

Contemporary Initiation Ceremony

Because many current members will not attend the orientation for initiates, it is important that some of the information shared with the initiates be included in the initiation ceremony in order that all members can hear it and also benefit in "Pride in the Big Picture."

As ceremony begins, person responsible for ceremony enters room and introduces initiation candidates:

Membership Chair: Madam President, I present to you *these/this* key women/woman candidate(s) for membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. *They are/She is: (Chair or Sponsor of each initiate reads names of each and may choose to tell a brief fact about each initiate. This may be the first time many members have seen the initiate(s).)*

Presider: We are honored to receive you as *members/a member* of (Name) Chapter of the (Name) State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. You are here today because a member of this chapter recommended you for membership, believing that you are outstanding – a respected member in the education field. Your chosen profession in life – education – has focused on others, helping them to develop their talents and reach their highest potential.

First Speaker: You have received an orientation to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and gained an overview of "the big picture," including the organizational structure of the Society and the responsibilities and benefits of membership.

You, too, can take pride in a Society with approximately 90,000 members worldwide. You can take pride in the many benefits you will share with them: scholarship and grant opportunities, leadership training, community programs, worldwide projects, conferences, networking contacts, technological opportunities, face-to-face learning, and support from your fellow members.

Second Speaker: You have an appreciation of the honor of membership. Someone

- noticed your work;
- noted your standards;
- believed in your potential;
- sought your association;
- held you in high esteem;
- honored you by sponsoring you for membership.

First Speaker: Members of (Name) Chapter are honored and pleased that you have made the decision to join us. We value you and the talents and skills you bring to our chapter and the Society. We know that you will find our Society to be outstanding, too, and that you will take pride in our organization.

(Optional)

Speaker: In 1929 when Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and her colleagues established the first chapter, they had a distinct vision in mind. At that time, women educators faced many hardships including unequal pay and the lack of freedoms we enjoy and take for granted today as women educators.

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Just as a new school community selects a mascot and a slogan, in order to build community spirit and a sense of belonging, Dr. Blanton and her colleagues selected colors to symbolize their courage and loyalty in the face of opposition, symbols, a key pin, a motto, a song, and Purposes to bind them together with a common focus.

Much has changed in our world since 1929: our mode of dress, modern conveniences, technological advances, and more. Much has changed in Delta Kappa Gamma as well. Our Society is well established, with approximately 90,000 members and 2,600 chapters in 17 countries. We focus less on the colors and symbols and more on the values they represent: courage, loyalty, learning, perseverance. However, we are still bound together by a common vision: bringing together qualified and diverse women educators serving in a broad spectrum of educational fields, strengthening them, and pursuing worthwhile projects that make a difference in communities around the world.

Speaker: The original purposes are just as appropriate today as they were when Delta Kappa Gamma was established. You, our initiate(s), are encouraged to commit to the Society's programs, projects; mission and vision, and to the fulfillment of these seven Purposes:

(In place of a single speaker, seven members in the audience may each stand to say a purpose.)

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship;
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education;
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education;
4. To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators;
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators;
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members, and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action; and
7. To inform the members of current economic social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

President: By your being here, you have signified your willingness to assume responsibilities in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. You will contribute to the Society by participating; sharing your interests, talents, and professional expertise; and seeking opportunities to grow personally and professionally. If this is your desire, please signify by saying, "I will support this organization."

(Initiates state, "I will support this organization.")

Speaker turns to audience and says, (If desired, guest dignitary may administer this oath of support.)

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Members, will you offer your cooperation, encouragement, and friendship to our new member(s) and promise to help them in carrying out the purposes and projects of the Society? If so, please respond with "I will."

(Members state, "I will.")

Membership Chair: It is our hope that you will take pride in the big picture of our Society: that you will realize the intrinsic value of membership, including making life-long friends; that you will enjoy the support our members show for one another's passions, personal triumphs and sufferings, professional accolades, and difficult decisions; that you will benefit from the personal opportunities for scholarships, grants and leadership training; that you will experience DKG's educational impact, in the community, state, province, country and world.

(Optional: If desired, candles and roses may be used in the ceremony. As each person signs the initiates' book, she may be presented with a rose.)

President: As your name is called, we ask that you step forward to sign our initiates' register and accept your membership certificate. Your signature will join those of the Founders who initiated this practice in 1929.

(Names are called; initiates sign book and receive certificates.)

Many challenges lie ahead for educators. You are *pioneers/a pioneer* for that future, and your signature confirms your commitment to support the Purposes of this Society.

Welcome to _____ *(Name)* Chapter of _____ *(Name)* State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Enter our company; share our friendships, our hopes and our goals.

We offer you hearty congratulations and warm wishes as you begin exciting and fulfilling experiences as a result of your membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Options for closing:

- *Sing The Delta Kappa Gamma Song;*
- *Meet members informally; or*
- *Have a receiving line.*