Slide #1

We believe it is important to know the genesis of the Tennessee Society and our important founders. You may have seen one or more of the places in Tennessee today that still honor six of Tennessee’s founders, so we want to highlight those buildings. The Greek names **Alpha State & Alpha Chapter** were used originally by the society when it organized its state organizations and chapters within states. Texas was Alpha State, the first letter of the Greek alphabet. Tennessee was Xi State, the fourteenth state organization. As of 2018, state organizations became known by their geographic areas: Texas State Organization and Tennessee State Organization. Chapters have maintained their Greek names. Finally, members should know the fascinating story behind two important pins the Tennessee State Organization President wears during her biennium. [131 words]

Slide #2

Tennessee was admitted into the Delta Kappa Gamma Society as the fourteenth state organization on November 30, 1935. The historic meeting took place in Nashville’s Hermitage Hotel. Dr. Annie Webb Blanton met with well-known educators from Chattanooga, Johnson City, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Nashville. Prior to her visit, Dr. Blanton had written letters to possible charter members describing their duties and responsibilities. Founder Dr. Maycie Katherine Southall would serve as the first state organization president and the fourth President of the National Society. With Dr. Blanton she founded five state organizations and arranged for the first National Scholarship. As a Peabody College faculty member, Dr. Southall influenced students from every state and 52 foreign countries.

State founder Ada Hornsby Earnest devoted her career to Home Economics Education as a professor at East Tennessee State University. She helped organize Gamma Chapter in Johnson City and Iota Chapter in Sullivan County.

State founder Mary Morrow Frizzell taught education classes at both MTSU and David Lipscomb University and was a co-founder of Delta Chapter in Murfreesboro.

State founder Julia Green was the first supervisor of schools in Tennessee and an original member of the National Education Association in Davidson County. It was her efforts that helped to bring hot lunches to the county schools and increased emphasis on health education. [217 words]

Slide #3

State founder Mary Hall served as the lone female member of the Department of Education for 20 years as well as Dean of Women at Middle Tennessee State University. As one of the first state supervisors during the Great Depression era, she traveled across Tennessee to improve rural schools. During classroom visits, she identified female educators as potential DKG members. Through the years, she assisted in the creation of eight chapters.

State founder Julia Harris was a professor of Education at Peabody College. She was asked by Houghton Mifflin Company to collaborate in the writing of a series of readers for elementary children and authored the series called *Child Development* that was highly successful.

State founder Evangeline Hartsook served as a professor of education at East Tennessee State University. As the youngest of the founders, she held the distinction of having organized five chapters including her own chapter, Gamma. A fierce innovator, she miraculously survived meningitis.

State founder Dr. Julia Hodgson supervised teachers at the Peabody College Demonstration School. She was one of five Peabody faculty who became founders of our state organization. [183 words]

Slide #4

State founder Mary Hetherington MacKinley was a supervisor of primary grades for the Chattanooga school system. Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in Northeast England in 1871, she came to America with her parents who settled on Cumberland Mountain in Morgan County, Tennessee. She was part of the group who established Rugby, the famous English colony.

State founder Elisabeth Oehmig realized her career as a supervisor of primary grades in Nashville. Her biographer wrote, “Miss Elisabeth Oehmig had, in full measure, paid her debt the future generations. Her life had been well spent in years of service consecrated to the task of building future citizens. Her influence will live on in the lives of former pupils.”

State founder Nell Parkinson taught pre-service teachers at the Peabody College Demonstration School during the regular school year and taught summer graduate courses at ETSU and two North Carolina teachers’ colleges in addition to Peabody. She co-authored *Work and Play with Words* published by McMillan & Company.

State founder Elizabeth Chase Randall was a pioneer in the field of home economics education. She supervised the program in the Nashville school system. She pursued her degrees at both Columbia University and Peabody College. [193 words]

Slide #5

State founder Amanda Bibb Russell served as the Intermediate Supervisor for the Chattanooga Public Schools. A descendant of William Bibb, the first governor of Alabama, she earned degrees in pedagogy from New York Normal College, University of Chicago, and Columbia University. She was an original and longest tenured faculty member of the Chattanooga Central High School before moving into administration.

State founder E. May Saunders worked as a professor of music education at Middle Tennessee State University after earning degrees from Middle Tennessee State Normal School, a two-year program for teacher training, and Columbia University. She served several organizations as the music director, and co-founded Delta Chapter in Rutherford County.

State founder Dr. Helen Lacy Shane taught at the Peabody Demonstration School after earning her BS, MA, and PhD from Peabody College. After international studies in Mexico and France, she installed a model foreign language laboratory at Peabody’s Demonstration School, helping students win national honors and competitions. She was a charter member of the second state chapter, Beta Chapter, in Nashville.

State founder Ina Yoakely taught physics, geology, and geography at East Tennessee State Normal School during her distinguished 33-year career. In addition to her academic instruction, she served as the Dean of Women from 1912 until 1940, helping hundreds of students solve their personal problems. [216 words]

Slide #6

Six of our organization founders are honored today in Tennessee apart from their service to DKG. In 1948, a Nashville elementary school was named after Tennessee Founder **Julia McClung Green**. In 1999 the Historical Commission of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County erected a marker in her honor. Julia Green Elementary became a fully authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School in March 2011 offering the Primary Years Programme. Middle Tennessee State University named one of the dorms in the Lyon Complex after **Mary Hall**, the lone female member of the Department of Education for 20 years, and named the Saunders Fine Arts building after **E. May Saunders** who taught there from 1911 until 1955. East Tennessee State University named the Honors College administration building after **Ina Yoakley** because of her distinguished service as both professor and Dean. The ETSU **Ada Earnest** House for Honors students pays tribute to the beloved Dean and instructor. Finally, Vanderbilt University’s **Maycie K. Southall** Distinguished Lecture Series honors our founder and first state president as a preeminent faculty member and alumna. [176 words]

Slide #7

In 2018, a Texas member discovered a DKG State President’s pin on eBay. The Arkansas seller had no idea whether it had been in an estate sale or brought into his store. The only clue was “S 35-36” scratched on the back. Research determined that the pin must have belonged to Maycie K. Southall. Before her death, Dr. Southall had entrusted her Society jewelry to another DKG member who became very ill before returning the keepsakes to the state. The items were passed to several close friends of Dr. Southall without being returned until it was stolen in a home burglary. Unbelievably, Dr. Southall’s jewelry was subsequently sold and advertised on eBay.

Reimbursing Texas for the purchase price, our own Becky Sadowski retrieved the long lost president’s pin. During her biennium of service, each current Tennessee State Organization President proudly wears **both** Dr. Southall’s state president’s pin and Tommie Reynolds’ original membership keypin. Because one more educator was present than allowed under the regulations for charter members in Nashville on November 30, 1935, one name, Tommie Reynolds, was drawn from the group to be inducted as the first Member-at-Large. These two pins remind us of the rich legacy of our founder and first official member. [205 words]

Slide #8

So what have we learned about our Tennessee State Organization founders? We now know that DKG Tennessee was founded in 1935 as Xi State by 16 intelligent and talented educators, that six of these remarkable women are honored today across the state, and that our state organization president wears two important pins during her biennium. Complete the five-question activity for module two: “Tennessee State Organization Founders” and submit to [DKG.member.edu@gmail.com](mailto:DKG.member.edu@gmail.com) for credit. [72 words]