

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TIMES



Issue 4

May 2018

Why I'll Be in Austin



By **Mandy Story**,
TSO Communications and
Publicity Committee Chair,
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One of the greatest highlights of my time in DKG has been my inclusion in the 2014 Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar. Prior to this, **I had never participated in international or regional events: I was perfectly content to enjoy my DKG Texas sisters.** I never dreamed that in the course of two weeks, I would meet 30 women from around the world and develop special friendships that continue today.

To reconnect with my Golden Gift sisters is one of the main reasons I now attend international conventions. While social media is wonderful for staying connected, the opportunity to see our group in person, give and receive hugs, and catch up is worth the cost of attending.

Another reason I enjoy attending is the sessions DKG sisters from all over the world present. Learning about their experiences in our shared profession, or exchanging ideas between states and countries for promoting membership and Society participation is a rare type of professional and personal development.

What began as a short application to the Leadership Management Seminar has led to lasting friendships and my eyes being opened to the knowledge and information Society members possess. I urge you to **travel to Austin and create your own convention experience!**

Sights and Sounds of Austin: Fun for a Good Cause!



By **Dr. Lyn Schmid**,
Immediate Past
International President,
Educational Foundation
board member

Deep in the heart of Texas, an entertaining and tasty evening awaits *amigas* and *amigos* in the Lone Star Ballroom of the JW Marriott Hotel. **On Wednesday night, July 18, the DKG Educational Foundation will sponsor its Texas-spirit-filled fundraising event, Sights and Sounds of Austin.**

Entertainment may include **festive mariachis and colorful folkloric dancers.** We have discovered **the next Texas star in a young woman musician from Austin** who will thrill you with her songs and musicality.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with a **cash bar** and **hors d'oeuvres** of local specialties. A deluxe **Taco Bar** will set the scene for a fun-filled casual evening. Be sure to get your ticket for the **door prizes** as you enter!

Did you not get enough **line dancing** at the Wildhorse Saloon in Nashville?! Well, step right up at the end of the evening, and either learn or refine your skills.

Tickets are \$155 and are available on the International Convention 2018 Registration website page. **Proceeds support DKGEF grants.**

If you have already made a reservation for the *Sights and Sounds of Austin* event and would like to help the Foundation by **arriving early to set up the event**, please email Dr. Karen M. Duke at km_duke@hotmail.com

Austin Tours and Strolls



By **Joan Hester**,
Convention Co-Chair

In *Convention Times* #2, I listed many ideas and websites for tours and sights. For a few opportunities, **you might**

need to make reservations ahead of time.

The Texas State Capitol is available for self-guided tours Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. The Capitol offers free guided tours Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Two tours with recommended reservations are the Women in Texas History tour Monday-Friday at 11:15 a.m., and the Heroes of the Texas Revolution tour Monday-Friday at 2:15 p.m. (512-463-0063) For groups of 10 or more, call 512-305-8402. More information is online at www.tspb.texas.gov.

The Texas Governor's Mansion is also available for tours. Visitors must make reservations at least a week in advance. Tours are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (512-305-8524) More information is online at www.tspb.texas.gov.

The LBJ Library is a little farther from the hotel, but worth the effort. It is open daily, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and tickets are available online at lbjlibrary.org.

The Bullock Texas State History Museum is home to galleries, artifacts, exhibitions, special events, two theaters, and much more. More info is online at www.thestoryoftexas.com.

The Blanton Museum of Art is a favorite for many. For some the draw is the permanent collection pieces; for others it is the ever-changing exhibitions. The newly installed Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin* intrigues many. More information is online at www.blantonmuseum.org

Downtown Strolls will be another opportunity to experience downtown Austin. These are informal walks to places of interest just blocks from the JW Marriott. Local DKG members will meet a group at a designated

starting point at the hotel and walk with the group to the point of interest. At the destination visitors may linger or walk back with the local member. Some destinations include Congress Avenue, the Congress Avenue bridge's bat viewing, the Ladybird Lake walking trail, the historic Driskill Hotel lobby, the Paramount Theatre, the new Austin Public Library, local street art, Second Street shopping and dining, live music venues, South Congress Avenue, the Mexic-Arte Museum, and more.

An "**Austin Table**" near registration will be loaded with brochures about our city. Stop by and "ask a local" for her favorite taco stop, listening room, vintage shopping dive, hidden place for a cool beverage, or fun place to watch people. We will have members waiting to point you to some real Austin favorites.

We are so excited to show you our city and the variety of options it offers!

LAST-MINUTE REMINDERS



By **JoAnn Brooks**,
2018 International
Convention Chair

- ✓ Visit the **JW Marriot website** for available restaurants, Starbucks, parking, other amenities, and their pricing.
- ✓ No live flower corsages will be available for purchase, but a Marketplace vendor will be selling **silk rose corsages**.
- ✓ Texas is hot in July, so pack **sunscreen**. Hotels can be cool, so pack a **sweater or jacket**.
- ✓ Bring your own **convention tote bag**.
- ✓ Pack your **DKG ribbon/pin, comfortable walking shoes, chargers, snacks**.

Credits: Marilyn Nease, editor. Camille Kirkbride, masthead graphic art. JoAnn Brooks, Joan Hester, Dr. Lyn Schmid, Mandy Story, photos.