



“Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes”

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing from Atlanta where I have just completed a weekend training session for state officers, accompanied by Sherri Wagemann (Exec. Sec.), Pat Russell (Treasurer) and Barb Clausen (NW Regional Director). Teri King (2nd VP Membership) attended the sessions virtually (beginning at 5 am some days). It has been exhilarating and exhausting, and filled with thought provoking information and good connections to DKG officers from all over the US, Canada, and Central America.

Speaking of conferences, a big congratulatory note to Barb Clausen for her excellent achievements with the International Conference at Portland. Those in attendance heard excellent speaker and workshop presentations. Thank you to Terri Diehm for her management of the Market Place and to all who volunteered there. Thanks also to all the chapters who supplied baskets for the drawings (we owed them) and to Nancy Sauer for donating wine to the hospitality room. Sherri, Monique Harrison and Mindy Hoffman presented workshops to rave reviews. I encourage you to look at the pictures from Portland currently scrolling on the dkgwa.org website. And if you can, find the video of Sherri Wagemann's solo. What a treat!

FALL BOARD. Big news! After considering survey results (returned by 150 members), information on COVID projections, and considering possible accommodations, the Executive Committee voted on July 27 to make Fall Board, October 2-3, 2021, a 100% virtual event. We had been anticipating the pleasures of learning together in-person, but felt we could not safely do so in light of the renewed rise in COVID cases.

You will see a schedule for the virtual event in the upcoming WSON and receive specific notifications about speakers, workshops and presentations, as well as registration, in follow-up email blasts.

The Fall Board theme is “Supportive Connections.” We are preparing training sessions that can now be attended by all chapter officers and interested members. Since in-person gatherings may be possible for small groups, how about a chapter viewing party for the general sessions? Look for invitations to chapter officers to join specific Zoom training sessions on EEC, membership, leadership development, etc.

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES. We are asking each chapter to identify a member who can serve as a legislative lead, to receive and pass on information about potential legislation to your members. Please send the name and email address to me by mid-September. If you do not have a specific membership chair, please identify a member (or two) who will serve as a membership contact. There will be sessions for both at Fall Board.

WSO STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN. Clarification has been requested about the chapter level expectations for the WSO Strategic Action Plan adopted at the Spring Convention 2021. Implementation of the five year plan has begun and chapters are encouraged to develop their own plan aligned to the state goal areas. However, such a plan requires time to develop. Recognizing that, the only expectations for chapters this year is that they review the list of chapter activities listed in the WSO SAP for 2021 and choose one goal area (e.g., membership) and one or more activity that can be accomplished this year in that goal area. I will be sending chapter presidents a hard copy of the SAP by mid-August and ask that you work with your board to select the goal area and activities. Also included will be a reporting form asking you to share your selected activities with the State Executive Committee by the end of October.

VALUES CLARIFICATION PROCESS. In my acceptance speech, I quoted Michael Jr. who said that “when you know your WHY, your WHAT is more impactful because you are walking in your purpose.” Sometimes we get so caught up in our “whats” – our projects, our traditions, our issues – that we lose sight of “why” we do these things. We even drop some activities forgetting why we were doing them, or add new activities that are not aligned to our mission. Revisiting our values as an organization – our “why” – helps us to reconnect and reinvest in DKG. Therefore, each chapter is being asked to take a few minutes during their September meeting to discuss and provide input to the State Executive Committee as to the essential or critical values of DKG as viewed by chapter members. You will be sent a copy of the values word cloud created at the State Transition meeting in June (attended by state officers, liaisons and committee chair) and directions for completing this task next week. Your chapter’s input is requested by September 28th.

CONNECTIONS. As we come back from the negative impacts of COVID and face the next round of the virus, let us all focus on renewing old connections and creating new. Some of our members are in fatigue mode and feel isolated or disconnected from our organization. Perhaps they are feeling some hopelessness in goals for growing our Society. But as Gene Sherritt said in his address at the Portland Conference, “what’s in the way is the way.” That is, membership is an obstacle for us at this time, but it also an opportunity. Our members are the way! We need to reconnect, wrap our arms around them and bring them to the fold of our community. Then with a renewed enthusiasm, we can collaborate to go to new heights and engage in activities that advance our purposes.

One of the take-aways from my Atlanta training is the knowledge that I and we are supported in our organization, that we have important work to accomplish but we are not alone in our efforts. Being here has been a morale booster. I encourage you and your members to attend Fall Board and other DKG events to receive that same booster shot and to feel the support that we at the State Executive level offer to you. We are here for you. We want to know your concerns and your successes and we want to assist you in ways you need. One way we hope to do that is in staying connected. Monique with EEC, Teri with Membership, and I with the Leadership/Presidents plan on making ourselves available for individual support, in teams to share and collaborate, and in larger groups to provide training. Let us hear from you. Thank you for all your efforts in DKG – both at the chapter and state level. I am grateful.

As always, *Pat B7*