

**DKG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION,  
NEW ORLEANS, JULY 12-17, 2022  
(THE FIRST IN-PERSON INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION SINCE 2018)**

*Many thanks to **Denise Barker, Cindy Braley, and Leesa Cole** for representing Delta Omicron Chapter!*



**Cindy Braley and Denise Barker**, two of our chapter's delegates in New Orleans



Tuesday evening, First General Meeting, Ceremony of Flags representing the 17 attending countries



**Cindy and Denise** at Tuesday night's First General Meeting. 892 ladies attended the convention.



Denise's attendee credentials



Lake Pontchartrain reflecting the lights of New Orleans

**Cindy** reports, "New Orleans was my first International Convention, and I got to meet ladies from all over the U.S. and other countries. The breakout sessions, as well as the general meetings for discussing and voting on proposed amendments, were very educational for a convention newbie!"



Picture taken outside the Sheraton Hotel, where **Cindy and Denise** stayed



**Denise** shares, “Wednesday, we met the Nevada State President (Cheryl Anderson) and the Nevada State Executive Secretary (Maxine Emm) and had a wonderful dinner together. We’ve met a lot of fun people from all over.”

L-R: Denise, Maxine, Cheryl, Cindy

Top down: Denise, Cheryl, Maxine, Cindy



**Denise** reports, “At the Third General Meeting on Thursday morning, I won one of the door prizes! Out of 892 participants!”

She adds, “We’ve voted on the first 21 amendments (of 120 proposed amendments), and all have passed so far. The proposed Delta Kappa Gamma Society International name change is to be discussed Friday. Lots of opposition from what we’re hearing.”

**Just facts:**

**Q.** What’s the fleur-de-lis all about in NOLA?

**A.** The fleur-de-lis (flower of the lily) is a stylized lily or iris used in the heraldry (inherited coats of arms and other symbols that show personal identity and family lineage) of many European nations, especially France. The fleur-de-lis symbol is part of Louisiana's history, for example, in architecture, on the state flag, and on the helmets of the Saints pro football team. The fleur-de-lis once marked runaway slaves. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the fleur-de-lis symbolized unity and grassroots support for New Orleans' recovery. *(In photo on left, note the fleur-de-lis design on the tote bag Denise is holding.*



**Denise and Cindy** having fun Thursday afternoon, NOLA style

**Just facts:**

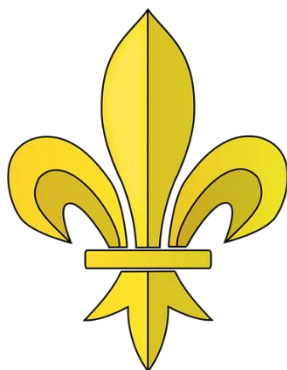
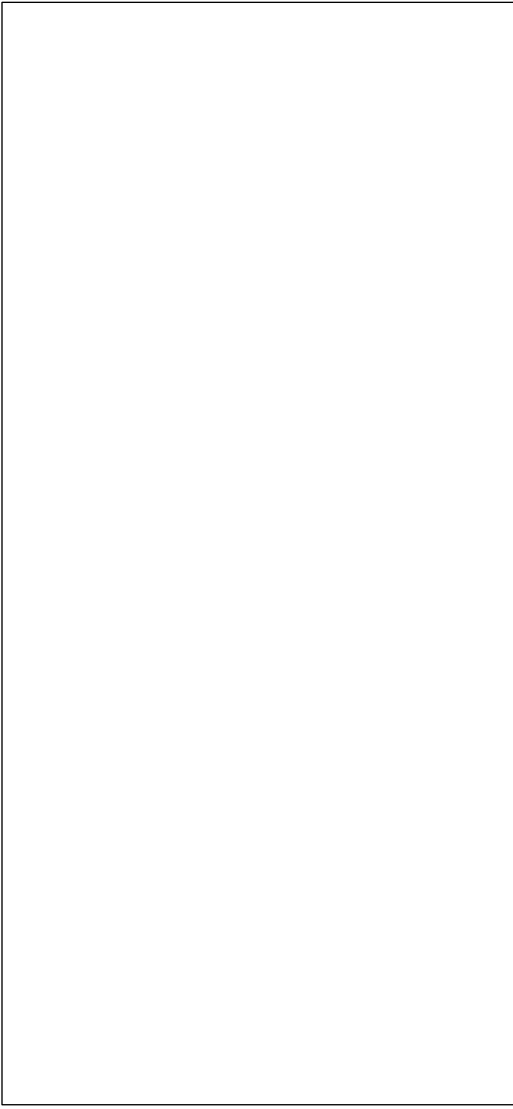
**Q.** What’s the role of umbrellas in New Orleans culture?

**A.** Carrying an umbrella for shade was common in the past. It also symbolized southern style, feminine grace, and social status.

**Q.** What’s the origin of brass bands in NOLA?

**A.** The brass band tradition started after Civil War military bands evolved into civilian bands and became part of New Orleans’ culture of celebration.

**Keynote Speakers,  
2022 NOLA Convention**



*Symbolic fleur-de-lis*

**CONVENTION SCHEDULE**

**Business Meetings:**

Opening General Meeting, Tues., July 12, 6pm  
Second General Meeting, Wed., July 13, 8-11am  
Third General Meeting, Thurs., July 14, 8:30-10:30am  
Fourth General Meeting, Fri., July 15, 1:30-4pm  
Fifth General Meeting, Sat., July 16, 9:30am-12pm

*Nature's fleur-de-lis*



**Learning Opportunities:**

Tech Stations: Wed-Thurs  
Takeaways: Wed-Thurs  
Breakouts: Wed-Fri

**Special Events and Meals**

**Tues., July 12:**

Sazerac House Event, 7pm

**Wed., July 13:**

Global Connections in DKG, , 11:30am-12pm  
DKGIEF (DKG International Educators Fund) Fundraiser Event, 4:30pm

**Thurs., July 14:**

Luncheon Event, 12-2pm  
State Organization Events, night

**Fri., July 15:**

Regional Breakfasts, 7-8:30am  
Celebration of Life, 9-10am  
State Organization Events, night

**Sat., July 16:**

Forum Meetings, 2-4pm  
Installation and 2022-24 International President's Speech, 5-6pm  
DKG Society Reception, 6-7pm  
DKG Society Dinner, 7pm

**NOLA Convention's Service Project: Success Is in the Bag**

Choose a new or gently used professional handbag. Fill with interview-appropriate jewelry, unopened makeup or cosmetics, and a cash or check donation to Dress for Success New Orleans (Tuck \$10 to support our operations!). Include a note of inspiration such as "you've got this," "believe in yourself," and "stay strong." Other wonderful contribution ideas: resume portfolios, reams of paper, Shout wipes, and thank-you notes to follow up with interviewers.



Saturday evening, **Denise and Cindy** are ready for the DKG Society dinner after the installation of our 2022-24 International officers and the reception following the installation. NOLA chapters decorated the dinner tables. To Cindy's left



**Just facts:**

**Q.** What's with the masks and beads of Mardi Gras in New Orleans?

**A.** Originally, Mardi Gras masks freed carnival goers to be anyone they wished and mingle with any social class. Mardi Gras' purple, green, and gold beads were Christian symbols for justice, faith, and power. Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is the festive day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the close of the pre-Lenten season before Lent's sacrifices and fasting.





Above: **Leesa Cole** is seated front and center at one of the Texas tables for Friday's Southwest Regional Breakfast.



Left: **Leesa** and **Janye Brainard**, TSO Poet Laureate

**Just facts—DKG International has five regions:**

- **Northeast** (16 US states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and two Canadian provinces),
- **Northwest** (12 US states and four Canadian provinces),
- **Southeast** (11 US states),
- **Southwest** (11 US states, nine Latin American State Organizations, and Japan), and
- **Europe** (eight nations).



**Leesa** (seated with Cindy Drumm, Fort Worth, Iota Pi, Area 10) at Saturday's reception following the installation of our 2022-24 DKG International officers

**Leesa's favorite memories from the 2022 DKG International Convention in New Orleans:**

- Dining at Emeril's, and he was there—fun celebrity moment.
- Marching in an official NOLA “second line” organized for DKG. We actually marched Canal Street in a city block with NOPD escorts and everything. Quite an experience, and it ended with “When the Saints Go Marching In” as all “second line” marches should. Didn't have a white napkin to wave but waved our Texas flag instead. *(See photos on next page.)*
- Watching Cindy and Denise having a great time and making new DKG connections.

**Just facts:**

**Q.** What does “second line” mean in New Orleans?

**A.** It refers to spectators who join or follow the main line and contribute to the walking parade. Individuals and groups are welcome and encouraged to follow along, allowing the “second line” to grow as it marches.

**#1.** In a traditional jazz funeral procession, a brass band is part of the “first line” in the procession from church to cemetery. Mourners and well-wishers make up the “second line.” First, the band's music is sad; then, it shifts to celebratory.

**#2.** “Second lines” are also a popular wedding tradition, often bringing the bridal party and wedding guests from the ceremony to the reception.

**Q.** Why wave white hankies or napkins in New Orleans?

**A.** In the past, white handkerchiefs were in gentlemen's and ladies' pockets and could be waved in the air to signal entry into the “second line.” Today, a bystander can wave a paper or cloth napkin in the air to join in and be part of the “second line” fun.





**Denise** shares, “For Cindy and me, this was our first international convention, so we were very interested in the general meetings, where all the amendments to the bylaws were presented and discussed. Also, we met chapter leaders from different parts of the globe and heard about their local projects. Overall, we both felt immense pride knowing DKG is such a positive force for women and children in our world.”

“First line” NOLA brass band leads the DKG “second line” fun through the hotel and down Canal Street!



Group shot of part of the Texas delegation at New Orleans International Convention—about 200 from Texas attended. Can you spot Leesa on the bottom stairs? How about Cindy and Denise halfway up on the rail?

**Graphics:** Pixabay. **Photos:** Denise Barker, Cindy Braley, Pixabay, [www.dkgtexas.com](http://www.dkgtexas.com)  
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**Convention Info:**  
[International Convention in New Orleans, Info](#)  
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