­­­



Madam President:

This report is submitted as fulfillment of the motion that was passed at the 2020 Alaska State Organization Online Convention:

Judy Tolbert, Beta amended motion to establish a committee to research options of forming a DKG Foundation. Call for the Question: Vote 25 in favor passed

I was appointed Chair and formed a Task Force/Committee that included the following members, one from each chapter:

Leigh Cox – Beta

Aldean Kilbourn – Theta

Rebecca Paul – Omicron

Barbara Kovarik – Nu

Judy Ireton – Eta

Kati Rogness - Zeta

Biz Robbins – Epsilon

Jan Love – Iota

Their task was to get more opinions from our members to answer the question, “Is an Alaska State Organization Foundation ‘to be, or not to be.’”

I contacted DKG International and 10 states that have Foundations, and conducted 6 interviews. All said a Foundation is incredibly useful for a State and that they would set one up again in a heartbeat. They did caution needing a dedicated, working Board. Using their information, I developed a set of 4 questions for the Task Force to present to their chapter members for discussion.

Round 1 Questions:

\* **Would your members be in favor of Alaska State having a foundation if its mission were to promote programs and support for education and educators beyond what Alaska State Organization is already doing or cares to take on?**

**\* Would your members be in favor of the Alaska State Organization having a foundation in order to receive grants and large donations, as well as donations from anyone wishing to support specific goals of the foundation?**

**\* Would your members be in favor of the Alaska State Organization having a foundation if a pre-determined “pot of seed money” were pledged?**

**\* Would your members be in favor of the Alaska State Organization having a foundation if a slate of prospective board members, willing and able to assume the duties as required to operate the foundation, were identified ahead of time?**

Member opinions collected by the Task Force ranged along a full continuum as follows:

* Yes, we should go for it
* I’m interested but have serious questions about how it would be organized and operated
* I have no interest and no opinion
* I’m too busy/stressed to have an opinion
* I don’t think we should have one but it’s ok if others do
* I don’t want the State to have one – period.

Many respondents asked more questions - mostly related to how a Foundation would be organized and operated, and how it might negatively impact their chapters. I individually answered questions, explaining that a Foundation would be organized and operated according to the enabling documents drawn up by us, and that there is no relationship or competition between a Foundation and chapters.

Setting aside negative opinions for the time being, I developed a follow up set of 3 questions focusing on positive aspects of creating a Foundation for the Task Force to present to their chapter members for further discussion.

Round 2 questions:

\* **Is it worth setting up a Foundation to receive these kinds of sizeable funds?**

**\* Can we think of enough new kinds of opportunities to make setting up a Foundation worthwhile?**

**\* Instead of spiraling inward and downward would a Foundation help us grow upward and outward?**

Most member opinions shared still indicated hesitation without seeing a full Foundation proposal to be able to agree or not agree with its mission and operating procedures. Some still are leery of competition with chapter funds. Many do not understand State and Chapter non-eligibility for tax-exempt donations and the need for a Foundation to already be in existence to apply for or receive donations. Those in favor of a Foundation would like to see the chance for new opportunities for educators, but they also expressed that they themselves would not be available to work on setting it up or being on a Board.

\* \* \*

**Recommendation**

It is my recommendation that the Executive Board at the April 8 meeting have an open discussion sharing pro’s and con’s of having a State Foundation and take a position for or against it, and accordingly prepare a motion to put before the members at the Online convention on April 15. I plan to be available to answer questions regarding the Task Force work regarding the issue.

I thank the Task Force volunteers for their time and diligence, and recommend the Task Force be discharged.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daphne Hofschulte

April 3, 2021