Why The Gold Key

What is the Gold Key? Louisa Strock, Beta Zeta, started the Gold Key in 1982 with the first awards given out in 1983. She designed the Gold Key as an incentive program intended to make chapters aware of the activities required by the Society and at the same time to recognize outstanding chapters and their leaders. The program helps each chapter realize higher achievements as its members cooperate to achieve the expected goals. Timely response from chapters helps State officers and committee chairman meet their reporting deadlines and recognize chapter success.

The original goals of the Gold Key in 1982 were to:
- Underscore the importance of the chain of communication linking chapter members and the International, State and Chapter organizations.
- Increase chapter effort toward achieving Society goals.
- Foster the concept that rather than simply independent educational clubs, chapters are units of an International Society. Encourage chapters to look outside of just going to their own meetings.
- Develop chapter awareness of what other chapters are achieving.
- Recognize chapters for effective participation in the programs of the Society.

Since 2005, these same goals continue along with the following:
- Awareness of chapter's responsibilities as part of a great International Society.
- Acceptance of those responsibilities.
- Teamwork in achieving distinction.
- Pride in accomplishment.
- Communication through every level.

The current checklist has evolved over time as things have changed at both State and International. It takes a little more effort and determination to receive the Gold Key or Honor or Honorable Mention awards but with the recognition comes a sense of teamwork, pride and accomplishment. The goal of the Gold Key is to recognize as many Ohio State Organization chapters as possible. Fulfilling the Gold Key requirements will assist every chapter in attaining the purposes of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Judith McClanahan, Gamma Nu, Gold Key Coordinator.