Slide #1

The professional advancement of women was important to our Founders, and leadership training provided by DKG paves the way for future organization and career opportunities. Through leadership training, members associate with respected professionals to deepen and broaden their knowledge of communication, management styles, and intergenerational inclusion. DKG will provide members with professional development they may never be offered anywhere else. [102 words]

Slide #2

The Golden Gift Fund was established for the International Society in 1974 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Delta Kappa Gamma. Interest earned from the principle of this fund is used to finance leadership seminars at the University of Texas in even-numbered years. This program was originally called the Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar; however, in 2018 the title changed to DKG: Ignite: Leaders Empowering Leaders Program. Applications for this 10-day experience are rated on DKG participation, professional preparation, community involvement, personal impact statement, and references. There is a $500 registration fee, but transportation, materials, accommodations, and meals are provided by International. The estimated value of the experience is $8,000 per participant. Tennessee State Organization Presidents Dr. Beverly Hall (2019-21) and Dr. Elaine Alexander (2017-19) are pictured here with the 2014 class. Twenty states and two foreign countries were represented in this cohort. Sincere friendships made during the Leadership Program are sustained by texts, emails, cards, reunions at international events, and Zoom meetings. [163 words]

Slide #3

This intense educational training, hosted by the Texas Executive Education Program at the University of Texas - Austin, is taught by world-renowned experts and includes the study of interpersonal communication, emotional intelligence, advocacy, mental agility, gender communication, generational differences, and Meyers-Briggs personality typing for teamwork. Classes are taught at the Red McCombs School of Business and the Texas Union Building. Participants are asked to write reflections each day to process new concepts. As a cohort, members live and work together under the guidance of two members of the Golden Gift Fund Committee. This time away from distractions from work and family allows participants to build lifelong friendships, network, flex their intellectual curiosity, and gain a better understanding of effective leadership strategies for future service. [124 words]

Slide #4

Additional topics of inquiry include negotiations, leading change, thinking on your feet, conflict resolution roleplaying, values and ethics, and creative problem solving. Class members demonstrate their growth by comparing impromptu speeches on Day One to the culminating exercise of preparing and delivering five-minute speeches which are videotaped and critiqued by mentors and peers. The entire program encourages a deeper understanding not only of leadership but also of self. Graduates of DKG: Ignite return to their schools, communities, and chapters with renewed energy and increased self-confidence. But it’s not all work and no play while members are in Austin. [98 words]

Slide #5

During their time in Austin, members will have the opportunity to tour Headquarters, visit with the International President and professional staff, pay tribute to Founder Annie Webb Blanton by laying flowers at her grave in Oakwood Cemetery, and stand on the site of the University of Texas Women’s Faculty Club where our Founders first met to establish a Society, not sorority, for key women educators. The graduation ceremony when members receive their certificates and pins is held in the Annie Webb Blanton Room where a beautiful portrait of Dr. Blanton is displayed. Texas members from nearby chapters provide delicious food, and the group chooses a speaker, special music, and even shirts. [111 words]

Slide #6

A special highlight of the time spent on campus is hearing the Bell Tower carillon play the“Delta Kappa Gamma Song.” This is especially meaningful to participants from Tennessee because we hear the carillon on the University of the South campus in Sewanee play our Society song on Saturday morning during our state convention after the Ceremony of Remembrance as members hold hands in a large circle on the lawn of All Saints’ Chapel. Event organizers also host tours of the Texas Capitol which includes a large portrait of Tennessean Davy Crockett, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, and historical spots such as The Alamo in San Antonio and the Admiral Nimitz and the Pacific War Museums in Fredericksburg. Another favorite spot in Austin is the Congress Avenue Bridge where a million Mexican free-tailed bats emerge every night at sunset to feed on 10,000 to 30,000 pounds of insects. It is truly a breath-taking sight. [157 words]

Slide #7

What have we learned about our international leadership training in DKG? We are now familiar with the DKG: Ignite: Leaders Empowering Leaders Program offered by the International Society at the University of Texas in Austin. Complete the five-question activity for module 12: “International Leadership Training” and submit it to DKG.member.edu@gmail.com for credit. [50 words]