

## **A Handful of Ways to Ring in the New Year of 2021**

As the New Year of 2021 has arrived, let's continue to ignite our minds and hearts with an eternal flame by empowering women educators in Delta Kappa Gamma Society to serve. We can do this with a handful of five concepts that uses five fingers on a hand to identify each one of them. We want to encourage each other to proceed "Forward, moving ever!" [*Phrase taken from The Delta Kappa Gamma Song written by Anne Webb Blanton and Cora M. Martin*]

1. The first finger reminds us to...Explore ways to continue your education opportunities/resources every day. For example: read books and magazines, watch YouTube, listen to audio books, attend virtual webinars, follow Facebook, investigate internet articles, watch television newscasts, interviews, etc. Even though we work every day in so many roles, be sure to take some time 'to keep up' on relevant issues, current events, trends and technology advances.
2. The second finger reminds us to...Encourage leadership opportunities by offering training sessions for new Delta Kappa Gamma sisters and give them 'a voice' that says "everyone is important and valued" in our local chapters along with the ability to receive responsibilities.
3. Next, the third finger reminds us that we, will continue to provide knowledge of how Delta Kappa Gamma sisters can apply for scholarships and awards for financial endeavors that they are pursuing in their education career process.
4. The fourth finger stands for how...The Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter Sisterhood can network and come together either virtually or hopefully one day soon in person in their chapters to be informed about and discuss issues that have 'up-to-date' information about economic, social, political and educational events in order for our DKG sisters to effectively continue to participate in our global community.
5. And the fifth finger stands for that...We always strive as Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters, to encourage each other to grow strong in our personal growth and excellence in education as women educators.

If we can begin this New Year of 2021 igniting/reflecting our OSO DKG Chapters on these handful of five items, we will be able to take that information, absorb and apply it, and then use 'our fingers on our hands' to develop those concepts to encourage our communities. In closing, hold, clasp, and touch your hands as you read these words from an excerpt of the poem entitled "Hands" by Thalassa Brytaye which says...

Hands...

Hold – to grasp and gently so. To wrap around and not let go.

To stay, to guide, support, enfold; And all-in love – this is to hold.

Clasp – to take with firm, strong hand; To pledge to join the within the band of brotherhood. A friend's true grasp; A faithful promise – this is to clasp.

And...

Touch – to softly wipe a tear. To say, though wordless: "I am here."

To tell, and without saying much: "I care for you," – this is to touch.

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