

Orientation

The Orientation is the most important duty of the Membership Committee in preparing prospective new members to the Society. The Orientation must provide the invitee with:

1. An understanding of the Society:

- Honor of membership;
- DKG more than the chapter;
- Society membership – an excellent return on investment;
- Society's Vision and Mission;
- The Purposes – why we exist;
- The intrinsic value of membership;
- Bonding / Life-long friendships;
- Mentor/mentee relationships;
- Making an educational difference in community, state/province, country, world; and
- Support for one another's passions, triumphs, sufferings, accolades, struggles and difficult decisions.

2. An understanding of what the invitee can offer the Society:

- Participation in chapter activities;
- Presence (as often as possible) at chapter meetings/events;
- A vote and a voice to make a difference;
- Opportunities to share talents and professional expertise;
- Opportunities to grow personally and professionally and to support others in their growth;
- Opportunities for leadership in a safe environment; and
- Support of Society Mission and Vision through dues and personal service.

The International Membership Committee has prepared a new Orientation Packet ***Pride in the Big Picture...An Orientation Guide for Chapter Membership Teams***. The slides and guide plus an Orientation Invitation Letter can be ordered from International or downloaded from the International Web site.

The Orientation should be presented in a session weeks/days prior to the scheduled initiation so that the candidate has time to gracefully withdraw if the invitation is not appropriate for her at this time. The Orientation should lead to thoughtful reflection on the part of the invitee. Acceptance then means an informed commitment to the organization. Orientation on the day of initiation (or immediately preceding initiation) makes the invitee feel "trapped."

Establish a welcoming, comfortable environment for the presentation. Provide name tags for prospects. Arrange the room to prevent issues with visibility and sound. If necessary, provide signs at the entrance of the building to assist guests with finding the appropriate room.