



Volume 90 Issue 2  
Date: October 2023  
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## Calendar

September 12, 2023

October 10, 2023

November 14, 2023

December 2023  
Christmas Gathering

January 9, 2024

February 13, 2024

March 2024  
Spring Outing

April 9, 2024

May 14, 2024

#### Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays  
Sign-in & visit 5:00  
Meeting begins 5:30  
Kaufman County Library  
Community Room  
3790 S. Houston Street  
Kaufman, TX 75142

*from our President*

## Summer – It's a Wrap

Summer of 2023 leaves us with a specific memory – **HOT!!** However, it made the cooler weather and rain even more of a blessing!

I would like to share some vacation reflections submitted by our members:

Marnie Cushing – I retired, traveled to Denver, started playing pickle ball, read 14 books in June and July, and took a tour of Texas with our friends from Czech: Dallas, Ft. Worth, Forney, Mesquite Rodeo, West, Waco, Austin, Praha, and San Antonio! We have been swimming quite a bit to stay cool. Also, I will miss the first meeting. We will be in Hawaii!

*Sounds like Marnie is making the most of retirement!*

Laura Buie – We have had a wonderful summer this year. My husband and I spent two weeks in Bremen, Germany. One of the highlights of the visit was visiting the Stork Sanctuary where there were hundreds of rescued storks, and just as many in the wild around the sanctuary. I was able to add this count to my bird watching list with eBird!

*A bird-watching paradise, Laura. How interesting to be in Germany for two weeks! We also missed Laura at our first meeting, as she was vacationing in Colorado.*

Vivian Themer - Don and I celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary in the great town of Ft. Worth at the Stockyards!! We stayed in the historic Stockyards Hotel that is presumably haunted. We were supposed to stay in the Bonnie and Clyde Room but the air conditioner was out so we were upgraded to the Texas Suite!! It was gorgeous. We were told Bonnie and Clyde stayed in the hotel in that room because it had a great view of the bank they were going to rob! If you have never experienced that hotel, I highly recommend it! While there, we went to the John Wayne museum, attended a rodeo, and enjoyed Joe Garcia's Mexican food!! The next day, we, of course, had to go cheer the Rangers! It was a great weekend!

*What a fun-packed anniversary celebration! Happy 44 years, Don and Vivian!!*

Cathy Stewart – We camped in Silverton, Colorado in August with some friends. It was a great time to enjoy some relief from the heat. We loved the 70s during the day and 40s at night. It was exciting to wear a jacket!! We took a jeep tour in the mountains and went on several hikes in the area.

With loving thoughts and God's blessings for each of you!

*Cathy*



**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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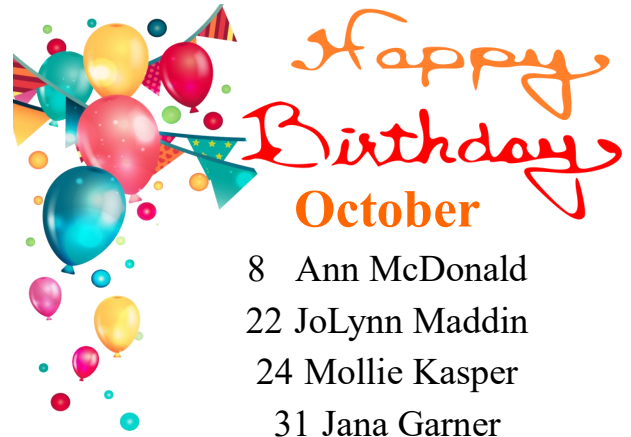


**Meeting**  
**Tuesday**  
**October 10, 2023**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**1st Baptist Terrell ROC, 100 W. Brin St., Terrell**

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

**Crafting Fun with Carol Keto**



**8 Ann McDonald**  
**22 JoLynn Maddin**  
**24 Mollie Kasper**  
**31 Jana Garner**



## **Please Remember in Your Prayers**



*Please remember all our sisters in prayer.*

Please remember JoLynn Maddin who is having wrist surgery after a fall. Pray for a quick recovery and full use.

Please remember Mollie Kasper's brother-in-law, Freddie Kasper, in your prayers as he navigates chemo and other complications in the hospital.

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



## **All About You!**

**Jane West** is adding 2 members to her family. Her oldest granddaughter, Madison Walker, is marrying Nate Johnson November 11. Her grandson, Dawson Walker, is marrying Hayley Stroud January 20, 2023.

**Peggy Johnson's** granddaughter started her law school studies at Texas Tech Law School this fall.

**Judy Barton** added 2 new great grands to her family, Bodie Lawrence Hyde February 18 and Riley Nicole Barton July 19.

**Betty Penny** is proud to announce the birth of her first great grandchild, Chesney Dell Makerney.

**Sondra Perry** has been busy attending her granddaughter's volleyball games, one in Louisiana and one in Marshall. "Lots of fun!"

**Suzy McCook** attended a family gathering in Aspen, CO, recently.

**Ann McDonald** expecting a great grand soon.

**Vivian Themer** enjoyed a weekend with her sister and niece in Pawhuska, OK, visiting everything Pioneer Woman. "We started the weekend visiting Reba's Place first. It was a fantastic weekend!"

**Vivian Yancey** busy at Whitewright HS football games, where her son, Blake, is the head coach/AD.

**JoLynn Maddin**—"Just to let you know how much our family appreciated your kindness during our sad time. The many kind words, pretty rose and your attendance at Don's service speak of your love and thoughtfulness." Karrie resounded this sentiment at the meeting.

**Cathy Stewart** has recovered from COVID, thank the Lord.



The Kaufman Area Beekeeper's Association voted Hollow Oak Farm's honey the best tasting of 2023! Congrats **Mollie & Mike Kasper!**

# September 2023 Flamingle Meeting

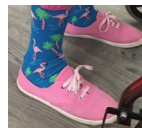


Alpha Tau Sisters met on September 12, 2023, dressed in pink and ready for a good time. After a brief meeting, Jerri Coates, our resident flamingo, led us in games, fellowship, fun and laughter.

There was a "Who wore the most pink" contest, a couple of getting to know you games, and a "guess the lie" game. We were assigned to teams for this playtime and won prizes!



Each team voted on their best lady in the most pink. (Vivian T., Peggy J., Karrie P. & Judy B. at left) Judy Barton won the "Sister who wore the most pink" contest.



**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



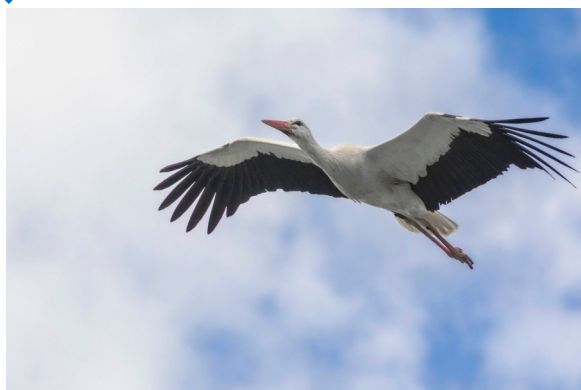
Legislative chair, Joan Moore, shared information about voting in November. It is very important that we ALL vote for Prop 9. This affects ALL teachers, retired or not. The voters of Texas will decide whether the Cost of Living Adjustment will happen. All legislators approved of it and the money is there, but the state constitution requires that the voters approve of the disbursement. If you need yard signs or cards, please contact Joan.

**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):



## Laura's Trip to Germany



Laura Buie traveled to Bremen, Germany, with her husband, John, this summer. She was privileged to be invited to a Stork Sanctuary. "Only a few people have been allowed here and we were thrilled to visit this Moor!"

Laura is an avid and very knowledgeable bird watcher. She shares some of her pictures here. "Aren't they beautiful!"



At right, the stork is recycling twigs from an abandoned nest. "It was fascinating watching it travel back and forth between the two nests!"



Above is the stork's pose after delivery of food to the chicks. "I wish you could hear the sound they make thrusting their necks back."



At left is one of the plants found in the Moor near the Stork Sanctuary. It is a rare flesh eating plant (insects)!

## Alpha Tau Monthly Meeting Agenda

October 10, 2023

First Baptist Church ROC, Terrell 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 t Hostess Committee: Red Team: \*Joan Moore, Ann McDonald, Vivian Yancey, Sondra Perry, Laura Buie, Jerri Coates (Rachel Calvery)

Pledges: Vivian Yancey

Inspiration: Laura Buie

Greeter: Sondra Perry

### Board Reports

First Vice President: Karrie Pharris

Second Vice President: Aydee Reyna

Corresponding Secretary: Suzy McCook

Secretary: Laura Buie

Treasurer: Jerri Coates

Budget & Money on Hand \_\_\_\_\_

New Business: Cathy Stewart—2023-2024 Committees

**Program:** Craft—Carol Keto

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; members will be 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: Jerrie 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  ✓	Flamingle 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	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	Teacher Awards  KCLCR	<b>Green Team</b> *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 www.theoc.net
4/9/2024	Birthday Celebration Book Study—KCLCR	<b>Red Team</b>
5/14/2024	Officer Installation Fun & Games-KCLCR	<b>Mixed Team</b>



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Northeast Regional Area Workshop**  
**Saturday, June 22, 2024**  
**Dr. Gene Burton College & Career Academy**  
**2301 John King Blvd, Rockwall TX**  
**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

www.dkgtxas.org