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VCMEP

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

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with the Brothers and Future Brothers of the National Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi

<http://www.kkpsi.org>

The Biennial Report of the Vice President

Throughout the biennium, the Brothers of the National Council are at work leading the Fraternity with the future in mind. We will be submitting our reports to the membership in advance of the convention.

It is a privilege to share with you a snapshot of colonization and membership at the end of this biennium. The

responsibilities and activities of this office range widely, a reflection of the growth and dynamic nature of our Brotherhood today. A more extensive version of this will be shared on our national website shortly and included in the National Convention minutes.

I look forward to seeing you in Orlando!

Malinda

Colonization, growth, and trends

The 2005-2007 biennium witnessed an incredible number of colonies across all six districts. Congratulations to the recently installed chapters, as well as our current colonies in progress. I have a special gratitude toward the advising people and advising chapters for their dedication and assistance. All of these Brothers (and Brothers in the making) have dedicated extraordinary work and investment in Kappa Kappa Psi's future.

This is about to become the *decade of greatest expansion in our history*, with two years left to go within this decade. We are the *second greatest biennium of expansion in the history of Kappa Kappa Psi* as well. I note these items with both excitement and caution. We should not pursue installation just for the sake of setting a record. However, it is clear that more campuses are gravitating toward what we offer. This is part of a national trend on campuses in general of wanting to establish new fraternities and student organizations. Kappa Kappa Psi positioned well for this current student and director interest.

It is interesting to note that *half of our Fraternity's chapters have been installed since 1988 – they have existed for less*

than 20 years. A third of our Fraternity's chapters have been installed since 1996 – barely over a decade. When we speak of “tradition” and of growth, both of these numbers are important. We are a rapidly expanding Fraternity that looks very different than it did when I attended my first national convention in 1985. That does not suggest a loss of quality, but rather, a development of both new campuses and higher quality in all of our areas of endeavor. However, it does challenge us to continue to examine what we do at every level, and work to retain this growth and meet the challenges of college bands today.

This flurry of activity has happened at other times in the history of Kappa Kappa Psi. Often they've been followed by a struggle to retain these newer chapters. As a Fraternity, everyone has a responsibility to *look after the newer chapters*. This should be a strong focus of districts. If each district vice president alone were to focus most attention on membership retention and recruitment, rather than colonization, Kappa Kappa Psi would leap forward in numbers. Again, these should not be numbers just for the sake of having numbers. Rather, these should be quality people who help our chapters move forward and serve well without burning out a small membership.



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Trends of the future on campuses

As we've demonstrated within the colonization section of this report, people want to join organizations, and we're catching that wave. This is a wave campuses see frequently, particularly with trends toward forming new organizations. Campuses see the formation of new organizations as both exciting and as a cause for caution. It causes caution because campuses want students to continue to invest in the organizations that exist, and not form organizations just for the sake of being called a "founder." For Kappa Kappa Psi, that is a special call to all of us to look after our own chapters and after other chapters to *ensure that membership recruitment and retention are a strong focus.*

Campuses are calling for greater accountability. You, as the representatives of Kappa Kappa Psi

Discipline

This has been a relatively quiet biennium for disciplinary activity. While we have had a higher rate of probations, most have resulted from the *automatic probation for chapters missing two consecutive reports.* Chapters responded well to this call for improvement; our chapters tend to thrive when they have higher standards to attain.

We have distributed through the Virtual Continuing Membership Education Program the *general process for investigations* in December 2005, and this document is still on the national website. This document met the charge of the 2005 National Convention Membership Committee to create a publication detailing this process.

Six chapters have lost their charters this biennium. It is always a

on your campuses, will need to be able to demonstrate, in quantifiable terms, *what your chapter does to live our mission and why you should continue.* If you try to live a mission that is not Kappa Kappa Psi's, you'll be lost – other organizations exist to do general community service or general activities. We are the people who give uniquely to band music through how we serve our bands, how we promote them on campus to ensure their future, and how we encourage our fellow band members to be the best students within bands and across campus. Every aspect of what we do should be about band. That's not limiting, but empowering. Think of the ways you can amplify your fellow band members in their contribution on campus. Think about how far your band can go with your effort and with what strength your chapter can solidify its importance on your campus.

negative moment in the life of Kappa Kappa Psi when we lose a chapter or must revoke a charter, no matter what the reason for the action is. It is truly a loss in the family, and usually after both painful actions and careful deliberation. Our hope, and our goal through our education, is to never arrive at a day when the actions of a chapter would make charter revocation a possibility. These actions hurt not just those whose chapter is closed, but also the nation. The harm includes higher insurance premiums (such as we experienced last year), inability to secure affordable venues for district conventions or chapter events, and a reputation other campuses and band programs do not want to invite to campus. Negative behavior of a few truly does have an impact on everyone today, and on future Brothers as well.

Membership education, including colonization process improvements

Throughout the biennium, we worked to meet membership education needs. I summarize a few here to demonstrate the wide variety of educational efforts we have done and also to note the ways that student observations and requests have shaped this area of our Fraternity's work.

Colonization improvements

During this biennium, several innovations were tried within the colonization arena, almost all at student request.

The new *Kappa Kappa Psi colonization handbook* created in Fall 2005 has received rave reviews. *Web materials for colonization* were improved early as well, allowing for more direct connection between those surfing to our website with interest with the tools to get started.

Following the suggestion of the 2005 National Convention Colonization Committee, we now charge only a *portion of the initiate fee per colonist up front*. At this time, they pay only \$15 per colonist at the beginning (in addition to the colony's colonization fee), with the balance due with the petitioning document. One effect has been that some colonies delay installation until fall to avoid paying both installation and regular chapter fees next year. This budget impact, not anticipated in the original proposal, needs to be accounted in future budgets – it is a reduction in available funds to support chapters and colonies, and a longer period of years needed to recover the financial investment in these newest chapters.

The new *Kappa Kappa Psi colonization website* was started. Thanks to Derrick Mills and Ken Corbett for making this site go, and to Dixie Mosier-Greene and Alan Bonner for Headquarters support. It cannot take the place of personalized communication. Where it can augment our efforts greatly is in helping a wider circle of Brothers know what progress a particular colony has made, allowing these Brothers to help support the colony. This will not happen without the colonies,

advising chapters, and advising people working with the site and encouraging others to do so.

In 2007 we are *testing a new colony advising model*, creating a team of chapters (more than two). Each chapter has a role in the colonization assigned by the VPCM. Two advising people are assigned in the first test of this, each with a set of assignments. A ritual team is composed of people from all advising chapters, with no expectation that an entire chapter can attend any of the degrees. This strategy will allow more chapters to participate, and provide more help to advising chapters. The Grove City Colony process is our first test, with the advising team of Alpha Omega (Pittsburgh), Epsilon Phi (Clarion), and Kappa Rho (Duquesne) and advising people Anthony Roscoe and Ryan Minster. The colony and all team members have stepped up to make this live well. Their lessons help us continue to improve our colony advising and will build lasting educational networks between our active chapters.

District Leadership Conference

I created the *2006 and 2007 District Leadership Conferences*, working collaboratively with Tau Beta Sigma VPCM Kimbi Sigle to coordinate joint efforts.

The DLC has three areas of focus:

- District challenges and leadership through challenges
- Building relationships to help with the specific presidency challenges ahead
- Creating district conventions as educational and musical events

One goal for district presidents was to build substantive conversations so as a peer group they can support each others' work. The results in their work all year long have been wonderful.

District conventions and evaluations

The 2005 National Convention activities were well received. The evaluation results helped shape both President Chesnutt's planning of the 2007 National Convention and each district's convention planning. Each district convention had evaluations distributed this biennium. Evaluation participation is an important way to add your voice and help shape future events.



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Chapter Field Representatives

During this biennium, we have expanded the Chapter Field Representative program to a two position program. As this Fraternity has grown – in membership, chapters, complexity, and quality expectations – it has been obvious that to do the work we would like to support students, limiting ourselves to one person in the role was no longer sufficient.

We have *learned many lessons from the expansion of the program*, probably the leading issue being the misconception that the CFR is a one-person position, rather than a larger program. This is a transition that will take further root as we have new CFRs and everyone gets used to seeing multiple people, rather than making one person into a program by himself. This transition is a result of growth, and we must remember that growth can also bring challenge.

VCMEP

In Fall 2005 I started the *Virtual Continuing Membership Education Program*. Your response to this series has been overwhelming. I have heard from many chapters looking for models to start their

own Continuing Membership Education Programs, as well as help with specific issues, as a result of the variety of topics. Thanks for your support and ideas!

What else will you see in the extended VPCM report?

This has been a portion of the VPCM report for the end of the biennium. Shortly on our www.kkpsi.org website, you'll see my extended report. It lists all of our colonies and installations for the biennium, provides more detail about some of these initiatives, and describes other activities of this office. It also thanks many people, but not nearly enough. To do this office adequately, let alone well, requires the support and help of a nation. It is only with the support of our Brothers that any office or the Fraternity as a whole thrives.

Having said this about the program, our CFRs have both been hard at work. I believe that both the movement in the colonization arena and the lack of activity in the disciplinary arena has been in part the result of the work of Jen Murdock and Phil Rubin. They have each demonstrated great strengths, and the result has been positive for Kappa Kappa Psi.

Jen (Life Member from Gamma) and Phil (Life Member from Kappa Mu) have each brought intelligence, dedication, drive, humor, flexibility, and curiosity to the role. They have differing Fraternal backgrounds, and bring different ways of “living” Kappa Kappa Psi, and this has been to the nation's benefit and, in specific, the development of the Chapter Field Representative program. Thanks to both for the gift they are to Kappa Kappa Psi.

On the website, you'll also see shortly the reports of our other Brothers of the National Council. We'll have even more information and talk about our work during the “Interactive Psi” event at National Convention.

Thank you for your support, love, and spirit for college bands. What you do today to support bands makes a difference on campuses and in lives. But now, time flies, and there is much yet to experience!

See you in Orlando!