

2009-2011  
Leadership Development for  
Chapter Presidents

These Ideas  
Really Worked!



**Texas State Organization**  
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
A Professional Honor Society of Women Educators

## These Ideas Really Worked!

### AREA 1 -

Deborah Evans, Delta Gamma

- The Achievement Awards Committee became our “**Biennium Bell Ringers.**” It was their job to do ice breakers at the beginning of each meeting and to recognize one member each month.
- A “**Member of the Month**” was recognized in each newsletter.

Sarah Ammons, Beta Omega

- All members were invited to a salad luncheon in July and planned all programs for the year.

Linda Ashby, Alpha Eta

- After updating our Member Profiles, the information that each member submitted was summarized and shared at a Founders’ Day meeting. All members really enjoyed hearing the accomplishments of Alpha Eta members. Sometimes we think we know people but we can always learn more.

Kristin Cotton, Iota Delta

- When looking for new candidates for membership, invite everyone you think might benefit from DKG or who would be good for the chapter. Don’t consider such things as small children, too busy, etc. If DKG is something they will be interested in, they will find the time. Iota Delta added 10 new members in 2010-2011.

Sue Sides, Theta Nu

- Having a regularly scheduled, set time for meetings has really increased our attendance this year. We also provided every member with a “Meeting at a Glance” sheet prior to the meetings.

Donna Christopher, Sigma

- As our community outreach, Sigma selected a learning center (school) that is working with autistic children. We began this outreach by having our October meeting at the school in order to learn about their programs. This was followed by donating requested supplies at subsequent meetings, earmarking chapter fundraising proceeds for a student scholarship, and supplying one early career teacher with a Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship application. This entire project has helped rejuvenate our chapter.

Virginia Reeder, Epsilon Epsilon

- Our chapter has honored our members by the sharing of a standing, red rose sculpture and a small gift or token from month to month. The chapter president gave the first one to the newest initiate along with instructions to “pass-it-on” to a person of her choosing. From there it has moved from one to another as the year

has progressed. Each recipient has been honored to receive the red rose as well as excited to have the opportunity to decide to whom to pass it on.

Barbara Nicks, Phi

- One of the things that I wanted to accomplish with our newsletter was to have more involvement from our members. I thought about the fact that, since we were teachers, we were all interested in learning. I asked everyone the question, “If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?”. Sure enough, the replies came in and I was able to include some information on our members in the next newsletter. I followed it up by putting links in the newsletter with information on learning about some of the topics they talked about.

The next month I decided to keep the focus on learning and get our members to remember what it was like to be a student by asking them to tell about a time when they got in trouble at school. I followed it up with a few leading questions in an email. “How old were you/what grade? Who were the significant people involved? What got into you!? (What were you thinking that caused you to do what you did?) What did you do? What kind of punishment did you receive (and from whom)? What lesson did you learn from the incident?” This brought in some more stories for the newsletter.

When our chapter’s 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary was coming up, I thought it would be good for the newer teachers to hear from the more experienced teachers about how far the teaching profession has advanced. I sent out a questionnaire in an email asking for members to tell about their first years of teaching and how they’ve seen the profession change over the years...salaries, technology, parents, students, etc. This has given me enough information to be able to feature one or two teachers each month in our newsletter.

For ideas on questions to ask in your newsletter, you can go to Google and search for “survey questions”. You could use one question and print everyone’s replies or feature one or two people a month with their answers to a list of questions. Either way, survey questions are a great way to get more reader involvement and learn about each other.

## **AREA 2 –**

Geralann Barnes – Representing Mu Theta

- A series of 12 of seemingly “off-the-wall” questions was shared with members of our chapter. Each member was to choose a chapter sister they knew well, answer the questions and then write a poem. Each member was given a copy of the questions so they could write more than one poem. Each poem presents a unique view of one of our sisters. The poems are published, without author, in our newsletter. We publish one or two poems an issue. At the next meeting, the members guess who the poem/poems described. This "**Mystery Poem**" allows each member an opportunity to actively participate in the production of our newsletter as well as learn much more about our DKG sisters.

Amy Ripkowski, Mu Iota

- Working in conjunction with Dayton ISD, Mu Iota members volunteer to work with and help beginning teachers in the district. As part of the district's mentoring program, Mu Iota hosts a "**Mentee Celebration.**" Mu Iota members serve as a panel, leading discussion and answering the questions that most beginning teachers have. Refreshments are provided and every new teacher is given a goodie bag filled with treats, a "Words of Wisdom" booklet containing quotes of advice and encouragement from Mu Iota members, bookmarks and contact information of Mu Iota members who are willing to help them.

Norma Distefano, Iota Rho

- Organization helped tremendously. Placing needed materials into a binder rather than using a file box worked much better.
- Using minutes from past meetings to create agendas was very helpful.
- With time being at such a premium, we provided a program on our local "Main Dish Studio Kitchen." Members can attend one session at Main Dish and provide 12 delicious restaurant quality entrees for their family. Very reasonably priced, families can eat better, save money, and spend less time figuring out what to cook all while enjoying more time together as a family. For younger members with families, this provides a great service.
- Fundraising – Our chapter provides the concession stand at the district Elementary and Middle School Intramural Track Meets. This is the only concession stand that is provided for contestants and their families. Once expenses have been met, the proceeds go to fund a Grant-in-Aid for a senior girl going into the field of education and also helps to cover expenses of members going to state convention.

Stacey Arnold, Delta Theta

- Keeping our meeting to no more than an hour in length has received very positive comments. Our meetings begin at 4:30 p.m. and include a light snack, a program and a business meeting. Members have an opportunity to fellowship, learn, take care of Society business, and still be home before dark.

Bobbie Fagan, Iota Psi

- Training and mentoring of new officers was very beneficial.
- Leadership activities helped us bond as a chapter. We took several meetings to get to really know our members and to work on both leadership skills and projects.

Susie Riedel, Theta

- Two service projects have helped us keep our enthusiasm this year. We have enjoyed packing boxes for soldiers. In addition, we have made pillowcases for MDA and our foster care children.
- We made a big effort to plan interesting programs that our members "don't want to miss."

- We keep everyone informed through the use of email. This includes when someone's ill, deaths in families, and good things as well. This helps us "keep up" when we don't see each other often. We also have 9 meetings a year – two with sister chapters and seven with our members. This helps us become friends, not just acquaintances.

Charlotte Hartley, Delta Epsilon

- Scheduling a "**Bunco Party**" program at one meeting helped attendance. We had more at that meeting than any other.

Geneva Dixon-Peters, Eta Mu

- We had two programs that were both educational and fun:
  - One of our programs revolved around our local Non-Profit Development Center. One of our most dedicated sisters is the executive director, and she gladly shared her workplace with us. This meeting very carefully explained the Center's mission and availability to the non-profits in our area. Many of our sisters serve on boards that are very interested in grant monies and how to get help for their respective non-profits.
  - We toured a local historic home. This home hasn't been open to the public very long. It was a fun meeting with a good turn-out.

Joanna Schimek, Kappa Chi

- It was actually an idea I got at convention last year, but it really worked for us. I bought a Willow Tree Angel that is holding a single red rose. We used it in our chapter as the President's Achievement Award to recognize a member that has worked over and above for our chapter. We passed it around each month. The person who wins it each month then presents it to the person of her choice next month.

#### **AREA 4 –**

Cathie Ritchie, Lambda Sigma

- Our chapter decided to add some really fun social events that enthused members tremendously.
  - A Progressive Dinner for our Christmas celebration took place at four members' homes. House 1 was appetizers. House 2 & 3 were for main course. This was necessary because there were too many of us for one house. House 4 was for dessert. It was a tremendous success and everyone wants to repeat next year.
  - Another meeting was followed by a Mashed Potato Martini Dinner and Bunco.
  - We have worked hard to have very interesting speakers – the CFO of Ft. Bend ISD was invited to speak on our district's financial woes.
  - A member gave us a demonstration on how to wear scarves.
  - One meeting was held at the University of Houston Sugarland Campus and invited the education majors. We were thrilled so many attended. This was followed by a tour of the nursing school facilities which was followed by lunch together.

Debra Mahlmann, Alpha Iota

- In order to glean new members, we seek the support and assistance of the campus principal's in our area. We schedule a conference with the principal to explain the Society's goals and what membership in DKG means. We then ask the principal to recommend potential members.

## AREA 5 –

Elva Villarreal, Rho

- Our programs have been interactive. We have had fundraising projects, good will projects, and personal growth programs like Yoga and Native American dance that actively involved all members.
- We ordered personalized badges with pin ribbons and embroidered shirts to unify us as a chapter.
- All members have been kept in the loop by clearly communicating information. All members are urged to provide input.

Lori Shontz, Epsilon Phi

- In order to ensure that members are reading their yearbooks, there is a trivia question posted in the newsletter each month. The answer can be found somewhere in the yearbook. The questions usually pertain to members for an added benefit of getting to know one another better.

Lee Bourg, Epsilon Upsilon

- Several programs were enthusiastically received by our members.
  - “**I Hate My Purse**” is a program designed for fun and fellowship. It featured a dramatic reading of Nora Ephron's essay, a purse scavenger hunt, information on current trends in purses. Finally, members brought gently used purses and travel size toiletries which were then donated to a women's shelter.
  - We hosted a three chapter “**Chocolate Tea.**” We enjoyed a chocolate buffet and had a program on the history and health benefits of chocolate.
  - For the last three years, we have honored our longest standing members by decade. This year was the decade of the 70's.

Barbara Serota, Delta Psi

- We annually award grants-in-aid to teachers in training. This year, we invited experienced teachers, still in the area, who had received a grant-in-aid from our chapter to come and speak about their professional journey since we last saw them. Our speakers were wonderful, and we enjoyed visiting with friends from our past.

## AREA 6 –

Lezli Collins – Iota Iota

- A program on quilts was very successful. The Denton Quilt Guild sponsors two programs: Kid Kwilt Challenge and Story Books to Go. These programs are related to helping women and children and promoting literacy in our community. Beautiful quilts are paired with story books and loaned to the local library and/or public schools for storytelling and book studies.

Darlene Cox, Beta

- Our chapter newsletter has been very well received. We have included photos and articles written about the meetings and programs.

Dorothy Bankhead, Beta Tau

- We celebrated our chapter's birthday---in a CERAMIC SHOP. We each bought ourselves a birthday present – a piece of unpainted ceramic. During the course of the meeting, we painted our piece of ceramic and ate delicious food brought by chapter members. To add to the festive occasion, the tables were decorated with party favors and confetti. The room was decorated with streamers, and each member was given a little party hat to wear and a “blow-out” whistle. At the end, cake and ice cream were served and we sang the DKG Happy Birthday song to our chapter. The ceramic shop collected our painted pieces of ceramic and fired each piece. The finished pieces were delivered at the next month's meeting. Our chapter had a grand birthday celebration, everyone had a gift, we did a hands-on activity, and everyone proclaimed it one of our best meetings.

Janice McWhorter, Delta Beta

- We have had many programs and projects that have been successful:
  - Chapter members making of lap blankets for nursing home residents.
  - Collecting books to be sent to children in an area of Peru where an earthquake destroyed their town.
  - Members raffled off themed baskets to raise money for our recruitment grant and to fund computer lab training for a teacher in Chinchá Alta, Peru.
  - Chapter members provided breakfast for a district UIL meet held in our community.
  - Two members provided materials for making greeting cards and then taught our members how to create their own. Cards were then sent to special friends.
  - In lieu of a regular monthly meeting, a day trip to Fredericksburg's Wildseed Farm was planned with lunch at The Peach Tree Restaurant.
  - A local certified Crossfit Trainer took the chapter through a shorter form of their typical workout. This was great fun as we had both participants and cheerleaders! In addition, the trainer also discussed the Paleo Healthy Eating Diet.

## AREA 7 –

Donna Slather, Eta Tau

- **“Breakthrough Austin”** is a nonprofit organization, founded in 2001, that builds a path to college for low-income students, starting in middle school, who will be first generation college graduates. The program admits students as 6<sup>th</sup> graders and makes a six-year commitment to helping them graduate from high school and enter college. Breakthrough’s program addresses fundamental gaps in students’ skills and resources, provides academic enrichment, mentoring, family involvement, leadership and service, test preparation, clear information on navigating school bureaucracy, financial aid, and the college admissions process. For the past three years, more than 90% of Breakthrough seniors graduated from high school in four years, and approximately 70% of them enrolled in college. Eta Tau teamed up with Breakthrough to provide items that were needed to help the program be successful. Each month was designated for specific items. Some of the items we provided were: healthy snacks for the after school tutoring and homework help; academic planners, binders, notebooks, and other school supplies; flash drives and graphing calculators. For their graduation celebration, we donated shower caddies to be used at college. We know that our contributions help transform the lives of these students and provides them the opportunity to achieve success in higher education. Supporting “Breakthrough Austin” is Eta Tau’s commitment to “excellence in education” for all students.

Mary Keienburg, Gamma Omega

- Our annual silent auction provides funds for members attending State Convention.
- Try emailing press releases to the local newspapers and include pictures. More of the papers are printing the news articles than ever before.

Pat Villeneuve, Theta Kappa

- We shared a wonderful luncheon with two neighboring chapters. The luncheon was followed by Amanda Gore’s video and then desserts made by our chapter members.
- Before each meeting, an email is sent out reminding members about the meeting. After the meeting, our telephone committee calls members who were not there telling them they were missed and encouraging them to come to the next meeting.

Joan Hester, Alpha

- To raise money for World Fellowship, we had a jewelry sale. Members cleaned out their jewelry boxes and brought jewelry over a period of three meetings. Once collected, the jewelry was cleaned, re-packaged and then sold for \$1-\$5 at a fourth meeting. The sale of this jewelry raised \$241.00 for World Fellowship.

Beth Ray, Xi

- Printing the agenda for each meeting in the newsletter saved the chapter money. Since newsletters were published online, each member could print her own agenda to bring to the meeting. Board members took turns bringing 5 – 10 copies of the agenda so that members (or guests) who did not have email access would have one.

Kim Thonhoff, Epsilon Kappa

- Two women, Leslie Beasley and Diane Albin from **The Open Arms Shop**, were invited to speak about the social enterprise they developed. The Open Arms Shop is a company in Austin that creates scarves, pillows and other goods out of recycled T-shirts. They are made entirely by refugee African women. Their goal is to help these women earn a sustainable wage. They are “making a difference one refugee at a time.” These women are impacting the lives of these refugee women and their children with their unique business model. Their purpose closely connects to the International Project – Schools for Africa as well as the CTAUN Conference ideals. The program connected old and young educators across all generational barriers because all of us saw the possibilities of what each of us can do in our world.

Venture outside the limitations of the teaching world and look for successes in women in other venues. Their stories can enable us to see a plan of action.

Jill Foltz, Kappa Lambda

- Kappa Lambda chapter awarded \$250 “classroom grants” to two first-year teachers in Round Rock School District. We decided to answer International President, Dr. Jensi Souders’ challenge to create a chapter project to encourage early-career educators.

Carol Young, Alpha Chi

- At the first meeting of the year, our incoming committee chairmen were given the time to meet with the members of their committee. This allowed them to make plans for the coming year. We received an excellent response from this.
- Because there is a good chance that dues will go up for this coming year, we are allowing our members to pay dues over a two month period.
- Our Executive Board decided to pay \$40 of the dues for one of our members if they had perfect attendance at our January, February, March, and April meetings.

## AREA 9 –

Sue Roland, Eta Eta

- We adopted the USO as our project this year. We have gone out to DFW airport to welcome the soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and we have participated in the “**United Through Reading Program**” by providing books for the soldiers to read to their children by video. Both the book and the video are then sent to the child. In addition, we have also provided snack and travel size items to be used for “**Operation Send-off**”, provided coloring books, crayons, markers, etc. for the “family room” at DFW, and sent paperback books and magazines to the USO in Afghanistan.

Patti Gilbert, Mu Mu

- We started rotating the day of the week for our meetings. One month we would have it on Monday, the next month on Tuesday, the next month on Saturday. That way we could reach all of our members who may have conflict on certain days. We also held our meetings at restaurants with meeting rooms. We always meet at 5:30 p.m. so we are all starving. This kills two birds with one stone.

Joanne Szalay, Eta Zeta

- Our project for 2010-2011 was “**Leadership Skills for Kids.**” The project was a workshop for student leaders of school organizations and classrooms. The workshop format was large and small group participation. Activities included an icebreaker/warm-up activity, discussion on leadership styles, and a group activity whereby participants read scenarios of different styles of leadership and then engaged in discussion about the correct style for the situation. Sessions with reflections allowed children to get in touch with leadership style experiences they may have encountered in different settings. Students were encouraged to share styles they recognized and the appropriateness or inappropriateness of each style.

Baudelia Luna, Theta Alpha

- An idea that has really helped with communication is “**NEWSBUDS**” (a code word our editor came up with) which is a way to communicate with our members in between newsletters. It came about because we realized some members were sick or needed our help and by the time the newsletter came out the information was obsolete. One chapter member acts as editor, members e-mail her and she then forwards the news to the membership. When the word “NEWSBUDS” shows up in the inbox mail of our computer, we know to check it out and to take action. I have used “NEWSBUDS” as reminders before meetings, request for prayers for sick family members, and also to share good news.

Linda Weaver, Alpha Alpha

- My chapter has been successful in raising funds by means of an annual “**Silent Auction.**” Our members realize that this event is not a local bargain sale but a means to raise the money needed to provide a grant-in-aid for some young lady desiring to pursue education as a career. We have fun with our “Silent Auction!”

- We also have at least two door prizes at each of our meetings. We have sparked attendance with this. You can get member participation by asking different ones to donate the valued door prizes for the upcoming meeting.
- We always have good cooks bring good food to share so we put together a recipe book for our member to buy and then use to create good food in their own kitchens. This is looked upon as a gift to share with others so multiple copies are often purchased. The cost is kept at \$5.00 a copy so all can easily afford the purchase.

Linda Puster, Gamma Beta

- We had a wonderful program on the “**Welcome Home a Soldier**” program at DFW International Airport. The woman in charge of the USO and the reading program that allows soldier dads stationed abroad to read a book to their child via a video recording came to our chapter meeting and presented a history of her time with the USO along with a video. The chapter project was to collect donations for the reading program as well as for the soldiers. Finally, several of our members took the contributions to the airport where we greeted the troops and received a tour of the USO facility at DFW. This was a very successful program which touched everyone in the chapter in some way.

Deborah Thomas, Mu Omicron

- Our newsletter is the best form of communication for us. Our newsletter person does a great job keeping everyone informed and reminded about chapter, state and international happenings.

Delna Bryan, Delta Pi

- We change the meeting dates and sites.
- We have a variety of speakers that the membership voted on as their topic preferences.
- In the future, we are talking about fellowship meetings with sister chapters.

Cheryl Gray-Kelly, Lambda Upsilon

- Involve others in the planning and implementation of each meeting. Prepare a detailed agenda before each meeting and email it to your executive board for feedback.

Norma Hill, Iota Omega

- For one program, everyone brought a pair of shoes and told where the shoes had taken them. We had baby shoes, cowboy boots, wedding shoes, etc. We learned so much about our members and it was fun!
- At Christmas, we each brought something that was a holiday tradition. There were traditions for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Mother’s Day. One example was a Christmas stocking with a bell stitched on every year for 33 years. Another tradition was a tablecloth that family and guests had written on at every Thanksgiving for 10 years.

Fran Duncan, Kappa Zeta

- **Joining Hands Across the America** - Kappa Zeta responded to a program presented by Loydell Seward and Kathy James describing efforts of five neighboring DKG chapters to impact positively the education of children in a remote area of Guatemala. Our members collected their change, and that money was donated to the Guatemala Education Fund. Several hundred dollars has been contributed in this manner.

Excerpted from their brochure is the following information:

“Five Collin County Texas Delta Kappa Gamma chapters and two Guatemala chapters, in partnership with HELPS International (a 501.c.3 organization), will provide a grant for a female from the highlands of Guatemala to receive teaching certification or an advanced teaching degree from a qualified university in Guatemala. The purpose is to raise the education level of students in the highlands of Guatemala by improving the quality of education of the teachers. The vision is that the grant recipient will be in a position to advance the education and quality of life for the indigenous population of her country.”

## **AREA 10 –**

Jean Hensley, Alpha Omicron

- Find unusual resource persons in your community to meet your program needs. There are lots of interesting areas of learning from the most unusual places and people.

Connie Rensink, Theta Chi

- We centered our chapter projects on a presentation given by one of our district social workers. Many of our students are economically disadvantaged and families face tremendous challenges. She gave us ideas of what we could do to help and chapter projects were born.
  - We donated \$5 Wal-Mart Cards to the Family Services Department.
  - We collected socks and undies for the Clothes Closet.
- We volunteered one evening at the Tarrant County Food Bank.
- **Club We Can** is an after school program for children in grades 3 - 6 designed to help students understand human rights and find ways to serve their school, community, and world. The project started with 35 students, four teachers and one parent. A model project was designed to show students how to plan and organize volunteer work. Students then chose and organized their own projects, which included a food drive, school flower bed maintenance, a drive for science lab materials, and a fund raising project for children in Kenya. The project culminated with an International Night.

In 1996, the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN) was founded by Sally Swing Shelley, a senior officer in the United Nations Department of Public Information, and Barbara M. Walker, an educator at the Washington International School, to offer support for educators and promote teaching about the United Nations. Starting in 1997, Anne-Marie Carlson of The

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International formed a team of volunteer experts to enable educators to develop new and better ways of teaching about the United Nations and its civil society partners. They do this through annual conferences at the UN and in other parts of the US, and through the resources on their website. Each year CTAUN grants an award or awards for “Best Practices” inspired by the conferences presented during previous years. Club We Can received a CTAUN Best Practices Award in January of this year.

Annette Jones, Beta Phi

- This idea really worked!! We use a digital piggybank that keeps a running total for scholarships given to early career educators as we drop loose coins from our purse each month. We always announce the new total at the end of the meeting. It is exciting to hear the new amount because, as we all know, it surprisingly increase to amounts that we would never imagine by just donating a few coins.

Veronica Vasquez, Epsilon Lambda

- We invited family members and prospective members to attend one of our meetings. The program for that meeting was a presentation from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram watchdog columnist, Dave Lieber.
- We enjoyed a program on **Women in Texas History**. Tad Sanders, a docent at the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame Museum, provided anecdotal information about 11 Texas women. Some of the women discussed were: Tad Lucas, Texas Guinan, Bonnie Parker and Margo Jones. It was a wonderful program!!
- As a fundraiser we play “**Bingo for Scholarships**.” We play once a year and each person pays \$ per card. The prizes are donated by members and are usually food items – cupcakes, nuts, popcorn, jams/jellies, etc. The bingo games vary according to our caller – Texas T, Blackout, Last Person Standing. So much fun!!

Suzan Watson, Lambda Pi

- We begin every meeting with 25-30 minutes of social time. It gives our chapter members time to visit with each other while enjoying refreshments. It also gives me time to get my things prepared for the meeting. Finally, the time relaxes me before the meeting actually begins.

## **AREA 11 –**

Virginia Bowers, Epsilon Delta

- Our chapter created Christmas bags for residents staying at **Hope Lodge** during cancer treatment.
- Big success – having a joint meeting to host our state president. Members attended from ten Texas chapters and one New Mexico chapter.

Patti Peil, Eta Alpha

- It is my belief that if you put “stuff” in a basket and put cellophane and pretty ribbons around it – ladies will bid on it! Each April, our chapter holds a basket auction which raises over \$2,000 consistently...every year!! The money raised supports two scholarships for college junior, senior, or women working toward a

Master's degree and who are majoring in education. Also, this money funds the trip to Convention for the President and one other member.

## **AREA 12 –**

Josie Hernandez – Mu Kappa

- **“Christmas Stockings”** - Give a useful gift! Use a brand new pair of socks, stuff it with assorted holiday candies, include a couple of small stocking stuffers (pencils, toys, etc.), and top it with holiday ribbon. It's a sure way to put a smile on a child's face.
- **“Help with School Uniforms”** - Adopt a school where students are in need of school uniforms and having the school logo is not a must! Have your chapter members purchase and bring 2 school polo shirts for one of your meetings and 2 uniform pants for another. You can also create a cute SHIRT/PANT gift bag to collect monetary donations towards the purchase of these items.

Mary Ann Marshall, Gamma Tau

- These ideas really worked!
  - Book Review Programs and inviting the entire community
  - Style Show/Luncheon fundraisers
  - Scrapbooking programs
  - Quilting programs
  - Empowering officers and committees to carry out the work of the chapter!!
  - Compiling a chapter scrapbook, “Our Heritage – Gamma Tau Chapter – Membership Biographies.” We had 35 members turn in biographies and we published enough copies for each member to have a copy.

## **AREA 14 –**

Lois Templeton, Zeta Xi

- A **“Storybook Christmas”** involves giving each first grader in Midland County a book for Christmas. All members are involved in securing funds, book selection, organizing books for delivery, and the actual presentation of the books to schools, both public and private. This year approximately 2,300 books were distributed to 29 schools.

Betty Jane Johnson, Delta Iota

- In our chapter, it is always successful when the chapter is told of a local need. They respond in a very giving way. We have **“Friendship Home”** in our town. This is a place that provides rooms for families of hospitalized patients from out of town. We have had two drives this year and have helped to keep these rooms supplied. The generosity of our chapter members has been outstanding.

## AREA 16 –

Alvina Smith, Beta Rho

- **"Phone a Beta Rho Friend"** – At our first meeting of the year, I had each member sign up to call (email or text) one Beta Rho sister before each monthly meeting or event for the year. This not only helped everyone remember our meetings but it also kept us updated on our members and any personal issues that might keep them from attending. Our meeting attendance has considerably improved this year.
- **"Modge-Podge Picture Framing"**- At our last meeting of the year, we honor our founding sisters, celebrate our new sisters and recommit to our DKG Society with a short meeting. We then relax with *Creations by Diane*. One of our members, Diane Sargent, has a step by step home interior project planned that can be completed in about two hours. We took a block of wood, binder clip, scrapbook paper and ribbon to make a chic frame that can sit alone or hang on the wall.

Susan Mayo, Iota Omicron

- Our **"New Teacher Materials Giveaway"** is a very successful project that we have done every August for the past five years. We gather supplies from retiring teachers, or teachers that may be weeding out materials at the end of the school year. We then advertise and set aside a day at one of the local churches where new teachers can come and get all of the supplies they want free of charge.
- This year we have a website set up. We had business cards and pencils printed with the website and our chapter name. On the cards, we included the mission statement of DKG. These were given to all the participants of the Materials Giveaway. In addition, I used these as birthday tokens for our members throughout the year. Hopefully, this will draw more attention to our website.
- At the end of this year, all those with perfect attendance will be recognized with a pin that can be worn on their ribbons. If members make the effort to come to all of the meetings, the member should be recognized.

Marsha Quade, Beta Chi

- We wear our DKG Name Badges and/or our DKG clothing on meeting days to work, school, or just around town. We have had many inquiries about our Society and who we are.
- Setting up a webpage is highly recommended. I set up a webpage for Beta Chi this year using Weebly.com as recommended by Dianne Moose. I found it very user friendly and it really looks professional. Everyone should do this if they do not have a website.

Deri David, Gamma Sigma

- As a fundraiser, we are having a garage sale to fund the yearly scholarship that we give to an education major at North Central Texas College.

## AREA 17 –

Jency Holbert, Beta Lambda

- The “**Dress for Class Boutique and Haberdashery**” is located in the Education North Building at Texas A&M University-Commerce. The objective of Beta Lambda is to provide new and gently worn professional clothing to teacher education majors while they are completing their student teaching semester and as they begin interviewing for teaching positions. The Boutique and Haberdashery offers clothing for both male and female future teachers!

## AREA 18 –

Nancy Frankel, Mu Phi

- The local culinary arts classes did a presentation on healthy recipes for busy people. Members loved the demonstration, and we all learned a lot.

Sandra Schneider, Zeta Tau

- Our chapter took on a very ambitious project this year to bring as many sisters together, volunteering for many worthwhile organizations, to see how many hours we could accumulate. In the process, we learned much about each other and the causes that we champion in turn brought us closer together.

We began by brainstorming the idea of “Bell Ringers” at our executive board meeting. The idea was adopted and presented at our first meeting where we discussed different organizations in which we would be interested in volunteering. Several ideas drew curiosity from the group so a committee was formed to gather information from the different organizations, make a schedule, describe upcoming opportunities, and keep a tally of hours. Matching red shirts were made and printed with the emblem of the bell, the words “Believe, Engage, Learn, Lead”, “Advance the Society” and “Make a Difference, Be a Bell Ringer.” Members who volunteered wore the red shirt and introduced themselves as members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. We had 33 members who were actively involved in our program. We inspired our own chapter, identified different service organizations such as “Wreaths across America, AAUW, Hollibrook Elementary, “Special Olympics”, tallied hours and worked together in service to our community. Together our chapter volunteered for 29 different organizations for a total of 1,777.3 hours. We helped many people, grew closer to them, became keenly aware of their needs, and created a buzz!

Cheryl Moore, Lambda Delta

- We made **no-sew baby blankets** for donation to Child Protective Services. Members chose and donated one yard pieces of fleece. We assembled and decorated them at a chapter meeting. They were then taken to the local CPS office where they were gratefully received. Our members LOVED working on these and felt this was a very worthwhile “craft” which required NO craftiness on anyone’s part. At one meeting, 32 members present made 59 blankets. Many of those who could not attend provided fleece. It was easy enough that several of us

made more than one. This project tied in to community service, fellowship among our members as a “group” project, and helping one another. In addition, this was part of our World Fellowship meeting, so we were able to do chapter, community and world “fellowship” which made for a tidy package of a program.

Jeannette Pratt, Lambda Tau

- **“The Rose Ceremony”** – To help our members know each other better, keep interest high, and increase attendance at meeting, roses are passed from member to member. At the first meeting of the year, I chose 4 members who had made a difference in my life and honored them by telling about how they impacted my life in such a positive way. I then presented each with a rose. I then challenged each of the four to choose another member to honor at the next meeting and provide another rose as they told about the selected member. The roses have continued to be passed at each meeting. It has been fun to see how the roses have moved around our chapter and to learn more about each other in the process. Members want to be there to see who will be honored next. It has been a successful and fun way to increase interest.
- E-vite Invitations – Each month our Technology Chairman sends out an E-vite invitation via email to members that provides information about the meeting. This helps because members can communicate if they are unable to attend and it really helps keep our communication current. Our members really like this.
- DKG Cards – Special cards were designed to be sent to members for various occasions such as: Congratulations, Sympathy, Get Well Soon, and We Missed You. These were printed on the computer and sent out as needed.

Brenda Keys, Zeta Nu

- We support a local graduate each year that is majoring in education by giving a \$1,000 grant-in-aid. The group is motivated to help with fundraising in order to keep the gift at \$1,000. We have discussed lowering the amount, but the ladies always come through. For a small chapter, I am proud of this effort.
- We provide school snacks and supplies for a local youth organization that focuses on after-school programs for older youth. Our members are very generous in bringing items for this cause.

Risa McCann, Mu Pi

- A great program this year was **“Member Speed Dating.”** Members were divided into small groups. Each small group had one newly initiated member. There was a set of simple questions on the tables. When a bell rang, the new initiate drew a question. She tried to answer it and that is when the fun began. All of the other members could choose to answer the question for themselves; ask her for more information or draw another question to answer. Every 3 – 5 minutes the bell rang again. At that time, members were to change to another table, but the new initiate stayed at the same table. The process repeated again several times. The conversation and the laughter often made me stop and say a quick prayer of thanks for my wonderful Mu Pi sisters. Our members loved it so much; we plan to do it again in the spring of 2012!

- Initiate the use of a sign-in system for meetings. For the personal touch, appoint members from the membership committee to greet and assist members as they arrive.
- Create bookmarks and refrigerator magnets that have meeting dates and state convention information. Distribute these to each chapter member at the first meeting of the year.
- Fundraiser – Hold a “**Books for a Buck**” fundraiser to raise funds for World Fellowship or other chapter needs. Members bring books, CD’s and DVDs as donations. All donations are displayed, and at the end of the meeting, members can make purchases for \$1.00 per item.
- Fundraiser – Create a “**Brag Can.**” Our members often want to share bits of news with the chapter. All they have to do is complete a “Brag Form” with their name and their brag. They pay \$1.00 to stand during the Brag Can Roundup, read their news, and then celebrate with their sisters. Again, this is a great, simple fundraiser!!
- Extend the fun and fellowship after a meeting by informally meeting at a local restaurant. Our chapter has started doing this recently. It is a great way to deepen friendships and learn about new members.

#### Wanda Baker, Lambda Alpha

- Usually, at chapter meetings we have a presenter and meeting follows a format of a lecture or presentation. There was one program that was very successful. It was an interactive jewelry making program. One of our members shared her techniques on making jewelry, and the meeting was very informal and interactive. Members really enjoyed the opportunity to sit with friends and talk while making their bracelets. I believe the format really helped promote fellowship with a special opportunity to share time with each other.

#### DiAnn Suggs, Lambda Kappa

- We are very proud of our yearly support of **Girl’s Country**. Girl’s Country is a local operation that houses and schools girls from the ages of 3 –18. We begin the school year by providing school supplies for the girls. At Christmas, we do a money tree with the money going to buy something special for the girls. At Valentines, we draw names of all the girls and provide each with a Valentine Basket. This year we donated 43 baskets.

#### Huntyce Moore, Lambda Gamma

- Our chapter enjoyed a program entitled “**Life Before I Became a Teacher.**” This program centered on the professions and jobs we had before we became teachers. Each member who presented spoke of how these jobs had enhanced their teaching.
- Our chapter has had some very successful silent auctions over the past few years. Members donate items to the auction. This year we specified chocolates, and it went very well. All of the proceeds from our fundraisers go to fund our Grant-in-Aid.

- We enjoyed a program on “**Your Personality Color.**” The members took a brief quiz to determine the “color” of their personality. Then all members of the same color (there are only 4) were grouped. Each group drew pictures on a poster board that described the traits of their personality. In conclusion, the members moved back into whole group and shared these traits with the rest of the members.
- We always invite a local author to come and speak to the chapter.