

One to Five year DKG members' input on membership

For the international convention, Dr. Jensi Souders is looking for short videos from sharp, well-speaking one- to-five year members. These members would give a one-minute, enthusiastic and sincere speech on why they value their membership. Souders plans to use these videos as examples of *Designing our Future*.

Get new members involved. Ask them to make a one-minute video; copy it on a DVD and send to Souders at HQ, PO Box 1589, Austin, TX, 78767-1589. The deadline for the DVD is January 1, 2012. Include member's name, chapter, and state organization, but not in the video. Souders and team will select as many as possible to include in the meeting agendas throughout the convention. Deadline for DVDs is January 1, 2012.



New member initiatives shared

Leading the Way to More Members

Wondering how to approach potential candidates? Have you had the problem of new members dropping out after a year or two? New materials are available to help you reach potential members!

Chapters across our organization are using the new *Pride in the Big Picture Orientation* CD PowerPoint and the accompanying brochure with exciting results. *Pride in the Big Picture* is available from International for \$5.00. A sample letter to invite future members to the orientation is included in the packet.

One chapter recently used *Pride in the Big Picture* with a group of 14 candidates; subsequently, 12 joined DKG. Another chapter provided a lunch for interested teachers during their fall workshop week. While the teachers ate lunch, the DKG members did the orientation and again had great results.

The emphasis of the orientation is on the dynamic culture of DKG, our projects locally and internationally, and the benefits of membership. When a prospective member takes part in this type of orientation she understands the organization and becomes a stronger and active member.

DKG gets European press coverage

In celebration of the European Regional Convention in Baden-Baden, Germany, Badisches Tagblatt and Yburg Rundschau, local newspapers featured several articles. Information included essential information of DKG, including a bit of its history and that its membership honors women educators. The reporters were impressed with attendance, about 250 members from 17 countries gathered at the European Conference.

Press commentaries noted that in Germany teachers are comparatively well paid but not highly respected. Professional pride was evident at the conference. However, the problems in education seemed to be the same in most countries. Young idealistic teachers soon become disappointed by the many additional duties in their job. Many teachers cannot find enough time to attend to difficult pupils especially from migrate families. Norway seemed to be the only country that did not shorten the budgets for education.

It became quite clear that an organization like DKG with the opportunity to meet and exchange experiences was a great chance for reciprocal understanding and growth of knowledge.