



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

Dear Colleagues,

By now your chapter or committee has settled into carrying out activities to bring submitted plans to fruition. Area liaisons are working with chapters on area meetings and to provide support for concerns. Executive Committee members (and area V) are planning for Spring Convention. And, hopefully, you all are also enjoying the promise of wonderful gatherings with friends and family as the holidays approach.

### **WA State Unity Project: Resiliency through Communication, Connections, and Commitment**

The service projects chapters are engaged in demonstrate our members' deep concern for women and children, active educators, and those needing assistance in basic needs. I hope that you are taking pictures of your service projects and submitting them to Barb McPherson, *WSO* state editor, so they can be featured in the state newsletter ([dkgwanews@gmail.com](mailto:dkgwanews@gmail.com)). Webmaster Mary Lou Gregory would also like to post pictures on the state website ([kuaygal@gmail.com](mailto:kuaygal@gmail.com)). We would also like to post pictures of members you are honoring. Please submit a brief sentence or two describing the project or reason for the honoring.

These small tokens of appreciation mean a great deal to members, make them feel appreciated and included in our Society. That connection leads to commitment, so please never undervalue the importance of these recognitions.

### **Timelines/Reminders**

A few reminders:

1. Chapter treasurers will need to submit the IRS Form 990 no later than Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pat Russell if you or your treasurer have any questions [p.russell@comcast.net](mailto:p.russell@comcast.net).
2. December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for nominations for state officers for the next biennium, as well as for a 3 year position on the State Nominations Committee and a 5 year term on the Rachel Royston board. See the state web site for details. <https://www.dkgwa.org>
3. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submitting applications for the next round of Rachel Royston scholarships. Remember that recipients can receive the award more than once. See the state website for details and the application process.
4. Though the deadline was November 1, proposed by-law and standing rule changes are still being accepted. Please send your proposals to Pat Bennett-Forman, [p.bennettformandkgwa@gmail.com](mailto:p.bennettformandkgwa@gmail.com), ASAP. Ideally, you would submit the change proposal on the appropriate form found on the web site, but if not, then please be sure you include the number of the rule being hanged, the language change, rationale and any fiscal implications for adoption of the proposed change. Pat or Janice Moen, state parliamentarian, will help you complete the proposal form.
5. Upcoming zoom meetings:  
Area liaisons: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 5 p.m. topic: mental health resolution  
Chapter presidents: Thursday, November 17, 2022 5:30 p.m. topic: mental health resolution  
Executive Committee: Sunday, November 20, 2022 1:00 p.m. agenda pending

### **Mental Health Resolution**

Members of the Education Policy and Legislation Committee and their chapter contacts are in the process of meeting with state legislators to ask for an enhanced HB 1363, *Addressing secondary trauma in the k-12 workforce*. That work needs to be completed in the next month so that legislators can submit legislation.

Specifically, we are asking for funding to carry out the required training for educational staff specified in the bill, such as grants to develop on-line training, clock hour offerings on wellness and responding to mental health concerns, and allocation of funds to enable existing school mental health providers to also serve school employees. We are also asking that legislators hold “listening sessions” to hear directly from educators the nature of their mental health stressors and possible remedies. Once we have some legislators willing to take on the enhanced bill, we will inform chapters and suggest ways your members can become involved.

### **Communication, communication, communication**

On-going and frequent two-way communication is an essential component of creating community, whether at the state or chapter level. It is therefore critical that chapter presidents, committee chair and state officers all take on the responsibility of participating in communication. Please check your email at least weekly to see if there is information you need to complete your job or if you need to respond to questions asked so that others can do their jobs. If you prefer to be communicated with via text or snail mail, please let me know so that your preference can be accommodated. Obviously for texts, I need a good phone number. If you are using a district email address, please be sure that DKG communications are not blocked. Thank you.

We hate to nag you but when we don't get a response, we don't know if you are not receiving the communication, if it is in your SPAM, or if you are ignoring it for some reason. Whatever the cause, we need to address it and make sure we have an active and meaningful communication from us to you and you to us.

I look forward to seeing you all virtually in the coming months. Please invite me (or other officers) to your chapter meetings, area workshops, committee meetings and so on. The more we are connected, the more we can commit to building our community. Happy holidays!

As always,

*Pat B7*