

I am Debby Canter and I'm currently serving the Ohio State Organization as First Vice President and Membership Chair. It goes without saying that this is a difficult time to try to recruit new members, along with the concern that we are losing chapters at an alarming rate. The leadership team, the membership committee and the expansion committee have been looking at ways to retain members and reach out to chapters to sustain current numbers.

The following is a crash course in membership forms that I shared during the leadership training on July 29, 2020:

- **The Buckeye Cherry DKG Membership Challenge** - This was an idea that President Diana had to add a little spark to our membership challenge this biennium. During DKG Leadership Training in Des Moines last summer, Diana and I met with the Michigan leadership team and proposed the Buckeye Cherry Challenge and they were excited to join us (Michigan is famous for cherries – who knew!). The state organization with the largest percentage of new members by March 1, 2021 will be declared the winner and the other will donate \$100 to the DKG International Educators Foundation in the name of the winner. So regardless who claims bragging rights, the Foundation will win! On the “tree”, you will see three categories with the point awards on each buckeye. Three points for Early Career Educators (nine years or less service) and Collegiate Student members; Two points for Veteran Career Educators (ten years or more service), School Administrator, College Professor, Vocational Educator, and Online Educator; One point for Retired Educator, “Other Educator” (this could be anyone who educates or trains groups of people such as an instructor in a nursing program), Former Member or a Transfer Member. And finally, the bucket at the base of the tree will provide a link on the website for you to find the form to complete and email or send to me by the March 1, 2021, deadline. All chapters submitting forms will be recognized at the 2021 State Convention and in *The Voice*.
- **Form 6 – Report of the Death of a Member** - It is imperative that copies of this form be sent in a timely manner to DKG Membership Services, the OSO Treasurer Diana Haskell, and the OSO state membership chair which is me until next July. Your chapter treasurer can help with the information that needs to be provided on the form. This can be done electronically or by mail and you can find the form on the state website.
- **Form 6 directions** clarifies the handling of the report and gives physical addresses along with emails for those who can't send electronically. It also states the rationale for sending the form in a timely manner.
- **Form 81 – the New Member Form** should be completed by each new member along with her dues and induction fees and given to your chapter treasurer. Your chapter treasurer is then responsible for entering the member in the dues portal.
- **Form 83 – Reinstated Member Form** is similar to Form 83 and should follow the same protocol.
- **Form TR-A is a transfer request** form from a member that desires to join another chapter. Please note the instructions on the following page. The reason for bringing this form to your attention is that members of dissolved chapters may want to join another chapter.
- **Form 2 – Chapter Necrology Report** will be completed with the names and ID numbers of deceased members from your chapter since last year's report. This is due every year by February 1 in order to prepare for the state necrology service and to verify our state list with International every biennium. Very Important: If there are none, write NONE on the report and send it anyway.

In addition to these forms, the **DKG website** (www.dkg.org) has a wealth of resources and information available to you as a member. Make sure you have your membership number and your password. If you've never used the website before, there are instructions to follow or you can contact International for assistance. After logging on, go to Resources then Chapter Tools and you can find the New Member Kit, Membership Plan, Engaging New Members, Chapter Strengthening and much more. Under Resources then Presentation Materials, you will find videos, publications, power points and templates to use for membership and many other areas.

In addition to the DKG website, visit our state website often to get familiar with the information that you can find there.

As a reminder, our state newsletter, ***The Voice***, comes out the first day of every month. Occasionally there will be articles on membership included in addition to other information you need as a chapter president. If you are not receiving it, let Cathy Tenney know by emailing editor@dkgohio.org. It can also be found on the state website (<https://www.dkgohio.org>).

I know this can be a bit overwhelming so just know that I am available to answer questions or provide assistance. You can reach me at membership@dkgohio.org. At the end of my term as First Vice President and Membership Chair in June, this email will be used by the next person in charge of membership to make it easier for you to connect and send in reports. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in April.

Debby Canter, Delta Epsilon

Ohio State Organization First Vice President/Membership Chair