

Chapter Climate Change?

What is your chapter's "openness and friendliness" factor? Do you feel welcomed when attending meetings? Do other members/officers take the opportunity to listen and/or include you in the conversation? Is the chapter aware of your interests and/or talents? Does the chapter get you involved in meaningful programs and activities? Or, do you feel unwanted and your ideas undervalued? Feeling **needed** and **valued** is a basic human necessity and is most certainly essential in the nurturing and growing of our chapters' memberships. To understand the reasons members drop their DKG memberships, chapters would perhaps benefit from evaluating their "openness and friendliness" factor? Perhaps the solution is as simple as being **N.I.C.E.!**

Is your chapter in need of a possible change in climate? How would you rate your chapter's "openness and friendliness" factor? The solution can be as simple as being **N.I.C.E.***

- **Need:** To be truly needed is an amazing feeling for the participating member. As long as the feeling is sustained and kept alive the chapter will have a committed member. However, the need to feel valued and supported must start as soon as the member joins and must continue through the years...usually a member who gets involved stays involved. Members who however, become less involved, who start attending less, may often feel their talents and contributions are no longer wanted or needed. You have heard the phrase "it takes a village." It takes the entire chapter to make each individual member feel welcomed, supported and valued. Remember, a valued member is a happy member who becomes a potential leader!
- **Involvement:** It is so easy to get "caught up" in the moment and forget to look at other chapter members to see if all are participating and involved. Some members may only want to be considered for a particular activity and/or responsibility (and that is OK) but at some point, all members need to be involved in something! Chapter leaders or even designated chapter members should talk to indifferent members to identify their interests and talents plus invite them to take on (at first) minor responsibilities. Not all individuals find it easy to volunteer. Some need to be asked and then asked again and again.
- **Creativity:** Members need to fulfill and develop their own creativity. Regardless of what the member may think, each has her own special talent/gift to share. Giving members the opportunity to express and grow their talents will certainly benefit the entire chapter. Just learn and know what talent and strength each individual member possesses, then utilize it and nurture it!
- **Enjoyment:** Each member must find her DKG membership experience rewarding as well as professionally beneficial. Chapters need to support a variety of

programs, activities, fund-raising, collaborative efforts and community initiatives that will actively encourage and engage chapter members of diversified interests. By all means, do not forget to add an element of fun as well. Be sure to offer benefits and services that potential members cannot get anywhere else. Maintain and encourage active participation at the chapter, state and International levels. Members who work hard and play hard together will enjoy and look forward to future chapter meetings, activities and even say “yes” to leadership commitments. But beware, if no one in the chapter seems to be having fun (and that includes the officers), stop, look and pay attention. Become aware of what is actually going on, decide what is amiss and work in a positive manner to find a successful avenue to motivate and inspire your chapter members.

Look at your own chapter experience and ask yourself, can engaging, maintaining and “yes” even growing chapter membership really be just as simple as being **N.I.C.E.**?

*Idea and material summarized/paraphrased from a membership article written by Anna Dinter, Chi (California) State Membership Newsletter, Vol. 2, Issue 2, page 1.