought at estate sale.
- 'Skip-o-gram' was the state newsletter published by Eula Lee Carter who was called 'The Skipper'
- Photos purchased at estate sale
- Gavel from a dissolved chapter
- Bound copies of Lone Star News
- *Leather bound Constitution from Alpha Phi chapter –includes the Chapter's initiates from 1937-1980.
- *Brass – candlesticks, candelabra
- Bound convention minutes
- Official Manual , IGuest book

These items sit on the main shelf

- *Pioneer Women Teachers of Texas* compiled and published by Alpha State
- *Punctuation and Composition* authored by Annie Webb Blanton donated by Jan Gentry, Theta Alpha Chapter
- Bible – presented to Alpha State by Eula Lee Carter
- Book of Letters written to Annie Webb Blanton from all chapters in the state and the Founders – compiled by Eula Lee Carter
- Picture of Annie Webb Blanton.

Wall of Delta Kappa Gamma Society Founders

The center picture is a signed photograph that was given to Eula Lee Carter by Annie Webb Blanton, Delta Kappa Gamma Founder. and Alpha State President (1929-1930), and International President (1929-1933). It was purchased at the Haltom Road house estate sale.

Other items shared at the Open House:

- An invitation received by Iva McKee Massey in 1932 to become a member of Delta Kappa Gamma signed by Annie Webb Blanton
- A 1947-1948 membership card with a request to transfer membership
- A letter dated April 25, 1944 to Eula Lee Carter from Annie Webb Blanton suggesting that she apply for the place of Executive Secretary and Editor of the Bulletin
- Copies of the Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin, 1 dated May, 1935, a bound edition signed by Annie Webb Blanton dated November 1934, and the Tenth Anniversary edition, dated June 1939. In this edition the first initiation is described.