

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA  
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Volume 52, Issue 4

Editor: Sara Ranzau

# Eta Xi Roses

Area VI, Chapter #182  
Kerrville, TX  
February 2017

Website

Credit Sara Ranzau

## Come to Convention!



Last year, Eunice and I had a wonderful time at convention and came back with all sorts of new ideas! Many of which we have been able to put in place. This year we would LOVE for at least two more of you to go with us! There is even money available to you if you'd like to go – plus, we can have some serious sister time!

If you are an in-service teacher who would like to add some presentation experience to your resume, this is a great opportunity! Click [here](#) to go to the proposal sheet (it is due 2/17).

If you just want to join us, click [here](#) to go to the website about convention!

If you can't go but want to contribute to the Unifying Project, click [here](#) to see what you can send!

### Save the Date!

March 4  
Ryan Hall – 10AM

Join us for a book share, and to hear from some local teachers about what they do in the classroom!

March 1

Deadline for the next submission in the newsletter

ASAP

Convention Hotel

Book your hotel room for the convention in Houston!

## Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

## DKG History

*ASTEF*

What is ASTEF? Who is ASTEF? What does ASTEF do? Why do they need money in Feb.? All these questions will be answered in 2 minutes at the Feb. 14, 2017, meeting of Eta Xi

For now, think about what your school could do with an extra \$2,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000 dollars. If that money sounds tempting, be sure to pay close attention to our TWO MINUTES OF HISTORY!



# 2017 Convention

June 22 – 24, 2017

Westin Galleria

**HURRY TO**



Click [HERE](#) to update your member information!

## Social Networking

*Looking for several people to rotate the "official photographer" job responsibility. Photos will be posted to the Google drive to make them available for social media and newsletters.*

*Please see Chris Simone ([830-377-7788](tel:830-377-7788) or <mailto:etaxitexas@gmail.com>) for more information.*

**Chris Simone: [dkgetaxitexas.weebly.com](http://dkgetaxitexas.weebly.com)**

[Delta Kappa Gamma Eta Xi](#)

[Instagram](#)

## State and International Social Media

[DKG – Texas State Organization](#)

[The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International](#)

[Delta Kappa Gamma @DKG SI](#)

[DKG Pinterest Page](#)

## Happy Birthday!!

### February

- 4 Jeannie Zirkel
- 5 Linda Stegall
- 12 Eunice McCoy
- 17 Luanne Schmedemann
- 23 Bridget Henderson
- 23 Cristi Ahern

### March

- 2 Cathy Barkley
- 6 Shelby Balser
- 28 Sharon Claiborn



Credit Sara Ranzau

## Contribute to Our Newsletter!

We want to hear more from you! Our goal is to make our newsletter more exciting, educational, and full of the color you add to the world around you! To contribute pictures, interesting articles you've read or written, or share your artistic abilities, email Sara Ranzau at

[\*\*etaxinewsletter@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:etaxinewsletter@gmail.com)

**Next Deadline: March 1, 2017**



Credit Sara Ranzau

## A Message from the Presidents



Credit Sara Ranzau

**From Eunice**

"Simply. Simply. Simply." Our DKG News and President's Page from International stressed that our society may need to simplify our culture and structure to make us more supportive to enable each person to be an engaged member. This idea may require us to be flexible with our thinking about how we, as a chapter, can contribute to the common vision of promoting excellence in education. "Each interaction with other leading women educators represents an opportunity for growth as a leader," is a quote from DKG News. What ways can we step forward to increase membership? Do we need to make changes to our routines and practices? Sara and I look forward to interacting with you.



Credit Sara Ranzau



Credit Sara Ranzau

**From Sara**

The world is changing quickly, and as educators we find ourselves in a potentially precarious position. Lately I have found myself glued to the news, especially the news about education. I even spent last Saturday reading many of the bills prepared for the current Texas legislative session. I believe students deserve the best educators around and I have seen schools lose. I realized I need to be a voice for my students in the school and out of it. Just like the changes we face with DKG, we must be willing to learn, read, and adapt to promote excellence in education. We must push ourselves as a group to be relevant and supportive. I value your thoughts about those things and as always look forward to growing with you.



**Chapter Rules**

## Chapter Officers

Your Chapter Officers for the 2016-2018 Biennium  
To email any of your officers, click on their underlined names

Co-Presidents – Eunice McCoy and Sara Ranzau

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Linda Stegall

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Dana Dunagan

Recording & Corresponding Secretary – Cathy Barkley

Parliamentarian – Nancy Smith

Treasurer – Jeannie Zirkel

Webmaster – Chris Simone

Membership Chair – Cathy Martin

## Going Digital?

Just a reminder that you can access our international website by using your member ID number as username and dkg2014society as password. You may choose a new password after first time logging in. If you haven't visited our website lately, try it. It will expand your knowledge about DKG. Did you know we have a DKG Online Store? Look at what is there by going to [www.dkg.org/store](http://www.dkg.org/store).

If you are new to the digital world, be sure to email one of us if you need help! Throughout the newsletter you can click on anything underlined and it will take you directly to that place: email, website, social media page, etc.

# HELP WANTED

Looking for volunteers to assist with the Facebook and Instagram social media pages. Please see Chris Simone ([830-377-7788](tel:830-377-7788) or [etaxitexas@gmail.com](mailto:etaxitexas@gmail.com)) for more information.

### Visit International, TSO, and ASTEF!

Looking for information about what is happening in DKG? Check these out!

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

[www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org)

[www.astef.org](http://www.astef.org)

[Lone Star News](#)

Log into your DKG account using your member number and the password:  
dkg2014society



Credit Sara Ranzau



Credit Sharon Claiborn



Credit Sara Ranzau

### Chapter Reports

To access the minutes and treasurer's reports, click the blue links. Please read each before our next meeting so any necessary changes can be made at the time.

[MINUTES](#)

[TREASURER'S REPORT](#)

[HOSPITALITY PLAN & CALENDAR](#)

## Guess Who??

Last issue's answer:  
Chris Simone

Who has  
always wanted  
to be a “skinny  
brunet”?

### Member Contacts

New Member  
Recommendation  
Form

Teacher  
Achievement  
Award  
Information

## RAISING FUNDS

Don't forget to bring  
your dollar for the  
brag bag!

Be prepared for more  
fundraisers this year  
as we work to grow  
our scholarship fund.

Education News  
from Around  
the State

Credit Sandy DuBose and Matt Boyd

## The State of Education

By Sara Ranzau

Education is not a partisan issue, but it is a political one. We all know what it is like to be talked down to by someone who makes a much larger salary than we do. We know what it feels like to have to defend our choices to educate children and care for them. We know what it feels like to try and explain why we spend extra time, money, and emotional energy on our classrooms or the young person who has no positive support at home.

The problem in our current political climate is that the people at the top do not know what that is like. The new Secretary of Education has no idea what public education is like. That became very clear in her initial hearings when she could not answer questions about growth versus proficiency and seemed confused about IDEA and its importance for the country's special education students and their rights.

Luckily, the Secretary of Education has little direct influence on the way states run public schools; however, I am concerned that her belief that public schools never succeed and should be run like businesses will quickly become the slogans and rally cries for many of our 50 states. I am especially concerned about it in our own state.

Already we are seeing bills prepared for the Texas legislature that will affect public schools and teachers. Bills like the one for the education savings plan where parents can take their children out of public schools and send them to private schools with the help of the money the state sends to public schools for each

child.

The state also has bills in place to stop public school teachers who have chosen to join a union from being able to deduct their union dues from paychecks. Additionally, teacher contracts will no longer be continuous, they will be probationary or term. That may not be a bad thing, but it is something teachers need to know about.

We must make sure that we stay aware of what is happening in the state and the nation, if we do not we are not prepared to fight for our students. Our jobs are more than just teaching students to read, write, add, subtract, learn history, or understand the basics of science. They are to be voices for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Our voices, and those of parents, are why the STAAR test no longer has the short answer writing questions for English I and II tests. Our voices are why the state board of education decided to accept the teacher recommendations as well as other recommendations on the revisions of the ELAR TEKS. Those voices are also why the SBOE listened to experts instead of just accepting a text book for Mexican-American studies that was full of errors and stereotypes.

We must use our voices. It does not matter if you are in-service or retired, Democrat or Republican, veteran or novice. We cannot let our students fall prey to those who do not have the same expertise as we do. Their futures and the future of public education is at stake. Call, email, protest, go to the capitol – participate!

# Upcoming Events

## Programs

March 4, 2017

Learning and Growing Together

First Presbyterian Church, Ryan Hall, Kerrville

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join us for a book swap (bring one you love and want to share) and to see what some amazing teachers are doing in their classrooms!

### Don't Forget

If you know of a teacher who does some really neat things, invite them to our next meeting to share with all of us!

### Achievement Award

We have one more award to give, share the application OR nominate someone yourself!

[Click Here for Application](#)



## Eta Xi Chapter

c/o Sara Ranzau  
179 Twin Canyon Dr.  
Boerne, TX 78006