



“Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes”

Dear Colleagues,

2022 Spring Convention was quite a successful event in spite of its being an on-line only event. The workshops were well received (thank you Monique and Committee chairs); the meetings went smoothly; and presentations by Dr. Debbie LeBlanc laid great groundwork for the coming year. The Celebration of Life was moving (thank you Teri and the Membership Committee) and the awards celebration was fun! I was so excited by our recognition of Senator Patty Murray (and her response) and for our 2022 Achievement Award recipient Nancy Sauer. The art show and music was also appreciated. So many folks to thank!

I also want to thank you for your part – for being there and for participating in the events. As we enter year two of the biennium, our liaisons and committee chair have already begun discussion of what activities will go on their action plans for 2022-2023. Our returning chapter presidents are designing plans for transition to new officers next biennium and getting excited about strengthening their chapters. To those of you who are stepping down from “on the stage” to mentoring “from the side,” my sincere appreciation for your hard work this year and for all you have contributed to your chapter. Your continued participation in our Society will be welcomed and sought after. Thank you.

Timelines/Reminders

A few reminders:

1. I will be contacting chapter presidents and state committee chair from whom we have not received an annual report. These must be completed by June 15th so that our state secretary Deirdre Catlin can combine them into the annual report for posting on the web site.
2. Chapter presidents, please complete **form 110** (on the International web site under forms/reports) as soon as your 2022-2024 biennium officers have been elected. This form must be sent to International with a copy to WSO Executive Secretary Sherri Wagemann and to me (Pat Bennett-Forman). It is important to send this report in order that the new chapter officers receive communications from the WSO and International in a timely manner and so that they may be authorized to access the Chapter Connect section of the International web site.
3. Committee chair, liaisons, and chapter presidents: the final report on the status of your SAP plan is due to Susan Fritts (cc to Pat B-F) by June 15th. Susan's email is sdfritts@comcast.net. You should send copies to Jan Morgan, finance chair, morganj963@comcast.net, and to Pat Russell, state treasurer, p.russell@comcast.net. You do NOT need to send them to Sherri Wagemann as previously instructed.
4. Rainbow Lodge registrations are due June 6th. This is a great experience for new chapter leaders as well as state committee members. See the link on the state website www.dkgwa.org to register.

Mental Health Resolution

The Executive Board voted to present the Mental Health resolution written by the Educational Policy and Legislation Committee to the members of the US Forum in July 2022. The Committee members have reviewed the resolution with the Forum Steering Committee and asked to be placed on the agenda. There are still reviews needed by the full Steering Committee and the DKG International Parliamentarian, but it appears the resolution is moving forward. Marge Lofstrom is leading the presentation development. The resolution is

focused on educational staff mental health needs in light of an absence of legislation, especially at the national level, to provide support for these educators. It acknowledges the significant crisis the nation faces with youth mental health (as we have all too recently seen- again), but because legislation is already in Congress and state legislative bodies to increase supports for youth but no such legislation is in the works to address educational staff needs, the resolution speaks solely to the latter issue.

The Education Policy and Legislation Committee is also in communication with state Congressional representatives to help develop appropriate legislation for the upcoming Congressional year. This is exciting new territory for WSO.

Other areas to look ahead to: EEC chair, 1st VP Monique Harrison will be starting affinity groups for our members who are under-represented, giving them a chance to freely discuss their needs within DKG. The Communications Committee is putting out a new state brochure and a template that chapters may use to enhance their marketing this coming year. You will receive more information on both these items later in the summer.

As I mentioned in my closing comments at Spring Convention, your WSO Executive Committee will be focusing on helping chapters build resiliency in 2022-2023 through communication, connections and commitment. As you spend some time this summer (I sincerely hope) taking care of yourselves and recharging your energy, I trust you will also spend some time thinking about how to better communicate with your members, maintain connections and excite them to commit to their DKG this next year.

If you are not a chapter president this next year, this will be the last monthly bulletin you will receive from me (though you can always go the state web site/leaders/ president's page to read the latest communique). I cannot thank you enough for your service and your assistance this past year. I look forward to maintaining our relationships at state functions.

As always,

Pat B7