A Message from our President…

Dear Kappans,

The New Year has begun, and the Spring Semester is well-underway after a bit of a freeze. PDK Chapter 12 has an exciting program for the February 21 meeting and members will be electing officers for the positions scheduled to be filled. It is an important time for educators to be active the Austin area, across the state, and at the national level.

The next PDK Chapter 12 regular meeting will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., in the Cissy McDaniel Parker Dean’s Conference Room 238, in the George I. Sanchez Building, at The University of Texas at Austin. Generally, the gates are up in the Bullock Parking Garage by 5:00 p.m., for free parking. Dr. Richard Reddick, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy, College of Education, will update us on race relations in public schools. Come for fellowship and to hear Dr. Reddick. You will also want to participate in the voting on the officer positions to be filled for 2018-2020. Light refreshments will be served.

The primary elections of 2018 are upon us on Tuesday, March 6. The first day of Early Voting begins on Tuesday, February 20 and ends on Friday, March 2. The last day to apply for Ballot by Mail to be received is Friday, February 23. Applications were mailed to many citizens.

There are several opportunities to provide input to the State Board of Education (SBOE) regarding Special Education and a Long-Range Plan for Public Education. All members of the public are encouraged to participate. You are welcome to forward this information to family and friends across the State of Texas.

• The Texas Education Agency has provided an online survey to solicit feedback on its draft corrective action plan for Special Education. The online survey, which is available on the TEA website (https://tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED), is open to anyone wishing to provide input on the draft plan. Public comments on the draft plan will be accepted through February 18. Following this initial round of public comments and stakeholder engagements, a revised draft plan will be available on or around March 1. Additional public comment will be accepted through March 31.

• Help the SBOE set long-term goals for the Texas public schools by completing an online survey that will be used to set educational priorities. The survey is available in English and Spanish. The English-language survey can be found at http://sgiz.mobi/s3/Long-Range-Planning-Survey and the Spanish-language survey is available at http://sgiz.mobi/s3/Encuesta-de-opini-n-p-blica-para-Texas. The survey will remain open through 5 p.m. March 2.

• The SBOE is holding a community conversation on the Public Education Long Range Plan on February 20, 4:00-6:00 p.m., at the William B. Travis Building, 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin. They are targeting members of the Legislature or their aides, but the public is invited. Event registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-austin-february-20th-tickets-42021038056.

PDK must participate in opportunities such as these to have an impact. The PDK Chapter 12 Board wants to make sure that we are meeting the needs of our membership and we are willing to “think outside the box.” We solicit your input for ways to meet your needs and the needs of all educators, PK-12 and higher education, pre-service teachers, and retirees. Please let us know your thoughts. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your chapter president. It is, indeed, my honor. I thank the PDK Chapter 12 Board for your dedicated service to the organizations and to Texas education.

Rosemary Morrow
President, PDK Chapter 12 at The University of Texas
PDK Membership Update: Ryan Hayes, VP Membership

Recruiting new members and renewing your membership annually in PDK is vital to keep our chapter alive and strong. You may renew online today or by mail, phone, or fax. If you renew online and your membership has already lapsed, you will be prompted to renew your membership when you log in. PDK also offers the convenience of monthly billing on your credit card. Call 800-766-1156 if you would like to take advantage of this service. All online financial transactions are encrypted and handled through a secure site. If you have received your renewal statement, you may mail it to PDK with payment.

PDK Student Membership Discount: Both undergraduate and graduate students – whether they are full-time or part-time – are eligible for the PDK student membership discount of 50% for all the years they are in school. This means they pay $52.50 plus $5 PDK Chapter 12 dues per year.

For questions about membership in PDK Chapter 12, please contact our membership chairman, Ryan Hayes at coachryanhayes@gmail.com.

PDK Member Spotlight: Dr. Jonathan Leonard

Why I Joined Phi Delta Kappa?

When I moved to Austin from out of state and began teaching in the teacher education program at Concordia University Texas, it was important to be connected with other local educators who are experienced and passionate in their support for public education. Chapter 12 of Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) at the University of Texas has provided that important connection.

Through PDK and its family of organizations including Educators Rising (supporting high school students who want to go into teaching), I have connected with not only with gifted and experienced educators but have also connected to state legislators, lobbyists, regional education agency persons and district level administrators. I have been able to engage with others in higher education at national conferences and shared my experiences with future educators by presenting at a national conference. Finally, the Kappan magazine is a resource that is rich in research that I incorporate into my classes to keep my students abreast of current trends and issues in schools and teacher education.

Joining Phi Delta Kappa has made me a better practitioner as I work to encourage the next generation of public educators.

- Dr. Jonathan Leonard, Professor, Concordia University of Texas, PDK Vice President of Programs and PDK Member as of 2011.

Mark your Calendar!!

PDK Chapter 12 2017-2018 Programs

The PDK Chapter 12 at The University of Texas at Austin 2017-2018 Programs are on Wednesday nights. All programs are at The University of Texas at Austin Dean's Conference Room - Sanchez Bldg. Rm 238. Please add these dates to your calendar and we look forward to seeing you!

- February 21: 6:00-7:30 pm, Race Relations in Public Schools
  Dr. Richard Reddick, UT Austin; Associate Professor, Dept. of Educational Leadership and Policy
- April 18: 6:00-7:30 pm, Induction, Awards and Installation Banquet; Dinner RSVP required
**Kappan Krunch**

*Kappan* is the professional magazine for anyone who cares about PK-12 education and features articles about classroom practice, policy, research, professional issues, and innovations in education. Read more (as a PDK member) at [www.kappanonline.org](http://www.kappanonline.org).

Recent Articles:
- **It takes a community: Community schools provide opportunities for all**: Everyone benefits when a school assumes responsibility for coordinating services that address the many nonacademic needs of students and their families.
- **The power of hmm ..., Bringing life (back) to words in the classroom**: Many students need to be shown explicitly how to engage productively in academic discussions. But teachers should be careful not to stifle the genuine exchange of ideas.
- **Less arguing, more listening: Improving civility in classrooms**: A study of classroom deliberations in four high schools shows what can go wrong when teachers neglect to prepare students to argue in a civil manner – and it suggests ways to do better.
- **Never too early to learn: Antibias education for young children**: Important lessons about race, diversity, and equity can and should be taught to children in early childhood and preschool settings.

**PDK Chapter 12 2018-2020 Officer Elections**

Our PDK Chapter Bylaws state the following Executive Board positions are to be nominated and elected this February: President, Vice President Programs, Treasurer, Secretary, Foundation Representative & Chapter Advisor. The listed members of PDK have accepted the nomination to serve as officers of Chapter 12 for the next biennium. This slate will be presented to the chapter for vote at the February 21st general meeting or by email if you can’t attend.

**President:** Joe Ramirez  
**Vice President Programs:** (Azucena) Suzi Garcia  
**Treasurer:** Norma Jost  
**Secretary:** Marielo ArazozaMorales  
**Foundation Representative:** TBD  
**Chapter Advisor/Past Pres.:** Rosemary Morrow

**WANTED: Fundraising help to increase PDK Scholarships**

Do you have a fundraising head or ideas for building up our PDK Student and Research Scholarship Accounts? What are you willing to purchase/sell? Do you have ideas that are out of the box/cutting edge? Please join the NEW PDK Fundraising Committee and/or send feedback to Norma Jost at njost2@yahoo.com. WE NEED YOU!!

Figure 3: Current PDK Board at work. Left to right: Seated: Elyse Smith, Dr. Rosemary Morrow, Norma Jost, Standing: Debbie Sansom, Joe Ramirez, Ryan Hayes, Dr. Jonathan Leonard, Dr. Bonnie Elliott.
Spotlight on upcoming Events

2/5/18  Newsletter #3 sent with Officer Nomination Slate, Haskew/Umstattd Award Nomination Form and 2/21/18 Program Flyer

2/21/18  General Program: Race Relations in Public Schools
Dr. Richard J. Reddick, UT Austin, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
UT Dean's Conference Room (Sanchez Bldg. Rm238)

3/21/18  Executive Board Meeting, 5:30-7:00 pm,
UT Sanchez Building, Room 436

4/2/18  Newsletter #4 sent with Banquet Information

4/18/18  Banquet (MUST RSVP!!) 6:00 – 7:30 pm
UT Dean's Conference Room (Sanchez Bldg. Rm238)

June 2018  Executive Board Retreat including officer transitions

Please remember to renew your dues!
Donations are needed for our PDK Chapter Scholarships. Please send them to Elyse Smith (8141 Jester Blvd, Austin, TX 78750) or contribute on our website.