

Another Benefit of Belonging to DKG: SISTERHOOD

Since becoming a member of DKG in 1983, I have found the friendships, comradery and sisterhood to be the most meaningful reason to join and remain a member. I have encouraged my fellow *Pi* Chapter members to participate in DKG above the Chapter level. With the 2017 Convention at our south door, many took the opportunity to come to their first Pi State Convention.

I asked them to reflect on their experience at Convention. Here are their responses.

Deb C.: “For the first time I experienced the DKG State Convention held in Cooperstown. One of the things that impressed me most was the friendly welcome I received from everyone. I was met with smiles and help with all my questions. The Conference was very well organized. I attended two of the workshops and the speakers were very informative. I had to give a short talk at the first General Session. Afterwards, several people I did not know came up to me to congratulate me and tell me I had done a great job. That was so meaningful to me since I was very nervous to speak in front of such a large group. I was greatly impressed with the entire event. I would love to participate and attend another such event.”

Claudia R.: “At the opening ceremony, the energy in the room was amazing! Everyone seemed excited to be there and they were all very friendly. People I didn't know offered to take pictures and send them to me. It was easy talking with like-minded people. I loved that there were workshops to choose from. I went to the "Learn About the Road Scholar Program," which was very informative and something I will most likely pursue. The second one I went to was “The Story of Elm Hill School” on special education and how and why the laws changed. That one, too, was very interesting and informative. Oh my, can't forget that dessert buffet! That was amazingly delicious! The set up was great for meeting new people.”

Teresa H.: “I had never attended a state convention before but with it being close by, I thought what a great opportunity. I am so happy that I made this decision. During the general session, to be in that room with all of those women teachers, was amazing. You could truly feel the camaraderie and commitment held by everyone in that room for education. It was inspiring. The workshop and member display were excellent. I enjoyed listening to an educator's experience visiting other schools in another country. It was also amazing to see how much talent there is in this organization. Once again kudos to you and everyone who helped make this conference a wonderful experience.”

Rachelle C.: “I truly enjoyed my experience on Saturday of the state convention. It was great to meet new members as well as our old friends. The workshop I attended about teaching in Peru was excellent. The Otesaga was a perfect place to hold the convention....and the food was wonderful!”

Sharon P.: “There is incredible friendship in our chapter, but you don't truly understand the international society until you get to a convention. I've seen pictures in *Pi Lights*. I've heard others talk about people from around the state. But you don't really understand the sisterhood, the bond, that exists on a larger level.

DKG is something like a family in the way that you think about others, and you continue to learn and grow from that. I think that is why one of the concerns that we have is younger teachers don't understand why you need a strong association and think about things for retirees. They don't look that far in the future. The number of retirees that come to convention is a sisterhood thing. You want to see the companions you've been with to improve education. There is so much change of personnel in schools, but you are always friends, colleagues with the sisters of DKG. I believe that is the strongest thing I took away from it. **Ludima** (a fellow *Pi* Chapter member whom Sharon taught with for a while) was always proud and pleased to be a member of DKG right up until her death. One of the reasons, among many, that I became close to her after she retired was because of DKG. Our sisterhood.”

Sue S.: “As a first timer at the Pi State Convention I was totally impressed! From the opening session Friday evening to the workshops to the president's banquet and Awards Brunch, everything was so

organized. And of course, The Otesaga Hotel was such a beautiful place for all of our Pi State sisters to Sparkle, Shimmer, and Shine! Thank you to everyone who planned such an awesome weekend.”

Linda C.: “At the convention we were encouraged to look at the elements of our membership. Why do we belong? What is my purpose? And to look at the elements of our chapters. What is our purpose?”

I felt that although among a large group of members, you were not lost in the masses. At the Executive Meeting and General Meeting we were meeting purposes for the Convention, and you brought everyone into it. You felt like you were being spoken to individually. At the Banquet my eyes went immediately to the roses and I thought what an impressive gift for each of us! But when I got home, upon reflection, I realized that the vases were personalized for DKG! I proudly showed my daughter the vase and felt again the awe of the moment.”

To fully benefit the sisterhood of DKG, I encourage all members in the State to attend a State Executive Board Meeting/Seminars or a State Convention. I will close with Andrea N.’s thoughts which I believe sums up the benefit of belonging to DKG quite nicely.

Andrea N.: “I was honored to be in the presence of such dedicated and professional women. Each woman shimmered with her own unique light, yet we were all tightly woven together with the common thread of sisterhood, education, and leadership.”

Jean Sekel

Editor’s Note: This is the fifth article on the Benefits of DKG by Jean Sekel. Her articles may be found on the Pi State Website, www.dkgnystate.org in MORE Menu ... <http://www.dkgnystate.org/dkg-benefits-of-membership.html>.