WSO DKG President’s Newsletter Vol. 2 #2 August 2022
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**“Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes”**



Dear Colleagues,

 I was so proud of our Washington State delegation at the July 12 – 16, 2022 DKG International
Convention in New Orleans. There were 22 of us, plus 5 guests; we had four workshop presenters, 1 session facilitator, 4 on various committees, and at least 10 who volunteered in some capacity. Our very own
Barbara Clausen (Chi Cowlitz), NW Regional Director 2020-2022, was awarded the DKG International Achievement award, a very prestigious recognition of her 44 years of service to the Society. Janet LeBeau (Theta Yakima) was elected to the Holden Board and Nancy Sheng (Lambda Bellingham) to the U.S. Forum Steering Committee.

 Unfortunately, COVID chose to attend the convention as well and at least 10 of our delegates or guests were infected. Since WA delegates were more often masked than most delegations, I shudder to think the percentage of convention attendees who caught the bug. A super spreader event I am afraid. Which makes
me very glad that our Fall Board in a virtual event.

**Fall Board**

Fall Board workshops are intended for all chapter leaders. Historically, it has not been uncommon for only
chapter presidents, state officers and state committee leaders to attend, with only a few other chapter leaders. We are hoping to change that pattern!
 Fall Board workshops are available for every chapter leader: presidents, EEC and membership chairs,
secretaries, treasurers, legislative contacts and other chapter leaders. Please help us to get every leader to attend. Because it is a virtual event, registrants can choose which sessions to attend and which to skip.
Getting your leaders to the right workshops and sessions will not only help you with tasks this year, but will also make the jobs clearer for your leaders, get them into the “loop” and help them to build lasting connections in our state organization.

 You have been sent a brief survey to determine the best schedule for Fall Board. Please send in your responses no later than August 8th so that the appropriate schedule may be published in the next edition of the *Washington State Organization News* (*WSON*).

 **Timelines/Reminders**

 A few reminders:

1. Chapter presidents and Committee chairs – prior to Fall Board you will be sent a draft of the 2022-2023 WA State Directory. Please review all sections that pertain to your chapter or committee and inform Sherri Wagemann of any needed corrections.
2. State dues for current members should be sent to Pat Russell, WSO treasurer, immediately, and International dues sent to International. On October 1, International will purge any members who has not paid dues for the year.
3. The *WSON* comes to members with email addresses. If a member wishes a hard copy of the newsletter, she must order it ($10 per year). The order form is found on the state web site <https://wwwdkgwa.org> .
Sometimes chapters pay for this service for their members without email; sometimes they facilitate the ordering. Please, at the very least, inform your members of this opportunity so they may stay connected to our state. Members with no email address will be mailed a form for ordering.
4. Watch for the new response form for reporting your chapter Strategic Plan goals and activities, as well as your service project focus for the year. This form will be due back to Immediate Past President Susan Fritts (with a copy to the State President) by September 20, 2022.

**State Brochure**

 The new state brochure is now posted on the state website. This is an excellent tool for recruitment purposes. You have permission to download and print the brochure as you need. Also by mid-August, there will be a brochure template format that you can download and add your chapter information. Please consider the value of this tool when you do open houses, hand out gift packs to new teachers, and do other activities to recruit new members.

**Calendar**

 The state website contains a calendar page <https://www.dkgwa.org/calendar.html> which contains a listing
of state meetings, area workshops, area coordinating council meetings, state committee meetings, and other
opportunities (such as webinars). It also has significant due dates, such as for scholarships. Monique, Teri and I are committing ourselves to actually put as much information on the state calendar as we can and to facilitate
the use of the calendar for committee planning this coming year.

**Mental Health Resolution**

The Resolution on Mental Health Supports for Educators, presented by your WA State delegation to the
U.S. Forum meeting, July 16, 2022, in New Orleans, passed with an overwhelming majority. That means the
real work of the resolution will now begin. The state Education Policy and Legislation Committee will present
an action plan that includes (1) workshops for state and chapter presentation to help our members become informed about the facts around mental health and educators; (2) meeting with state legislators and national
congressional representatives to discuss, initiate and support legislation to provide needed mental health
services for educators; (3) help to create a resource bank that chapters can use to disseminate information on
suicide prevention and local mental health resources to local educators; and (4) share ideas for chapters to use to provide emotional support to their members and other educators. Thank you for your support of this much needed initiative.

**Strategic Action Planning 2022-2023**

 Please go to the WSO DKG website <https://www.dkgwa.org> to read over the complete WSO Strategic Action Plan with particular attention to year 2 (2022-2023). It would be wonderful if during your summer contacts with chapter executive committees, state committee members, and/or other leadership teams, you took some time to discuss how to implement the plan at your responsibility level. Will your chapter have at least one program from the EEC SAP? What will you do for membership retention, retrieval and recruitment? What strategy will you adopt to promote leadership development? You will be asked to submit your plans for 22-23 just before Fall Board on a new response form (as explained above). I also suggest that all your members receive a copy of the one page summary of the SAP and state values (copy attached).

 **WA State Unity Project: Resiliency through Communication, Connections, and Commitment**

 The WSO State Unity Project this year will focus on building chapter resiliency. Recall that resilient adults and resilient organizations are dependent on effective Communication, making Connections, and on Commitment to be engaged in both social and service projects. Our State Unity Project will include all three strategies. Specifically, we would encourage chapters to collaborate with other chapters and the area liaison to host an Open House for prospective members, with a focus on early career educators and including a service component (such as a clothing, hygiene or food drive, a book donation project, or gifts for low income students). By participating in such a project, our chapters will connect with prospective members and community agencies, communicate with existing and prospective members, and commit to a project that demonstrates the relevancy of DKG – all factors that can contribute to making our chapters resilient.

 I will be asking you to report on the name/nature of your project around November. We would like to
feature projects in the *WSON* and post them on our state web site and Face Book page. Please take pictures
of your event so that we may post them.

 So, though I can hardly believe it, our 2022-2023 DKG year is soon to begin. I wish you every success; remember you do not have to do your work alone. We are here at the state level to support you. Do not hesitate to call or email me or any other of the state officers.

 As always,
 Pat BF