



Texas State Organization
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Theta Nu News
Leading women educators, impacting education worldwide

Theta Nu Chapter #205 Texas Area 1, Smith County, Texas March, 2023. Volume 34 Issue 8

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Bev's Buzz

It's with a heavy heart that I share this news with you. Our dear sister and member of Theta Nu, Linda K, long-time friend for many, went to be with the Lord this past Friday, the 24th of February. She taught kindergarten for over thirty years and was so well thought of and cherished as a teacher, hard worker and friend. She kept in touch with former students often and remembered each and every one when she saw them after they grew up. She was a definite treasure to this earth. Linda K will be greatly missed. Please keep her family in your continued prayers.

Stewart Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. The viewing will be Tuesday from 6-8pm. The services at 1:30 on Wednesday will be at Stewart with a reception following. Our chapter is sending flowers as well as placing a red rose beside Linda, as is the DKG tradition. We will be signing the register with "DKG" after our names and, if possible, sitting together. 🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹

I want to tell you what my great friend Ella did for me for Christmas, she sent me a book called *Aging with Grace* by Betters and Hunt.

What...? Why would...? Does she think I...?

When I called her to task on her choice of a book for me, she sheepishly declared that she bought a copy for herself too. I guess that makes it okay? We laughed afterwards and had a good giggle, but the truth of the matter is that we are getting older and much slower than in our prime years. Yes, more wisdom; but still slowing down from the days of walking back and forth, up and down those long school hallways, constantly working toward teaching, grading, planning and obsessing about DATA!

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When the members of our executive committee sat down to brainstorm our year with DKG, I really wanted only two things. I wanted focused encouragement of others to be on our forefront and the other big idea in my mind was to get an emergency plan in place for our loved ones. Those two basic things were my goals for my term as president simply because I think I need them both myself. I love to write notes and make calls so the first goal has not been that difficult for me. The Emergency Folder is a much larger task and can possibly have a solemn tone to it, about the same kind of feeling I had when my dear friend sent me that book on 'aging'. It's here, and I need to embrace it and enjoy this part of my life because it is a gift also.

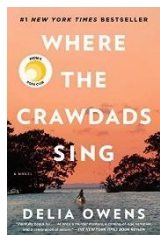
Can we make a commitment to help each other on Thursday, March 2 at CindyS's house to brainstorm together to build a good plan for an Emergency Folder and show our deep love for our family and share our especially awesome ability to still know how to execute a 'lesson plan'? You know we are all great planners at heart, let's get started with a great one! We need to hear your stories and collected experiences that will enhance our end product! Hope to see you then!

Beverly



Theta Nu Book Club

March's selection, ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens, "is a 2018 coming-of-age murder mystery novel by American zoologist Delia Owens. The story follows two timelines that slowly intertwine. The first timeline describes the life and adventures of a young girl named Kya as she grows up isolated in



the marshes of North Carolina. The second timeline follows an investigation into the apparent murder of Chase Andrews, a local celebrity of Barkley Cove, in a fictional coastal town of North Carolina." <https://bit.ly/3k2vPeN> If you don't have time to read the book, the movie is available on Netflix. But you know the books is always better than the movie.

Available through Amazon or download from the Tyler or Whitehouse electronic library. Tyler Public Library. Libby app or Cloud Library app. <https://bit.ly/3D4qr0M>

Whitehouse Community Library. Libby app. <https://netldc.overdrive.com/>

Book Club will meet on March 9 at LaHacienda. Come any time after 4:00; CindyL likes to get there early to make sure we get the "little room." Official starting time for book discussion is 4:30 folowed by supper.



Annual Founder's Celebration

Kappa Pi is the host for the annual Founder's Day Celebration. This year we will have dinner at Roma Italian Grill (across from The Potpourri House) at 5:00 on April 20. The selective menu will have 4 choices including a vegetarian entree. Attendees will pay individually like last year, and the gratuity will be included in the price. Details will follow if they become available.



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“1 and Done Project” for March

The “1 and Done Project” for March is dry or wet cat food for a no-kill animal shelter. Drop food off at NancyB’s or bring to the March meeting at CindyS’s.



Ramblin' Roses

Out and About in East Texas

Terrific Tyler Part 1



(Although exploring East Texas is the point of this column, we certainly don’t want to overlook our local treasures. This is the first of a 3-part series exploring Tyler.)

Tyler is a diner’s delight! Obviously large cities have more to offer, but for a town its size Tyler certainly offers many choices. Not too many years ago, I believed I had dined at least once at almost every restaurant in Tyler. However, with the explosion of dining out choices of the past decade, I can’t say that anymore. A while back, my hubby and I decided to have some “home town mini-adventures” by trying to dine at every restaurant in the city. This plan was suspended during the pandemic, but we’ve decided to try again this spring and summer. For us, Mercado’s continues to be a long time favorite, but Humo and TXM are becoming new favorites. Have you tried the salads at Jucy’s and Slim Chicken’s? Potpourri House is a Tyler gem for lunch and shopping. Honorable mentions go to Lola’s, Torchy’s Tacos, The Catch and Great Harvest. As all tastes are different, here are some of your favorites as well:

TerriA:	FD’s	LindaT	Clear Springs
NancyB:	Chili’s	BeverlyK:	Road House
MaryT:	Applebee’s	LaurieR:	Chuy’s
CathiP:	Outback	CindyW:	Oliveto’s
SharonG:	Twelve	MarshaE:	Oliveto’s
CindyL:	Great Harvest & Jalapeno Tree	LindaN:	Jimmy’s Egg, Potpourri House



Take the **Theta Nu Dining Challenge**: Visit at least 3 new restaurants in Tyler this spring and summer! Try some of your sisters’ recommendations or choose your own dining adventure! Let’s share our challenge results at the September meeting! Bon Appetit!



Web Watchers

The Thirteen Types of Lettuce. <https://bit.ly/3lXrrhw>

Just sayin’....impressive, but is it really compared to your school....? . <https://bit.ly/3xU2sOV> (You gotta watch what principal and comedian Gerry Brooks says about what’s impressive about school.)

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Theta Nu Chapter Minutes

January 5, 2023

A joint meeting with Zeta Gamma was held at Bruno's Pizza and Pasta at 5:00 on February 2, 2023. Ten Theta Nu members were present; Marsha Edney, Area I Coordinator, was a guest. The purpose of this meeting was to raise money for chapter projects by playing Bingo for Books. Proceeds from the event were divided between the two chapters for chapter projects. Theta Nu will send a donation to ASTEF. There was no business conducted.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 PM


Respectfully submitted by Secretary NancyB



Action Items: Summary for the Month

As an active member of Theta Nu, this is what you can do to support our chapter in March.

- Attend the joint chapter meeting on March 2 at Cindy's, 100 Leisure Lane, Whitehouse at 4:30.
- Save the date for the Theta Nu's Book Club meeting. Thursday, March 9, 4:30-5:30, La Hacienda in Whitehouse.
- 1 & Done Project for March. Contribute cat food for the SPCA.
- Join and read Theta Nu's Facebook page at least once a week.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/453559393293006>
- Send birthday wishes to Meriam E.

	March 30 – MeriamE	April 24 – BeverlyK 28 - GeethaR
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Did You Know?

- The chances of having both red hair and blue eyes are as small as 0.17%, making it one of the rarest things to happen to someone.
- 27,000 trees are cut down every day to make toilet paper.
- Maine is the only state with a one-syllable name.
- The average person walks the equivalent of 5 times around the world in their lifetime.
- There are 293 ways to make change for \$1.00.
- The voices of Mickey and Minnie Mouse got married in real life

Graphics Sources: Spring Flowers. https://bit.ly/3ltoTiW Kitten. https://bit.ly/3m03pT3 Happy Birthday. https://bit.ly/3QX2eiF Never Have I Ever https://bit.ly/3lqD7ko	<i>Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts. ~ Unknown</i>
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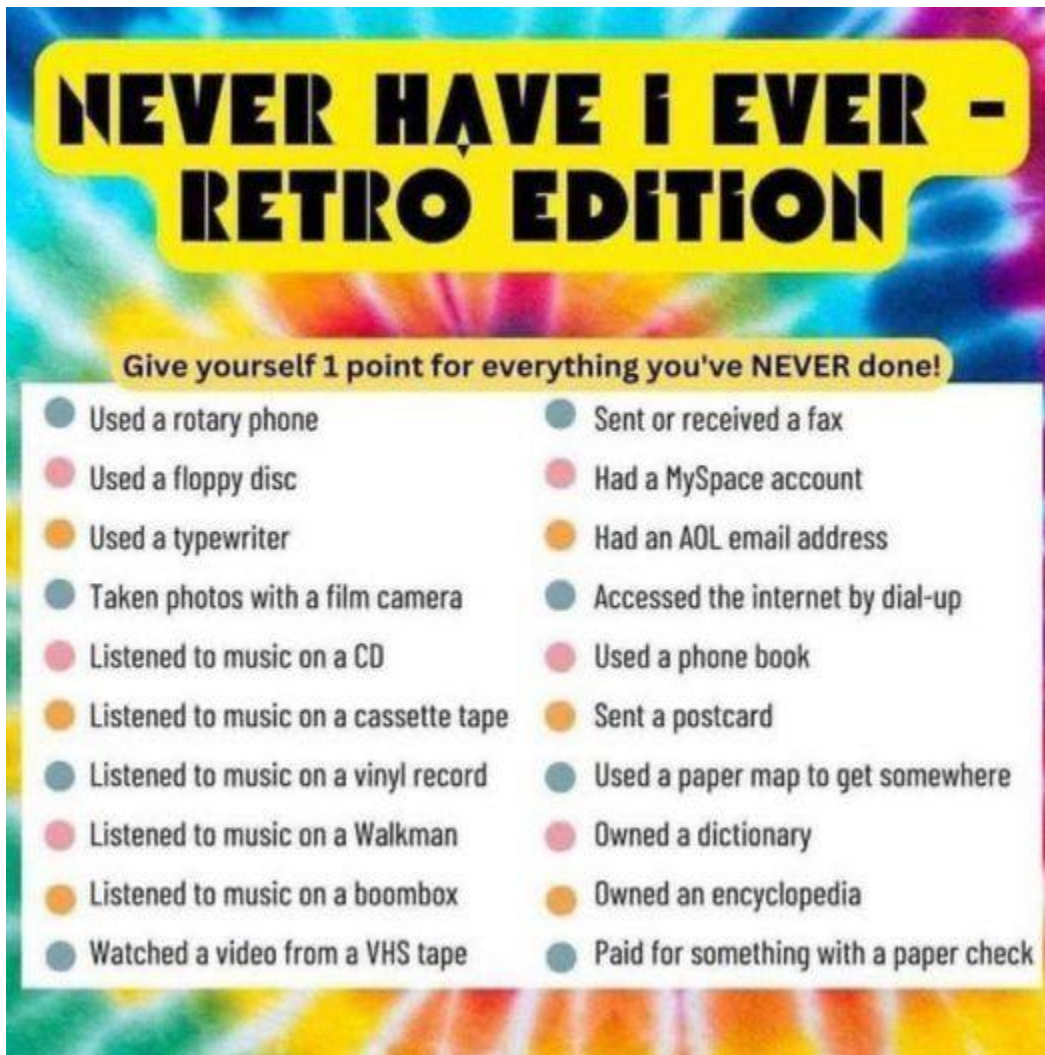
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TRTA's Legislative Priorities 2023

The Texas Retired Teachers Association's legislative priorities have been posted on the last page of this newsletter, and TRTA urges you to contact your legislators in regard to these issues.

<p>Brian Hughes, District 1, Senator Capitol Address: PO Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711 bryan.hughes@senate.texas.gov</p> <p>District Address: 110 N. College Ave, Suite 100 Tyler, TX 78711 District Phone: (903) 581-1776</p>	<p>Matt Schaefer, District 6, Representative Capitol Address: PO Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768 Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0584 matt.schaefer@house.texas.gov</p> <p>District Address: 200 E. Ferguson St., Suite 435 Tyler, TX 75702 District Phone: (903) 592-0900</p>
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Just for Fun



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88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

GREAT VICTORIES
GREAT FUTURE

TRTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Why you need this information: The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) and its members actively communicate with those who care about Texas public education retirees and with candidates running for political office during the 2022 election cycle. This document offers insight about items Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) retirees are hoping will be addressed during the 88th Legislative Session that begins in January 2023.

TRTA Purpose and Mission: The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) works closely with the Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress to preserve and maintain the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) pension fund and TRS-Care insurance plan for all Texas educators. Together, we protect, promote, and defend the interests of TRS members.

TRTA STATE ISSUES

Support a COLA for TRS Retirees: *TRTA urges the enactment of a substantial and meaningful cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for TRS retirees as a priority item in the coming session. TRTA is aware of the sincere interest expressed by the Legislature over the past several years to take steps regarding the significant loss of income retirees are experiencing due to inflation. The last COLA awarded to retirees in 2013 benefitted only those who retired prior to September 2004. TRTA welcomes the open expression of support from legislators to address this issue during the 88th Texas Legislative Session.*

Preserve TRS Texas Traditional Defined Benefit Retirement Plan: TRTA's primary public policy objective is the preservation of the TRS traditional defined benefit plan for all public-school retirees and pre-retirees. TRS proves that when these plans are managed and funded appropriately, they provide cost-efficient retirement security for plan participants and taxpayers alike. Please note that 95% of public-school employees do not participate in Social Security. This saves Texas taxpayers billions of dollars, but also raises the stakes when ensuring the TRS traditional defined benefit plan remains strong and viable for all future retirees.

Fund TRS Pension Trust: In 2019, TRTA championed the "TRS Actuarial Soundness—Raise the Base!" plan (Senate Bill 12). This plan is a multi-session increased funding initiative that will ensure the long-term solvency of TRS. TRTA members urge the 88th Texas Legislature to continue the plan by introducing and adopting a state budget that funds contribution rates of 8.25% for the state and active educators and 1.9% for school districts by 2024.

Protect TRS-Care: TRTA appreciates the work of the Legislature to address increasing health care costs for TRS retirees over the past several years. However, it is our belief that the best solution for this issue is to design and implement a long-term plan that continuously reviews health care costs and associated state funding and compares them to the actual costs of health care. This solution would take the place of the current arbitrary formula that was established 35 years ago when TRS-Care was created.

TRTA's position on federal legislative priorities may be found on another document. Please contact info@trta.org for more information.



Texas Retired Teachers Association
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