



DKG - Illinois
Expect Great Things

October 2018

Dear Chapter and State Leaders,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Executive Board Meeting last weekend. It was wonderful to see good friends and meet our new chapter presidents. I found the details of the new rules changes that Britta shared with us to be very informative. She has provided a very nice summary of her remarks for you to share with your members. I enjoyed talking about upcoming chapter visits and discussing the goals for growth in the four areas. Sylvia encouraged us to consider serving at the state officer or on a state committee. Do not be shy! It is tremendously rewarding and gives you the opportunity to work with smart, talented and thoughtful women around the state. Please be sure to email her your leadership information as soon as possible.

The Executive Board meeting went well and ended early, so you were able to get on the road that much sooner. I appreciate all the committee chairs preparing thorough reports that captured the work accomplished so far and plans for the remainder of the biennium. We approved the final Strategic Action Plan and it is posted on the website under the Executive tab and click on President. Please complete the evaluation of the meeting by going to our state website where it is on the front page.

Each of you received the Illinois (Lambda) State 2018-19 Directory/Calendar which details international, state and chapter leadership contact information. Each month highlights forms and applications that need to be completed. All of these forms can be found on the state website. Hard as we tried, there was a mistake – we omitted the month of June in the calendar – the page is included in this mailing.

Friday night there was discussion about the opportunities to *invite* women from a variety of educational settings and the qualifications of a substitute teacher to be considered as a potential member. I was able to find this information regarding the qualifications of this role: **HB 5627** (Bennett, R-Pontiac/Weaver, R-Peoria) is an initiative of ISBE and makes several changes to the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code.

Highlights include: increasing her retirement status up to 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in a school year, changing the requirements for out-of-state applicants who are licensed educators in another state, and allowing a short-term substitute teaching license to be issued until June 30, 2023. Under this bill, an individual who has a minimum of 60 credit hours is eligible for a short-term substitute license and may teach no more than five consecutive days in a single classroom. This bill passed both houses. I hope this helps in your chapter discussions to *invite* a woman to be a member.

I am trying to eliminate so many attachments to the mailings, so I want you to be aware these are new forms on the website – all under their respective committee tab. These are: Educational Excellence – Program of the Month, Call for Presentations for the 2019 State Convention, and Pre-Convention Tour information; Event Planning and Management and Events – the new State Calendar; Literacy – Literary Arts Recognition Intent to Participate; Music – information to register for the chorus for Convention 2019. The Rules information included in this mailing is also on the Rules page.

There is still time for you to register for the Legislative Seminar to be held in Springfield on October 20. Linda Lucke, chair, submitted this information earlier this week - We will be hearing from Sean Denney, an IEA lobbyist, on the state of educational legislation, and the implications of the upcoming election for education in the state. He will be followed by Mr. Ralph Martire, of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, on education funding in Illinois. We will also have presentations by Mr. Rich Frankenfeld from TRS regarding current issues with pensions, from the Illinois State School Board on current education concerns, and from Mr. Jeff Leverich, from the Great Lakes Center for Education Practice and Research. This promises to be an engaging and fact-filled day, so please let your chapter sisters know, and encourage them to attend. The form is on the home page of the website.

I appreciate the invitations to visit chapter meetings and hope you will continue to extend them to me. I also want to ask that you submit to me a list of your working teachers contact information and the name of their superintendent. My plan is to write a letter to school leaders and make them aware they have teachers who are DKG members. Thank you in advance for doing that for me.

Respectfully,
Debbie LeBlanc