



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

Dear Colleagues,

I had the pleasure of attending the Area IV workshop on February 5, 2022, hosted by Alpha Tau, and seeing members from each of the five chapters in that area. Their virtual “tea party” was complete with hats, gloves, and treasured tea cups. Their featured speaker was a young woman who has recently authored a children’s book entitled “When Your Cookie Crumbles,” reminding us that there are times in our lives when our cookies crumble, when emotions may be raw, and we are in need of support. Such as now – in the lives of our chapters and with our members.

I am encouraged therefore that so many of our chapters are making a concerted effort to connect with members, reminding them of how valuable they are to us and to the DKG organization. Chi Chapter Cowlitz has occasional champagne brunches; Zeta Wenatchee, with its year-long theme of “Rock ‘n’ Roll,” has met outside for dancing, for rock gardening, and for discovery walks; Psi Chapter Kennewick is sponsoring a series of one hour clock hour offerings via Zoom to engage younger members. Some chapters, like Eta Spokane, have discovered that making things, such as tie blankets, while on zoom creates a more engaging and fun environment for visiting and learning. Creativity and sincere connections convey so much to our members and help us to not only build our DKG community but to continue to carry out our purposes. Thank you for all your efforts. I ❤️ YOU!

### Succession Planning

Not everyone was able to attend the January 27<sup>th</sup> President’s Chat on Succession Planning. You can access the recording of that meeting via the following link or by attending the upcoming area liaison meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>. I will send out the Zoom link for that meeting this weekend.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2ToooqZ3qWUjKvCKWnBMm6a18B0142UzB\\_NmxcwXfz\\_HMXeAsSidxv9OPWMSSDo.OYuNY2yOzETLn1s1](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2ToooqZ3qWUjKvCKWnBMm6a18B0142UzB_NmxcwXfz_HMXeAsSidxv9OPWMSSDo.OYuNY2yOzETLn1s1)

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The essence of the discussions is that NOW is the time to discuss next year’s officers with your chapter members. Now is the time to remind your members that EVERYONE of them has the capacity to be an excellent leader; they don’t have to know everything about the position to succeed; they just have to be willing to try. You and other past officers will be there to help them learn the details. As will the state organization, for we are planning a series of workshops for new, especially first time, officers. Let us know if we can help you in the recruitment of officers.

### Timelines/Reminders

A few reminders:

1. Whenever a member passes away, it is the responsibility of the chapter president and/or treasurer to complete **FORM 6** and send it to International, with copies to Pat Russell, WSO treasurer, and Teri King, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership chair. The Form 6 should be sent in as soon as you learn of the member’s passing, but certainly within 10 -14 days.

Teri really needs as much information as you can provide to make the Celebration of Life entry about your deceased member meaningful. Including a copy of the obituary can be helpful. Teri also needs a picture. Information and Form 6 data sent **later than April 1<sup>st</sup>** will not be included in the Celebration of Life ceremonies at State or International levels until the following year.

2. Results of the survey regarding legislative priorities: the top two items were Mental Health issues in the Schools and Homelessness. These are the two issues we as a state will be addressing in our messages to state and national legislators and about which you will receive information on legislation being considered. In addition, because there were clear regional results, such as support for increased broadband services, local chapters will receive information they might use to address their concerns with their local representatives.

The Washington State delegation to the U.S. Forum National Legislative Seminar, March 6-8, 2022, will be taking statements regarding these issues to our Congressional representatives while in D.C.

Progress on bills currently before the state legislature on increasing mental health support to schools (SB 5595 and HB 1664) may be followed at <http://leg.wa.gov>. At this time, individuals are encouraged to go to the bill tracking page and enter comments to their legislators.

3. **March 15<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for all state officers, committee chairs and area liaisons to turn in their annual report of activities accomplished in 2021-2022. These short bulleted reports will be collated and printed on the state web site prior to Spring Convention. These reports should be sent to me (Pat BF) with a copy to Deidre Catlin, WSO secretary. Copies of previous reports may be found on the state web site to give some guidance as to format and extent of these reports. No budgetary information is required for these reports. That information will come in June when results of Committee Action Plans are submitted.
4. **Area workshops** are being scheduled by areas I, II, III, VI, VII, and VIII in the coming months. Areas V and X are scheduled for early summer. Please help your host chapters by getting your members to attend these events, virtually or in-person. Not only is it reinforcing for the host chapter, but also fun for everyone who attends. Just ask Areas IV and IX who have already met!

### **Spring Convention**

At its January 22, 2022 meeting, the WSO Executive Committee voted to hold the **2022 Spring Convention as a virtual only event, May 13-15, 2022**. The decision was made in light of current information on the Omicron variant of COVID, concern for the safety of our members, and to take advantage of a deadline for cancelling that was the most financially advantageous to the State Organization. This is heartbreaking for many of us who so desperately want in-person gatherings. But the Executive Committee felt that we could not provide sufficient assurances of safety for our members in such a large group setting. In-person meetings will, for the time being, have to continue to be for small groups only. Nonetheless, plans are underway for some fabulous clock hour workshop offerings, timely and relevant officer training, and some powerful speakers. Please encourage your members to attend.

As we turn the corner on the year – 2021-2022 is now half over – let us try to envision all that our new chapter officers will need to be successful in their biennium. With spring just around the corner, we can look forward to brighter days, wonderful support from our WSO colleagues, and many more opportunities to advance our purposes. Thank you for all you are doing towards those end,

As always,

*Pat BF*