

Successful Chapter Practices

The Successful Chapter Practices Model is based on an International Member Survey undertaken in 2008 in which more than 1264 chapters took part. The results of that survey identified practices common in successful chapters. While there are no “cookie cutter” rules for creating a vibrant, enthusiastic and growing chapter, there are practices that are repeated again and again by successful chapters. For more information on the survey go to www.dkg.org. On the home page click on committees, click on membership, scroll down and click on Successful Practices, click on Successful Chapter Practice and/or the presentation. Based on the survey, a successful chapter has the following characteristics:

- Holds 4-6 well-planned, relatively informal but still structured, quick-moving business meetings per year
- Meets at varied times, days, and places convenient for working members
- Meets for approximately 1 ½ hours in length, excluding meals
- Has more refreshment-only meetings than meetings with meals
- Plans fellowship time as part of each meeting
- Focuses on meeting members’ social needs (fellowship/camaraderie)
- Has open meetings and activities that welcome non-members
- Has a wide variety of high-quality, interesting programs and speakers, including programs that highlight community initiatives and those that use members’ talents/expertise
- Supports a variety of one-time and ongoing projects that actively engage members
- Support projects in the area of mentoring; fund-raising and volunteer efforts; scholarships and grants-in-aid; community initiatives, especially for women and children; literacy; the legislative process; and others, including international projects
- Communicates with members in multiple ways: newsletter (print, website or email 4+ times a year), phone, email, snail mail, Web site
- Publicizes the Society through projects and activities that receive newspaper coverage as well as school and community recognition
- Has specific strategies in place for attracting new members, retaining members, engaging retired and employed members, and developing/nurturing new chapter leaders
- Implements formal and traditional initiation and installation ceremonies
- Emphasizes the Society’s mission, purposes and history
- Offers benefits and services that members cannot get elsewhere, including chapter scholarships, grants, interaction among a diverse group of educators, friendship/camaraderie and service to community