



Alpha Tau Chapter 43 Area 9

Organized April 15, 1933

Kaufman County, Texas

Texas State Organization

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Volume 90 Issue 3  
Date: November 2023  
Editor: Suzy McCook  
suzmcc69@gmail.com

**President**

Cathy Stewart  
cstew1974@sbcglobal.net

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Karrie Pharris  
kgpharris1986@gmail.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Aydee Reyna  
aydee.reyna@sbcglobal.net

**Recording Secretary**

Laura Buie  
lauragbuie@gmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary**

Suzy McCook  
suzmcc69@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Jerri Coates  
coatesjerrilg@yahoo.com

**Parliamentarian**

Vivian Themer  
redwings11mom@aol.com

*from our President*

## What Does Your Thanksgiving Look Like?



Our Thanksgiving has changed throughout the years! When our children were little; it meant packing our bags, loading the car, and going to see different sets of grandparents. With many around the table, it was always a joy to hear the excitement of the children!

As the years went on, we traveled to our hometown to spend Thanksgiving with our moms to enjoy a meal together and reminisce of loved ones who had gone on before us.

The last years, it has meant kids and grandkids coming across town to enjoy the parade, Thanksgiving dinner, football, walks, naps, and playing outside.

This year will be different than ever before. We will be spending Thanksgiving in a cabin with children, grandchildren, and extended family.

Whatever our Thanksgiving looks like; it is a time of giving thanks for the blessings of the year, the family around us, and the food before us!

Just for fun, I want to add some Thanksgiving trivia questions from *Good Housekeeping* magazine:

How much did the world's most expensive Thanksgiving dinner on record cost?

How many women were at the very first Thanksgiving celebration? 4

How much does the heaviest turkey on record weigh?

What did President Calvin Coolidge famously receive as a Thanksgiving gift?

What food did the colonists and Native Americans NOT have at the first Thanksgiving?

What wasn't part of the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade?

Answers: (1) \$181,000 (2) Four (3) 86 pounds (4) A live raccoon (It was to be served as Thanksgiving dinner. The President became attached and kept it as a pet.) (5) Turkey (6) Balloons

Whatever your Thanksgiving looks like this year; may you enjoy many blessings!

With loving thoughts of each of you,

*Cathy Stewart*

### Calendar

September 12, 2023

October 10, 2023

November 14, 2023

December 2023  
Christmas Brunch

January 9, 2024

February 13, 2024

March 2024  
"OC" Forney ISD

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

**Picture/Graphics Credit:** All graphics were taken from free online Clip Art or are noted on the graphic. All pictures were taken for and/or by an Alpha Tau member with permission for placement in Alpha Tau publications. Text shared has been included with permission as noted or comes from DKG/TSO.

# Friendsgiving Event with all the trimmings!



Tuesday 5:00 p.m.

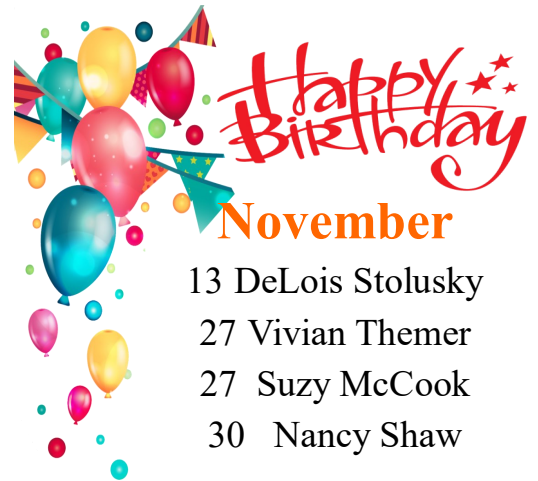
**November 14, 2023**

Kaufman County Library Community Room

**Red Team:** \*Joan Moore, Ann McDonald, Vivian Yancey, Sondra Perry, Laura Buie, Jerri Coates, Peggy Johnson (Rachel Calvery)

**Green Team:** \*Marnie Cushing, Karrie Pharris, Bettye Penny, Jo Lynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout, Cathy Stewart, (Aydee Reyna)

## Teacher Grant Awards



13 DeLois Stolusky

27 Vivian Themer

27 Suzy McCook

30 Nancy Shaw



## Love one another!

Before the Feast of the Passover and at Jesus' last supper with his disciples, Jesus commands his disciples to love one another. In John 13:34-35 he gives his disciples a new commandment, "that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

Join us in showing our love and care for some of our members that don't have the ability to come to our monthly meetings. At our November meeting we will be putting together some goody bags for 5 of these members and we could really use your help. Please bring some individually wrapped sugar free treats or drinks or a few gifts that we can put in these bags. Also, a reminder for membership committee members to bring a gift bag to the November meeting for these gifts. We will be delivering the goody bags in the days after our November meeting.

Some suggestions for the bags:

Nail polish or nail care items

Sugar-free snacks

Hand or foot exfoliant creams

Fuzzy socks

Sugar-free drinks

Fall Decor

Tea bags

Earrings

Lotions

Body sprays

Coloring books

Puzzle Books

Crossword books

Word Find books

**Thank you for loving one another!**

from Aydee Reyna



## Please Remember in Your Prayers



*Please remember all our sisters in prayer.*

The October meeting cancellation was due in part to the prevalence of illness, including COVID and other ailments. Please pray that we all recover and remain healthy.

*Please pray for Alpha Tau sisters and their families. Pray for our teachers and students and for a safe productive and smooth school year.*

## Goodies for our active teaching

**members** were recently delivered to their campuses. Many thanks for your dedication to this most worthy calling.



# Alpha Tau Teacher Grant Recipients 2023

At our November 14 meeting, we will honor our Teacher Grant Recipients and their families. We look forward to hearing from these gals about their future plans and dreams.



## Crandall ISD

Stephanie Reyes  
Amber Ragsdale



## Forney ISD

Kate Masengill  
Krystal Ramm



## Kaufman ISD

Brandi Krenek  
Channing McConnell



## Scurry Rosser ISD

Jennifer Henderson



## Terrell ISD

Rachael Newland  
Heather White



## Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 9, 2023, 10 a.m.



We meet at the Chisholm Country Store for bunch. Menu options are shown below and you **MUST** tell Karrie your choice (option 1 or 2) by **Tuesday, November 28.**

### Option 1

\$15.00 per person

Choice of Breakfast Sandwich

(with sausage or bacon, eggs “Chisholm Country Store” style, melted Cheddar cheese)

Croissant sandwich or Breakfast Burrito or Wafflewich

Served with seasonal fruit, Tater Tots, two donut holes, and choice of salsa or syrup.

### Option 2

\$10.00 per person

Any three of the following:

Donut (1) assorted

Kolaches (2), offered plain or with Jalapeno

Bagel with cream cheese (1), plain or blueberry

Seasonal Fruit

Both include beverage of choice: coffee, hot/cold tea; juice or soft drink



**VOTE FOR PROP 9**  
A PENSION INCREASE FOR RETIRED TEACHERS!

**COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ENDORSED BY THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (TRTA)**

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

### REASONS TO VOTE FOR PROP 9:

1. No public school retiree since 9/1/2004 has ever received a cost-of-living adjustment. Most retired teachers are not eligible to receive Social Security; therefore, a TRS pension is their primary source of income.
2. It won't create a tax increase! The Texas Legislature has already set aside the funds to make this happen with voter approval.
3. Prop 9 is ENDORSED by the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA)!

SCAN BELOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PROP 9!





# Alpha Tau Monthly Meeting

## November 14, 2023

### Kaufman County Library 5:00-6:30

*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

Thank You to Joint Hostess Committees:

**Red Team:** \*Joan Moore, Ann McDonald, Vivian Yancey, Sondra Perry, Laura Buie, Jerri Coates, Peggy Johnson (Rachel Calvery)

**Green Team:** \*Marnie Cushing, Karrie Pharris, Bettye Penny, Jo Lynn Maddin, Nancy Shaw, Virginia Fineout, Cathy Stewart, (Aydee Reyna)

Pledges:

Inspiration:

Greeter:

**Program:** Grant Recipients, Bettye Penny

#### Board Reports:

First Vice President: Karrie Pharris - Christmas Brunch

Second Vice President: Aydee Reyna - Care bags

Corresponding Secretary: Suzy McCook

Secretary: Laura Buie

Treasurer: Jerri Coates

Budget

Money on hand \_\_\_\_\_

**New Business:** Cathy Stewart - \*2023-24 Committees  
\*Northeast RAW (Regional Area Workshop)

Door Prize

6:30 Meeting Adjourned:

The Delta Kappa Gamma Song

**Membership Goal:** The percentage of members in attendance will increase; members will be celebrated; and members encouraged to attend Alpha Tau activities - Christmas brunch and March outing.

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

## Alpha Tau Meeting Minutes 9/12/2023

The regular meeting of the Alpha Tau Chapter was called to order by Vice President Karrie Pharris at 5:35 pm at the Kaufman County Library in Kaufman. Member Mollie Kasper led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge. A total of 16 members and 0 guests were present in person, and two members attended via Zoom.

Vice President Karrie Pharris thanked the hostess committee: Gold Team: \*Vivian Themer, Jana Garner, Judy Barton, Alberta Smith, Janice Dowlearn, Jane West, Judy Jedlicka, Suzy McCook (Mollie Kasper)

Inspiration: Jane West "The Four Trees" (just BE). Once there were four trees. Three were very boastful and arrogant. The fourth tree was happy just to be. The woodcutter came and chopped down the first three trees. They were made into the city gates, a war ship, and a place of worship. Then an army came and burned them all. The fourth tree was content to remain just a tree. It survived the war and lived to set seeds and provide shade for the growing seedlings. Be content to be just a tree.

Greeter: Vivian Themer

Board Reports (Follow Agenda)

First Vice President: Karrie Pharris – upcoming programs

October: Crafting, FBC Terrell

November: Teacher grants

December: Christmas Brunch, Chisholm Country Store

January: Bee Happy, Adult Day Program

February: Keno Night

March: "Opportunity Central" the OC, Forney ISD

April: Birthday Celebration and Book Study

May: Officer Installation, Fun and Games

Second Vice President: Aydee Reyna – Mollie Kasper filled in for Aydee, who could not be present.

*Please read & study these minutes prior to the next meeting in order to accept with or without changes quickly.*

We will be making bags for our five homebound members. Please bring five items to put in the bags to our November meeting. The membership committee will bring the bags, and Jana Garner will create labels.

Corresponding Secretary: Suzy McCook – please submit news for the Tales.

Secretary: Laura Buie – Mollie Kasper filled in for Laura and presented minutes. Jane West moved to approve; Suzy McCook seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer: Jerri Coates – Presented budget. Suzy McCook moved to approve; Vivian Themer seconded. Budget was approved by unanimous vote.

Legislation: Joan Moore – Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for retirees will be Proposition 9 on the November ballot. Retired teachers have not had a COLA since 2004. The proposition will not cost the taxpayers any money or create a tax increase. 150,000 Texas retired school personnel live on less than \$1000 per month.

New Business: Bettye Penny – Gave two grant award letters to a representative of each district to distribute to schools to nominate an award recipient.

Karrie Pharris thanked the group for the flowers in remembrance of her father.

Program: Flamingle. Members participated in flamingo-themed getting to know each other activities.

Door Prize was won by Karrie Pharris.

Meeting adjourned: 6:05

Respectfully Submitted

Member Mollie Kasper (Acting secretary in absence of Laura Buie)

## Alpha Tau Hostess Teams 2023-2024

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

## Northeast Regional Area Workshop

### Save the Date!

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024  
 Location: Dr. Gene Burton College  
 and Career Academy, Rockwall TX  
 Time: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM  
 Registration: \$50 until May 15;  
 after May 15 \$65; Onsite \$65



**Texas State Organization**

Don't miss this  
event!!