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VCMEP

Virtual Continuing Membership Education Program
Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity

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with Jen Murdock and Phil Rubin, Chapter Field Representatives

<http://www.kkpsi.org>

It is here! A “How to” for National Convention

At the start of the biennium, and even earlier this last academic year, National Convention seemed so far away. Now, it is only days until we convene in Orlando.

Jen and Phil have created tips for getting the most out of National Convention. As you go over these tips, they refer to even more on our national website. Take one

more look at the website to make sure you are ready for this event.

Jen and Phil will be there, the National Council will be there, and Brothers from across the nation (as well as Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma) will be ready. Come prepared, and be sure to introduce yourself. See you there!

Malinda

Attending National Convention: Some “Convention 101”

by Jen Murdock and Phil Rubin, Chapter Field Representatives

So you're attending National Convention. You've registered and your hotel room is reserved. Now it is time to ask, "What's next?" Anytime you attend a convention, it's a good idea to know what will be occurring during your time there, how best to participate and who else is attending. Below are some tips as you prepare for Orlando and meeting brothers from across the nation.

Attend the Concerts

As a band fraternity, the National Intercollegiate Band provides our convention a musical kickoff. Celebrating its 60th year, the NIB, including the National Commissioning Program, is one of our proudest musical endeavors. College students from all over the nation auditioned for the band. The Tuesday night performance, debuting Eric Ewazen's commissioned work, supported by the National Commissioning Program, will jump start the convention on a high note. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear the first performance of a new piece of band literature conducted by Frank Wickes and the only time this group will perform. Don't miss this opportunity to experience great music and to support your fellow band members.

The Boston Brass will be giving a lively performance *on* Wednesday night. These five musicians put on an exciting show that is not to be missed. Make sure to attend this concert for a musical experience you won't forget.

Meet New Brothers and Sisters

You are probably traveling with several brothers from your chapter, which means tons of time in the car or on the plane strengthening your bond with them. One of the advantages of a national organization is the ability to meet and interact with members from across the nation. Experience it! While at Convention be sure to spend some time with Brothers and Sisters from outside your chapter and district. Don't be shy. Get out of your comfort zone a little. Introduce yourself to your neighbors, eat and socialize with people you don't know, or don't know well. Network with other chapters and build connections across the nation to gain new ideas and approaches to help your band program. When you get back to your campus, share your experience with members of your own chapter and district who did not attend national convention. You will have plenty of time to catch up with Brothers from your home chapter on the trip back and during the school year.



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Strive for the Highest

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.kkpsi.org

Prepare for workshops and meetings – be ready to participate

Once every two years, the National Chapter (yes, that is what the convention delegates are – a National Chapter) convenes to conduct business of the Fraternity. If you are a delegate for your chapter or an alternate delegate, prepare to engage and participate in meetings. Refresh your knowledge of parliamentary procedure – a handout is online at <http://www.kkpsi.org/parliamentary.asp>. Review the National Constitution to better understand how our Fraternity works. As a delegate, you are responsible to attend all meetings; arrive early to find your seat and ensure that convention activities begin promptly.

Know the issues that will be discussed during meetings and how your chapter feels about them. You are representing your chapter, so you should understand their perspective on the issues. Electing our National Officers occurs during convention and is one of the most important items of business. Before leaving for convention, read through the candidate packets and make a note of questions you have

for these individuals so you can be a responsible voter. Remember that candidates for Vice President of Student Affairs may not be known until convention so be knowledgeable about the qualities and experience your chapter desires in a VPSA.

Attend Workshops

One of the benefits of membership in Kappa Kappa Psi is the wealth of resources that can be provided to members, especially at conventions. Workshops and educational forums are opportunities to expand your knowledge and learn new skills that you can take back to your band program. Your National Council has worked hard to line up quality speakers and educational opportunities for this convention. This year, Dr. Lori Ebert joins us to speak about “Making Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma Great.” In addition, there will be workshops on officer specific duties and skills, using video to record your chapter history and to serve your band’s needs, public speaking, and what outstanding chapters do, as well as a clinic by the Boston Brass.

Interactive Psi: A new and special way to meet Brothers

This year we’re trying something new: Learning about one another through interaction instead of report reading. The Interactive Psi Event is an opportunity to mingle with fellow convention participants and discuss displays of information created by National Officers, District Presidents and Chapter Leadership Award recipients. These individuals will be there to discuss the projects they have been working on and how you can get involved or create these opportunities for your band

program. Depending on your interests, you can spend more time learning about and sharing information on service projects, fundraisers or national programs.

Visit the National Convention website to read the National Officers’ and District President’s reports before leaving for convention to prepare for this event. Knowing what projects these individuals are working on will help you determine where you want to spend most of your time.