What DKG Means to Me

By Carol Herzog

I have wanted to write about this ever since Stephanie asked for us to respond. I was waiting to hear what many of you had to say for I was sure my story would echo those already mentioned. My reply may take a different slant.

I became a member of DKG in November of 1982 and involved in as a chapter officer in July 1984. Yes, less than one year after being inducted I became chapter treasurer. My sponsoring member passed away two weeks before my induction and I felt I needed to honor her by accepting that position because I always said she would have done it if I hadn’t. For many years, I did whatever I did to remember Karen. In 1988, I became the Alpha Zeta Chapter president which evolved into Council 3 president in 1990.

Because of a state first vice president, I started to attend state conferences and conventions. Betty asked me to go to Anderson College to a conference with her. Being on the state board, Betty had meetings on Friday night to attend so there I was by myself at the college on a Friday night. I didn’t know where to go for dinner, I didn’t even know who my roommate would be in the dorm. Betty also took me to Evansville to my first state convention. Going to activities outside my chapter got me hooked on the adventures of traveling the state and expanding my life-long learning goals with educational opportunities.

I attended the International Convention in Indianapolis in 1986 and had my eyes open to the international level of the organization. What impressed me at one of the sessions was how serious these ladies were abut their *Constitution*. They argued as to whether a statement in the governing documents should say ‘a’ letter or ‘the’ letter! Well, I have missed few (if any) international conventions or conferences since! A member can’t get a true feeling as to what DKG is all about by staying within the walls of her chapter or even state. She needs to attend an international event at some point. Indiana is fortunate that many international events are close to us. Fill a car and go!

So, what keeps me going? And why have I gotten involved in serving at the international level? My answer is the same as many—**'a genuine spiritual fellowship’ among members.** We all have a common interest—teaching and children. I have friends in other states and countries. I am often amazed that I associate with such distinguished educational figures**. And a pride in membership**. When you hear about all that DKG has given back to her members (scholarships, emergency aid, opportunity to be published, life-long learning experiences, etc.) and to non-members (World Fellowships, Educator’s Book Award, chapter projects) you can’t help but feel pride in belonging to this organization. **I want to give back to an organization that has recognized me as a leader among educators**. The best way to do that is to serve. By serving, I have gained a deeper understanding of the Society and the impact that it has on education around the world.

DKG means so much to me. Too much sometimes to put into words.