Slide #1

International conventions and conferences bring us together with other key women educators from across the country and around the world. At each gathering, we learn something new about our history and about the impact our Society has had on others for nearly 100 years. We also experience first-hand the results of leadership training and the effect of international projects on students, teachers, families, and communities. One comes to the realization that participating in DKG is both an honor and privilege we are fortunate to have. [85 words]

Slide #2

The Society holds International Conventions in July during even-numbered years. Past locations have included New York City in 2012; Indianapolis in 2014; Nashville in 2016 which was the second International Convention held in Tennessee after the 1994 convention at the Opryland Hotel; Austin, Texas, the birthplace of Delta Kappa Gamma, in 2018,. Unfortunately, the 2020 International Convention in Philadelphia became a Virtual Convention because of Covid-19 restrictions. The 2022 International Convention is set for New Orleans July 12-16 followed by the 2024 International Convention planned for National Harbor, Maryland, and the 2026 International Convention set for Aurora, Colorado. It’s never too early to start thinking about attending one of the future conventions to meet and network with educators from 17 member countries! [122 words]

Slide #3

Highlights of every International Convention include opening night entertainment, state photos, special Educational Foundation Events, business sessions to vote on Amendments to Constitution & International Standing Rules, and world renowned speakers such as Nadia Lopez, Benjamin Zander, Kai Knight, Olympia LePoint, and Sarah Sladek. Entertainment for the 2016 International Convention in Nashville included singers and musicians who regularly perform with Alan Jackson, Jewel, Billy Joel, Chicago, Stephen Curtis Chapman, and Kenny Chesney. Conventions also include high quality breakout sessions, the opportunity to sing in the volunteer chorus, and regional breakfasts where each state recognizes an outstanding member who has not served on the International level. Beta Epsilon Chapter has had the past two Stars of the Southeast for Tennessee: Sandra Pineault in 2018 and Joan Howell in 2020. Luncheons and the Presidents’ Banquet provide extended time to network with members from around the world while dining, and every international convention ends with the installation of elected committee members and officers. [160 words]

Slide #4

Conventions are not all work and no play. In order for members to take advantage of the unique convention locations, there is always time allowed for exploration of the host cities built into the schedule which provide opportunities to network with other DKG members on the tours. Members saw Broadway plays and professional baseball games in New York City, experienced country music first-hand at the Wild Horse Saloon in Nashville, took Segway tours of important sites in Austin, and soaked in Native American and Western Art at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis. Members from Tennessee always eat together one night at a restaurant to experience the local cuisine and share their adventures. Often International Society officers and headquarters staff join us for dinner which provides members an excellent opportunity to get to know the leaders of our organization in a personal way. [142 words]

Slide #5

The Society holds International Conferences in July during odd-numbered years. Past locations have included Louisville in 2011, Orlando in 2013, Savannah in 2015, Myrtle Beach in 2017, and Asheville in 2019. Members attended 2021 International Conferences in Portland, Oregon, July 7-9 and in San Antonio, Texas, July 21-24. The Tampere, Finland, International Conference scheduled for July 28-31, 2021, was postponed until 2023. These events are a great way to network with members from states closest to the locations but possibly from some of the 17 member countries! [87 words]

Slide #6

Highlights of every international conference include opening night entertainment reflecting the region, state photos, world renowned speakers, high quality professional development breakout sessions, luncheons, and closing banquets. No Society business is conducted during conferences, but leadership training for new state presidents, executive secretaries, treasurers, editors, webmasters, and membership chairs is offered. Past entertainment has included The Embers band featuring Craig Woolard in Myrtle Beach, Whitewater Bluegrass Company and J. Creek Cloggers in Asheville, and Puppet People in Savannah. Members have heard keynote speakers Polly Letofsky who spoke about her five year journey to walk around the world to promote breast cancer awareness, traveling across 4 continents, 22 countries, and over 14,000 miles to become the first woman to walk around the world as well as Sheila Kay Adams who shared her gift of storytelling and music based on her English, Irish, and Scottish heritage growing up in Appalachia. The DKG Girl Scout Badge was even unveiled at a conference. [159 words]

Slide #7

Just as conventions are not all work and no play, neither are conferences. Again, there is always free time allotted in the schedule to visit local attractions. During past conferences, members have toured the Grove Park Inn and the Biltmore Estate, Gardens, and Winery in Asheville, enjoyed the Motown Tribute Show at the GTS Theatre in Myrtle Beach, visited haunted sites in Savannah, and walked the Black Sand Beach in Reynisfjara, Iceland. Just as we do during the international conventions, Tennessee members attending conferences meet for dinner one night to try the local fare and celebrate being together. [100 words]

Slide #8

What have we learned about networking in DKG? We now know there are opportunities each year to meet and network with other Delta Kappa Gamma members at international conventions even-numbered years and at international conferences odd numbered years. Unique locations, live entertainment, engaging speakers, and Society business provide the perfect circumstances for meaningful networking connections. Complete the five-question activity for module 14: “International Conventions and Conferences” and submit it to DKG.member.edu@gmail.com for credit. [73 words]