Slide #1

Every year but three since 1950, Tennessee’s DKG members have gathered in Sewanee at the University of the South, the historic replica of England’s Oxford University, to conduct Society business, share professional expertise, honor members’ achievements, and celebrate our Founders. We are truly fortunate to meet every June in this classic academic setting when many state organizations change locations and may meet only once a biennium. Every member owes it to herself to experience at least one state convention “on the mountain” to meet and network with other Tennessee members during her time in Delta Kappa Gamma. [97 words]

Slide #2 (5)

Tennessee’s annual DKG state convention takes place in early June on the beautiful campus of the University of the South in Sewanee beginning on **Thursday** afternoon and ending Saturday by noon. Members return to dorm living each year to re-connect with friends by sharing both personal and professional highlights of the past year. The first official event of the convention is the Executive Board meeting to conduct business prior to the Second General Session on Friday when convention attendees have the opportunity to vote. The Executive Board consists of state officers, chapter presidents, and past state presidents. Following the Board meeting, we welcome convention First-Timers to an Orientation Tea. Here these members have the chance to meet state officers, past state presidents, Membership Committee members, and members of the host chapter. A delicious dinner is served at McClurg Dining Hall followed by the First General Session in the Guerry Hall Auditorium where the Society Representative brings greetings from the International President, the Awards Committee recognizes Order of the Rose recipients, honorary state members are inducted, and an engaging speaker delights attendees. Following the First General Session, there is a Beverage Reception, Silent Auction, and Chapter displays (even years) or State Committee displays (odd years) in the Art Gallery and Convocation Hall. This is where everyone can meet and network with members from across the state! [225 words]

Slide #3

On **Friday** at our state convention, we begin the day with breakout sessions of interest to everyone from early childhood to university instructors and those who are retired and are presented by individual members and state committees. This is a great way to meet members with similar interests and build your DKG network. The Second General Session recaps the business of the Executive Board on Thursday, and members may vote on amendments to our bylaws and rules. The session is followed by the Awards Luncheon in Cravens Hall where both chapters and individual members receive recognition from the Awards, Communications and Marketing, Membership, Scholarship, State Projects, and Legislative Committees. One highlight of this event is hearing the winner of the High School Essay Contest read his or her composition. The Special Events Committee announces the Silent Auction winners, and we are entertained by the volunteer chorus at both the Awards Luncheon and the Presidents’ Banquet Friday night. More breakout Sessions before follow the luncheon, and the day ends with the Presidents’ Banquet also held in Cravens Hall where chapter presidents are introduced, the International Society Representative delivers an inspiring message, the Achievement Award recipient is announced, and state officers are installed (odd years only). [204 words]

Slide #4

**Saturday** morning of the convention begins with the Vision Foundation Coffee. Individuals who have become Visionaries themselves as well as presidents of Visionary chapters are invited to attend and hear about how the grant money awarded has benefited Tennessee children. More specific information about the Vision Foundation is included in the TNSO Scholarships and Grants Video. Everyone then attends the Ceremony of Remembrance at All Saints’ Chapel where the Membership Committee pays tribute to those who have passed away over the last year by saying their names and lighting a candle in their honor. Families of the members being honored are invited to attend, too. After the ceremony, members gather outside the Chapel in a circle and join hands to listen to the “Delta Kappa Gamma Song” played on the carillon. The final event of the convention is the Birthday Brunch at McClurg Dining Hall immediately following the Ceremony of Remembrance. After yet another delicious meal, we pay tribute to our Founders in creative ways, hear the biennium theme and goals of our new president (odd years), and say our good-byes to our precious DKG friends until we meet again. Hopefully, members will eat and have conversations with members in order to build connections and expand their DKG networks. [209 words]

Slide #5

The responsibilities of Tennessee State Organization Committees are described in the Officers module, but members may be interested in learning what roles specific committee play during the annual state conventions. By serving on state committees, members automatically connect and network with members representing chapters from across the state to participate in the following ways:

The **Convention Steering Committee** processes the registration payments, assignments of tables for meals, dorms for overnight lodging, and breakout session classrooms with technology, and distributes programs. The **Membership Committee** plans and facilitates the Orientation Tea for First-Timers and the Ceremony of Remembrance. Breakout sessions are offered by **Area Directors, Bylaws & Rules, Chapter Strengthening, Educational Excellence, Finance, Historic Preservation, Leadership Development,** and **Planning**. The **Special Events Committee** is responsible for organizing, announcing winners, and collecting money for the Silent Auction benefiting leadership seminars. **The Awards, Communications and Marketing, Legislative, Membership, Scholarship,** and **State Projects Committees** collect information throughout the year, assign points for the Maycie Chapter Excellence Awards, and present certificates to members and chapters to recognize their achievements. [17 words]

Slide #6

What have we learned about networking at our state convention? We now know that our annual gathering in Sewanee connects us not only with members from across the state but also with International Society Representatives. This event also informs members of committee work, member and chapter accomplishments, and professional expertise. Complete the five-question activity for module 15: “Tennessee State Organization Conventions” and submit it to DKG.member.edu@gmail.com for credit. [68 words]