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I initially joined KDP as an undergraduate, pursuing my Bachelor of Science in elementary education in 1988. My academic advisor informed me that KDP would be a great networking organization to join for its scholarships, teaching grants, and job searching. Due to being a single mother, the national & local membership dues were not in my budget. However, my professor/mentor paid for my initial membership dues. Ten years later, as a graduate student at Oklahoma State University, I renewed my membership after receiving an invitation via email, which I believe was in 1998. I have maintained my membership since then. After being employed at UL Lafayette, I joined the local KDP chapter in 2005. After 2 years, I became co-counselor for the Delta Iota Chapter and continue in that capacity today, totaling 15 years officially (18 in total).

What I genuinely love about KDP are the benefits and camaraderie among members across the globe. The conventions provide professional development and networking opportunities with like-minded people. Monthly webinars and workshops, open to members at no cost, are always helpful in staying up-to-date in education. The insurance options offer group rates lower than most offers. There are really too many benefits to list them all, but I use as many as possible whenever possible. Twenty-six years and still loving it!

At Convo 2023 I met a young lady who is currently teaching at my alma matta in Oklahoma who was in one of my first classes as a new professor in education at UL Lafayette. How cool is that?