

Line of Communication

Professional Affairs Committee

Member

Chapter Legislative Representative

Area Legislative Chairman

Chi State Legislative Coordinator

Legislative Consultant/Advocate

Establish contact and refer questions to state and federal legislators

Report current status of significant legislation at chapter meetings

Effective Member Action

- Develop in-depth understanding of current issues such as:
 - School finance
 - State Teachers' Retirement System
 - Professional Development
 - At-Risk Students
- Reach decisions based on knowledge
- Act on bills or issues:
 - Contact your legislator
 - Talk with others
 - Vote in elections
 - Participate in Legislative Study Poll
 - Attend Legislative Study Session

Chi State's Participation in Other Legislative Organizations

- Networks with other State education women's organizations whose purpose is to furnish a forum for exchange of information on legislative items in order to facilitate action

Your Legislative Role: A Challenge

Personal involvement in a program of action:

- To ensure that every child in the state shall have access to quality education
- To foster high professional standards in teaching
- To advance the position of women educators
- To realize the Society's potential for leadership in the world
- To recruit qualified women for the teaching profession

You and Legislation

Chi State



Professional Affairs Committee
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

A Brief History of the Legislative Program of Chi State

- 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 Chi State Legislative Program at Regional Conference, Salt Lake City, UT
- 1978 - Chi State'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, now known 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
 - Revise You and Legislation and Chi State Legislative Program brochures

Key Elements Comprise the Legislative System

The California (Chi State) 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 Chi State. The program consists of Bill Evaluators, Adopt-a-Legislator, and Legislative Study Sessions attended by members and guests. In addition, Chi State 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. Professional Responsibilities for Curriculum Development: To cooperate in the determination of educational goals and objectives and take leadership in implementing programs to achieve them
3. Financial Structure of Education: To support legislation which will assure adequate financing of public education
4. Professional Standards: To foster high professional standards of competency through effective programs of teacher preparation and credentialing
5. Employment Conditions: To foster employee relations which assure order and effectiveness for the professional staff
6. Professional Equality and Status of Women: To work actively for equal rights for women under the law

Member Training for Effective Involvement

- Legislative Study Sessions at the State Capitol sponsored by the Professional Affairs Committee
- In-service workshops for Area and Chapter Legislative Chairmen and interested members
- Legislative analysis by the Legislative Consultant/Advocate posted monthly on www.chistate.org
- Eighth revision of "Legislative Handbook" for member use, 2007
- Members trained to be Bill Evaluators
- Workshops, InfoFairs, seminars and interest sessions conducted by Professional Affairs Committee members