Nurturing DKG Members

The Membership Committee plays a tremendous role in nurturing chapter members. Below are some suggestions to help ensure that each member feels valued:

* Greet every member at every meeting with a warm and personal welcome. You might ask different members each meeting to do this: you might ask most seasoned members or newer members as a way for them to get to know everyone.
* Use creative roll calls as a way to give each member an opportunity to share something about herself. To avoid taking the entire meeting for this activity, ask a member to time responses to 30 seconds or a minute or two, perhaps using a bell to signal “time’s up.”
* “Honor Our Own” – Recognize members who are involved in other community activities. Take one-or-two minutes to let them share their accomplishments.
* Create a chapter “care” committee to check regularly on inactive or older members and to share this information with the chapter.
* Schedule time for social interaction at each meeting; some events or meetings will have more time for this than others.
* Create a fun competition with its basis being information about members – Bingo, Jeopardy, or other games work well.
* “Celebrate Us!” As members arrive for a meeting, encourage each member to write a saying, draw a picture or share a thought on a flip chart that identifies positive things about the chapter and its members.
* Ask members to create a chapter metaphor. Gather into small groups to discuss possibilities and come to consensus, then share with the entire chapter. For instance, if our chapter were a fruit, or a wild animal, or a city, or a meteorological phenomenon, what would we be? Great fellowship and fun comes from working together.
* Provide name tags at all meetings; this is helpful to new members as well as to seasoned members.
* Value members who are able to attend only sporadically – they support the Society’s Mission and Purposes even though they cannot participate in every activity.
* Encourage members to “come late, leave early – we want to see your face as often as possible.”
* Reorientation reminds members why they joined the Society. Emphasize the many ways Delta Kappa Gamma makes the world a better place.
* Include every member in the chapter activities: committees, short- and long-term projects, responsibilities at meetings (greeter, refreshments, program presenter, program assistant, etc.).
* Encourage members to attend other Society meetings: area and state organization workshops; state organization conventions; regional conferences; international conventions. Appreciation for the Society grows when members understand the depth and breadth of Delta Kappa Gamma.
* Highlight one or two members in each chapter newsletter, or highlight a member without identifying her, then “unveil” her at the chapter meeting.
* Put photographs of members in the chapter yearbook; add two or three informational items about each member.
* Institute a “buddy” system or a “secret friend” activity or a “Sister of Support” program; it’s a great way to keep everyone involved and valued.
* Pair members for a portion of the meeting by using a deck of cards – all Aces sit together; cards with stickers on them – all daisies sit together; birthdays – all with birthdays in July sit together; shoes – all sandals, flip-flops, loafers, pumps, etc. sit together. Use your own creative genius to come up with other ideas.
* The more fun, along with excellent programs, the better: have door prizes, give an opportunity for members to “brag” about their life happenings, have a “show-and tell” program for members to share their hobbies and passions.
* Bottom line: the best way to nurture all members is to love them, value them, recognize them, and involve them.

Nurturing the Chapter’s NEWEST members:

* Ask new members to do a two-minute “This is Me” presentation to the whole chapter or to smaller groups in a progressive activity. One member can be the timekeeper with a bell to mark the time for moving to the next new member.
* Involve new members immediately in the work of the chapter: appoint each member to a working committee with real responsibilities (you might consider appointing her to the same committee as her sponsor); ask her to participate in a chapter project; invite her to present a program or a part of a program.
* Assign one or more members to “mentor” each new key woman educator – check in with her, answer questions, demonstrate that she is valuable to the chapter.
* Have a special “prize” for new members for a period of time, so they know they are very special.
* Bottom line: the best way to nurture new members is to love them, value them, recognize them, and involve them.

Sustaining Pride in the Big Picture…Reorientation

Just as Orientation is important for prospective new members to the Society, Reorientation is important to all DKG members. It is the membership committee’s responsibility to keep ignited the excitement, the pride, and the honor of membership. Members need to be reminded not only of the opportunities and benefits of membership to such an outstanding organization, but also of what they bring to the organization:

A Reorientation Packet, *Sustaining Pride in the Big Picture… a reorientation for all DKG Members,* aPowerPoint slide presentation and printed guide, is available for order from the Society Supply Store and for download from the Society website. The purpose of the Reorientation Guide and slide presentation is to provide a common outline for reorienting members to the Society. It is designed to be used in one of two ways:

1. In its entirety as a chapter program, or

2. In 5-10 minute continuing presentations at meetings throughout the year.

The theme for reorientation is the honor of belonging to an organization that stands for excellence in many ways. We realize there is honor in membership. Is that honor apparent to all? When characteristics such as professional diligence, prudent decision-making, integrity, dependability, and trustworthiness are consistently observed in DKG members, a public reputation is solidified.

An opportunity to join and be nurtured by such a group is the honor. Underlying “genuine spiritual fellowship” is the unconditional commitment of how DKG members respect and support one another. Our effort is to create an ideal environment where every member is treasured for who she is and encouraged to become all that she can be.

Honor Long Term Members

Honor your long term members with recognition:

* Recognize them at chapter and state organization meetings.
* Certificates for number of years of membership: 10, 25 or 50 years.
* Pins available for purchase through Award Concepts (see [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) and “shopping”).