



DKG British Columbia - 2024 Conference and AGM President's report 2023/2024 - Helen Ballam Saturday, April 20, 2024

The first year of serving as your DKG BC President has been a very busy time for me. I am grateful to have had opportunities to learn so much, and work with DKG BC fellow members. In having the pleasure of meeting other DKG members across Canada and the US, I learned that we share many common issues and challenges. As I report on some of the highlights of the year, you will notice that the recurring theme is about the crisis of membership in our society. All of the information here was reported on in more detail in my DKG BC President's report for our Executive meetings, and in the DKG BC Totem Talk. Here are just a summary for the past year.

Information items

1) DKG Leadership Training – Dallas, Texas

Last June 23-25 I attended a special training session offered by DKG International to all incoming Presidents. As well as learning a lot about the organization, I met with many DKG International and State/Provincial Officers. Connecting with other Canadian DKG Presidents, our current Canadian Representative Lorna Berlinguette and incoming Rep. Dr. Shar McGowen was particularly special. The overwhelming message projected at this training session was the alarming decrease in DKG membership overall. Every State/Province faces this problem, with some experiencing chapters folding and/or amalgamating with other chapters. One of our main tasks was to isolate a challenge for our State/Province and develop a strategic plan. My strategic plan on Membership appeared in the Summer issue of the Totem Talk.

2) DKG Northwest Regional

Every second Monday of the month the DKG States/Provinces meet to listen to a speaker on a given topic and exchange information about current events/concerns in their chapters. Some of the topics included information about:

- DKGIEF - which supports opportunities and funding for personal and professional development.
- Avenue M - the report that was commissioned to look examine membership issues within DKG.
- Bursting the Bubble - a campaign to inform members about what DKG has to offer. You can see this information on the DKG website and on the DKG International Facebook page.
- Proposed amendments to the DKG Constitution and AGM to be held July 9 to 14, in National Harbor, Maryland. As you know DKG BC has proposed a name change amendment with Donna-Faye Madhosingh.

More information about these topics can be found on the DKG International website.

3) DKG Canada Forum/Presidents' meetings

Our Canadian representative Lorna Berlinguette organized a few **DKG Canada** meetings during the year. DKG provinces connected by sharing some of their events, as well as the common concern about the membership crisis.

Plans are underway for a Canadian 2025 Conference in Manitoba. This is being spearheaded by DKG Manitoba's President Angela Voutier. More information on dates and speakers to come. In addition, Lorna also organized **Canadian/European/Alaska DKG Cultural Exchange** last January for the purpose of sharing of ideas and experiences. It was worthwhile to see how similar we are in our interests and challenges.

Honourary DKG member - Chief Justice Beverley McLaughlin will be honoured at this Year's 2024 DKG International Convention with a Honourary Membership in DKG.

4) Inside International, President's Page and Town Hall meetings

The overall theme continues to revolve around Membership. Discussions were about:

- Avenue M report - The DKG Administrative body extensively reviewed this document and formulated recommendations. Subsequent meetings dealt with the progress in implementation.

- Proposed Amendments for the DKG Constitution and ISR - There is an effort to streamline our Constitution by moving some aspects of the Constitution and ISR to the GAPP procedural document. For voting purposes, the PA's have been divided the into 3 categories:

- Category 1 - Consent PA's - non controversial, to be moved to GAPP

- Category 2 - Consent PA's - non-controversial

*Many of these PA's will be voted in combined groupings.

- Category 3 - Floor PA's - Administration considers these proposals debatable and will be discussed in more depth.

In an attempt to streamline the voting process, the Administrative board hopes to move through the PA's more efficiently, preventing any to be dropped to the floor because of time constraints.

- Mastermind network - Connie Resnick

Mastermind is a group of professional peer groups to meet personal and professional goals who meet to share information. Group members give each other information and support based on their experience and knowledge. May include speakers, presentations or outside speakers. Typically, small groups 7-10. Looking to develop pilot programs - will consider group norm demographics, interests. 2 pilot groups have been formed so far.

Progress Reports

1) Name Change Initiative - Proposed Amendments update

On behalf of DKG BC Donna-Faye Madhosingh has proposed an amendment to the DKG Constitution and ISR to have the society renamed as **International Society of Women Educators (DKG)**. Because of the possibility of a significant fiscal impact, the Administrative board has recommended "not to adopt". These are two of the controversial PA's that are anticipated to have considerable discussion on the floor at the Convention.

2) Articles in the Spring issue of The Collegiate - Hot off the presses! Everyone was sent a PDF copy, and it is also available on the DKG website.

Donna-Faye Madhosingh and Helen Ballam co-wrote an article regarding the name change: **Recognition With Rebranding: One More Tool to Use for Our Membership Crisis**

This is to support our PA about the name change, and generate discussion.

3) Expansion Committee - Heather, Karin , Norma, Donna-Faye

Our goal was to examine the Avenue M report and use it to help develop a plan for sustaining and increasing our membership. We hope to meet soon.

4) DKG International Convention 2024 - National Harbor Maryland July 9 - 13

- Registration is now open as well as hotel booking at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at the special DKG rate. Be careful as this books up fast! Deadline for hotel booking and Convention registration is June 9. For more information, please look on the DKG International website under the Events tab.

5) Honorarium for outgoing DKG President Debbie LeBlanc

Traditionally all States/Provinces contribute some money towards an Honorarium for an outgoing DKG President. In past years we have sent \$50US.

Motion by Helen Ballam: I motion that we contribute \$50.00US towards an Honorarium fund for Debbie LeBlanc.

That concludes my report. It has been a real pleasure serving as your DKG BC President this year, and I thank you for your support and look forward to serving the members of DKG BC for the coming year.

Helen Ballam