



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

Dear Colleagues,

I have just returned from the US Forum National Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C. where, along with Nancy Sheng (Lambda Bellingham), Susan Fritts (Alpha Sigma Kitsap), and Marge Lofstrom (Beta Delta Auburn), I not only was privileged to meet with staff from four of our Congressional delegation offices but also to learn some fabulous tips about effective advocacy work from a number of nationally renowned speakers. We took with us a letter asking our Congressional members to sponsor legislation to support mental health services to educational staff (which will be shared with you in an attachment to this bulletin). We met with staffers for Representatives Larson (CD2), Kilmer (CD6), and Jayapal (CD7) as well as Senator Patty Murray and found them all receptive to our “ask.”

In addition, we learned from several speakers that advocacy efforts matter. Letters to the editor matter (as the Congressional offices read the local papers). Letters to your representative matter – not form letter or automated responses, but those personally written and with genuine messages and stories – especially if they receive 10 or more on a topic in one week. Our Educational Policy and Legislation Committee is already thinking about the implications of these tips for us as chapters and as a state organization. Let’s talk about this some more in the months ahead.

### New Chapter Officers

Between now and May 1, if you have not already done so, chapters will be electing new officers for the 2022-2024 biennium. As mentioned before, we at the state and area levels are here to help your chapter. We encourage members to step up to the leadership challenge who have not been officers before (or not for some time). Not only will you support them next year, but so will WSO. Training for presidents, treasurers, education excellence, and membership chairs will be offered at Spring Convention and at Fall Board. In the first year of the biennium, this training is pretty nitty-gritty and detailed with timelines, forms, expectations, and resources. If you have questions, please ask. Once your officers are elected, be sure to **complete form 110** (on the International web site under forms/reports) and send it to International with a copy to Sherri Wagemann.

Also, a reminder that we would like to feature the out-going and in-coming presidents in a slide show presentation at the Saturday, May 14 Celebration “Banquet.” **Please send in photos of both the current and the newly elected presidents as email attachments to Sherri Wagemann by May 1, 2022.** [sherri.wagemann@dkg1@gmail.com](mailto:sherri.wagemann@dkg1@gmail.com)

### Timelines/Reminders

A few reminders:

1. **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) [p.bennettformandkgwa@gmail.com](mailto:p.bennettformandkgwa@gmail.com) with a copy to Deidre Catlin, WSO secretary [dimagecreations@gmail.com](mailto:dimagecreations@gmail.com). Copies of previous reports may be found on the state web site under Leaders to give some guidance as to format and extent of these reports. No budgetary information is required for these reports.
2. There have been some questions about chapter reports. There is no requirement in state By-laws or Standing Rules for an annual report from the Chapters. However, it is essential for the WSO Executive Committee and Standing Committees to have a brief summary of your chapter’s

activities for the year (June 2021 – May 2022), membership growth, and both accomplishments and concerns if we are to successfully promote your chapter's goals. Please submit a written document (brief, bullets are fine) to Pat Bennett-Forman [p.bennett-formandkgwa@gmail.com](mailto:p.bennett-formandkgwa@gmail.com) with a copy to your area liaison by the **end of April**.

### **Spring Convention**

**2022 Spring Convention is a virtual only event, May 12-15, 2022.** Registration will be up on the state website and emailed to all members with email by the end of March. Members without email will receive a copy via the US Postal Service. This is going to be a fabulous convention. In-coming International President Dr. Debbie LeBlanc will be joining us on several days, providing a keynote during the opening session, a round table discussion afterwards, and a Saturday workshop (her area of expertise is leadership development). We will also have an advocacy session, officer trainings, workshops on STEAM and social justice issues with the opportunity to earn clock hours, and other fun community building activities. Plus, the Celebration "Banquet" will announce this year's Achievement Awardee, recognize our long-term members, and perhaps have a few surprises in store. Please talk it up with your chapter and committee members. It is free and they can come to as many (or as few) sessions as they desire. It's a great opportunity to see our state DKG organization in action.

Monique Harrison is still accepting proposals from those chapter members who might be interested in giving a workshop. [Monique.dkgwa@outlook.com](mailto:Monique.dkgwa@outlook.com)

### **Rainbow Lodge**

Rainbow Lodge Leadership Retreat will be in-person. It is being held from June 21-23 at the Rainbow Lodge Retreat Center in Issaquah. Arrangements have been made to house registrants as singles, if desired, or in double rooms. The registration form for the retreat are on the web site and will also be in the May edition of the WSO News. This is a great opportunity for training for folks who have never been to a state function, plus a chance to relax and get to know folks from around the state. The theme in "A.L.L. In" looking at **A**ffirmations, **L**eadership and **L**iteracy. Thanks to Laurie Fisher (Kappa Kent) and her committee for their work on this program. Karen Gross, recipient of the DKG International Book Award for her book Trauma in the Classroom, will be the featured speaker.

### **International Opportunities**

Please encourage your members to consider attending the International Convention in New Orleans in July. And/or to consider applying for an International Committee. The US Forum is looking for a representative from the NW. Talk to Sherri Wagemann, Monique Harrison, Barb Clausen, Joy Lauderbaugh or Janice Moen if you have questions about committee responsibilities. The deadline for applications is in May.

Spring is almost here; the daffodils are beginning to bloom. Soon the cherry blossoms will be out. Let us celebrate the coming of spring (and the decline in COVID) with community building and renewed commitment to our DKG purposes. Best wishes for your elections for chapter officers and for completing the round of spring requirements. Don't forget to call on us if you need anything.

As always,

*Pat BF*