



“Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes”

Dear Colleagues,

Winter is definitely upon us – a great time for hunkering down and enjoying a warm beverage with friends – though the Omicron variant is introducing more complications into our lives. For many of our chapters this means Zoom meetings are again the norm, though some chapters are being creative about how to have in-person, socially distanced get-togethers. I applaud your initiative in keeping your chapter together. Regardless of how you are making your chapter goals and projects happen, thank you for keeping in touch with your members and for letting them know how important they are to our organization. I cannot emphasize enough how critical personal contact is to the well-being of all of our members AND to the health of our chapters.

Your WSO DKG is also continuing its work. Chapter representatives are meeting with the Educational Excellence Committee (EEC), the Membership Committee and the Educational Policy/Legislation Committee. I have met with area liaisons and with you, our chapter presidents. Scholarship, Nominations, and Finance Committees continue to implement their action plans virtually. The Communications Committee is preparing new tools for your use which we look forward to sharing in the near future. The Leadership Development and Rainbow Lodge Committees are planning some dynamic training opportunities that will be beneficial to not only chapter leadership but also chapter members. The By-Laws Committee is also closely following proposed changes to the International Constitution to be voted on this coming summer, and the Executive Committee is in the middle of Spring Convention planning.

Timelines

A few reminders of approaching deadlines:

1. Nominations for the Nominations Committee (3 year term) and the Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation Board (5 year term) are due to Nominations Committee chair Pia Longinotti pia_irene@hotmail.com by January 15, 2022.
2. Scholarship and Grant applications are due to Linda Johnson ljohnson65@gmail.com by February 1.
3. Registration is open for the U.S. Forum, March 6-8, 2022 in Washington D.C. Contact Susan Fritts (sdfritts@comcast.net) if you have questions. <https://www.dkgusforum.com/>
4. **This is a good time to hold a chapter executive board meeting, to review finances, action plan status, membership activities, and to start succession planning (see below.)**
5. February 1 is the deadline for application to International Education Foundation for Educational Project awards (for non-members). See https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/DKGIEF/Funds/Educational_Projects/
6. February 1 is the deadline for nominating individuals for the WSO Achievement Award. Details are available on the state website under <https://www.dkgwa.org/forms.html>
7. If you have not already done so, chapter presidents and treasurers need to **complete form 18A** reporting dropped members and why they have dropped. A copy of the form is attached. A reminder, this information is also to be reflected in your chapter minutes.

Supportive Connections Unity Project

Please share! We want to hear about your Supportive Connections activities. What are you doing to connect with members? With the community? How has it been received? Any surprise outcomes? Sometimes we might think that our little efforts are not special enough to share at the State level or because we don't want to brag. Well, let me be clear: all chapter efforts are important and all of them are worthy of sharing. Please drop me a quick note about your project and the progress you have made to date. If you have pictures, I'd love to see those too.

Other Items of Interest

Leadership succession planning is the focus of our next Presidents' Chat, January 27, 2022 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. You will receive a Zoom invitation a week prior to the event. Members of the Leadership Development Committee and I will provide you with new ideas to help you plan for and locate chapter officers for the next biennium. We will be sharing chapter ideas and success stories that should help garner a full slate of officers for 2022-2024. Area liaisons will also be receiving this training at their February meeting so that they can work directly with chapters in the coming months on this important task.

Educational Policy/Legislation. You will be receiving a short list of legislative topics that the Educational Policy/Legislation contacts have been discussing. We need to narrow that list to the **2-3** that we as a state want to get behind in talking to our state and national legislators. Please use whatever process you deem most expedient to get chapter input on what the most important priorities should be. For the past biennium, we focused on Plan 1 COLA enhancement and on support for mental health in the schools. Return your input to Marge Lofstrom mtloftstrom@gmail.com by the end of January because the current legislative session only runs until March 10. Also see updates on educational bills in the resources section of the state DKG website <https://www.dkgwa.org/legislative-updates.html>

I recently did one of those games often seen on Face Book postings; this one was a word search – “the first four words you find should be your guidance for the coming year.” The first words I saw were: commitment, gratitude, purpose and health. How perfect! I feel that our commitment to DKG's mission is worth our time and energy; I am so grateful to all of you for your dedication and work; I feel that our purposes provide us a unique and powerful community to advance education, and my personal health and that of our DKG organization are attainable because of our focus and commitment. Hope that you can feel that way too.

Happy New Year my friends.

As always,

Pat B7