



## Virtual Platforms 101

**Zoom** is a platform for video communications, audio conferencing, chats, and webinars. It can be used on mobile, desktop, and room systems. It is easy and affordable for most chapters, states, and International business and social meetings. Cost is dependent upon program plan. Visit [Zoom](#) for details.

**Google Meet** is a free video conferencing service that replaced Google Hangouts and Google Chat. Google Meet enables users to make video calls with up to 30 users per video meeting. Visit [G Suite Learning Center](#) or [Google Meet Cheat Sheet](#) for details.

**Microsoft 365 Teams** is a free platform for arranging meetings, conducting video conferencing, and collaborating on documents. Space to save documents and the number of participants may be limited. Visit [Microsoft 365 Teams](#) for details.

**GoToMeeting** offers screen sharing; mobile and video conferencing; and recording and transcription services. Webinars, such *GoToMeeting*, *GoToWebinar* & *GoToTraining: What to Use When*, are frequently shared on this website. Cost is dependent upon the number of participants. Visit [GoToMeeting](#) for details.

Use a **Skype** account and the internet to make free voice or video calls to other users who are also accessing the Internet. The users can send pictures, video and other files using this service. Users only need to pay when using premium features like voice mail, SMS texts or making calls to a landline, cell or outside of Skype. Visit [Skype](#) for details.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

## The Value of Virtual

DKG members are discovering the value of virtual as they face a new reality. Virtual platforms have been available and utilized by professions and associations for years. When the COVID pandemic first became a part of life, DKG, like other membership associations, took the use of virtual technology to a different level. Virtual technology was originally viewed negatively as a substitution for face-to-face opportunities. But now, with time, experience and learning, virtual technology has taken on a new identity. Virtual, once utilized only as a last resort, is now seen as a valuable resource at all levels of the Society. The value of the work of chapters has not diminished during the pandemic. Connecting with DKG sisters and supporting the International community is as relevant today as it was pre-COVID. Creative minds of DKG women and the value of virtual can be noted throughout the Society. This new virtual reality allows DKG to be “forward moving ever.”

### How to capitalize on virtual platforms?

#### Social Events & Meetings

- “Tech buddies” increase member inclusion
- Book chats with authors and members
- Wine & cheese, yoga, music & movement, gallery tours, twilights walks

#### Personal and Professional Growth

- Establish “chapter buddies” to enhance multicultural experiences
- Gatherings focused on seasonal traditions
- Webinars on topics of interest

#### Society Business

- Conferences, trainings, business meetings, and committee meetings
- Fundraising and volunteering efforts
- Community outreach through chapter projects

#### International Connections

- Collaborative events inviting chapters from other regions
- Invite members from other regions to be guest speakers
- Share YouTube experiences across regions

### Why utilize virtual platforms?

1. Maintain member engagement
  - a. Consistent communication to reduce isolation and loneliness
  - b. Varied meeting times, dates, and frequency allow for greater involvement
2. Increase attendance
  - a. Virtual opportunities reduce time away from home, family, and work
  - b. Physical, financial, geographical, weather, and seasonal restrictions are minimized
3. Reduce expenses
  - a. Travel expenses for attendees and presenters are minimized
  - b. Facility expenses for event organizers are eliminated

