



Alpha Tau Tales

Alpha Tau Chapter 43 Area 9
Organized April 15, 1933
Kaufman County, Texas
Texas State Organization



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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from our President



Weathering the Cold



January ushered in some extreme cold for us Texas residents! This is something we do not experience very

often in the South.

We returned from a trip two days before the cold and were glad to be home before the weather spiraled downhill. We had time to unload from a wonderful time in Florida and prepare for colder days ahead.

The pets were brought in, freeze precautions taken, and a quick trip to the grocery store stocked us with the essentials after being gone.

We enjoyed a new soup recipe, and I had a chance to work on the jigsaw puzzle my granddaughter got me for Christmas. I also caught up on some things I had been procrastinating on at home.

It was enjoyable hearing how the following members spent these cold days:

Suzy - “We spent those freezing days cruising in the Caribbean, visiting various islands. We did have some rain showers on St. Kitts, and hoped the next freeze arrived after we returned home.”

Vivian T. – “Don kept the fireplace burning around the clock!! We watched a lot of TV and played some games! I made a pot of homemade chili.”

Mollie – “We used our wood stove to keep warm, but the water for all our animals froze, so we were carrying water to them twice a day.”

Laura – “We were busy making sure the chickens, bees, dog, cat, ducks and birds were kept warm and had plenty of water during the freezing weather! It was amazing how quickly the water would freeze!”

Jerri— “I cranked up the heat in the house and when it got warm, I didn’t turn it down until the world thawed out. Also had a broken pipe but, fortunately, a friend fixed it when my plumber got sick.”

Stay warm, ladies! I am sure this is not the end of the cold weather for this winter.

With loving thoughts and God’s blessings for each of you,

Cathy

Calendar

September 12, 2023

October 10, 2023

November 14, 2023

December 2023
Christmas Brunch

January 9, 2024

January 27, 2024
Executive Board
Meeting

February 13, 2024

March 23, 2024
“OC” Forney ISD 10 am

April 9, 2024

May 14, 2024

Meetings

2nd Tuesdays

Sign-in & visit 5:00

Meeting begins 5:30

Kaufman County Library

Community Room

3790 S. Houston Street

Kaufman, TX 75142

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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Bring a Friend!

February Meeting

Tuesday

February 13, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Kaufman County Library

Hostesses: **Green Team** – *Marnie Cushing, Karrie Pharris, Bettye Penny, JoLynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout, Cathy Stewart (Aydee Reyna)

Special Guest: Janie Wigley, Area 9 Coordinator

KENO

Bring ONE \$5 gift in a gift bag AND a \$5 cash donation for Bee-Happy

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember all our sisters in prayer, giving the hope of a healthy and happy life for themselves and their families in 2024.

Please remember Debbi Ball and her family in your prayers. Her mother, Jean Williams, a long time member of Area 12 Gamma Eta chapter, has passed. Debbi is the TSO Web Master & ASTEF board member.

Pray for our teachers and students and for a safe productive and smooth school year.

Gift (\$5.00 limit) suggestions = lotions, candy, journals/books, candles, kitchen towels, home décor, Sonic or other gift card or \$5 cash—in a gift bag

January 2024 Meeting



Bee Happy



All About You

Sondra Perry's grandson, Caden, graduated from Texas Tech, Summa cum laude, with a major in Business/Marketing.

Judy Jedlicka is "on cloud 9 due to the fact that grandsons, Jaxson and Weston, are on the State 3A Football Championship Team from Malakoff. Congratulations to Jaxson and Weston. Enjoy the moment." Don't expect her to come down off cloud 9 anytime soon since her joy includes grandson, Kolton Nabors' engagement to Bailey, which was announced over the holidays.

JoLynn Maddin: "Christmas was fun even if celebrated on New Years! All twenty-five were at my house for brunch (yes, we had a place to sit) and joining us was my new grandson-in-law and a great grandson. So thankful for my family!"

Congratulations to our new member, **Patty Cave**. 2024 is bringing not one, not two, not three, but four great grandbabies! Busy year ahead for Patty, great grand!

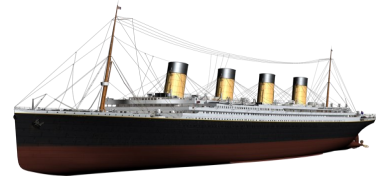
Traveling:

Cathy Stewart and her husband back from an RV trip to the Orlando area.

Suzu McCook and her husband sailed to the eastern Caribbean, visiting Barbados, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Martinique. Made it home before the second Arctic blast hit Kaufman County.

Larua Buie and her family enjoyed a "fantastic week at Big Bend National Park. The mountains were magnificent, but the highlight of the trip was attending the Star Night Party at the McDonald Observatory and seeing many constellations, especially the Milky Way. . . A canvas of stars!"

Nancy Shaw and her husband "went on an 8 day Mississippi cruise the first of December, sailing from New Orleans to Memphis. We stopped for excursions along the way in Darrow, La., St. Francisville, La., Baton Rouge, La., Natchez, Miss., Clarksville, Miss., and Memphis, Tenn. Very informative."



Bee-Happy Day Program

Shelley Brookins (middle picture below at right) is the Founder and Director of the Bee-Happy Day Program that serves Kaufman County and surrounding areas. Bee-Happy is a non-profit, faith based ministry with two programs. The first program is the Bee-Happy Day Program where adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities are encouraged to reach their full potential through hands on activities that challenge them. The second program offered is the Reimagine. It is a parent/caregiver support program for people with special needs children from birth-21 years of age that meets weekly during the school year.





Alpha Tau Meeting Agenda

February 13, 2024

Kaufman County Library 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Soaring to New Heights to Enhance Education in Kaufman County



5:00 Doors Open—Socialize--Light Meal
 5:30 Meeting Called to Order: President Cathy Stewart
 Welcome Guests & Janie Wigley, Area 9 Coordinator
 Thank You to Hostess Committee:
 Gold Team: Marnie Cushing, Nancy Shaw, Cathy Stewart,
 Virginia Fineout, Bettye Penny, JoLynn Maddin, Karrie
 Pharris (Aydee Reyna)
 Pledges: Aydee Reyna
 Inspiration:
Board Reports:
 Vice President: Karrie Pharris
 March—Outing, Opportunity Central
 Other Items
 Second Vice President: Aydee Reyna
 Recording Secy.: Laura Buie

Corresponding Secy.: Suzy McCook

Treasurer: Jerri Coates

Raffle Budget Money on Hand _____

Old Business: Will continue meetings in person and in ZOOM

New Business: Cathy Stewart

Fundraiser - quilt raffle, Mollie will share quilt

Regional Area Workshop - June 22, Rockwall

Meeting raffle

Program: Keno –Jennifer Acker

Adjourn 6:30

Membership Goal - percentage of members in Attendance will increase, members will be celebrated, and members encouraged to attend Alpha Tau activities.

Projects - The Door, Pregnancy Center; Care bags for homebound members.

Alpha Tau Minutes for January 9, 2024

Attendees: Laura Buie, Patty Cave, Jerri Coates, Janice Dowlearn, Judy Jedlicka, Peggy Johnson, Jo Lynn Maddin, Ann McDonald, Joan Moore, Bettye Penny, Sondra Perry, Karri Pharris, Nancy Shaw, Alberta Smith, Vivian Themer, Vivian Yancey.

The meeting of the Alpha Tau Chapter was called to order by First Vice-President Karri Pharris @ 5:30 p.m. at the Kaufman County Library Community Room.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge were led by Vivian Themer.

First Vice-President Karri Pharris welcomed everyone in attendance and our guest Shelley Brookins the Founder and Director of the Bee-Happy Day Program. She thanked this month's hostess committee, the Gold Team, for the lovely BEE theme which went along with our evening's program.

The inspiration was given by First Vice-President Karri Pharris on behalf of Mollie Kasper. Karri read a letter "Busy as a Bee" written by Mollie.

First Vice-President Karri Pharris recognized returning member Patty Cave.

Program: Our guest speaker was introduced by First Vice-President Karri Pharris. Shelley Brookins is the Founder and Director of the Bee-Happy Day Program that serves Kaufman County and surrounding areas. Bee-Happy is a non-profit, faith based ministry with two programs. The first program is the Bee-Happy Day Program where adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities are encouraged to reach their full potential through hands on activities that challenge them. The second program offered is the Reimagine. It is a parent/caregiver support program for people with special needs children from birth-21 years of age that meets weekly during the school year.

Please read & study these minutes prior to the next meeting in order to accept with or without changes quick-

Board Reports:

First Vice-President Karri Pharris: Discussed February Meeting-Keno Night, and how

the game will be played. Each member is to bring actual gift (\$5 limit) in a gift bag and a \$5 donation to be given to the Bee-Happy Foundation.

Corresponding Secretary: Suzy McCook's rep. reminded everyone to send news for the Tales.

There were no objections to the November minutes, so those will stand as written.

Treasurer: Jerri Coates sent her friend Brenda Happy New Year to help present the budget. Money on hand \$2795.23. No changes to the budget were noted. In addition, Jerri Coates proposed that the Alpha Tau make a donation of \$100.00 to the Bee Happy Foundation. Judy Jedlicka moved to approve and Bettye Penny seconded. All voted yes.

Business: First Vice-President Karri Pharris that there will be a Quilt Raffle again this year. Mollie Kasper will have a quilt top that will be quilted. Raffle tickets will be passed out at the February meeting, and the drawing will take place at the April meeting.

Peggy Johnson won the "Bee Basket" raffle prize.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary Laura Buie



The Quilt Raffle



The Quilt Raffle begins at the February meeting. Tickets will be distributed at that time. The drawing for the quilt will happen at the April meeting. Tickets are \$5.00 each or an arm's length for \$20 (18 raffle tickets).

Let Jerri know NOW how many tickets you want so she can have them ready for you when you arrive at the meeting. Text or email her NOW.

Many thanks to Mollie Kasper for procuring the quilt top and having it quilted.

Alpha Tau Hostess Teams 2023-2024

Date	Program	Hostess Teams
9/12/2023 ✓	Flamingle Kaufman County Library Community Room	Gold Team *Vivian Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn, Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Suzy McCook (Mollie Kasper)
10/10/2023 Canceled	Craft 1st Baptist Church Terrell ROC	Red Team *Joan Moore, Ann McDonald, Vivian Yancey, Sondra Perry, Laura Buie, Jerri Coates, Peggy Johnson (Rachel Calvery)
11/14/2023 ✓	Friendsgiving Event Teacher Awards KCLCR	Green Team & Red Team above *Marnie Cushing, Karrie Pharris, Bettye Penny, Jo Lynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout, Cathy Stewart (Aydee Reyna)
12/9/2023 ✓	Christmas Brunch	Chisholm Country Store 10 a.m.
1/9/2024 ✓	BEE-Happy KCLCR	Gold Team
2/13/2024	Keno KCLCR	Green Team
March, 2024	March Outing March 23	Opportunity Central "OC" Forney ISD 10 a.m. www.theoc.net
4/9/2024	Birthday Celebration Book Study—KCLCR	Red Team
5/14/2024	Officer Installation Fun & Games-KCLCR	Mixed Team Team Chairs



Alpha Tau Executive Board

The Alpha Tau Executive Board met on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Cathy Stewart's home. Shown at left are: top Aydee Reyna, 2nd Vice-President, Cathy Stewart, President, Karrie Pharris, 1st Vice-President, seated: Suzy McCook, Corresponding Secretary and Jerri Coates, Treasurer. Not shown: Laura Buie, Recording Secretary and Vivian Themer, Parliamentarian.

January 27, 2024 Alpha Tau Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Alpha Tau Executive Board Meeting was called to order at 10:30

1) Alpha Tau meetings will continue Virtually (zoom) and Live: remind

those who are absent that they can log into the meeting by zoom.

2) Goals – Membership: Increase membership, attendance increase to and above 85%. Projects include The Door, Bee- Happy, and others.

3) Fundraiser – Quilt raffle - let Jerri know how many tickets you'll need so she has them ready at the meeting- adding to The Tales, the quilt winner will be announced at the April meeting and all money needs to be turned in by that time.

4) Keno Night – February 13th meeting- Janie Wigley special guest (Area 9 coordinator); Jennifer Acker will bring all the Keno stuff, we'll play fast and if there are multiple winners, they all get a gift.

5) March outing - OC location tour (Forney ISD) Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. tour and 11 a.m. lunch

6) Possible alternate meeting place for May meeting – First Baptist at ROC only if Library not available, Cathy will find out.

7) Review Chapter Check-up – Not received yet.

8) Ice Breakers – at the beginning of each meeting - it will only take 5 min. Cathy will lead and have one at each meeting. April - childhood school pictures will be sent to Aydee at aydee.reyna@sbcglobal.net and will be used for icebreaker. May will be the Antiques Road Show (show and tell).

9) Northeast Regional Area Workshop, June 22 in Rockwall – Incoming President goes for free; can we pay for the incoming Vice presidents which will only be \$100 (\$50 each)? Form needs to be fill out and turned in at April meeting so that Jerri can write the check. New VPs can be paid for from travel/convention budget item. This can be voted on at the next meeting if needed. Anyone planning to go to the workshop should complete the registration form and bring it and money to Jerri at the April meeting in order to meet the deadlines.

10) Nominating committee: Ask them if they will be on the nominating and can Mollie be the chair (Karrie will check with Mollie) Vivian Themer, Mollie Kasper, Judy Jedlicka. If they can get a list together by Feb. meeting for meeting they can be presented and voted on. Cathy will have a list of nominees (4) who have agreed to take these roles, “does anyone else have another nomination please let us know,” then one person moves and another seconds that motion to accept the nomination and all vote on that motion.

11) Jerri – in February sent \$100 instead of \$25 to Bee-Happy. For the future can we give the presenter \$25 and after they leave can we motion for an increased amount? It will all be documented in the minutes each time. Procedure for donations for a cause: standard donation will be \$25; to be set up in bylaws for next year.

12) For May meeting we will have Mixed Team Committee, instead of fun and games it may be a craft.

13) Remind Aydee that Patty Cave needs to turn in application for membership. She has paid her dues. Former name Patty Voochries, she'd been a member before. Cathy will ask her to send some details and pictures for The Tales.

Meeting adjourned.





If you plan to attend the Area Workshop this June in Rockwall, please complete the form below. **Turn it in to our treasurer, Jerri Coates, at the April meeting** along with your registration money (checks made to Alpha Tau). She will forward all to the NE Regional Area folks. We can carpool to the conference and lunch is included in the fee.



MEMBER REGISTRATION

**DKG/TSO - NE Regional Area Workshop
Rockwall, Texas, June 22, 2024**



Registration fees and deadlines are as follows:

Registration Type	Deadline	Amount	Includes noon meal
Regular	Postmarked by May 15	\$50	Yes
Late	Postmarked May 16 - June 1	\$65	Yes
On-site	On-site June 22	\$65	No

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Chapter: _____ Area: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check all that apply. 2024-2026 Chapter President

First Time DKG Workshop/Convention Attendee Collegiate Member

Member for 50 or 50+ Years (Specify number): _____

Guest: _____

Special Dietary Needs: Vegetarian Gluten-free Diabetic Other:

Registration Fee	Cost	Amount
Chapter President or Chapter Representative <i>(TSO will pay a \$50 registration fee for chapter president or chapter representative. If there are co-presidents, TSO will pay \$50 for only one.)</i>	\$0	
All Other Members and/or Guests Registration <i>(postmarked by May 15)</i>	\$50	
Late Registration <i>(postmarked May 15-June 1)</i>	\$65	
On-site Registration	\$65	
Check #: _____ or Cash	Total:	

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Cell #: _____

Please note: Registration fees are non-refundable after June 1 but may be transferred for another chapter member (or potential member) to attend in your place.

Check payable to your **chapter**.

Return Registration Form #1 and check to your chapter treasurer by May 15.

Late registration May 16 - June 1: Return Registration Form #1 and check to your chapter treasurer.