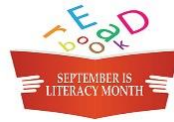




## President's Message *Sylvia Salinas*



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*Greetings,*

*Happy start of another year. I hope all members will join us for RHO's first face to face meeting on **September 11**. RHO's executive team has met several times to work out the logistics and changes needed to take place. We anticipate some changes but I hope we will be able to adjust. We will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in San Juan, TX. We will continue to monitor the pandemic/CDC recommendations and make proper changes if needed. I do want to thank all RHO members for being active during 2020-21 year.*

*We have a full agenda set for RHO's September meeting. RHO will have induction of new member Glenda Garza (2020-21) along with Edna Olivarez, Modesta Segundo and Thelma Rodriguez (2019-2020).*

*An additional section has been added to the newsletter: "Getting to Know You". I hope you will enjoy reading a little about our members each month. We will feature members in every newsletter. Thanks to Dolores Grisham for bringing this idea from the state convention.*

*Summer ends and Fall starts, as our meetings. RHO's Journey and which way we will go will depend on our members. Let's make it a successful journey!*



*Enjoy the Newsletter!*



**TSO President Shalan Inmon's**  
2021-2023 biennium theme.



**TSO President Shalan Inmon's Biennium 2021-2023 Goals:**

- NURTURE** relationships with current and new members.
- SERVE** Give of your time to others
- EDUCATE** Promote the purposes and mission of DKG to others
- WONDER** Dream, Ask, Reflect

Important Resources

Refer to these resources for your communication needs:

TSO Website – <https://dkgtxas.org>

TSO Communications & Publicity Committee Webpage  
<https://www.dkgtxas.org/communications-andpublicity-committee.html>

*Delta Kappa Gamma  
Vision:  
Impacting Education Worldwide.*

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





### Milestone Award Members

Linda Chavez	5 Years
Sandra Gonzalez	5 Years
Estela Casares	10 Years
Herminia Martinez	15 Years
Maria Hernandez	15 Years
Evangelina Abrego	30 Years 
Diana Farias	30 Years 



### Marta Barrera, Treasurer 2020-2021 Achievement Award



### Birthday Celebrations

#### August

Evangelina Abrego	01
Herminia Martinez	01
Isaura Villarreal	15

#### September

Delia Soza	03
Glenda Garza	15
Leonor Ramirez	29
Gracie Alvear	30



### Announcements

- RHO Meeting on September 11, 2021 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 506 N. Nebraska, San Juan, TX.
- Please be responsible and wear your mask.
- Visit [rhochapter.weebly.com](http://rhochapter.weebly.com) for up-to-date information

### Perfect Attendance 2020-2021

Elma Ayala	Gladys Ortega
Marta Barrera	Rosario Perez
Estela Casares	Dahlia Sanchez
Linda Chavez	Sylvia Salinas
Edna Olivarez	Idolina Vela

### Scholarship Raffle Volunteers

#### September

Dahlia Sanchez  
Gladys Ortega  
Marta Barrera  
Carolina Desiga  
Laura O'Connor  
Sylvia Salinas

#### October

Virginia Cardenas  
Dora Contreras  
Olga Baldazo  
Susan Hancock  
Oneida Cantu  
Herminia Martinez  
Dora Rodriguez



## “Getting To Know You”



Allow me to introduce myself. I am **Mellie Smithwick** from Alice. I am a 10- Year member of the Beta Pi Chapter. I am the Area 5 Coordinator for the 2021-2023 biennium under TSO President Shalan Inmon.

As a member of the Beta Pi Chapter I served as treasurer for eight years, chapter newsletter editor, webmaster, publicity chair, chapter photographer, and Chair for our chapter's ways & means fundraiser, 'O What a Show - a Fashion Event, for eight years. I served on the TSO Women In the Arts and TSO Technology committee and when given the opportunity I volunteer at conventions, conferences and workshops.

My chapter honored me with the Chapter Achievement Award. I am a member of TSO Leadership Seminar class of 2017. I've attended eight TSO conventions, two International Conventions, and the recent International Conference at San Antonio. I attended the first STAR - Spectacular Texas Art Retreat at Navasota and encourage your chapter to do the same.

I am a graduate of Alice High School; a BS graduate from Texas Woman's University, Denton, Business Management; a MS graduate from Texas A&M University, Kingsville, Guidance & Counseling and certified in Vocational Education now Family, Consumer & Human Sciences. I retired from Alice ISD as a guidance counselor in 2009 and returned to work 2018 at San Diego ISD as a 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) - Texas Afterschool Centers on Education program, or Texas ACE, Site Coordinator. I am married 40 years to David, a retired Administrator. We were blessed with one son, D. Addison, who married Lianna Love three years ago. We are proud grandparents of two Canine rescues, Tank and Callie. We love to travel and look forward to journey out this biennium.



**Isabel Idolina Gorena Vela** goes by her middle name, Idolina. She is known to her friends and family as “Ido”. She is a life-long resident of Alamo.

Ido has been married to her high school sweetheart, Jesse for the past 50 years. They have 3 sons, Ariel, Omar and Hiram. They have 5 grandchildren which keep them on the go!

After graduating from Pan American College in 1970 with a degree in Elementary Education, she began her teaching career in the PSJA ISD. That year, Ido was selected by the Superintendent to be the first Hispanic to integrate an all-Anglo campus in Alamo. It was a challenging year; the youngest on the staff, mini-skirt era, single and replacing a beloved 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher who had passed away from Cancer during the summer. Nevertheless, a wonderful learning opportunity and experience. She received her Master's degree from Pan American University and continued working in several fields of supervision and administration. Dedicating 31 years at PSJA, she retired as an Elementary Principal from Carman Elementary in 2003.

Ido has published a series of Spanish readers for beginners, holiday stories and a second language activity book. She is involved in her community serving on the Alamo Library Board, City of Alamo Museum, various church organizations, ACTS Retreats and Lector at St. Joseph Chapel. She was selected Alamo Citizen of the Year in 2014. She has been a member of DKG-Rho Chapter for 31 years and served as First Vice-President and Parliamentarian.

Her hobbies include reading, gardening, journaling, baking and shopping. She enjoys reading the Bible and meditating on Scripture with her Bible Study friends. She loves taking road trips with hubby, grandkids and girlfriends. Finally, she believes to “Give thanks to the Lord, for his is good; his love endures forever.” - Psalm 118:1





***Dolores Mondragon Grisham***

*I was born in Mercedés, back when the dinosaurs ruled the earth, and currently reside in Weslaco. I'm the oldest of three sisters, I have two daughters and I'm the grandmother of two wonderful girls. Mia will be 20 in October and Sela will be 17 in October as well.*

*I began my career in education in 1968, and have been enjoying retirement since 2000. I worked in the districts of Weslaco, Houston, Spring and Edinburg. I joined DKG in 1989, while teaching and writing curriculum for the Houston school district.*

*Prior to Covid, my late husband and I did a fair amount of traveling. I was fortunate to have set foot on all continents, except Antarctica. Besides marveling at the wonders of our beautiful earth, I did some exciting things such as zip-lining, whitewater rafting, skydiving, hot air ballooning and cave exploring. I'm looking forward to more adventures when traveling is safe again. Today I'm content watching Sela play Volleyball with the Memorial Mustangs and dancing with a fun-loving group of friends.*

*Life is good!*



***Sylvia Salinas***

*Born and raised in Pharr, I graduated from PSJA and UTRGV (formally Pan American University). Started my career in education and ended as a sales executive from Pearson, Inc.*

*Having been 1 of 4 girls, I learned to share (especially room, bed & clothes), cook, gossip with my sisters after the sock-hops, and how to help my dad with yard work. He is part of the reason I spend much time in my yard now that I am retired. I am spending time reading (while I'm out by the pool and getting some sun), cooking, traveling (before pandemic) and time with friends and my family.*

*My 1 nephew & 5 nieces are my children. I enjoy the time I spend with them and enjoyed the trips we took (when we could travel!) along with the experiences we shared. I have 3 grand-nephews and they are my pride and joy. Our family bar-b-cues and holidays are still the best times I enjoy.*

*I traveled with my job and was very fortunate to visit many of our states. Traveling provided other opportunities I was able to experience. I had the opportunity of traveling prior to the pandemic and enjoyed cruises in the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii & in Europe. I do have to admit that as much as I enjoyed cruises, sailing was the best experience I enjoyed. A group of us (8) would rent a sailboat and sail around the Caribbean Islands. Spending 7-10 days on a sailboat (snorkling, diving, swimming, and time with friends) was an experience I will always remember and treasure. After many summers, we were able to make most of the Caribbean Islands. What the future holds, I assume road trip!!!*



***Meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Lutheran Church (house-keeping information):***

- Meeting room directly behind the church (one bldg.)*
- Parking available on the north and south side of the church, parking available also in the back*
- Doors to meeting room available on the north and south side of the bldg. (towards the back)*
- Please wear your mask; room is large enough to allow social distancing (4 to a table)*
- Coffee & Danish will be served (paid by RHO) not a continental breakfast so please bring any other drink you prefer*