



Epsilon Psi Newsletter

Epsilon Psi Chapter (#143), Area III, Baytown
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International,
Texas State Organization

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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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President's Message by: Kristen Davis



Kristen Davis
President 2020-2022

Dear Sisters,
Happy New Year!
Here's to a new journey into a new year. My wish for you and your family is a safe and healthy 2022! Over the last two years, we have had many struggles. I hope that the new year will bring us lots of joy. I look forward to seeing what 2022 has in store for us. We definitely can look forward to our joint meeting with Gamma Nu. We will get to listen to a financial

advisor giving us tips from the lens of an educator. Please look at our meeting information for all of the details!
Our banquet will be here before you know it. I will be looking at our banquet committee members and begin planning. Time to put your thinking caps on! May the journey of your new year be filled with happiness, peace and joy! Happy New Year to my sisters. Enjoy the ride!

Love,
Kristen

Next Meeting: Birthday Celebration with Gamma Nu

January 13, 2022

5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic

800 W. Baker Road, Baytown

(Members may also attend the meeting virtually.)

Hostesses: Gamma Nu

Kristen Davis davisk0928@gmail.com
and Alicia Brooks asbrooks77@gmail.com, editors



Web Watch: International

The DKG Gallery of Fine Arts submission will open next on January 15, 2022. You are encouraged to enter and review tips for submitting, and do's and don'ts to help you understand common errors members make.

[Tips and Reminders for Submitting to the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts](#)

[Do's and Don'ts for Submission](#)

Keep the conversation going, please use the comment section below to suggest new topics, ask questions, or give us your input.

Web Watch: Alpha State



STAR 2023 Registration Now Open

Registration for the STAR event is now open and can be accessed at [this link](#). Mark your calendar for January 13-15, 2023 at Camp Allen. The registration link is also located on the [Women in Arts Committee](#) page.

News from
Alpha State
and
International



Hospitality and Other News:

Richie Butler has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer recently. She will begin chemotherapy as soon as it can be arranged. Our prayers are with Richie and her family that the chemo will be successful.

Judi Mitchell has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and is currently recovering from COVID. Our prayers are with Judi and her family for a speedy recovery from COVID. "Don't stop believing in your potential and your focus on excellence. Don't ever lose hope, and never give up on you." Frank C. Church

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Project Graduation

Members are to bring monetary donations for Project Graduation benefitting the 6 Goose Creek high schools. The following individuals will furnish the raffle prizes for the **February** meeting,

Project Graduation Raffle Prizes: Ami Briscoe, chair; Jayme Curry, Laurie Curry, Juanita Hatfield, Julie Kellner, Ginger McKay

If you cannot attend the meeting please give your prize to another Epsilon Psi member who will be in attendance.

"Education

is not

preparation

for life;

education is

life itself."

John Dewey



February Meeting:

February 24, 2022

Thursday, 5 p.m.

Location: Rollingbrook Fellowship Church

Program: "The Progress of Social Emotional Learning in Schools"

Lesley Gershmel from Barbers Hill ISD will discuss Social Emotional Learning in today's classrooms.

Hostesses: Therese Ruff, chair; Mary Cooling, Kristen Davis, Debbie Denson,

Project Graduation Raffle Prizes: Ami Briscoe, chair; Jayme Curry, Laurie Curry, Juanita Hatfield, Julie Kellner, Ginger McKay

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Epsilon Psi Chapter
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2021

The Epsilon Psi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International enjoyed fellowship time and hospitality at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, November 18, 2021, at Rollingbrook Fellowship Church. The dual format in-person and Zoom meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Kristen Davis with a quorum established and the secretary being present. Roll was taken by Carolyn Francis with twelve members and one guest being present.

Carolyn Florus led us in the Chapter Collect, and members joined in the Response.

Old Business

The October minutes were approved as printed in the November newsletter.

The October financial report prepared by Treasurer Carolyn Francis was printed in the November newsletter and will be filed for audit.

Program

Kristen Davis introduced the necrology service for four of our members who have recently passed. Julie Kellner, chair of the Necrology Committee, led the memorial ceremonies for Aida Dyer, Ouida Carroll, Shirley Wright, and Jean Lee that honored the friendship, loyalty, and service of each one.

A video interview of Charter Member Ouida Carroll was shown, then Therese Ruff paid tribute to Ouida, a lifelong Baytonian whose father was one of the first to be employed by Humble Oil. She enjoyed a 43-year career in education and was a member of Epsilon Psi for fifty-nine years. She served our chapter as president and secretary. Ouida was dear friends with Therese's mother Boudy Norton. She dearly loved her nieces, nephews and all her family. Here are her own words, "Learning was so much fun, that's what I wanted to be. Teaching needs to be your first choice. Teaching is a ministry." Ouida passed on May 23, 2019.

Julie Kellner and Pearl Campbell from Sacred Heart Catholic Church paid tribute to Aida Dyer, an immigrant from Costa Rica, who had a beautiful life in the service of her new country. She was fluent in three languages. Aida had the distinction, when she was hired in 1975, of being GCCISD's only ESL secondary teacher. She retired after 35 years in the classroom. She was active in our chapter and involved in her church. In 1987, she and her husband and friends dedicated a new Crosby Branch to the Harris County Public Library System. She was instrumental in impacting women educators worldwide by facilitating the establishment of Delta Kappa Gamma chapters in her homeland of Costa Rica. Aida passed on May 25, 2021.

Carolyn Francis spoke about our dear friend Jean Lee who was born October 1, 1931. She graduated valedictorian of her high school then met her future husband OB on the campus of Sam Houston State. She didn't talk loyalty; she lived it. She spent most of her 36-year tenure with GCCISD as librarian at Carver Jones High School, Baytown Junior High, and Robert E. Lee High School. After retirement, she spent 17 years as the research librarian at Sterling Municipal Library. Jean was initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma on October 26, 1972, and served our chapter faithfully as treasurer, first vice-president, president, and chair of many committees. She served on the state level as area coordinator, first vice-president, committee chairs and received the prestigious State Achievement Award. She was awarded the Member-in-Print Award many times. She was instrumental in establishing One Heart-Two Languages, also known as the Mexico Project. We are proud of the many accomplishments she had on the chapter, state, and international levels. She loved learning and giving, so she was a wonderful mentor to Carolyn Francis and many others. Jean passed October 20, 2021.

Laura Kellner brought memories of her dear friend, Shirley Wright. Shirley was valedictorian of her high school and went to Rice where she was destined to meet her future husband Bobby. Shirley and Laura also met and became instant friends when they spent time together cheering on their favorite football players. Shirley was an English teacher and became the English Department chair at Sterling High School. Shirley was initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma on October 26, 2006, and she served on many committees. She loved to decorate for her famous festive Christmas open house, and just about all occasions including showers and weddings. She was the "social director" at school. Shirley was a true friend to many and very giving of her time and talents. The Wrights and the Kellners developed a close friendship that included many happy trips in their motor homes. Shirley passed on April 19, 2020.

Julie concluded the service with a beautiful poem "The Rose Behind the Wall", author unknown

Business Meeting

President Kristen Davis thanked Joyce Cloudt, Carolyn Francis, Carolyn Florus, and Julie Kellner for the refreshments.

Yearbook Committee Chair Carolyn Francis reported that the yearbook is ready. She has a yearbook for you if you have not already picked it up. We thanked her for all her work on it.

Kristen reminded us to be looking for prospective new members.

Kathryn Wright has moved to McLean, Texas, in the Panhandle.

Epsilon Psi has received a letter from the family of Tommye Glynn Clark requesting her membership status be changed from active to reserve due to health issues. Carolyn Francis moved to approve this change, and Carolyn Florus seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be our Christmas dinner on December 9, 2021, at Peter E. Hyland Center, 1906 Decker Drive, Baytown. Hostesses are JoAnn Short, Alicia Brooks, Karen Coffey, Debbie Reynolds, Dana Vela-Lopez, and Michelle Verdun. Project Graduation raffle prizes will be brought by Meredith Durham, Karen Coffey, Laura Kellner, and Joan Mangum. More details will follow in emails.

Reports of Special Committees

A Storybook Christmas Committee is making plans. Member Laura Kellner reported school districts that we serve welcomed the books for first and second graders this year. Patty Russell will be getting the numbers from the private schools. Julie Kellner reported A Storybook Christmas Committee has chosen The Thing About Yetis by Vin Vogel. JoAnn Short has ordered over 5,000 of them. Scholastic is warning that shipping difficulties could extend the delivery time from ten days to five weeks. Packing day will depend on the arrival of the books, but the tentative packing day is planned for Wednesday, December 8, at Barbers Hill Technology Center. Carolyn Francis will print the labels. We are hoping the PALS students can apply the labels. We will need lots of paper sacks and lots of workers. Distribution day is Tuesday, December 14.

Hospitality Committee Report

Prayers are being offered for Joyce Cloudt, who is taking chemo to fight cancer.

Continuing prayers for Ruth Blake and her husband Jon, who is in hospice care.

Prayers for Judi Mitchell undergoing medical tests.

Happy to report Judi Mitchell's family is improving.

Happy November birthdays to Joyce Cloudt, Joan Mangum, and Juanita Hatfield.

JoAnn Short conducted the drawing for the Project Graduation raffle prizes. Prizes were brought by Richie Butler, Tommye Glynn Clark, and Lorena Langford.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. with the singing of "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song".

Richie Butler, Recording Secretary

Kristen Davis, President



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Epsilon Psi Chapter
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, December 9, 2021

The Epsilon Psi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International enjoyed fellowship time and hospitality at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 9, 2021, at Peter E. Hyland Center, 1906 Decker Drive, Baytown. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Kristen Davis with a quorum established. In the absence of the secretary, Meredith Durham was designated to act as secretary. Roll was taken by Carolyn Francis with nine members being present.

Judi Mitchell led us in the Chapter Collect, and members joined in the Response.

Merry Christmas Members

Kristen welcomed members and thanked us for contributions of diapers and wipes for the Peter Hyland Child Care Center. She thanked the hostesses for the Christmas setting and accompaniments. The hostesses were JoAnn Short, Alicia Brooks, Karen Coffey, Debbie Reynolds, Dana Vela-Lopez, and Michelle Verdun. We enjoyed a very delicious catered Christmas dinner, which was a gift from Kristen Davis. Thank you very much.

Approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report

The minutes and treasurer's reports for November and December will be published in January's newsletter.

Correspondence

Carolyn Francis read the thank you note from Dena Lee and Janet Lee Killian on behalf of Jean Lee's family.

Business Meeting

The next meeting will be a joint meeting hosted by Gamma Nu to celebrate the observance of chapter birthdays. The meeting is Thursday, January 13, 2022, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 800 W. Baker Road, Baytown. Members may also attend the meeting virtually.

Reports of Special Committees

A Storybook Christmas committee reported the books have been shipped. Packing day will depend on the arrival of the books. Packing day will need to be as soon as possible after their arrival. Watch your emails for the most current information, and please come to Barbers Hill Technology Center to pack if you can. Carolyn Francis will print the labels. We are hoping the PALS students can apply the labels. We will need lots of paper sacks and lots of workers. Distribution day is Tuesday, December 14.

Hospitality Committee Report

JoAnn Short gave the hospitality report.

Sincere condolences to Ruth Blake on the death of her husband, Dr. Jon V. Blake, on November 22, 2021. We pray for God's peace to surround Ruth and her daughter Sarah as they grieve.

Prayers continue for Joyce Cloudt, who is taking chemo to fight cancer. Prayers for Judi Mitchell undergoing medical tests for Parkinson's.

Happy to report Judi Mitchell's family is improving.

Happy December birthdays wishes to Lorena Lankford, Amy Briscoe, Laura Kellner, and Therese Ruff.

Program

We played a Christmas Bingo game.

Project Graduation

JoAnn Short conducted the drawing for the Project Graduation raffle prizes. Project Graduation prizes were brought by Meredith Durham, Karen Coffey, Laura Kellner, and Joan Mangum. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. with the singing of "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song".

Meredith Durham, Acting Secretary for
Richie Butler, Recording, Secretary

Kristen Davis, President



Happy Birthday!

January

15 **Mattie Sharp**
 27 **Dorothy Shields**
 29 **Judi Mitchell**

February

8 **Kathryn Wright**
 11 **Richie Butler**

Treasurer's Report



Balance, December 1, 2021.....\$4,534.24
 Receipts.....172.00
 Total Available.....\$4,706.24
 Disbursements.....125.00
 Balance, December 22, 2021..... \$4,581.24

Amegy Bank of Texas Savings:
 General Fund.....\$3,008.91
 Grants-in-Aid.....5,753.99
 Convention Incentive.....8,245.99
 Scholarship Fund.....6,760.76
 Savings Balance, Dec. 22, 2021..... \$23,769.65

Total Funds Available, Dec. 22, 2021..... \$28,350.89

Perfect Attendance

The following members have perfect attendance for 2021-2022: Alicia Brooks, Kristen Davis, Carolyn Francis, Julie Kellner, Laura Kellner, Judi Mitchell and JoAnn Short. If you think you had perfect attendance and your name was omitted, contact Carolyn Francis, crfranci@me.com or 713-705-1540

Attendance Watch

August16 = 38.10%
 September13 = 30.95%
 October7 = 17.50%
 November12 = 30.00%
 December9 = 23.08%
 Average11.40 = 27.92%

Spring Dues Collection Begins Soon

Treasurer Carolyn Francis will begin collecting dues for 2022-2023 in January. If you need to pay dues in installments, please contact Carolyn to make arrangements, crfranci@me.com or 713-705-1540. A dues form is included on p. 8 of this newsletter.

2020-2022 Epsilon Psi Chapter Officers

Kristen Davis, President
Alicia Brooks, First Vice President
JoAnn Short, Second Vice President
Richie Butler, Recording Secretary
Julie Kellner, Corresponding Secretary
Carolyn Francis, Treasurer
Kathryn Wright, Parliamentarian
JoAnn Short, Immed. Past President

Name of Member _____

2022-2023 EPSILON PSI DUES

Please complete the following form and return it with your check to:

Mrs. Carolyn Francis, 2104 Buchanan Drive, Baytown, TX 77520-5607

Check only those items for which you are paying. Please pay ASAP. **Total amount is due no later than May 31.**

Active Member Dues and Fees	\$93.00	_____
Reserve Member Dues and Fees	45.00	_____
Grant-in-Aid and Scholarship Funds	20.00	_____ 20.00
Chapter Newsletter Subscription (\$12 for members preferring a printed copy)		_____
A Storybook Christmas Donation		_____
Gift to Chapter		_____
Total amount of check		\$ _____

You may pay with one check made payable to "Epsilon Psi."

Name of Member: _____

Name of Member's Spouse: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code (9 digits): _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Permission to publish Yes No

Home Email Address: _____ Permission to publish Yes No

Cell Phone Number: _____ Permission to publish Yes No

Name of School: _____

Work Email Address: _____

Subject/Grade Level/Current Position: _____

Work Phone Number: _____

Birthday: _____

(Chapter Profile purposes) (Month) (Date) (Year)

Approximate Year Entered Teaching, *not number of years teaching*: _____

Degrees Held: " Bachelor " Master " Doctor " Other: _____

Publication Permission Form

(Do not sign *both* forms.)

Epsilon Psi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has my permission to post my name, email, and/or photo or news about me on official Epsilon Psi, state, and international publications and/or on the Epsilon Psi website as well as any other website of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Not signing or returning this form will automatically give permission for publication.

Signature

Date

I do ***not*** give Epsilon Psi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has my permission to post my name, email, and/or photo or news about me on official Epsilon Psi, state, and international publications and/or on the Epsilon Psi website as well as any other website of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. **Not signing or returning this form will automatically give permission for publication.**

Signature

Date