

# ETA TAU 5 STAR NEWS

**September 2020**

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*

***Volume 55 Issue 1    Eta Tau Chapter    Austin, Texas    September 2020***

***Texas State Organization    Area 7    No. 187***

**International Theme: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide**

**State Theme: YOU are the key**

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***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.***

## **September Meeting**

**When:** September 21, 2020 7:00 PM

**Be safe...  
Stay healthy!**

**Where:** Home

**How:** Virtual via WebEx (6:45 PM)

**Program:** Salad Supper

**Inspiration:** Donna Slathar

### **For the September meeting:**

Laura will send an email with the WebEx link to the meeting. She will open the link at 6:45 and the meeting will start at 7:00. Prepare your salad and be ready to share the recipe with members.





# *A Letter from Laura*

*by Laura Packard*

My dear Eta Tau Sisters,

It seems like forever since we were last together at our February meeting. We were so excited to be planning to attend *Sweet Charity* at the historic Palace Theater in Georgetown in lieu of a meeting in March. Who would have dreamed that life would have taken such a drastic turn a few weeks later? We've all missed seeing each other terribly and are looking forward to getting back together, even though it can't be in person for a while.

We had a great planning meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>, and we have a lot to look forward to this coming year. Emily and Marion are full of excellent virtual program ideas, which we'll share at our first meeting of the year on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Put it on your calendar, and **I'll send a link to the meeting and the agenda a few days ahead of time.**

Thank you to everyone for being flexible and willing in this challenging time. You made it so easy to get all our committees in place and International and TSO dues paid. I think we'll have a great year, and I fervently hope that we'll see each other in person and get to go to the Palace Theater in 2021!

Love you all,

*Laura*





## ***Roses to.....***

**Patti Groce and Donna Slathar...**for hosting our February meeting.

**Mary Wallace and Donna Slathar...**for providing door prizes at the February meeting.

**Patti Groce...**for her inspiration at the February meeting

**Mary Wallace...**for leading our book discussion at the February meeting.

**All our Eta Tau 2020-22 officers and committee chairmen...** for being so willing and flexible.

**Past President Patti Groce...**for being a wonderful leader for the past two years.

**Laura Packard, Patti Groce, Mary Wallace, Cathy Harris, Lois Mayes, Debbie Koehler, Emily Farnsworth, Marion Horowitz, and Donna Slathar...**for attending the virtual Executive Board/Program of Work meeting in July to discuss chapter business and make plans for 2020 -2021.

**Laura Packard and Patti Groce...**for attending the Coordinating Council meeting.


**Laura Packard, Patti Groce Debbie Koehler, Cathy Harris and Donna Slathar...**for attending the virtual Area 7 Workshop on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

**All our Eta Tau members...**for indeed “**you are the key**” to our little chapter’s continuing to thrive!

**Our members who are active teachers...**for continuously changing and adapting to the demands the pandemic have imposed on you.

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***To our active teachers...***



*We wish you a successful 2020-2021 school year!! We know this is not an easy time for our teachers and students. We are here to help you in any way we can. Please know we recognize and support your dedication!*





# Area 7 Workshop

by Laura Packard

On Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, five Eta Tau members (Laura, Debbie, Cathy, Patti, and Donna), joined 119 members of other chapters in Area 7 for our first-ever virtual workshop. We began as always with a general session, with TSO 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Judy Mezick bringing us greetings and a message from TSO President Patti Belknap. Chapter Presidents for the 2018-20 Biennium and for the 2020-22 Biennium were recognized, and we learned about lots of opportunities available to us through ASTEF, the International Education Foundation and leadership positions. To close the general session, Joan Hester presented a lovely In Remembrance ceremony, which was followed by The Delta Kappa Gamma Song. After a short break, those who chose to attended breakout sessions (Chapter Presidents Training, Treasurers Training, Programs & Projects, Membership, Communications, or Technology). While we all missed seeing each other in person and going to lunch together afterwards, there were some definite advantages to the virtual meeting. All of Area 7's chapter presidents were in attendance, which is not usually the case, and no one had to drive anywhere. I know we'll all hope to meet in person two years from now, but given the circumstances it was a very successful morning.

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## Belated Birthday Greetings



*March - Patti, Emily, and Margaret*

*April - Marion and Laura*

*June - Cathy*

*August - Mary, Donna, and Delia*



## **Membership News**

Summer plans, shopping, fun at the beach, and travels have all come to a halt since we last met in February. It hasn't been easy as we stay in place and wait out the pandemic. Since life has slowed down as we know it, one of our Eta Tau sisters is taking advantage of the little pleasures around her.....

*From Patti Groce...*

“This was my first full summer in Georgetown since moving from Austin. I really did miss traveling this year, but Georgetown has been great for observing wildlife in the yard. Two rabbits have taken residence under the front porch. It's a bit cooler there during the day. At dusk, they hop out to graze on the vegetation. The deer herd added four fawns this year. As I observed the babies following the does in a single file across the yard, I could almost see their legs growing daily. The squirrels remodeled their treehouse this summer. I found the debris scattered across the back porch. The owl hangs around the vicinity of the squirrels' house looking for a quick snack. Lizards and tarantulas also are included in the owl's diet. Marfa, my son's dog, a Mountain Cur breed chased a fox who quickly tired of the game and bit Marfa. Marfa recovered quickly and has been looking for that fox ever since. The chickens had an encounter with the raccoons which required reinforcement of the coop, but that may be a story for another day. Although activities were closer to home this summer, it was still fun.”

### **What can you do to stay positive and enjoy your time at home?**

Here are some suggestions...

- ❖ Jigsaw puzzles
- ❖ Virtual story time with grandchildren
- ❖ Reach out to family and friends with cards and phone calls
- ❖ Crossword puzzles
- ❖ Virtual “happy hour” with DKG sisters and friends
- ❖ Read a good book or listen to an audible book
- ❖ Watch a TV series
- ❖ Listen to your favorite music
- ❖ Walk with a family member or neighbor
- ❖ Organize your photos
- ❖ Start a journal
- ❖ Knit or crochet
- ❖ Use videos to try out yoga
- ❖ Teach yourself a foreign language (Duolingo app)

### **Where have you been??? What are you doing????**

Please send your news to [dws1athar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dws1athar@sbcglobal.net) . Eta Tau members love to hear about others' travel adventures, stories of grandchildren and family, professional news, and anything else you'd like to share.

# Thanks and Congrats...

*Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!*

Eta Tau members would like to acknowledge and give a special thank you to our out-going officers. Their excellent leadership and dedication to the chapter have made the last two years exceptional ones! We realize that being a chapter officer is not an easy task. It takes unselfish time and commitment...and we want you to know that your time and commitment were appreciated!

*Roses to these very dedicated members!*



**Patti Groce**  
**Mary Wallace**  
**Donna Slathar**  
**Lois Mayes**  
**Cathy Harris**  
**Debbie Koehler**



## *Congratulations to our new officers!*

The slate of officers for the 2020-2022 biennium was presented at our February meeting and voted on through email in March. We appreciate and support these ladies who have volunteered to serve Eta Tau in leadership roles.

President.....Laura Packard  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents....Emily Farnsworth and Marion Horowitz  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.....Debbie Koehler  
Secretary.....Lois Mayes  
Treasurer.....Cathy Harris  
Parliamentarian.....Mary Wallace



## **Eta Tau Committees 2020-2021**

### **Society Business:**

#### **Membership/Attendance**

Chair: Debbie Koehler

#### **Ceremonies/Necrology**

Chair: Lois Mayes

#### **Nominations/Achievement Award**

Chair: Mary Wallace  
Donna Slathar  
Patti Groce

#### **Finance/Auditing**

Chair: Lois Mayes

#### **Communications/Publicity**

Chair: Donna Slathar

#### **Social:**

Chair Laura Packard

### **Educational Excellence:**

#### **Programs**

Co-chairs: Emily Farnsworth  
Marion Horowitz

#### **Research/Chapter Rules/Archives**

Chair: Patti Groce

#### **Yearbook**

Chair: Mary Wallace

#### **Service Projects/Global Awareness/ Personal & Professional Enrichment/ Scholarships**

Co-chairs: Marion Horowitz  
Emily Farnsworth

#### **Legislation:**

Chair: LaVonne Rogers

#### **Music:**

Chair: Cathy Harris

## ***CONGRATULATIONS, ETA TAU!***

Eta Tau was recognized for the following honors for 2019-2021...

**Early Bird Yearbook Award**

**Exemplary Yearbook Award**

**Five-Star Newsletter Award**

To achieve these recognitions, it takes contributions and hard work from all chapter members. Good job, Eta Tau!!

## ***Looking for new members...***

A candidate for membership must be employed as a professional educator at the time of her election or retired from an educational position. Members can be invited at any time during the year. Note: Eta Tau has voted to reduce dues for new members to half price for the first year. Please **submit names of prospective members to Debbie Koehler, Eta Tau Membership Chair.**

## ***Upcoming Events.....Mark your calendars!***

**September 21** – Eta Tau Chapter Meeting – Virtual

**May 1, 2021** – Founders Day Luncheon – Chez Zee

**June 16-18, 2021** – 92<sup>nd</sup> Texas State Convention – Denton, Texas

### **Chapter Officers 2020-2022**

President: **Laura Packard**

Co-First Vice Presidents: **Emily Farnsworth/Marion Horowitz**

Second Vice President: **Debbie Koehler**

Secretary: **Lois Mayes**

Parliamentarian: **Mary Wallace**

Treasurer: **Cathy Harris**

Past President: **Patti Groce**

*Lone Star News* is available online at [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org).

Delta Kappa Gamma websites:

[www.etatautxweebly.com](http://www.etatautxweebly.com)

[www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org)

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

Credit for graphics: [www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org)    [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

Credit for Birthday Cake graphic: Free Vectors    [all-free-download.com](http://all-free-download.com)

Send your Eta Tau committee reports and membership news to Donna Slathar. The deadline for the October newsletter is October 1, 2020.    [dwslathar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwslathar@sbcglobal.net)





**Delta Kappa Gamma International  
Eta Tau Chapter  
February 17, 2020**

Meeting held at St John's UMC. Nine members were present. Hostesses: Donna Slathar and Patti Groce.

**Call to Order**

Patti Groce called the meeting to order at 7:15.

**Inspiration**

Patti Groce gave the inspiration for President's Day. Travel is her inspiration. She was inspired by the large original painting of *Washington Crossing the Delaware* at the New York City Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**Minutes**

The minutes were approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Cathy Harris reported a bank balance of \$2,876.88.

**Correspondence**

Lois Mayes shared a letter from Trudy Marshall thanking Eta Tau for a \$100 Contribution to Libraries of Love. Emily Farnsworth shared a letter from Laura Wolf thanking the members for the ten \$30 gift cards to CASA.

**Committee Reports**

Social—Debbie Koehler provided a sign-up sheet for hostesses, door prizes and inspiration for 2020-2021.

Nominations—Laura Packard presented the nominations for officers for 2020-2022.

President - Laura Packard

Co-First Vice Presidents - Marion Horowitz and Emily Farnsworth

Second Vice President - Debbie Koehler

Secretary - Lois Mayes

Program—Mary Wallace collected money for tickets to the "Sweet Charity" musical in March. She reported that there are 12 attending. She also collected contributions for Libraries of Love.

Web Watcher—Donna Slathar gave a Web Watchers report.

International—Registration is open for the International Convention in Philadelphia July 7-11.

Get an early bird discount by registering from January 6 - March 6.

State—1. Winter *Lone Star* News is online including registration for State Convention. Laura Packard has reserved 2 rooms for Eta Tau members planning to attend.

2. Star Retreat registration is due November 1, 2020.

3. January/February *Get Connected* is available on line.

4. Deadlines - State Scholarships - March 1, List of Chapter Officers 2020-2022 - March 15, TSO Fund contributions - April 1

**Coordination Council**

Eta Tau is responsible for finding the speaker for the 2021 Founders' Day Event.

**Adjournment**

Patti Groce adjourned the meeting at 7:45.

**Program--**Members had an interesting discussion of the book Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Mayes