Lead with the Heart
By Getting Your Chapter Politically Active!

September 2009 Program Idea
Fran Grier, Beta Epsilon

1. **Gather** your sisters and take a field trip to Springfield for the **Legislative Seminar** to be held October 24, 2009. Details can be found on Lambda State’s website on the legislative page.

2. **Take** another road trip to Washington, D.C. next March 14 – 17. Learn about what is happening in the Capital and around the nation. Details are on the website.

   “From Vision to Action: Advancing the Society Through the U.S. Forum”

   Make an appointment before you go to Washington to see Senator Durbin or Senator Burris as well as your representative. Have a contest to see who can find the most economical flight to D.C. Details of this event can also be found on the web page.

3. **Invite** your State Senator and/or State Representative to a DKG meeting or breakfast. Get to know her/him well. Volunteer to help with their campaign by manning a phone bank, stuffing envelopes. Find out if this is the person you would like to nominate for the **Legislative Appreciation Certificate**. They will be more willing to listen to your point of view once they know they have committed volunteers that have many friends that think like them.

4. **Take** another field trip to Springfield during Illinois Education Association’s Lobby Day to be held next Spring. Contact your local IEA Association and you might be able to save on gas and lunch by hopping on an IEA bus. Once in Springfield, see your legislator and let her/him know that you are concerned about funding for education.
5. **If** you are interested in changing the funding of education, host a house party in conjunction with Invest in Excellence. Contact Kathy Vigardt at Kathy.Vigardt@ieanea.org. They promise to help with the invitations, information and food. You provide the people and place.

6. **Call** your legislator in D. C. Load your cell phones with the main switchboard number of the Capital 202-224-3121. Do a practice call using this simple script. "**Please connect me to the office of Senator Durbin (or Senator Burris).** I am (__________your name) a constituent of the Senator. I am very concerned about __________________ (Choose 1 -, Government Pension Office/ Windfall Elimination Provision; No Child Left Behind, Health Care Reform; etc.)

My reason for feeling this way is ________________
(state briefly).

When this comes to a vote, please support/oppose this issue (state bill number if known).”

**Repeat** the process for your U.S. Representative. Make a call every time you need to wait in line or at the doctor’s office, etc.

Pass out a blank calendar with the script on the back or use DKG’s calendar. Have members put a tally mark for every time they make a call to their legislators. Also put a tally mark for every time they give the number and script to a family member or friend. At the next month’s meeting give a small prize to the member who has the most tally marks. (Suggestion for a prize = note cards)
7. **Repeat** this process by calling the State of Illinois Directory Assistance 217) 782-2000 for state senators and representative’s numbers. You know the issue here. Funding for education.

8. **Purchase** small but vivid colored note cards. Provide members with addresses of their legislators and a fact sheet on topics. (Illinois Education Association’s web site is a great site for information on current topics in a succinct, easy to understand form. Give a little background of the issue and why it is important. Allow time for members to write. Collect and send off to the appropriate address.

9. **Hold** a meeting in a computer lab and have members become familiar with websites such as http://www.ilga.gov/directory.asp or http://www.ieanea.org.

10. **Have** a brainstorming session and ask members how they can become involved. Follow your **heart** and just do it. Feel good about making a difference!