



President's Message Gladys Ortega



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International
Texas State Organization
Area V Rho Chapter (17) Hidalgo County
July 2023 Volume 93 Issue: 1

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Greetings,

My first year as RHO Chapter President has come to a close. As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with joy and wonder at the many special events that took place. From our very own chapter meetings held in genuine fellowship to our Tri-joint meeting with Epsilon Phi and Epsilon Upsilon and culminating with an extraordinary TSO Convention! It is a testament to our amazing chapter that this year we were able to induct 8 new members, a chapter honorary member and reinstate 2 members.

A very special thank you to the RHO Executive Team who worked tirelessly with me to make this year a success. They are simply the best! It was an incredible journey.

We are planning another Inspiring year so get ready to SOAR with RHO in 2023-2024!



Mission Statement:
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.



2023 RHO Members Inducted are (left to right): Elma Ayala, Ceremony Committee Chair, Suanne Goings, Honorary Member, Melba Sandoval, Odilia Villarreal, Margarita Gonzalez, Ernestina Cano, Santa Alvarado, Edelmira Alvarado, and Gladys Ortega, RHO President. Not pictured are Elizabeth Haskins, Linda Uriegas and Nelda Requenez.



Thank you Shalon Inmon for your guidance. Your Journey inspired DKG members by planning the direction the chapters needed and wanted to go. Inspiring DKG chapters and members to plan our Journey only strengthened our belief in our chapters/members.

"Enjoy the Journey"



Congratulations to Member Flor Saldana, recipient of RHO's Achievement Award 2022-2023.



Member Isaura Villarreal (left) was presented DKG 30 Year Pin by President Gladys Ortega.



CASA needs school supplies!! They need backpacks, scissors, colors, markers, etc. If anyone would like to donate, please drop off supplies at CASA in Edinburg. 1001 S. 10th Avenue. Thank you.



THE RHOSE



Sylvia Salinas, Edna Olivarez, Thelma Rodriguez, Marta Barrera Elma Ayala & President Gladys Ortega received RHO's Perfect Attendance Pins.



5 Year DKG Pin was awarded to Leonila Izaguirre & Treasurer Marta Barrera. Not pictured is Oneida Cantu.



RHO Chapter Members presented "Hat's Off to Our DKG Founders".



Birthday Members received card & cupcake from Gracie Alvear (left) and President Gladys Ortega (right) to Leonila Izaguirre, Treasurer Marta Barrera & Modesta Segundo.

RHO Members celebrate RHO's 93rd Birthday!!



A BIT OF INFO!!

TRS Benefit Enhancements
SB 10 Legislation
Final Approval by 88th Legislature 5/28/2023

One-time Stipend to Certain Retirees:

- Provides a \$7,500 stipend to eligible retirees that are 75 years of age and older (approximately 186,000 annuitants)
- Also provides for a \$2,400 stipend to eligible retirees between the ages of 70 to 74 (approximately 104,000 annuitants)

COLA to Certain Retirees:

- Provides a 2% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible retirees with a retirement date between September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2020 (COLA impacts approximately 150,000 annuitants)
- Provides a 4% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible retirees with a retirement date between September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2013 (COLA impacts approximately 195,000 annuitants)
- Provides a 6% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible retirees with a retirement date on and before August 31, 2001 (COLA impacts approximately 75,000 annuitants)

Funding:

The TRS Pension Fund will not be impacted. The Legislature has appropriated nearly \$5 billion to pay for these benefit enhancements in total from state funds. Approved funding is more than what was originally proposed in both the Senate and House plans.

- Stipend: \$1.636 billion
- COLA: \$3.354 billion

Expected Timeline:

- The stipend is expected to be paid to eligible retirees in September of this year.
- The COLA is contingent upon approval by the voters this upcoming November, and the COLA would take effect January 1, 2024.