LEARN and SHARE

**HOUSTON Beckons All Texas State Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters.**

The 2017 Texas State Organization State Convention promises to showcase the best of what Delta Kappa Gamma Society International embodies. From arrival at the Westin Hotel, to the DIVA sessions, general meetings, Presentation of Presidents, Birthday Luncheon, breakout sessions, Unifying Project, to the Founders Dinner Delta Kappa Gamma sisters from across Texas will have the opportunity to learn and share.

LEARN from The Global Awareness Symposium, Sylvia Galvan, Executive Director of Child Advocates, Ashley Dunn, fashion DIVA, Annie Project Displays, and State Committee sessions. Most importantly, LEARN from your sisters. The State Committee is looking for breakout sessions presented by our members. Differentiated instructional strategies? Technology in the classroom? Leadership? STAAR strategies? Reading strategies? Math strategies? History? Organizational skills? Time management? Maintaining good health? Each member has something to SHARE. Please SHARE your talents and knowledge with your sisters. Proposals are being accepted now. The “Convention Breakout Session Proposal Form” is found on the TSO Website (dkgtexas.org) under Deadlines and Forms. The deadline for submission is February 17, 2017.

**MAKING LISTS AND CHECKING THEM TWICE FOR THE BEST TSO STATE CONVENTION**

President Marilyn Gregory and Steering Committee Chair, Bonnie Moore met with Westin Hotel staff members to confirm plans and arrangements for the Texas State Organization 2017 State Convention. Annie Bear was also there to approve the arrangements and check the details.
All of our women and men in the space program were touched and influenced by leading women educators. In an interview, a recent retiree of the astronaut corps shares his appreciation for teachers and the importance of education.

Captain David Leestma is described as a “true hero.” He has flown with three shuttle missions and retired as the Director of Flight Crew Operations for NASA. He came to Houston from Michigan. He stays in Houston for family and the weather.

Captain Leestma flew on STS–41–G Challenger, the first shuttle mission in the American space program to take two women -- Sally Ride, and Kathy Sullivan -- into space and the first woman to do a space walk. This mission was followed by STS–28 Challenger and STS–45 Atlantis.

Education is foremost in the Leestma family. His mother taught English and Latin at the elementary and middle school level. His sister taught music and elementary school. His daughter is currently a 4th grade teacher. Captain Leestma credits his mother with impressing upon him the importance of education.

During his educational career, there were five educators who made a difference in his life. In 3rd and 4th grade two teachers turned around an active boy, “settled him down,” and gave him an interest in learning. Two teachers in middle school pointed him in the direction of college. His interest in being accepted by a military academy came from the encouragement an educator in high school. Captain Leestma went on to graduate first in his Naval Academy class.

He believes that the Fine Arts are a critical part of education. The fine arts activate both sides of the brain and when one side is not used, that side can atrophy. Being an astronaut requires having a “broad liberal arts and technical education.”