

Membership Moments: The following Membership Moments were first introduced at the 2014 Leadership Conference in Grand Junction. Since then, others have been used at state board meetings and convention. More Information: katherineaflynn@yahoo.com

***Annie Calling, won't you pick up the phone?**

Annie Calling is an initiative to reclaim former members. The process which is currently in full motion.

Chapters across the state are being led by their presidents to call members who have dropped out in the past, inviting them to come back.

The plan is to identify former members from each chapter and volunteers from there is no longer a monetary penalty for reinstatement, former members are more receptive to re-join DKG.

A simple friendly phone call from a willing member is all that is required. Let your former members know they are missed and you would welcome them back this fall.

Won't you volunteer? The exciting chance to visit with former DKG sisters is a plus as one can sit in the comfort of one's own home, chatting on the phone.

This is a great opportunity to participate in chapter activities for those who are unable to travel and also stay at home moms. Let your chapter president know today that you will be happy to be 'Annie' and make a few phone calls.

***Looking for new members – Who and Where?** – Possible candidates are key women educators who are employed in educational work at the time of their election and have had three or more years of experience as professional educators or have been retired from an educational position no more than two years. Remember an educator is an instructor, teacher, trainer, and creator of materials for any number, any age, any audience, and in any location.

Initiating a new member is only the beginning – For membership to be meaningful a member must feel connected. Members may feel connected through nurturing, personalizing, bonding, and mentoring.

Q and A: *A chapter member is approached by a teacher who has just joined her school. The new teacher explains that she was a Society member for five years but then moved abroad and gave up teaching to work in industry. Now that she has returned and is teaching again, she would like to rejoin her old chapter. Is this possible?*

Reinstatement is certainly possible. The steps are simple: the former member makes her request to the chapter president; the former member completes the reinstatement paperwork (available online) and pays her dues. There is no reinstatement fee.

***Some Membership Problems—Mind Set**

- Chapter members like things the way they've "always been" and are reluctant to make change;
 - Chapter leadership is faltering, as few are willing to accept leadership responsibilities;
 - No new members have been initiated in one or more years;
 - New members drop out within three years;
 - A majority of the chapter is retired and members say they don't know where to find new members;
 - Chapter members have not attended a Society event outside the chapter. (Jensi Souders, Jan/Feb DKG News 2011)
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3 Ways to Nurture All Members

- 1) Assign a mentor to each new member—the mentor should consistently contact and encourage the new member. There is a lot to learn!
 - 2) Encourage members to even "come late and leave early". We want to see everyone's face as often as possible. Have chairs or convenient places ready for them to slip into when they arrive or so that they can slip out!
 - 3) Value members who are only able to attend sporadically—they support the Society's Purposes though they cannot participate as often as they like—invite them to help your chapter with activities that can be done at home or at their convenience! (Omega Peaks, Jan 2011)
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Nurturing All Members

All members need to know that they are important to the society. **Caring is the key!** The following are ways to nurture chapter members:

- **Telephone Tree:** Use a committee to telephone members before each chapter meeting. This is a good opportunity to inquire about each member's well-being.
- **Car Pool:** Some members hesitate to drive alone, particularly for evening meetings. *Use the phone; don't go alone!*
- **Financial Help:** Pay dues for members with financial burdens. This is often a reserve member with a limited income.
- **Chapter Mentor Program:** Invest time in seeing that new initiates get to meetings. Accept this responsibility if you recommend a member.
- **Phone Calls and Notes:** Take time to call, write, or email a member who is absent from chapter functions.
- **Follow-up Visits:** Visit a member if absences continue and try to find a solution to the problem.

- **Talent Bank:** Our members are our greatest resources. Make a list of their special talents and/or hobbies. Invite them to present a program. This encourages active participation.
- **Cards on Special Occasions:** Remember reserve members and send cards to all members when special events occur.

Q and A: DKG News

Our chapter is confused about the 'new rules' in the international Constitution. How can we ask a brand new teacher in her first year to become a member when we really know nothing about their teaching?

Our Purposes state that we "honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education." Many chapters have given grants to women in their pre-service years, have followed them through pre-service internships and have mentored them through all or part of their preparation for teaching.

These chapters feel confident in their knowledge about the potential of these new teachers and feel that they can have a positive effect on their success in those early and crucial years of employment.

SEEING OBSTACLES AS OPPORTUNITIES

YOU, the MEMBER! YOU are the catalyst that can change our obstacles into opportunities.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
—Aristotle

YOU are the member who can make a difference. YOU can accept opportunities or hide behind obstacles. YOU are our Society's most important asset. YOU can make a difference.

(Jackie Cuppy, International President, 2006, DKG NEWS, May-June)

What can chapters do to ensure that new members will be life-long members? Each member must know that she is necessary to the success of the chapter. Following are some strategies that chapters might utilize:

- Give each member a real responsibility and let them know their job is critical to the success of the chapter.
- Provide time for members to get to know each other; help them to interact with all members and utilize fun roll call methods. Pay attention when good things are said about members, their work and their contributions; share them with the chapter.

Personal Testimonials

As a “Key Woman Educator” who has earned professional respect and recognition, YOU are an essential, integral part of the community. Have you identified other key women educators and shared the Purposes and Mission of our Society by inviting them to join your chapter? If not, now is the time to take action and share the joy of membership. Share the benefits of Delta Kappa Gamma by giving personal testimonials as to what the Society means to you and has done for fellow sisters. Invite prospective members to meetings and outline all the ways Delta Kappa Gamma can enhance their life.

" Invite prospects to meetings, social events, guest nights!"
Discuss DKG" through word of mouth, personal contact!"

Tell the DKG" story-benefits, programs, projects, resources-one-on-one!" Provide interesting/high-quality programs and/or speakers!"
Exhibit enthusiasm for organization!"

Describe one/two chapter’s successful strategies for retaining new members!"

Involve new members immediately in chapter committees and activities!"

Contact frequently and consistently via phone,
email, notes, newsletter, etc.

Get excited with your vision. Invite members from professions involved in education outside the traditional classroom for chapter diversity. Let membership begin with YOU and make a difference by giving that gift of membership. (Kathy Davis, OK, 2008)

And now, we present a Membership Moment---

You are connected to caring women who donate about \$3 million a year for education and educators, to one of the largest philanthropic organizations of its kind.

You are connected to professional women who want you to succeed in your goals, who give you tools to help you, who support your efforts rather than waiting for you to fail.

And you know that you will always have a safety net that wraps you in genuine spiritual fellowship. (Dr. Jensi Souders, 2012 DKG News)