**THAT/STEP Chairman**

The main responsibility of the THAT Chairman is to explain THAT (**T**eachers **H**elping **A**nother **T**eacher) to the Alpha Upsilon membership, to be sure they understand how to record hours, and to brainstorm and generate ways to volunteer and assist teachers. THAT is one part of the **S**upport **T**eam for **E**merging **P**rofessionals (STEP) Committee.

At the first meeting of the year, in September, explain what THAT/STEP is, and provide website information. Tell members to go to dkgcalifornia.org, and click on Members, enter sisterhood when prompted, and click on THAT Volunteer to find the form which is used to record your volunteer hours. An example of the form is in the red folder. It is very easy to fill out. Just enter your name and volunteer information, as well as Alpha Upsilon and Area XIII. Here is the form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFvKaWfxOr64hHQNJENm9A-vWqUaxCRDH1WFJgaUibMibANw/viewform>

Click on Committees on the same DKG California page to find information about STEP. Scroll down to STEP and click on it. You will find resources, tips, blogs, past publications, award info, upcoming conferences and workshops, as well as DKG podcasts, a THAT slideshow and the link to record hours.

In 2022-2023 a monthly zoom STEP opportunity called *Tuesday Teacher Tips* became available to DKG members. Each month, a one hour free zoom meeting was scheduled, featuring a guest speaker discussing a relevant educational topic. This year, STEP has provided a monthly free zoom meeting entitled *Tech Tips Zoom Room* on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, with a presentation focusing on technology, followed by a question and answer session. Registration was available in advance on the DKG California page.

Examples of Tuesday Tips, Tech Tips, THAT guidelines and STEP information are included in the red folder.

Also at the first meeting, provide facts about teacher attrition and shortages, dropout rates, and the need to help new teachers feel supported and remain in the profession. Especially during and since the pandemic, teacher morale has hit an all-time low, and support for teachers is more vital than ever. Support for emerging professionals is part of our mission statement.

Encourage and help generate ways we can help schools, program, and teachers who need assistance. Some examples are seniors reading to children, help with lesson plans, bulletin boards, field trip chaperones, library, carnival, classroom help, work directly with kids, proctoring, grading, class parties, goodie bags for teachers. Brainstorm other ideas, and encourage members to let you know about any teachers, schools, and/or programs that need volunteers.

Make a google document with our current teachers’ and collegiate members’ names, grade taught, school and district, and encourage them to update the form often with their needs and ways we can assist them. A copy of the google form with the current year’s working professionals is in the red folder.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JmFBDxtFoCAwIENH9jEDwY9YtL7q2-IH4cnZtkHxHb8/edit#gid=0>

Early in the school year, inform members about the Penne Ferrell Award, which honors non-member teachers in their first through fifth year of teaching with $200 to purchase reading materials for a classroom library or literacy project. DKG members need to help these new teachers apply for the award.

Write reminders in each month’s newsletter, encouraging members to volunteer, stressing the importance to our chapter of counting volunteer hours, explaining different ways to keep track of hours (on a calendar, recording immediately, at the end the month, on paper and then logging on the form, etc.), and finding a method that works for each individual. Remind members to check the google document frequently and reach out directly to our working professionals who need assistance. Encourage members to keep the group informed about any schools, programs, or individual teachers that they are aware of who could benefit from our help. Remind members that all hours must be recorded online by March 1st, but additional hours for the rest of the school year should be estimated and counted.

The challenge of this position is becoming aware of local teachers and programs that need volunteers. Working educators are the greatest asset in helping provide this information.

Karen Wilcoxen

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