

# You and Legislation

## DKG California



### A Brief History of the DKG California Legislative Program

- 1968 - Crucial debate on retention of Delta Kappa Gamma's Purpose Four - International Convention, New York, NY
  - Chi State accepts challenge for development of an effective legislative program
  - Chi State begins development of legislative beliefs
- 1969 - Chi State Executive Board adopts six statements of Chi State's beliefs that constitute first legislative policy
- 1970 - Margaret Berry appointed first Legislative Consultant/Advocate
- 1971 - Platform adopted, incorporating six basic concepts
- 1972 - Key statement on public funding added to platform; orientation for Area Legislative Chairmen began – Chi State invited to join Educational Congress of California
- 1973 - Ruth Church Gupta appointed second Legislative Consultant/Advocate – Chi State Legislative Study Session initiated
- 1974 - Second revision of platform; revision of Purpose Four adopted by International Society; Chi State platform restructured
- 1976 - Presentation of Chi State Legislative Program at International Convention, St. Louis, MO
- 1977 - Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to study the Chi State Legislative Program adopted at Convention - Presentation of DKG California Legislative Program at Regional Conference, Salt Lake City, UT
- 1978 - DKG California's presentation of pre-convention mini-workshop on the organization of a state legislative program at International Convention, Chicago, IL
- 1979 - Participation in legislative workshop at Southwest Regional Conference, Dallas, TX 1981
- 1981 - Third revision of legislative platform
  - Proposal to poll members to determine legislative priorities adopted at Convention
- 1981 - First legislative poll conducted through Chi State News
- 1983 - Arlene Black appointed third Legislative Consultant/Advocate
  - Adopted a Bill Evaluator Program
- 1984 - Implemented the International C.A.R.E. (Communication Artery between Representatives and Educators) Program, known in Chi State as the Adopt-A-Legislator Program
- 1988 - Implemented Chi State Legislative telephone HOTLINE
  - Legislative poll reorganized to be conducted through Chi State Research Committee
- 1999 - Legislative Study Session to be offered in odd-numbered years
- 2000 - Tina Hester appointed fourth Legislative Consultant/Advocate
- 2003 - Martha Zaragoza-Diaz appointed fifth Legislative Consultant-Advocate
- 2005 - Discontinued use of HOTLINE
- 2006 - Implemented electronic contact with Bill Evaluators and other interested members
- 2007 - Eighth revision of a Legislative Handbook
- 2007 - Revise You and Legislation and Chi State Legislative Program brochures
- 2011 - Trending toward digital communication: Go to Meeting, Video Conferencing
- 2013 - Professional Affairs Committee renamed Educational Law/Policy Committee
- 2015 - Chi State changed to DKG California

## Key Elements Comprise the Legislative System

The California unit of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is deeply committed to these Purposes of the Society: "To initiate, endorse and support legislation in the interest of education and of women educators; to inform the membership of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society; to advance the professional interest and position of women in education." Finally, our members believe that free public education is a basic and essential part of our national heritage and, therefore, we support educational programs of high quality and equal opportunity for all.

To fulfill these purposes, individual members are appointed to coordinate and implement the legislative program for DKG California. The program consists of Bill Evaluators, Legislative Connections, and Legislative Study Sessions attended by members and guests. In addition, DKG California employs a part-time Legislative Consultant/Advocate to the California Legislature and has developed a Legislative Platform which is currently concerned with legislation in the following areas:

1. Equal Educational Opportunity for All: To foster lifetime intellectual, personal and spiritual growth for all
2. Financial Structure of Education: To support legislation which will assure adequate financing of public education
3. Professional Standards: To foster high professional standards of competency through effective programs of teacher preparation and credentialing
4. Employment Conditions: To foster employee relations which assure order and effectiveness for the professional staff

## Member Training for Effective Involvement

- Legislative Study Sessions at the California State Capitol presented by the Educational Law/Policy Committee
- Legislative analysis by the Legislative Consultant/Advocate posted monthly on [www.dkgcalifornia.org](http://www.dkgcalifornia.org)
- Ninth revision of " Guidelines for Legislative Action," 2016, last revised in 2007
- Members trained to be Bill Evaluators
- Workshops, seminars and interest sessions conducted by Educational Law/Policy Committee members