

Epsilon Phi Epistle
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Alpha State Texas Area V
Epsilon Phi Chapter 141
Weslaco, Texas



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Mission Statement

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



Second Purpose

To Honor Women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.

Important Dates

- October 10 Membership Drive
- October 16 Epsilon Phi Initiation
- October 18 Alfresco Weslaco
- October 31 DKG Dues Deadline
- November 10 Joint Meeting



President's Words



The fall season is a time that we reap what we have sown. I hope that you are receiving many blessings this fall season.

Tonya Bugher
President



October Meeting

The October meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**. Refreshments will begin at **4:45 pm**. The meeting will be held at **5:15 pm** in the fellowship hall of Faith Lutheran Church. The church is located at 300 S. Border, north of McCaleb's Funeral Home. Parking is along 3rd St. Enter by

the western most door facing 3rd. Initiation of new members will take place first, followed by a business meeting. If you have not already paid Jackie, please be prepared to pay your dues at this meeting. Please come welcome our newest sisters into the Society.

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Vision Statement: Leading women educators impacting education worldwide
2017-19 TSO Theme: Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow

Meeting Minutes

Epsilon Phi Chapter Meeting Minutes September 18, 2018

After enjoying refreshments provided by the Executive Board, President Tonya Bugher called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM in the fellowship hall at Faith Lutheran Church, Weslaco. Twelve chapter members were present.

Tonya read the Inspirational Thought for the day.

Action Item: The motion was made by the Executive Committee that the chapter pay for this year's dues for Carolina Lopez and Chris Warren, our two members who suffered considerable damage to their homes during the June 20th flooding in Weslaco. Motion carried.

Jackie Reposh gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance on hand of \$7,345.92. Dues (\$75) are due to Jackie by the end of October.

Under correspondence, Tonya read a thank-you from Barbara Serota for our chapter's involvement in the Area V Workshop.

Details for the November 10th Joint Meeting were discussed. Violet reported on availability and prices for the various venues. **Action Item:** Lori Shontz moved and Debbie Benedict seconded that we reserve a room for the meeting at Victoria Palms. Motion carried. Jennifer Krieger will follow up with Victoria Palms and schedule the meeting for 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Lori suggested that the program deal with leadership. Debbie will look into having Barbara Hinojosa as the speaker. Pam Scott volunteered to make the decorations. Lori will prepare the invitations and printed programs. Tonya will send "save the date" emails to the other two chapter presidents.

Sign-up sheets were circulated for members to volunteer for committees, Inspirational Thoughts, Al-fresco booth, research on the founders, and refreshments for the meetings.

Strategies for increasing membership were discussed. Lori sent newsletters to twenty lapsed members but has gotten no positive responses. An orientation meeting is scheduled at Frontera Audubon for Wednesday, October 10th from 5 to 6 PM. Invitations will be sent to several ladies who voiced an interest in DKG last year as well as female teachers-of-the-year from area districts. An induction ceremony is planned for the October meeting (on October 16th). Cards will also be given to members at upcoming meetings where they can provide names of prospective members.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Warren, Secretary



Yearbook Info

Lori Shontz will be working hard to complete this year's yearbook. If you have any change to your address, phone number, email address, or employment status, please contact her by phone at 968-7668 or email at lshontz@yahoo.com

Thoughts and Prayers

If you know of any member or relative of a member that may need our thoughts and prayers, please contact Lori so that they may be named here.



Dues

Dues need to be paid before October 31, **\$75** for active and \$40 for reserve. Please bring your check to the next meeting or mail to:

Jackie Reposh
904 W. 7th St
Weslaco, TX 78596



Birthdays

October
19 Missy Hernandez



Newsletter Info

The Epsilon Phi Epistle attempts to keep the membership informed about the happenings in the chapter and the lives of its members. The editor relies on all of you to help make this possible. Please send Lori any news that should be shared no later than 10 days prior to the monthly meeting. Contact information is on the front page of every newsletter.

Perfect Attendance

Twelve members were in attendance for the first meeting. That puts our attendance percentage at 75%. That is great, but let's try for more next month.

All members are encouraged to maintain the best attendance possible. Members that maintain perfect attendance for the year have a chance to get next year's dues paid for by the chapter.

Web Watcher

Check out the chapter website for the latest local information:
<http://epsilonphitxdkg.weebly.com/>

The fall edition of the Lone Star News is only online at:
<http://www.dkgtxas.org/>

For International information, check the DKG website:
<https://www.dkg.org/>



Committees and opportunities to serve.

Please make sure you note what you signed up to do and when. If you are not on the list, let Tonya or Lori know which empty slot you would like to fill..

Committees		Inspirational Quotes	
Ceremonies	Tina Wells Jackie Reposh	October	Carolyn Donalson
Nominations as voted on April 2018	Jackie Reposh Vicki Rainwater Debbie Benedict	February	Jackie Reposh
Communications/Yearbook	Lori Shontz	March	Pam Scott
Alfresco Weslaco		April	Vicki Rainwater
October	Carolyn Donalson	Founder Research	
November	Pam Scott	Dr. Annie Webb Blanton	
November	Carolina Lopez	Mamie Sue Bastion	
December	Jackie Reposh	Ruby Cole	Debbie Benedict
January		Mabel Grizard	
February		Anna Hiss	Pam Scott
Refreshments		Ray King	Carolina Lopez
October		Sue King	
February	Jennifer Krieger	Helen L. Koch	Vicki Rainwater
March	Pam Scott	Ruby Terrill Lomax	
March	Carolyn Donalson	Cora Martin	
April	Debbie Benedict	Lolla M. Odom	Carolyn Donalson
	Vicki Rainwater	Lela Lee Williams	
		Eula Lee Carter	Violet Thomas

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Founder Spotlight

Dr. Annie Webb Blanton



Annie Webb Blanton and her twin sister Fannie were born August 19, 1870, in Houston, Texas. She had two other sisters and three brothers. "Annie began her formal education in a private school and had completed two years at Houston High School when her mother died." Her family then moved to LaGrange, Texas, where she completed high school. Her twin sister had died at the age of twelve. After graduation, she taught at a one-room county school in Pine Springs. When her father died a year later, she moved the family to Austin and taught in the elementary schools, and later at Austin High School, attending classes at the University of Texas evenings and vacations. "For five years she was enrolled as a Special Student without credit for the courses before she was permitted to enter the junior year as a regular candidate for a degree. She began her college training in 1890 and was graduated in 1899 with the degree of Bachelor of Literature." In 1901, Dr. Blanton began teaching English at North Texas State Normal School in Denton, where she taught for seventeen years.

In 1916, Annie Webb Blanton was the first woman to be elected president of the Texas State Teachers Association. While in office she was able to establish a fund for financing campaigns for securing more support for public schools. Her success as president led teachers to encourage her in a bid for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Her candidacy was sponsored by the Texas State Women Suffrage Association. In 1918, supported by the State Department of Education and numerous civic organizations, educators and legislators, she was the first woman elected to a public office in Texas. After four years in that office she ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Blanton obtained a Master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and worked as an Adjunct Professor of School Administration for three years before going to Cornell University to pursue a doctorate in rural education and rural sociology. She returned to the University of Texas in 1927, and in 1933 was promoted to Professor of Rural Education -- the third woman to receive this rank at the university.

Annie Webb Blanton's wide circle of acquaintances, her organizational and leadership abilities, and her unflagging zeal led to the swift growth and expansion of the Delta Kappa Gamma after that first initiation on May 11, 1929. Although the other Founders assisted her with expansion in Texas, Dr. Blanton did much of the work organizing other states. By 1941, Delta Kappa Gamma had expanded into 35 states and 80 chapters.

In late 1941, Dr. Blanton went to live with her niece Dorothy Thatcher, who lived about six miles from Austin. Between that time and 1945, Dr. Blanton suffered from arthritis and numerous short illnesses that interfered with her teaching and her work with Delta Kappa Gamma. In the spring of 1945, Dr. Blanton became ill with an intestinal influenza that was complicated by a heart condition, and it was not until mid-May that she was able to resume her Delta Kappa Gamma duties. Although advised by her doctors not to travel, she made plans to attend a National Executive Board meeting in Denver, scheduled for August 27 and 28. In late summer, her health became worse and did not respond to medical treatment.

On October 2, 1945, Annie Webb Blanton passed away. She is buried in her family plot in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, in the shadow of huge live oaks.

Reprinted from: "Dr. Annie Webb Blanton - Delta Kappa Gamma."

http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/About_Us/Annie_Webb_Blanton.aspx. Accessed 11 Oct. 2018.