

“Fun and Informative” Chapter Membership Activities

GETTING TO KNOW ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

“Chronology”

Search chapter records and compile the names of all who have been members since your chapter was chartered. Develop a chronological listing according to each member’s date of initiation. (Be sure to use initiation dates instead of transfer dates.) International Headquarters can supply missing initiation dates.

This listing provides information that can be useful in many ways:

- Honoring members for significant number of years of membership, i.e., 50 years, 40 years, 30 years, 25 years, 20 years
- Structuring chapter committees to include diverse levels of Delta Kappa Gamma involvement and experience
- Presenting clear picture of composition of chapter’s active membership
- Analyzing resignations and dropped memberships
- Planning Society-focused programs, i.e., chapter heritage, building knowledge of the Society, reaffirmation and renewal
- Developing a chapter profile

GETTING TO KNOW ABOUT US

“Reserved Seating”

Use colored ribbons or place cards to identify members’ seats at an event. Members must seat themselves at a place with a ribbon or card color that corresponds with their years of membership in Delta Kappa Gamma, years of teaching, or level of instruction. Use colors listed below (Identification Ribbons) or create your own color-coding.

“Identification Ribbons”

This activity is a good “mixer” at the beginning of a meeting and produces an item that gives “at a glance” information about each member’s career experience.

Materials needed:

Short strips (3” – 5”) of grosgrain ribbon in various
Medium-sized plastic beads in various colors
Medium safety pins

Procedure:

Lay out cut strips of ribbon. You will need to provide a different color for each instructional area represented within your chapter’s membership. For example:

Pink = kindergarten, primary grades
Yellow = elementary grades
Light green = middle school
Light blue = high school
Dark green = college or university
Dark blue = other (such as chapter honorary)

Set out small bowls of beads. You will need a separate bowl for each as well as a different color to represent numbers of years of experience. For example:

White = 1 year+
Yellow = 5 years+
Red = 10 years+
Blue = 20 years+
Green = 30 years+

Each member takes a ribbon from the materials that signifies her area of employment. To the ribbon, she pins a safety pin on which she has added colored beads to signify her years in educational work. The resulting identification ribbon can be worn separately or attached to a name tag. (In Alpha Chapter, NC, they quickly became known as “battle ribbons”.)

GETTING OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR SOCIETY

Try these suggestions:

- Sponsor a spelling bee at a county or state fair; invite contestants of all ages. Give “showy” ribbons as prizes with the Society chapter or state sponsor identified; offer to talk with educators interested in knowing more about the Society.
- Give a book to each kindergarten child within your school or district. Identify Delta Kappa Gamma as the source of the book with a bookplate or something similar. Emphasize the need for, and benefits of, parents reading to their children. Retired members could present the books and volunteer to read the children “their” books while “scouting” for potential members.
- Sponsor a statewide writing contest for teachers or students on topics that support teachers, education and learning. Provide prizes at the chapter and/or state level. Assembling a “reading team” of teachers with some kind of monetary award might identify some prospective members.
- Develop an alliance with women in a variety of careers. Sponsor a Career Day for teenagers. Have teenagers “shadow” individuals on their jobs.
- Identify potential candidates for membership by reviewing school board minutes, personnel directories, district/campus newsletters and education articles in newspapers.
- Monitor Teacher-of-the-Year nominees / winners and other Distinguished Educator awards given for outstanding contributions to their schools and communities. Recognize them and consider them for membership.
- Ask members to support a tutoring program in nearby schools or ask members to mentor beginning teachers. The contact with the schools and educators will provide additional opportunities for discovering and recruiting new members.
- Fill a box or suitcase with lesson plans and learning materials donated by members to give to new teachers or active educators.
- Create “baskets” of books, bookmarks, stickers, notepaper, and other “goodies.” For a fundraising activity, require member donation to be eligible for the drawing. Winner gives basket to the teacher of her choice.
- Co-sponsor projects that make a difference to children, schools, women and the community.
- Have a visible ongoing project that is widely publicized and so appealing that the community “demands” it: auction, pancake supper, art fair, dinner

and fashion show with member or community models.

- Arrange for educational or parenting “expert” to speak in school or community. Provide publicity, refreshments and Society information.
- Recognize and reward beginning teachers in school, district or community. Members might follow up by being available as mentors or helpers.