



## “Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes”

Dear Colleagues,

I love having snow for the holidays! (Apologies to my friends in Eastern Washington who may see too much of the white stuff.) But I hope everyone is staying warm and safe in the cold. I know that many of our neighbors are feeling blessed by the tremendous giving spirit of our DKG members. While I am not fully aware of all the service projects in which our chapters are engaged, I know of many: support for newborns, homeless shelters, women's shelters, immigrant assistance programs, holiday gifts for the needy and food assistance programs. One chapter hand crafts cards for the elderly, another provides gifts to a school, another transports the elderly to special events. There are so many ways in which our members demonstrate their compassion for others.

Service is one of the most potent of reasons members give for joining and staying with DKG. And it is something we should be proud of. More than that, it is something we should use to promote our organization. Has your chapter done a brief write-up for a local newspaper? Posted pictures on Face Book, Instagram and other social media? The more people become familiar with our activities, the more the DKG name communicates value, which in turn, creates interest in membership.

We also want to publicize and celebrate your chapter on our web site and in the *Washington State Organization Newsletter*. Please send information on your service work to our webmaster Mary Lou Gregory at [kuaygal@gmail.com](mailto:kuaygal@gmail.com) and to *WSO* editor Barb McPherson at [dkgwanews@gmail.com](mailto:dkgwanews@gmail.com).

### Timelines/Reminders

A few reminders:

1. Rachel Royston scholarship applications are due December 16, 2022. Information is found on the state web site [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org).
2. Committee chairs should submit all budget requests for 2023-2024 to Jan Morgan, finance chair, [morganj963@comcast.net](mailto:morganj963@comcast.net) by the end of December (if you did not do so when you submitted your action plan).
3. WA DKG Scholarship applications are due to Linda Johnson [LLjohnson65@gmail.com](mailto:LLjohnson65@gmail.com) by Feb. 1, 2023. Applications and information available on the state web site.
4. Nominations for the State Achievement Award are due to Susan Fritts [susan.frittsdkg1@gmail.com](mailto:susan.frittsdkg1@gmail.com) by Feb. 1, 2023. Nomination form on the state website.
5. Form 2, Necrology Report, found on the International web site under forms/reports is due Feb. 1, 2023. Form 6, reporting a member's death, is sent to Pat Russell and Teri King. Teri requests you also send a photo and brief biography so the Membership Committee can properly prepare a suitable celebration statement for the Spring Convention White Rose Ceremony.

### **IMPORTANT: State Executive Board Meeting to be held January 12, 2023**

As required by our by-laws, the WSO Executive Board must meet not later than January 12 to consider proposed by-law and standing rule changes. Any changes recommended by the Board are then published in the *WSO* and brought before the General Meeting at Spring Convention 2023 for vote.

**There will be a zoom meeting of the Executive Board (chapter presidents and state officers) on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** A zoom invitation will be sent in January along with a copy of all proposed changes.

## Mental Health

I hope you have been receiving information from your chapter contact for the Educational Policy and Legislation Committee regarding actions your chapter might take to disseminate information about mental health supports. (1) There is a new **emergency call number 988** which offers referral information for callers in crisis. The calls are routed to trained respondents, including for non-English speakers, tribal members, and veterans. (2) The K-12 Secondary Workforce Trauma law requires school districts to adopt policy for its employees related to mental health and to provide training resources and assistance. Have your local districts passed the policy (1550) due September 2021? Is there a functioning committee in the district to collect data, provide resources and assistance to educational staff? Are teachers in the districts aware of these policies and resources?

Thank you to the Ed Policy and Legislation Committee for keeping us up-to-date on issues regarding mental health and for promoting enhanced legislation. Thank you also to Nancy Sheng, NW Representative on the US Forum Steering Committee for sharing information on webinars and workshops from all over the country open to members. And to Carol Linscott for sharing other workshop information on the International Face Book page. These are valuable opportunities for our members to increase their knowledge of mental health issues.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months at area workshop meetings and chapter meetings. I and your other WSO officers are excited to be invited to your meetings, so please let us know when you want us to attend. Happy holidays to you and your loved ones, no matter how you celebrate.

As always,

*Pat 87*