

Maine S. O. DKG
Virtual First Vice President Training
September 19, 2020

First of all, thank-you so very much for serving your chapter as First Vice President! You are appreciated more than you'll ever know!

As 1VP in most Maine chapters, you are automatically Chair of Educational Excellence Committee. However, some chapters throughout our organization have Program Chairs and may not have a 1VP. Some chapters have a full planning committee for programs. Regardless of chapter structure, programs and projects are our biggest responsibilities to our chapters.

To that end, here are the talking points for six aspects of our work that I have found helpful:

1. Remember that solid, engaging programs attract/keep more members. More members mean more dues money. More dues money supports solid, engaging programs. Solid, engaging programs attract/keep more members. More members mean more dues money. More dues money supports solid, engaging programs... and the cycle continues. (My personal sources: WABI -TV, *The Free Press*, and resources from International). Example: I recently saw on WABI-TV that the Old Town High School is expanding its outdoor classroom. Why not contact the instructor there and invite him to do a program?

Ask yourself, what would make me NOT want to miss a meeting?

Think of retirees and those currently teaching.

Think variety: smaller groups, alternate times of day, social times, professional development, non-members as speakers, speakers as potential members, etc., etc.

2. The scope of EEC is wide. International EEC has focused on four areas: 1) Schools for Africa Project, 2) Support for Early Career Educators, 3) advocacy for educational law and policy, and 4) promotion of United Nations activities. At Maine's 2019 Fall Workshop, the EEC prioritized those: 1) SECE, for which we discussed mentoring) and 2) law and policy for which we discussed the WEP/GPO.

It would be great to have at least one Maine chapter take on SFA and another for UN activities.

3. Given the above, chapters also need to work toward our state strategic goals: 1) Twenty percent of our statewide membership will be women actively working to educate others. 2) To ensure that the educational community and general public recognize DKG as a professional organization of leading women educating others.

4. Know your state and chapter by-laws and rules. I cannot emphasize this enough. Keep them updated and handy. They are a structure that provides answers. (They also can be a good sedative for sleepless nights! ☺)

The "Go To" guide is also very helpful, providing the nuts and bolts for just about everything DKG.

5. Speaking of the website... get cozy with both the state and International websites. Until a few years ago, I was reluctant to “just go visit the website.” At my 2VP training in 2017, I set a goal of visiting the website and created a checklist for doing so. (Ex: at least 15 minutes per day, three days per week, for 3 weeks). That got me familiar with the site and made it far less daunting. Since then, the website includes an online chat feature! Folks at International WANT to help. Use them.
On the website – From home page, click on Programs/Projects for a drop-down menu. You will see 4 options for our purposes. Click on the 4th one to find “Program Ideas for Chapters.” (Recording prison inmates’ voices so children can hear a story read with an incarcerated parent’s voice)
6. Prepare for chapter presidency – NOW. Observe, jot notes to self, reflect on what fits your style.

“The things that makes us different, those are our superpowers.”

Lena Waithe

I hope that this summary of my talking points will help you. Please contact me if you wish to discuss anything.

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