



“Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes”

I hope to successfully continue the tradition begun by Sherri Wagemann and continued so effectively by Susan Fritts of sending out a monthly newsletter or update to chapter presidents, area liaisons and committee chair. Transparent and timely communication is the key to keeping you informed about Executive Committee discussions/decisions and to alert you to potential actions needed on your part. I also invite your responses about needs, opinions, and suggestions.

My theme for the biennium is “Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes.” We, as an Executive Board, have adopted significant goals in our Strategic Action Plan and the Educational Excellence, Membership, Leadership and Educational Legislation committees have ambitious plans to actualize the SAP and advance my theme. However, I am cognizant that the foundation for all our plans is the health and well-being of our members and our chapters. Especially now, we need to take the time to “come together” and to celebrate, support and re-connect with each other in genuine collegial fellowship.

So while I am describing several tasks that we (the Executive Committee) hope can be achieved before Fall Board in Yakima (October 2-3, 2021) or shortly thereafter, I am also open to learning about your concerns around these tasks. What are your members telling you?

Task 1: Values clarification. Part of the Strategic Action Plan summary page includes a listing of DKG values. This is not “what I value about my DKG membership,” but rather “what are the core values of our DKG organization?” At the Transition meeting, work was begun on this question. Later this month you will receive a listing of the suggested values identified by the Transition team (out-going and in-coming committee chair, liaisons, and Executive Committee members). We ask that you schedule a brief exercise (which we will send you) at your first meeting to ask your members to rank (and perhaps add to) the suggested values. Then we ask that you send the results to us as soon as possible, but no later than September 25, 2021, for compilation, presentation and adoption at Fall Board.

Task 2: Chapter Strategic Plan. Each of the areas of the Strategic Plan has a State WSO section and a suggested Chapter Actions section. Please take some time between now and the end of October to review those actions and decide which your chapter might commit to in this first year. Then write that up on the action plan form provided and submit to Susan Fritts, immediate past president. This will give us at the state level knowledge of your goals and activities and help us to devise programs that will support your chapter efforts. I recognize that some chapters have already had their planning session for the coming year, and that integrating the SAP activities may be difficult –but hopefully, with just a little tweak, you can readily align chapter plans to the SAP.

Thank you for assisting us in moving forward to re-build and strengthen our organization. By focusing on our shared values, we can better engage our members, giving them the opportunity to reinvest and recommit to our purposes. With so many chapter struggling right now, we hope to identify our “why” and therefore give purpose to the “whats” that we do in our chapter programs and services.

Next month I plan to share the wisdom I and other members of the Executive Committee have gained at the International Conference in Portland and at the International Officer Training in Atlanta as well as discuss the Unity Project around “Supportive Connections.” In the meantime, I hope you get to enjoy some vacation time and re-connect in many ways to your friends and loved ones now that COVID restrictions are lifting.

As always, *Pat 87*