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<http://www.kkpsi.org>

This month with Derrick Mills, National Vice President for Programs

## Getting started with awards: Why and how

Although outstanding Kappa Kappa Psi members give service to bands without the need for recognition, awards are important to our Fraternity. They help us learn about activities and ideas that can enhance our own bands. They help us document history by documenting the people and groups who have led Kappa Kappa Psi to great endeavors. They help inspire Brothers across the nation to greater accomplishment.

In this issue, Derrick Mills describes

some key awards, and gives guidance applying or nominating others for these awards. Take a moment and think about students, directors, and other people in your chapter's life. Is this the time to nominate someone for an award?

Derrick describes KKPsi award nominations here, but many of these principles can be applied to campus awards or other applications you create.

Keep those questions coming.

Malinda

### *What are key awards to consider? Some words from Derrick.*

This fraternity has numerous awards that range from academic, to travel and individual awards. The nomination process is simple; it just needs your help.

Any active member or chapter is eligible for consideration for awards. The only problem is a lack of nomination. Every biennium several brothers, band directors and sponsors who are deserving of consideration for awards by the National Council are not considered because of either no application or incomplete applications.

I would like to briefly summarize the process for the Distinguish Service to Music Medal, the A. Frank Martin Award and the J. Lee Burke Student Achievement Award, how to put together a nomination packet and why we have fraternity awards.

The **Distinguished Service to Music Medal (DSMM)** is the highest award presented by the fraternity. The DSMM was established in 1963 to

honor outstanding contributors to bands and the band profession across the nation. This award has several categories for nominee's contributions. When submitting an individual for DSMM consideration, you can classify them under: composition, concert band, marching band, instrumental music education, artist performer, industrial research and progress, contributing laymen, alumni achievement, and fraternity service.

The **A. Frank Martin Award** was established in 1984 to recognize individuals who have contributed to bands and the band profession on a regional scale. The award has the same categories for consideration as the Distinguished Service to Music Medal.

The **J. Lee Burke Student Achievement Award** was established in 1991 to recognize student leaders in Kappa Kappa Psi. This award sometimes has been wrongfully perceived as a district officer award. This award has been granted several times to all types of student leaders.



## Kappa Kappa Psi

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*Strive for the Highest*

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See us at:

[www.kkpsi.org](http://www.kkpsi.org)

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### Perspective

Awards are important to advancing the message of Kappa Kappa Psi. However, selfless service is vital to our mission. A quote Dr. Tim often relays is helpful for perspective:

*Seva is a Sanskrit word which means self-less service. This is serving without condition, without expectation of recognition or reciprocation. This is the most pure form of service. When we give of ourselves, with all of our heart, just for the sake of giving, this is when we do the most good.*

–Lissa Coffey

## Putting together the nominations packet

The application is just the beginning of the nominating process. For these awards there are other requirements needed to have a complete packet. First, a letter stating what award you are nominating the individual and why. The letter should highlight reasons for the application. The second requirement for a complete application is a resume and recent photo of the nominee. Many applications fall short because one of these two requirements is missing. Therefore, plan ahead for these two essential elements. The third requirement is letters of recommendation from people who know the nominee well. The last requirement is a letter of recommendation from your chapter sponsor when applicable.

The most difficult part is getting those letters of recommendation. In your chapter meeting, I would suggest you establish a committee whose main responsibility is completing this award application. If you delegate the responsibilities of letters of recommendation and establish a realistic timeline with the author of those letters, then you will be more effective in getting the letters you need. Waiting for the last minute or asking your band director at a critical time during the band season is poor planning.

Keep in mind when you are completing this application that you are representing your chapter, yourself and the nominee. Make sure you present them in the most professional and organized manner.

## Why do we have awards as a Fraternity?

We have awards to honor outstanding people and outstanding work. As members of a fraternity dedicated to the advancement of band and the band profession, we must continue to recognize individuals who elevate college bands. These awards are not just for big schools or district officers; they were created to allow

everyone to aspire. We need to be aware of these awards and their importance to the fraternity's future. I will assist you in any way possible to get these applications completed and submitted on time for consideration. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at [derrick@kkpsi.org](mailto:derrick@kkpsi.org).

## Awards on the web:

<http://www.kkpsi.org/fraternityawards.asp>

The three awards described earlier, and many others, have two deadlines: January 1 and July 1. This deadline is to ensure that the National Council will have time to consider the applications at their next meeting. There is one application for all of these awards.

You must simply check which award you are nominating someone for and follow the criteria outlined in the Guide to Membership. To download these applications please go to our national website, using the link above.