

Membership Basics from A to Z

To build and maintain a strong membership base and a strong chapter consider these A to Z basics.

A: adult education, always, atmosphere, attitude. Look at your community's adult education programs for excellent teachers who would be strong members. Always be looking for potential new members. Foster an atmosphere in your chapter and state that welcomes guests and new members. Keep a positive attitude about the possibility of growth.

B: benefits, brag, brochures. Think of the benefits of membership and be ready to tell others about them. Have a ready supply of DKG brochures on hand and share them whenever you can. Brag about the wonderful things happening within DKG at your chapter, in your state, and internationally.

C: celebrate, colleges, community education, conventions and conferences. Celebrate the potential in young educators and the gifts of veteran members! Look at the colleges, universities, and community education settings in your community for potential members. Bring potential members with you when you attend DKG conventions and conferences.

D: diversity. Build chapter membership that represents all areas of education. A diverse membership base is a strong membership base.

E: elevator, English language educators. Can you describe the purpose and projects of your chapter and DKG in a few sentences? Develop a short speech that you could give to someone on an elevator (or wherever the opportunity arises) to market DKG. Invite English language educators to join your chapter.

F: fun, future. Seeking new candidates for membership should be fun, not hard work. Look for the fun in the challenge. Look to the future- where will your chapter or state be in five years? Ten years? Look to the future to keep your chapter and state membership vibrant.

G: grandchildren, guests. Consider the teachers of your children or grandchildren as candidates for membership. Invite guests to your chapter meetings and your state conferences. There's no better way to demonstrate who we are and what we do.

H: heart, honor, host. Members are the heart of our organization. Host a community wide event or presentation. Honor the members you have. Host a meeting for several chapters and invite young educators to attend.

I: information, initiate, international. Have information at your fingertips about the projects and accomplishments for DKG at all levels. Have DKG brochures available and share them with your contacts. Initiate new members often and on a regular basis. International with any questions you have. Our international connects make us unique as an organization.

J: joint, just. Hold joint meetings with nearby chapters and community groups. Just ask educators to join. As the Nike ads say, "Just Do It."

K: kindergarten, knock. Consider kindergarten teachers for membership. Don't be afraid to knock on doors or call educators of excellence in your community.

L: legislators, libraries. Women legislators in your area are potential presenters and honorary members for you chapter. Librarians are community leaders and can add new dimensions to your chapter.

M: mayor, mentor, museum, music. If you have a female mayor, invite her to your meetings. Develop a plan to support and mentor young educators in your community. Get to know who works at your local museums. She may be a potential member. Invite music teachers to become members.

N: network, nurse educators and trainers. None of us can do everything, but together we can do anything. A network enriches your life and strengthens everyone. Nurses educators and trainers will make excellent members.

O: offer, open, opportunity, orientation. Offer the honor of membership to educators of excellence. Be open to new candidates. Opportunities for recruiting members abound. Hold orientation meetings for potential members so that they can learn about DKG before joining.

P: piano, preschool, presenters, principals, projects. Piano teachers and other musicians who give lessons are potential members. Look to your community preschools for potential members. Bring in a panel of presenters from some area of education. The presenters will learn about DKG and you'll meet potential new members. Women principals would likely be honored to be invited to join. Your chapter and state projects promote awareness of our organization.

Q: quality, question. Watch for quality educators wherever you are. Ask educators to join. Often no one has asked a potential member. Don't assume disinterest and unavailability. Ask the question.

R: refer, reinstatement, reorientation. Refer acquaintances living outside your immediate area to other DKG chapters and states. Do you know of someone living in another state or area that would be a potential member? Contact that state's president and share the information. Invite former members to return and be reinstated. Have a reorientation meeting to renew current members' commitment to the purposes and goals of the Society.

S: scholarships, students, support. Grants and scholarships are benefits of membership. Share the information about all that DKG gives and supports. Graduate students would benefit from a scholarship or grant from DKG and would be contributing members.

T: take time, tell, tutors. Take time to share your enthusiasm for your chapter and the organization. Tell others about your meetings and DKG travels. Identify the women in your community who are doing tutoring. Tutors qualify for membership.

U: UN, university. Tell others about the DKG- UN Schools for Africa Project. Universities have many potential members and presenters. Get to know the women at your local university and encourage them to join.

V: value, voice. Think about what you value most about your membership. Let others know about the benefits and value of membership. Your voice speaking to others about DKG is our best marketing strategy.

W: web site, welcome. Visit the DKG web site to learn more about the organization and refer others to the site. Welcome guests and new members to meetings. Keep the welcoming atmosphere for all members.

X: excellence, extra, extraordinary. Delta Kappa Gamma represents and supports excellence in education worldwide. Be willing to go the extra mile to nominate and support new members. When you meet or hear about extraordinary women educators, invite them to attend a meeting and consider membership.

Y: young. Look to the young educators of your community. How can your chapter support and mentor these women?

Z: zeal, zoo, zzz. Your zeal and enthusiasm about the opportunities and benefits of membership will encourage others to want to join. Look to the educators at your community's zoo. What unique members they would make. Zzzz- don't be caught sleeping when it comes to inviting potential members to join.