

The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society  
Pi State *Omega* Chapter  
*Omega Membership Committee*  
**DKG Recruitment/Membership Plan**

Chapters throughout the Society are searching for new ways to increase membership. The International Membership Committee encourages the use of this new plan that has been used successfully to revitalize struggling Chapters, to energize healthy Chapters, and to develop new Chapters in several State Organizations.

During a Chapter Meeting, members receive **prospect cards** on which they record the name and contact information of an educator they would like to nominate. Chapter members might nominate an enthusiastic teacher they noticed at a district training session or a talented music teacher they noted directing her school's student musical. A retired teacher could nominate a beloved teacher she learned about from a grandchild or a teacher she noticed while volunteering in a school. A member could record the name of an educator whose outstanding teaching ability she witnessed while receiving instruction at a photography or painting class, a master gardener session, or technology training.

Once the cards are collected and a vote is taken on the prospects, the Chapter mails an enthusiastic letter to the prospective members inviting them to an **Orientation Meeting**. Research shows that holding the Orientation on a weeknight from 7-8 p.m. is optimal for attendance. During the Orientation, the prospects are introduced to the Society via the *Pride in the Big Picture* presentation, featuring specific Chapter program and project highlights, benefits of membership, and shared stories of the power of DKG to transform lives. After **Initiation**, the new members may also receive **prospect cards** to honor someone they know with membership in the Society.

**Step 1: The Prospect Card**

This plan emphasizes the honor of membership in DKG. The Chapter Membership Committee should request members to submit a name via a prospect card at one or two meetings. They should then compile a list to present to the membership for a vote. These active public and private school teachers and retirees do not have to be contacted before recommendation. (*Key to making up this list is to choose those women whom you really want in your chapter—assume nothing would prevent them from saying yes. Don't eliminate them because you "assume" they would say no. Let them decide for themselves!*)

*NOTE:* Prospective members are not contacted until the Chapter votes on their membership.

**Step 2: The Personal Letter**

Each prospective member should be informed in a special, personal letter that she has been chosen for membership in our prestigious Society. Key elements of the letter are that the prospect was recommended by a member (named) based on her stellar qualities as a teacher and approved by the entire Chapter. Brief info on DKG and the Chapter is included, as well as the Invitation to an Orientation Meeting. The letter emphasizes the honor of membership and asks them to RSVP for the meeting.

**Step 3: The Orientation Meeting ... "Buddies"**

Some may decline; some may call with questions; and some may agree to come immediately. For each of those who plan to attend, invite an equal number of current members to serve as "Buddies" at the Orientation.

**Step 4: The Orientation Meeting**

At the Orientation, provide social time for current and prospective members and then present the *Pride in the Big Picture* slide show. Current members can meet with the prospects in small groups to answer any questions. At the conclusion of the hour-long meeting, ask the prospective members to make a decision to accept or decline the invitation to become members. (*Remember, no one has approached these women about joining prior to the letter.*)

**Step 5: Chapter Member Application**

The current member "Buddy" can use the Chapter Member Application to obtain information about the prospective member. This application serves as the Recommendation for Membership or Form 11 used by many Chapters to obtain member information. It can also serve as a commitment from the prospective member.

**Step 6: The Initiation Ceremony**

Invite the prospective members to the Initiation Ceremony with the Initiation Letter.