

1994-2004

Presidents serving during the fifth decade included Mary Jane Moore, Lynne James (her second biennium), Lynne Hollomon, and Mary Simon (two consecutive terms).

Teacher benefits and legislative directives were a major concern of members during this fifth decade in the life of Delta Theta.

Many of the chapter activities during the 1995-1996 chapter year were in preparation for the state convention to be held in Beaumont in 1996, hosted by all chapters in Area II. Chapter members were allowed to volunteer for convention committees, and Lynne James, a member of the steering committee, was in charge of registration.

Leo Rushing celebrated her fiftieth year in Delta Kappa Gamma at the International Convention in Dallas!

Delta Theta began the 1996-97 chapter year with a new meeting place, the PNGISD Curriculum Center. Before the decade was over, local dues increased to \$65 and our meetings moved to the Family Life Center of the First Baptist Church in Groves. However, dinner was *still* a major part of Delta Theta life, as we began each monthly meeting with fun and fellowship around the dinner table.

During this fifth decade, members were participants in very interesting programs covering a variety of topics: block schedule, which was new to the high school; teaming at the middle schools, technology and the new computer lab at the high school, and "Indian Summer," an enrichment program available to elementary students in the summer. Add to those "Delta Kappa Jeopardy," which tested members' knowledge of Delta Kappa Gamma, as did the Delta Theta version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," a quiz game about chapter and Society history and policies.

Personal experiences proved to be very inspirational. Frankie Jeter entertained us all as she took the role of the church's cleaning woman to tell us how much Delta Theta meant to her; Jan Alexander showed slides and narrated her experiences on an aircraft carrier to which her son John was assigned; Renee Wells and Lynne Hollomon gave the members a beginner's guide to genealogy with a delightful presentation of their own family research.

Membership reached well into the sixties during the fifth decade. However, we experienced sadness as long-time member Emmy Lou Scott passed away in October of 1999. Memorial services were held in honor of Allie Baugh, a charter member of Delta Theta, and for Margaret Mays, mother of member Carolyn Worsham and a long-time Delta Theta member. Mary Elizabeth Grubb, our lone remaining charter member, had moved to San Antonio after 46 years with Delta Theta to be closer to her family.

There were bright spots, though: Leo Rushing celebrated her 90th birthday and 50 years in Delta Kappa Gamma during the nineties, and many members were added to the chapter as initiates and as transferees. In 1996 the membership committee undertook the task of compiling an oral history of the chapter members in the form of a video. This priceless archive gave us some very poignant and emotional moments.

Delta Theta members also increased their commitment to others as service projects took on many forms, but always involved the needy, be they adults or children. Members also undertook several causes in the name of education. Chapter members wrote to their state legislators regarding proposals that would affect the teacher

retirement fund such as school finance, health insurance, salaries, retirement, teacher shortages, and discipline, which were major concerns.

Members had some interesting experiences and accomplished lofty goals also. In 2002 Lynne James became the principal at Port Neches Middle School. Charlene Williams was recognized by the Southeast Texas Arts Council for outstanding achievement by a musical artist. The two Lynne's and Mary Simon attended the state convention in Abilene and were treated to a glimpse (or two or three) of none other than George Strait, who was with his family at the very same hotel.

In 2004, Karol Denby was elected to serve the chapter as president as we began our fifty-first year! Members attended the Golden Anniversary of Delta Theta, celebrated March 18, 2004, at the Courtyard in Groves.

Tonight present and past members, along with distinguished guests, celebrate sixty years of fun, fellowship, and dedication. The years between 2004 and 2014 have made us stronger, more diverse, and more dedicated to the aims and purposes of our Society. As we now review the last 10 years, the sixth decade, you will notice that many things about our *chapter* have remained basically the same while our *personal* and *professional* lives have changed dramatically during the past sixty years.