

Motivating from the Inside, Out

By: Nicole Lombardo

Chapters across the regions have all experienced the same problem at one time or another: lack of member participation. The answer is not simple and what works for some chapters this year may not work every year. As the years progress in school, our motivations change and our passion for Lambda Kappa Sigma may not be as strong as the wildfire of lamb love from whence you joined.

If you are the member that feels lack of lamb spirit, do some soul searching. Find what it is that motivates you and share it with your sisters. From personal experience, after serving as an officer and studying all the time during my last academic year, my motivation and excitement for every LKS event was missing. When I was not consumed with school work, my other passion was animals. I knew that I was not being a very active sister, so I combined my passions and created a fundraising event for a local animal shelter. The sisters rallied around me and this reignited the spark to continue being active among the chapter. Your sisters are there to support you and will help bring out the best in you.

For the leaders in the chapter, open the lines of communication with each individual member. Look at the chapter roster, see who is not participating and ask them why. Do not be aggressive or condescending. The sister may be struggling in a certain class, events are planned on work days or there may be deeper reasons behind an absence. Figuring this out may help lead to a solution and a stronger sisterhood bond.

Leaders: empower your members. There may be only five executive board members, but there are many more chapter members. Be sure to involve the other members in the planning and leading of events. Give everyone a job and hold them accountable. Make sure to lead by example and recognize those that do well. Chapters can start a sister/lamb of the month program or pass the 'Ewe Rock' to showcase the excellent work. If the sister is not comfortable getting recognized in a large crowd, then a sincere note thanking them can work well.

At some point, you may lose the motivation to show up to the weekly meeting or do *another* chapter event. Remind yourself why you joined Lambda Kappa Sigma in the first place. Look to the younger members for their energy and let them guide you back as you had done to them in the past. Remember that you are a part of something huge and there are sisters worldwide for support.