

What a trip!

I used Uber for the first time to get to the airport. Cindy Frazer helped me install it on my phone. The flight was pretty smooth but had to change planes in St. Louis. (a small airport, thank goodness)

The plane landed at Ronald Reagan International Airport on time but I was totally shocked at how small it is! Two luggage carousels! I called for an Uber and headed to National Harbor, Maryland. Crossed the Potomac (I was too late to join George), and saw the top of the Washington Monument and the Capitol.

I checked in, went to my room and collapsed. I did revive enough to buy a sandwich and drink at the Market. I attended the Opening Session that evening which welcomed everyone and had announcements concerning the Convention. I then went back to my room and it was "bed here I come!" That was Monday.

Day 1 of the Convention, Tuesday, was all day Executive Board meeting. A lot of points brought up:

1. 83 voting members were present, 22 non-voting
2. Told to review Avenue M Report
3. We did not meet our room block % required. 51% needed 80%
4. Told to download DKG APP, which I did (with help)
5. Review your DKG profile.
6. Focus on one Voice!
 - a. Confident, assertive and authoritative
7. Went over how to use voting device.
8. There was a Goosechase Fun activity using the APP. Well, forget that noise.

The International Leadership Training will be PRIOR to the International Conference in New Orleans from July 29-August 2, 2025. More information will be coming. Reimbursement will be available for the State President, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Membership Chair, State EEC Chair.

Wednesday was Day 2. The theme for the Convention was Relevance, Vitality and Sustainability.

Relevance – more info to come

Vitality -

Leadership Discovery Center
Ave. M report
Model Learning – Action Reports
Chapter to Chapter Connections
Bursting the Bubble Campaign
Pilot Visual Networks – professional and personal
DEIA Task Force

Sustainability –

Travel Reimbursement Updated
Code of Ethics
Maintain guidelines for future selections and awards
EEC
Hiring of two Executive Board members

The Second General Session opened with 746 members in attendance. The Standing Rules and Conventions that were adopted were gone over and Parliamentary Procedures reviewed.

Dates given:

1. International **Conference** – July 29-Aug2, 2025 in New Orleans
2. International **Convention** – June 30-July 4, 2026 in Aurora, Colorado
3. International **Convention** – July 4-8, 2028 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
4. International **Conference** – July 25-28, 2029 in Austin, Texas (100-year anniversary)

The updated Society Handbook is now available on the International Website.

Our Keynote Speaker during lunch was Margot Lee Shetterly, the author of Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race. She was a great speaker and continues to search hidden truths.

The entire General Session Three was voting to approve or not approve proposed amendments.

In between everything, I attended two Spotlight Sessions. More on the Spotlight Sessions I attended will come at a later time.

Thursday was Day 3. It opened with Regional Breakfasts. We are in the SW Region.

General Session 4 was voting on proposed amendments. 692 voting members

I did attend two Topic Talks – Fundraising and Teamwork.

I also attended a Spotlight Session on Revitalization presented by Becky Sadowski – Chair and past International President. I am still going through the notes I took.

Toward the closing of the day, I went to a Spotlight Session that explained the DKG International Educators Foundation. This foundation is very busy!

My last day was Day 4, Friday.

During General Session 5, the final amendments were voted on (signed, sealed and delivered!!!!).

Our Keynote Speaker during lunch was Andre Bradford, an Austin-based slam poet. What is a slam poet, you ask? I had no idea at the start and I am not too sure I know much more now.

The best part of the day was attending a Spotlight Session on AI-Powered Education. One important thing I learned about myself, is that I am way behind the 8-ball concerning technology in the classroom. There can be great benefits and also major downsides. I wish we had had about 2 hours more time to talk about how it is used from teachers already incorporating it in their classrooms.

I also attended a Spotlight Session on EEC.

The end of the day was both sobering and inspiring. Marion Blumenthal Lazan, a DKG International Honorary Member spoke of her life from a concentration camp in Germany during WWII to becoming an Instrument of Peace. She speaks to students and adults across the US and Europe, advocating for tolerance and respect whenever she addresses her audience. It is a message of perseverance, determination, faith, and hope. I feel honored to have had the chance to attend one of her inspirational talks.

I did not attend Saturday, but Judy Merz kept me informed of events.

I returned home to a storm! The plane was actually told to circle the airport until the storm started to clear off. THEN.....when we got the OK to land, the planes were too close so we had to go around again. Needless to say, the passengers applauded when we touched down. My friend, Shannon picked me up and we had dinner with her family. BY this time, I was dragging and couldn't wait to meet my bed. Good thing these conventions only happen every two years!!!!!!!!!!