

Anatomy of a Rose

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Delta Kappa Gamma Society International selected the red rose as the official symbol of The Society. Our official documents state that it reflects the beauty of mind and spirit.

Without doubt, the red rose is exquisite. Might it also depict the structure of The Society?

Just as the rootstock is the source that provides water and nutrients to the rose bush, the twelve Founders proposed a foundation for professional preparation for females, for acknowledgement of the contributions by female educators in the teaching profession when women were not supposed to be employed in a male-dominated society.

The flowering plant is grafted at the main joint above the rootstock. For DKG, the founding documents are that union graft that joins the dream of the Founders to the striking red rose that symbolizes DKG.

The strength of the rose bush is proportional to the strength of the trunk. A sturdy trunk produces robust canes with healthy leaves and blooms. In The Society, this represents the strength of the international organization from which state organization and chapters receive direction and support.

The green leaves are the structural units that provide nutrition (photosynthesis) from the canes and roots. Similarly, the DKG rootstock and canes provide the foundational input to the state-organizations and chapters.

In the rose, the flower is both beautiful and functional in reproduction. In DKG, the blooms are the members who is each celebrated for the unique talents and contributions of each individual. Each member of a chapter recruits potential candidates for membership to maintain energy in all chapters.

In the garden, a rose hip, filled with seeds, forms as the bloom fades. In DKG, that rose hip is beauty of mind and spirit that lives on in the contributions that each member (bloom) provides as a legacy in the chapter, enriches the programs of the state organization, and reinforces the longevity of the international organization, The Society.

The Founders are all deceased, but their dreams live on in each member. Likewise, as current members come to the end of their life journey, their dreams and seeds nurture the future roses of the DKG garden of red roses.

