



Beta Pi Tattler

Texas State Organization (TSO) #64

Serving Key Women Educators
In Duval and Jim Wells County

Volume 46, Issue 1

President's Message



Nora Lopez

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Welcome to a new and exciting year at Delta Kappa Gamma, the Alice, Texas Beta Pi Chapter. The 2020 – chapter year will truly be unlike any other. As we start this special year together during the time of the COVID 19 pandemic, please remember the mission of our Beta Pi Chapter; to have active an involved members who continuously and enthusiastically contribute their time and talents to our chapter projects and activates, thus promoting excellence in our profession and service to others while affirming their worth in our society.

If this is your first year as a Beta Pi member, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to each of you. if you are a seasoned Beta Pi family member, I know that you are as excited as I am to start our chapter meeting. Whether a new member or a returning member, I thank you for your contributions, time, and commitment to our organization. As a member of the Beta Pi organization, you are a voice for our upcoming educators and part of the largest educator advocacy program in the world. It really is a rewarding experience! **(Continue on p. 8)**

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

“Our Chapter will have active and involved members who continuously and enthusiastically contribute their time and talents to our chapter projects and activities, thus promoting excellence in our profession and services to others while affirming their worth in our Society.”



September 2020

Editor:

Veronica Nava
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On Aug. 26, 2020, Beta Pi Chapter Executive Board had a Zoom meeting for planning the 2020-2021 year.

Elva Garcia was invited to join in the zoom meeting to give her a big surprise. Adela Navarro had nominated Elva Garcia to the TSO for the “Golden Rose Award”. During the Zoom meeting the award was presented to Elva Garcia by Sandra Morales. Elva has been with DKG for 54 years and has served with Beta Pi Chapter with all her passion and great leadership. Elva Garcia thanked TSO President, Patti Belknap, and the Achievement Award Committee for this honor.

Key Dates

From our Beta Pi Chapter President, Nora Lopez:
The Beta Pi Committee Chairperson meeting will be meeting soon.

Virtual meeting dates have been scheduled:

- Saturday, **October 10, 2020**
- Saturday, **November 14, 2020**
- Saturday, **February 13, 2021**
- Saturday, **April 10, 2021**
- Saturday, **May 15, 2021**

*Hoping this changes,
so we can meet face
to face soon!*

What is COVID 19?

By Veronica Nava

“Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, and has resulted in an ongoing pandemic. The first case may be traced back to 17 November 2019. As of 17 June 2020, more than 8.18 million cases have been reported across 188 countries and territories, resulting in more than 443,000 deaths. More than 3.96 million people have recovered.

Common symptoms include fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, and loss of smell and taste. While the majority of cases result in mild symptoms, some progress to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) possibly precipitated by cytokine storm, multi-organ failure, septic shock, and blood clots. The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is typically around five days, but may range from two to fourteen days.” (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Did I know on November 2019, December 2019, or January 2019 what this was? No! After Christmas, my husband and I drove to Austin to visit our son and his family. They have three little children. The youngest child had an ear infection. A few days there, the infection was not getting better with the medication the doctor had given our grandchild. Parents took our grandchild back to the doctor’s office. Before they came back to their house, they let us know that he had Airborne Flu and running a fever.

Immediately, we left Austin and came back home. Within a week, my husband and I got sick. We thought, we have the Flu! We went to Urgent Care to visit with the doctor. I did not have fever, but my husband did. Wasn’t that high, but he just was not feeling good. They told us we had Respiratory Infection and gave us medication! By the end of January, we were doing much better. The Flu virus was going around, we had already started using hand sanitizers and washing our hands every time we would get back home.

By February, news started coming out about the Coronavirus in China and Italy. The first thing that came to my mind was, “Did we have a respiratory infection or was it Coronavirus?”. We will never know! Thank goodness it was just mild.

On March 19, 2020, I had an eye appointment in Corpus Christi. First time I experienced having to take my temperature before I could enter the doctor’s office. Also, first time I had to sign a document, indicating I had not traveled internationally and that I had not been with anyone that had the coronavirus. At that time there was no protocol in having a mask on and only to be three feet apart.

Then the next day March 20, 2020 was our first day of quarantine in our home. We finally go out after two weeks of quarantine. It was a good thing we had gone to SAMs to buy toilet paper and groceries to last us those first two weeks.

Now, it’s been months, we have not visited our children, grandchildren, family and friends. Thank goodness for calling, texting, emails, Messenger and Facebook. Also, the best ever Zoom.com. Our family was able to get together for Easter Sunday by zooming. Many birthdays have happened in our family and we visited by zooming.

Having fun Face Time with grandson!



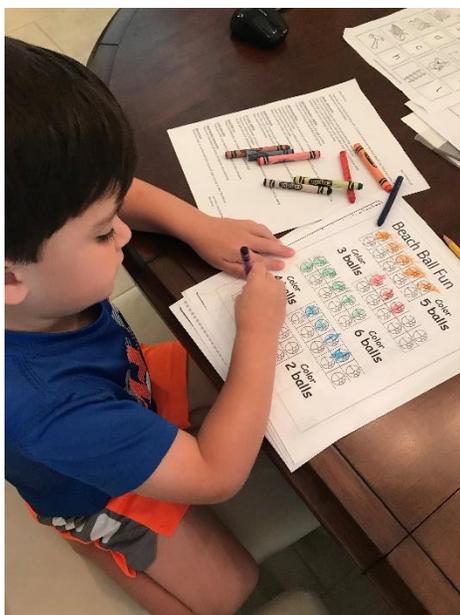
MY TEACHING EXPERIENCE DURING COVID-19 QUARANTINE

By Sylvia Trejo

As a retired teacher and grandmother, I take advantage of any opportunity to help my grandsons in learning academic and life skills. Because of our separation from each other at the onset of the stay-in-place orders, my oldest grandson surprised me with a letter he composed and sent through the United States Postal Service. I, in turn, wrote and mailed him a letter to show him that this was the means of communication many, many years ago before cell phone text messaging, emails and Facebook messenger. He learned that response time is a matter of days compared to instant responses. My grandsons spent a few days with me during the time of online teaching by his teachers. I had the privilege and pleasure of helping my grandsons with their academic worksheets and Art projects, as well as, connecting with the oldest grandson's teacher and classmates through the online meeting application, Zoom.

My grandsons had several Art projects due while they were with me, and one of the neatest Art projects we worked on was called, Painted Rock Story. My oldest grandson read a book and then painted rocks to tell the story. We had so much fun looking for the right size and shape of rocks for the images needed to paint and tell the story. My youngest grandson, who is four years old, had to color, cut and glue pictures of a beach scene. I, also, watched and helped him work on his worksheets for beginning sounds, counting, alphabet letter writing and matching. I love to teach, and for me to teach my grandsons, it is priceless!

Grandson doing his Math homework!



Grandson painting for his Art project.



Grandson painting for his Art project.



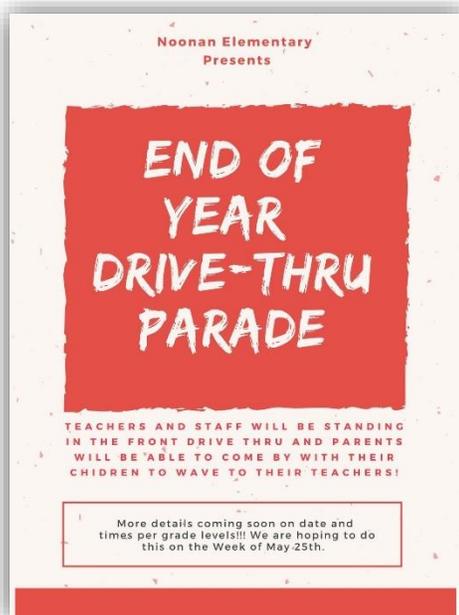
My insight of the last 10 weeks between March – May 2020 of my life!

By **Monica Garcia**

The life of a principal during the COVID-19 quarantine consisted of endless Zoom meetings, constant researching of distance learning strategies, and most importantly being the support teachers needed to keep moving forward in a time of uncertainty. And well once my workday ended, my second job of homeschooling a 1st and 8th grader began. I quite literally taught “night school” because it was the only free time I had. I brushed up on my Algebra and taught my daughter how to navigate through Google pretty proficiently for a 7 year old. By the end of the first week of “remote learning”, I had accumulated a total of 10 professional development hours that included Google Classroom basics, the use of Zoom, Google Meets, and several others. Our school district gave parents a choice of online learning or if they did not have access to the internet, printed paper documents. Spreadsheets had never been so useful, documentation of which students were participating in which mode of learning, addresses, progress monitoring grading sheets, virtual weekly contact logs, documentation of grade level meetings, content meetings, virtual walk-through documentation and the list goes on and on.

Still I think the most challenging was the organization of events that encompass school life. Teacher Appreciation Week while still complying with social distancing included postcards, shout outs, yard sign messages, and curbside gift exchanges. Award Ceremonies were replaced with slideshows and zoom meetings. The yearly announcement of “Teacher of the Year” was replaced with a doorstep delivery and yard sign. Keeping students active and engaged took planning as well, with planned “Virtual Spirit Weeks” with daily activities like “share a picture of you reading a book in your pajamas.” And what would have been our last day of school celebration was replaced with a “honk parade” to say good-bye to our students.

And although it was a very stressful time indeed, I felt comfort in recording weekly positive messages to my students to encourage them to have “GRIT” and keep working hard at home. My assistant principal assisted me in emailing an uplifting song every day in May to keep our teacher’s spirits up and to remind them we were all in it together! On to summer school we go in hopes that this is not the “new normal” because we can’t wait to return to the hallways filled with happy, smiling children!



Drive-Thru Parade
Treats for the students of Noonan Elementary School celebrating last day of school!



CHANGES

By Margarita Longoria

One of the sure constants in life is change. Oftentimes, we need a dominant motivator to bring about change. The most recent dominant motivator primarily in my professional life but also in my personal life is without a doubt COVID 19. After forty-two years in the field of education, I never dreamt I would work with students from a remote setting. Not only was I deficient in addressing this feat utilizing a different platform, I also didn't have any of the technology at home to even begin. I merely had a cell phone which I use to a minimum extend. What was I to do as an 8th Grade Counselor to serve my nearly 400 students?

Since I'm not the type of person to give up, I reminded myself of my favorite quote by Winston Churchill. "Never, never, never, never-in nothing great or small, large or petty-never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense." I also reminded myself that this was not the first time I faced adversity, so I could certainly do this. I called Alice I.S.D., and I borrowed a laptop. My partner, Ray, brought me a printer and a 40-year-old lamp he used when he was at the University of Western Michigan in the engineering program. I didn't have a desk, so I used a six-foot folding table to set up my workstation. However, I still had one minor snag. My telephone landline that I fortunately refused to give up all these years was across the room from my desk. Again, Ray comes to the rescue, and he bought me a cordless phone. As a final touch, to make my work area nice and aesthetically pleasing, I added a bud vase with a red fresh rose to remind me I'm a Beta Pi key women educator. I was ready and so willing to embark in my professional role from home. Was it a smooth transition? Definitely, not! I had to depend on educators to help me with the technology skills such as adding Google Classroom and sharing lessons and materials for my students.

Overall, after all the stress and anxiety subsided, I felt so accomplished and so proud to be able to do something I didn't ever think I had to do or could do. I am so grateful to all the people who supported me along the way. Besides Ray helping me in a major way, another person who helped me is my Beta Pi Sister, Lucy Munoz. She helped me with the technology component and also walked with me in the mornings to help me deal with my stress resulting from being quarantined. Yes, Sisters, there is strength in numbers especially when we commit to lift each other up as Beta Pi Sisters.

B P
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**Birthday Wishes
for September:**

**Debra Guerra
Sept. 25, 2020**

Photos taken by Veronica Nava, Sylvia Trejo, Monica Garcia, Adela Navarro and Tina Saenz. All children and adults in photos have a disclaimer in photographing them and using their picture. Images for birthday wishes are free images from upsplash.com.

The Beta Pi Chapter Officers for 2020-2021

President – Nora Lopez

1st Vice President – Kathy Hinojosa

2nd Vice President – Rosalinda Delgado

Recording Secretary – Sylvia Trejo

Correspondence Secretary – Margaret Carvajal

Treasurer – Monica Saenz

Parliamentarian – Adela Navarro

High School Scholarship Recipients

Great job done by our Scholarship Beta Pi Committee Chair, Tina Saenz.



May 2020 - San Diego High School Senior Scholarship recipients, Jessi Torres on the left and Maya Bueno on the right. Presented by SD High School Assistant Principal, Tina Saenz.

Beta Pi Members Attend Area 5 Workshop via Zoom

By Adela Navarro

The Area 5 Workshop was held Saturday August 8th, 2020 via Zoom with five Beta Pi members in attendance. Delta Psi Chapter from Corpus Christi, hosted the workshop with Denise Harris coordinating the event.

The Workshop began at 9:00 a.m. with the first general session and then proceeded to six breakout sessions.

Beta Pi members attended the following:

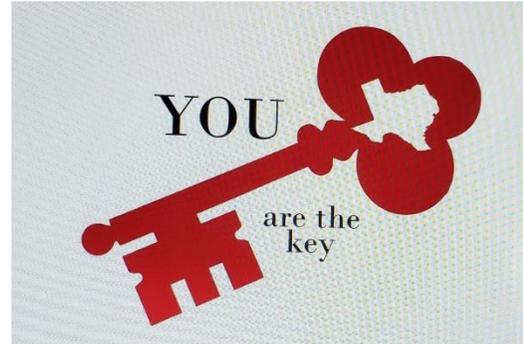
President - Nora Lopez

Treasurer - Monica Saenz

Communication & Publicity - Veronica Nava

Bylaws and Rules - Mellie Smithwick

Ceremonies - Adela Navarro (Presenter)



After the breakout sessions, Judy Mezick, DKG first vice-president and Area 5 Mentor, addressed the 84 participants with a strong message: “Stay connected” especially during these trying times of the Covid-19 pandemic. Judy was very proud that 16 members from Area 5 serve in State Committees which include:

Elva Garcia - Ceremonies, Mellie Smithwick - Technology, Adela Navarro - Legislative, and Margarita Longoria - Music.

Beta Pi was recognized for the following: Five Star Newsletter, Exemplary and Early Bird Yearbook, and the Rosebud Award for maintaining membership. Our very own Elva Garcia was recognized for her 54 years in DKG. During the Memorial Period, members were treated to a musical piece by Dr. Belen Palos Tuley from Delta Psi as Yolanda Barrera and Delma Palacios were acknowledged.

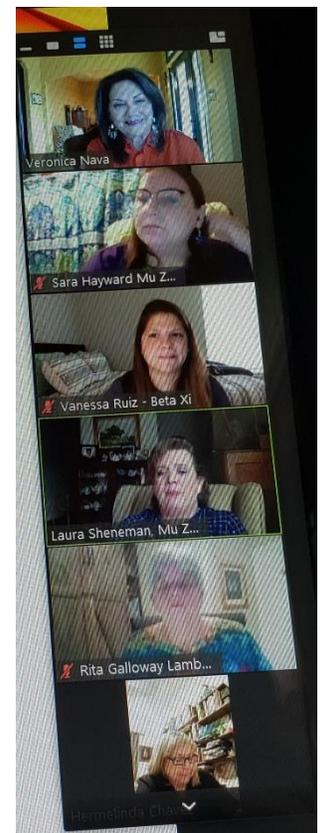
“I was amazed and in awe as to how well organized the workshop went considering it was done virtually,” stated Adela Navarro.



Ceremonies Session



Communication & Publicity Session



(Continued from page 1)

As I start the first year as your Beta Pi President, I look forward to add to the solid foundation our past presidents have set. This year I will begin my 33 year of teaching and I must say...this year will be like no other. As educators we are challenged to find a new normal for learning, connected us in new ways and required our champions to champion from afar.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Adela Navarro and executive committee members you for your hard work and commitment in building and growing Beta Pi to what it is today.

Over past years, your stewardship has been characterized by innovative ideas, strategic thinking and, most valuable, your tireless efforts to increase the credibility and visibility of Beta Pi in the area, regional and state levels. Your energy and devotion to the role you had will be difficult to match. I sincerely thank each of you for your service and leaving Beta Pi a better organization and on a strong footing for those who follow you.

Looking forward to a great year. We are stronger together and your support is appreciated.

Blessings,
Nora T. Lopez
Beta Pi President

View – “Get Connected”

www.dkgtexas.org

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – July, August 2020

Collegiate Membership Sample

In addition to recruiting collegiate members, many chapters want to recruit current educators.

Step 1 in identifying target educators might be to complete Chapter Member Bio-graphical Data Sheets located at dkg.org under membership forms. Who is missing from your chapter? Seek out those who may be able to fill that void and bring depth to the chapter membership.

An internal marketing plan idea might be how to increase attendance at meetings. Identify who is not attending the meetings (step 1) and personally contact them through a phone call or email and inquire why (step 2).

Assign a mentor to contact her before the meeting (step 3) and offer a ride or just talk (step 4). Then greet her warmly at the meeting and make her feel important (step 5).

Other topics for plans might be garnering support for chapter/SO projects, holding virtual meetings, inviting guest speakers, networking with area chapters, or honoring your treasured roses. The possibilities are endless. Try writing a marketing plan with your SO or chapter today!

Recruiting collegiate members may be among many chapters' goals this year. Consider how the points of the plan would help:

Step 1. Review the definition of collegiate members and decide how you can find those students.

Step 2. Once identified, how do you reach them? Do they know what DKG is?

Step 3. Tell them how wonderful DKG is, what the benefits of membership are. Show how you can help them reach their goals.

Step 4. Continue to keep in touch and offer support.

Step 5. Invite them into membership and create activities to involve them.