

July 29, 2022

Hello, Chapter Presidents!

You have been hard a work for a month, now, so how are you doing? (And yes, I know that many of you have been hard at work for years!)

July 11, 2022 took me from Calgary, Alberta to New Orleans, LA for our DKG International Convention. And as usual, it did not disappoint. The scope and vision of this organization never ceases to amaze me. What potential. What impact. What passion. We can do so much for education at a time when education needs it most. So as newly elected International President Debbie Leblanc closed her acceptance speech, "Let's get to work."

Here are a few pointers and updates:

Several of you were not able to attend the May 21st training session. Thus, I have attached a few items that were shared there. Please holler if you have any questions. Your state officers are counting on your officers to attend Fall Workshop. As I was recently reminded, our state by-laws state that your President, 1st Vice President, and Second Vice President hold meetings with our chapter leaders at least yearly at a state meeting. We take that seriously and want to serve you so that you can serve your chapters. You are our lifeline!

Fall workshop is **October 14-15th** at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. Texas 1st VP and International Speaker Bonnie Moore will be our keynote. Bonnie was in my LMS Class of 2018 and she is dynamite. At this point, we are planning on 3 sessions with Jessica Masse of godesignlab.com who will help us with marketing, publicity, and branding. We depend on you to talk up Fall Workshop with your members; they will not want to miss it. Of course, there will be more information in the upcoming *Mainspring*.

Speaking of the *Mainspring*, Joan Wenzel is wildly anticipating your timely submissions so that you can brag about all that your chapter has done. Yes, I just said brag. It's OK to brag! 😊 I am especially interested in whether or not your chapter was able to accept my challenge from the spring by having DKG visibility at a summer event. The *Mainspring* deadline is **August 10th**.
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Perhaps you are waiting for official contact lists for your chapter yearbooks, especially our new chapter officers. Chapter officer Form 110 trickles in with confirmations, and I will confirm addresses for committee chairs at the Administrative Board meeting on Aug. 3rd. Thus, the contact lists are still a work in progress, and I will work hard to have them out to you by August 15th. If I don't do that, please remind me!

Your state leadership fully recognizes that chapters are struggling financially. Conversations are happening and steps are being taken to help your chapters. Keep the faith and stay tuned.

One of the speakers at our International Convention was Ingvi Omarsson, an acclaimed Icelandic educator who currently works at Iceland's Ministry of Education as a Senior Advisor. He spoke about misconceptions in education, the fundamental shifts needed, and next steps to taking back our profession. Those of us on the front lines instinctively "get it." His presentation was over the top, and I hope that I will be able to obtain it for our use here in Maine – AND NOT JUST FOR MEMBERS. But I will close this letter with one of Ingvi's quotes: "We need women in leadership, because WHEN WOMEN LEADE THE WAY, WE GENERALLY MAKE BETTER DECISIONS." Now how about that? Yes, Madame President, the decisions you make today, tomorrow, and for the next two years are crucial to moving DKG forward. We've got this!

Fondly,
Mary