



“Coming Together to Build Community and Advance Our Purposes”

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the new DKG year, 2022-2023. It promises to be exciting at both the chapter and state level. I am hearing about your initial chapter meetings and impressed with your plans. To keep you up to date with the state organization, below are some items recently discussed by the Executive Committee.

Fall Board Pre-Conference

Fall Board is fast approaching! There is a pre-conference seminar on Friday, Sept. 23rd from 7-9 p.m. on the topic of “Mental Health and Educators: a Crisis,” open to all (including non-members). Participants may earn 2 clock hours by attending. Topics will include: types, prevalence and contributing factors to mental health concerns in educators; resources to assist educators, strategies for improving one’s mental health, current and proposed legislation, and an overview of the DKG resolution on “Mental Health and Educators.” Please spread the word and arrange to post copies of the flyer when you receive it later this week.

Fall Board Workshops

One of the advantages of a virtual Fall Board is that ALL chapter members and, especially, leaders can attend at no cost and for only those sessions they need or want to attend. The Saturday, September 24, 2022 workshop sessions offer guidance to all chapter leaders in a variety of sessions: treasurers, secretaries, EEC/program leaders, membership, educational policy and legislative advocacy, chapter presidents (and future presidents). There will a session on the newly adopted by-law changes at International and their impact on chapters. A lot of good material! So **PLEASE, PLEASE encourage your leadership team to register on the state website www.dkgwa.org**. Fall Board is not just for chapter presidents!

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

The WSO State Unity Project this year will focus on building chapter resiliency. Recall that resilient adults and resilient organizations are dependent on effective Communication, making Connections, and on Commitment to be engaged in both social and service projects. Our State Unity Project will include all three strategies. Specifically, we would encourage chapters to collaborate with other chapters and the area liaison to host an Open House for prospective members, with a focus on early career educators and including a service component (such as a clothing, hygiene or food drive, a book donation project, or gifts for low income students). By participating in such a project, our chapters will connect with prospective members and community agencies, communicate with existing and prospective members, and commit to a project that demonstrates the relevancy of DKG – all factors that can contribute to making our chapters resilient.

I will be asking you to report on the name/nature of your project along with your Strategic Action Plan goals. (See below #1.) We would like to feature projects in the *WSO* and post them on our state web site and Face Book page. Please take pictures of your event so that we may post them.

Timelines/Reminders

A few reminders:

1. Watch for the new response form for reporting your chapter Strategic Plan goals and activities, as well as your service project focus for the year. This form will be due back to Immediate Past President Susan Fritts (with a copy to the State President) by October 25, 2022. This form is a little simpler than the old

form but does ask you report to us what your goals are in leadership development, membership and program/EEC for the year. This form will also be your end-of-the form for reporting your results. All chapters are expected to submit the form.

2. Committee/liaison action plans: Susan will also be sending Committee chairs and liaisons a copy of the Action Plan form to be completed by you and your committee prior to Fall Board. Please use last year's plan and the state Strategic Action Plan to guide your planning for this year, but also feel free to take initiative in introducing new actions. You will be asked to make a very short (one minute) report to the Executive Board Sept. 24th giving highlights of your plan. This year there is a third page to the form which asks you to identify any items you believe, due to budget constraints, you were not able to adequately fund and/or any new items you have omitted from your plan because there were inadequate funds or the item is not recommended until next year. This information will help guide the Finance Committee as they prepare the proposed budget for 2023-2024.

Mental Health Resolution

The Resolution on Mental Health Supports for Educators, presented by your WA State delegation to the U.S. Forum meeting, July 16, 2022, in New Orleans, passed with an overwhelming majority. That means the real work of the resolution will now begin. The state Education Policy and Legislation Committee will present an action plan that includes (1) workshops for state and chapter presentation to help our members become informed about the facts around mental health and educators; (2) meeting with state legislators and national congressional representatives to discuss, initiate and support legislation to provide needed mental health services for educators; (3) help to create a resource bank that chapters can use to disseminate information on suicide prevention and local mental health resources to local educators; and (4) share ideas from chapters to use to provide emotional support to their members and other educators. Thank you for your support of this much needed initiative. The Executive Board will be asked to vote on the adoption of this resolution for our state at the Fall Board business meeting.

Planning for Fall Board 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

You will be receiving a brief Google survey by the 10th of September to gather your input on whether to hold Fall Board as an in-person or virtual event in the future. I know those dates seem a long way off but if we are to have in-person events, we need to schedule venues now. We will also be asking you about your preferences for the dates and timing of the events in an attempt to schedule the Fall Board meeting when most people are likely to be able to attend. This input will be reported out and voted on at Fall Board, September 24, 2022.

I was so impressed with the work of committees, liaisons and chapters last year, as well as the support given me by the Executive Committee. I know that this year we will continue our good works – no matter what COVID might throw our way. Remember that by staying connected, recognizing that we do our work as a team (it is ok to seek assistance), and always, always communicating, we will not only succeed but grow our organization. See you at Fall Board!

As always,

Pat B7