Slide #1

Why do we need to know about the Mission, Vision, and Purposes of our organization? We need to understand how we can best contribute to our chapter, state, and international initiatives. It is gratifying to realize we are continuing the important work Annie Webb Blanton and the other Founders started at the Women’s Faculty Club in Austin, Texas, in 1929. As we have planned our programs and projects over the years, we have focused on the original seven purposes to create potential opportunities and service for our members. Sharing the same mission and vision as tens of thousands of key women educators makes Delta Kappa Gamma a remarkable framework filled with exciting possibilities. [113 words]

Slide #2

The mission of our organization is “The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.” The vision of our organization is “Leading women educators impacting education worldwide.” Our mission and vision are printed in our annual chapter yearbooks, posted on the home pages of chapter, state, and international websites, and included in conference and convention program books. These sentiments drive our programs, projects, and traditions which means we share a bond with members from Hawaii to Helsinki. [86 words]

Slide #3

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has seven basic *purposes* that govern its program of work and study. The activities of each level of the Society implement the *purposes* of the Society. The first purpose is “to unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship.” DKG members expand their friendships and increase their appreciation of women educators at home and abroad through travel, participation in an international organization, chapter meetings, conferences, workshops, conventions, and Tennessee’s Creative Arts Retreats. A gift from the Emergency Fund to a member who suffers extensive loss from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and similar disasters is a manifestation of spiritual fellowship. Our International Speaker’s Fund finances travel for our own distinguished lecturers to visit members across the country and around the globe. World Fellowship grants provide opportunities for extended communication and understanding for non-member teachers to study in the Unites States and Canada. [148 words]

Slide #4

The second purpose is “to honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.” The Founders sought to induct outstanding women educators who could achieve still more when stimulated by association with other professional educators. Membership in the Society continues to carry recognition of superior potential and accomplishment. Women educators are honored by being invited to affiliate with a select group of women who have been successful in professional and personal relationships. Honorary membership may be extended to women who have made significant contributions to education and/or the advancement of women educators but who are not eligible for active membership. Outstanding women educators in countries where the Society has not been organized may be awarded citations for distinguished service to education in their countries. We also present the Educator’s Award during each biennium to recognize a woman author or co-authors whose educational research and writing potentially impact the thoughts and actions of today’s complex society. [164 words]

Slide #5

The third purpose is “to advance the professional interest and position of women in education.” One of the chief motivations for the founding of the Society was the belief of Annie Webb Blanton that qualified women educators should be given equal opportunities in all areas of professional work. Members of the Society have been influential in bringing about promotion opportunities and single salary schedules. Through state and international scholarship programs, the Society endeavors to encourage and assist members to advance their professional interests, competencies, and positions. Our Tennessee State Organization offers both beginning and advanced leadership training seminars for a minimal cost to participants, and the Xi State Vision Foundation also provides funding for innovative teaching practices. Projects supported by the Golden Gift Fund, such as DKG: Ignite: Leaders Empowering Leaders Program and special stipends, advance the work of the Society. [160 words]

Slide #6

The fourth purpose is “to initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators.” Members of the Society consistently support legislation to advance education and/or the status of women in education. Each March, the Tennessee State Organization sponsors a Legislative Symposium in Nashville to hear from lawmakers from about issues affecting education. We personally visit elected representatives to share our concerns while we are on the Hill. Members annually register young children for Dolly Parton’s Books from Birth program. We are so proud that Dolly Parton was inducted as an Honorary International DKG member at the 2020 international convention for her program to promote literacy by providing books for children from birth to age five. [125 words]

Slide #7

The fifth purpose is “to endow scholarships to aid outstanding educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators.” Tennessee offers eight scholarships for study beyond the bachelor’s degree: four $1,250 and four $3,000 awards. The first national scholarship of $1,000 for graduate study was awarded in 1940. Currently 29 annual and two biennial international scholarships of $6,000 and $10,000 are authorized. Voluntary contributions by members to the international World Fellowship Fund afford women from other countries $4,000 graduate study awards to study at universities in the United States or Canada. [109 words]

Slide #8

The sixth purpose is “to stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action.” The Society encourages and assists the personal and professional growth of members for effective participation as educators and civic leaders. Tennessee’s Xi State Vision Foundation offers the Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Award for conferences and training up to $2,000. The Delta Kappa Gamma International Educators Foundation oversees the Lucille Cornetet Professional Development Award, Educational Project Grants, International Speaker’s Fund, and the Eunah Temple Holden Leadership Fund which financially supports growth opportunities for individual members, state organization convention attendees, and international conference and convention participants. Members are encouraged to plan, implement, and evaluate programs of study and action on every level of the Society. [127 words]

Slide #9

And finally, the seventh purpose is “to inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.” Programs, seminars, publications, as well as travel and study experiences are provided to assist members in expanding their knowledge and understanding, in studying and assessing current issues and in enriching their personal lives. Sincere interpersonal relationships and challenging personal experiences provide opportunities for effective participation in a world society. The Tennessee State Organization President publishes *Leadership Links* every month to share the many opportunities our organization provides members. The *DKG Tennessee News* which is published four times a year also highlights our successes and accomplishments, motivating members to take advantage of leadership and service opportunities and affirming the Society’s mission, vision, and purposes. Up-to-date announcements are included in our state organization Facebook page and three international publications: *DKG News*, the *Bulletin – Journal*, and the *Bulletin – Collegial Exchange* that examine current economic, social, political, and educational issues to keep our membership informed. [169 words]

Slide #10

So what have we learned about our Society’s Mission, Vision, and Purposes? We now know that the foundation of our organization was created by our shared mission and vision and that we put those ideas into action by fulfilling our seven purposes. Complete the five-question activity for module five: “Mission, Vision, & Purposes” and submit to DKG.member.edu@gmail.com for credit. [59 words]