



“Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes”

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday I donned my antlers and red nose to play Rudolph at the Kingston Kiwanis Santa's Workshop where we engaged over 75 children and nearly 50 adults in our annual “family builder” crafts and photos with Santa event. The day before I delivered the last of our DKG Alpha Sigma Kitsap Chapter's holiday basket donations to the Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center and completed our family's charitable gifting. It all reminds me that this season is about the joy of giving.



As DKG members, I know many (all) of you have also been engaged with your chapter members in connecting with and improving the lives of those less fortunate. I have seen in your newsletters and heard from presidents during our chats of your wonderful charitable programs. Now is a time to not only ask our members to give but also to celebrate the wonderful work they have completed this past year. Truly DKG does make a difference in lives of women and children, as well as for educators!

I have not heard that any of our members have been directly impacted by the flooding in the NW of our state, but remind you all the same that DKG International has an Emergency Fund to assist members impacted by natural disasters. Chapter presidents are part of the approval process for this funding. And, of course, the fund would appreciate contributions. See the International web site: <https://www.dkg.org>.

I continue to enjoy phone visits with chapter presidents, gathering information to share with committee chair and ideas to promote supportive connections with members and prospective members. I am learning about your goals and programs and about the plans you have for “down the pike.” At our next President's (Zoom) Chat in January we will be focus on leadership succession planning. This will also the topic of the liaison meeting in February. In the meantime, the Executive Committee is busy working with Communications to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our communications with you.

Timelines

A few reminders of approaching dates:

1. **December 9, 2021 6:30 p.m.** Chapter EEC contacts meet with State EEC and chair Monique Harrison via Zoom to discuss possible workshop offerings for winter/spring and Spring Convention. Recommendations for presenters encouraged.
2. **December 11, 2021 3:00 p.m.** Chapter membership contacts meet with State Membership Committee and chair Teri King to follow-up on recruitment and retention sources and strategies.
3. **January 14, 2022.** Budget recommendations for 2022-23. Committee chair are asked to return their input on next year's budget to Finance Chair Jan Morgan. An email was sent from Jan on December 2, 2021 with the questions that she needs responses to for her budget preparation.
4. **January 27, 2021 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.** President's (optional) Chat with WSO president Pat Bennett-Forman. Topic: chapter leadership succession planning.

Supportive Connections Unity Project

Most chapters I have talked to report that members are excited about and engaged in the Unity Project focus on Supportive Connections, particularly because they are being intentional about why and how to better connect with current members who have not been particularly active during COVID. As it appears that Zoom meetings and socially distanced in-person meetings will continue in our near future, continued work in this arena will be essential. We can't be complacent about our members; we can't let COVID become an excuse for not pursuing our goals and purposes; and we can't wait until "things are better." So all your efforts to sustain our members and provide them support are vital. Please recall that active members are sustaining members. I so appreciate that you are engaged in this work alongside the Executive Committee and WSO Committees. All are not only active but doing some wonderful work. I truly believe we can come out of this pandemic a better, stronger organization. Thank you for all you are doing.

As we begin 2022, let us keep in mind our values: fellowship, service, life-long learning, supporting and advancing education, advocacy and diversity. These make us a unique organization among other educator professional groups. These values also are the foundation for building up our organization. In this season of reflection, gathering with family and friends, experiencing the joy of giving, and resolving actions for the New Year, let us focus on these values and the strength and joy they have given us.

Enjoy the holidays, treasure your family and friends, and continue to celebrate and honor our DKG members. As always, feel free to email me your comments and suggestions. We are stronger when we build together.

In gratitude,

Pat B7