



Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Northeast Region Educational Excellence

November 17 & 19, 2022

What we are proud of in our state:

1. In Puerto Rico where there was so much devastation from a hurricane, chapters said “What can we do better?” Many areas still have little or no reliable internet, schools were seriously affected as were students. Their goal was to make things better. They provided backpacks with needed materials to classroom teachers and over 100 children received backpacks with school supplies. They also mentored teachers on how to best manage online learning.

2. In New York is proud of the professional development opportunities they offered teachers in the spring and fall and provided workshops that also engaged retirees. There is also the CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) connection offering students of tours of the UN (The tours were of the exterior only but there is still much to learn from that experience.) There was also a Conference on Children which addresses the mental health of students especially as they have active shooter drills.

3. Connecticut offers workshops for both retired and active teachers that include outstanding speakers. They had a teacher of the year and one that encouraged schools to allow high school students to have internships in alternative settings like factories.

4. Maryland was most proud of their workshops based on a program of work with topics like self-care, genealogy, crafts and chapter president’s meetings. They had “table talks” with 6 topics and participants rotated from one topic to another...topics like scholarship, DKG resources and world fellowship. They also had Pathways to Success which stressed different ways to be successful.

5. West Virginia offered Relay to Honorship 4 times a year. They also have a “Local Leading Lady” program where members are nominated because of what they do outside their DKG chapter in their community. The leading lady is given a pin that says Local Leading Lady on it and a display of winners is provided at Convention. The leading lady may be active in a food bank, Ronald McDonald House, CASA or any other community group.

6. Massachusetts is proud of their collaboration with other groups such as their state Early Childhood or School Administrators associations or their state board of education. The state

organization then co-sponsors events with them. They also have asked their teachers what they need to know then the state tries to offer programs to meet those needs.

7. Illinois is extremely proud of their partnership with Illinois Leadership offering Teach to Lead programs that use a logic model to help schools solve critical issues. Chapters reach out to colleges to bring in those collegial educators. They also reach out to nursing homes and assisted living facilities to engage those who were educators by offering opportunities for them, having a tea for them, etc. Programming for Convention offers a variety of opportunities for presenters and members with workshops, 10-minute take-aways, table talks and poster sessions. Those who have received grants and scholarships are honored. A new active member is asked to give the "Challenge" to members at the Convention and Executive Board meetings.

Ideas for Mentoring Members by the state and chapter:

1. Offering online connections to help classroom teachers use ZOOM or other interactive method with students.
2. Offering professional development opportunities via ZOOM, in person or via a hybrid method.
3. Offering meetings that are ZOOM or hybrid that allow members in care facilities to participate. (You may need to reach out to the facility to help with this.)
4. Have a Thanksgiving celebration to encourage membership – “How can I do better?”
5. Use a website or Facebook to connect with all members.
6. Encourage members to become speakers and to participate in the art gallery on DKG website. Then be sure to acknowledge them.
7. Have virtual workshops to recruit members by offering interesting programs, professional development and leadership training. The leadership training component is important for chapter leadership as well as state leadership.
8. Offer a curriculum of hope...providing books and materials to teachers about specific topics like climate change that they can use in their classroom.
9. Help new members or prospective members to “fit in” by using personal contact.
10. Once you sponsor a new members, you continue to connect with them and encourage them.
11. Have an official chat where members can contact a state leader about anything. The response can become a “spread the word” on Facebook. One person in the state organization is responsible to answer the chat.
12. Have a reading club...be sure to offer coffee, tea and snacks. It is a great way to learn about new professional and fictional literature and to get to know each other.
13. Offer “Woman of Distinction” award. Each chapter can nominate someone who is a GEM in the chapter. They are recognized at convention with a certificate and a pin.
14. Offer grants to early career educators or active teachers. Have the recipient to a meeting to show how they used the money and invite them back to just get to know you. The important thing is to follow-up on a personal level.

15. Treat early career educators and all active educators like “Queens”. Give them little gifts, notes, and treats. Deliver them to the office and let other teachers see these. Be sure to include information about DKG.
16. Offer grants at the state level as well as the chapter level.
17. Partner with other organizations even at the chapter level as well as other chapters in your area.
18. Have a summer planning meeting after you have surveyed your members to make sure you can meet the needs of active and retired members.
19. Have an “Appy Hour” where you teach all members how to use the wonderful apps to do classroom activities or how to just use the apps on their phone.
20. Have a technology seminar offering a variety of technological opportunities for members from how to use your phone, create a book on Shutterfly, create a PowerPoint presentation, etc.
21. Offer scholarship to your local college and let the school select the recipients or your chapter can do it.
22. Raise money for projects with opportunities like selling hand made items, have a purse auction, rummage sales, etc.
23. Program idea: host an event that helps members meet the needs of those with food allergies, like filling Easter eggs with something besides candy.
24. Have a paint night where members paint something that can be used in the classroom or given to children. Don’t forget to offer wine and cheese.
25. Volunteer in a classroom – do a “Read to Me” session, help a teacher who has moved a classroom unpack her things, help with a classroom project that is going to take more than two hands.
26. Have a buddy system in your chapter to keep members connected – like copying things from the internet for them, making sure they get to meetings if they can’t drive or drive at night, etc.

Thank you all for your contributions to this project and DKG.

LaVonne Chaney

Northeast Region Representative

DKG Educational Excellence Committee