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VCMEP

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

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Malinda M. Matney, Ph.D., National Vice President for Colonization and Membership

<http://www.kkpsi.org>

## A new monthly publication: Your VCMEP

As we start a new biennium, we start a new publication: The Virtual Continuing Membership Education Program (or VCMEP). This publication will provide monthly lessons that can both enrich the Brothers directly receiving this information on the listserv, as well as those Vice Presidents or Continuing Membership Educators working to create programs in chapters.

Like a chapter Continuing Membership Education Program, the purpose of this program is not to promote memorization of facts, alphabets, and dates. While some topics may touch on those you learned in your candidacy, this program aims to

extend your knowledge. The topics you see will cover the gamut of membership issues, ranging from recruitment to selection of members, from the start of candidacy to the end of initiation, and ongoing topics throughout the life of the member. We'll also cover topics relating to discipline for chapters, and colonization and expansion.

I will take requests for topics, and will have some issues of this VCMEP devoted to answering your questions if we receive many (so go ahead and fire those questions up). Send those to me at [mmatney@umich.edu](mailto:mmatney@umich.edu).

Have a great year, and keep those questions coming!

## What is a Continuing Membership Education Program?

Continuing Membership Education is a great opportunity to do several things you cannot do in the limited time of a candidate's Membership Education Program:

- Extend the education to discuss the "why" of history and current Kappa Kappa Psi practice, not just memorize facts.
- Develop skills in leadership, teaching, Ritual, project management, or writing, to name a few areas.
- Create true unity and bonds across candidate classes and years by engaging in education together.

Within a CMEP, you can take the great accomplishments of Kappa Kappa Psi and more specifically apply them to your band program and your campus. As well, you can address emerging issues.

- District convention coming up? Spend a CMEP session discussing the district, what educational sessions will be at convention, and how to make the most of convention.
- Have a serious dilemma about what to do next semester as a chapter? Spend a CMEP session working on strategic planning?
- Sick of apathy in your student section at games? Plan through your CMEP session a way to energize the crowd through and in support of the band.



## Kappa Kappa Psi

PO Box 849  
Stillwater, OK  
74076-0849  
800-543-6505

Malinda M. Matney, Ph.D.  
National Vice President  
for Colonization and  
Membership  
mmatney@umich.edu

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

So, how does a CMEP look at home?  
It can vary:

- You can do a 3-5 minute session each meeting.
- You can devote one meeting each month to a more in-depth CMEP
- You can create handouts or newsletters, not unlike these newsletters.

- You can do a little of all of these.

This is a fun program that should allow you to specially tailor education to what your chapter needs now.

Go ahead and experiment with all of these formats, and see what works best for your chapter. The CMEP should enhance and complement the other work of your chapter.

### *I've been put in charge of my chapter's CMEP. What now?*

You may have a moment of panic realizing that you have responsibility for Continuing Membership Education. However, there are a few key steps to make your year or term a success:

- Schedule time with your director and/or sponsor to discuss what they see as the operational and educational needs of the chapter.
- Generate a list of topics from this discussion, and talk with your chapter president and other officers about other topics that may help their work.
- Talk to older chapter members, or even district

officers, about presenting various sessions. A CMEP is a perfect place to bring together the talents of many leaders in your chapter.

- Outline each session.
- Ask for time in meetings to present the CMEP.
- Know that you are not alone. Other resources include district officers, district governors, even other music faculty

Through pre-planning and involving the talents of many, you can prepare interesting and helpful programs to advance your chapter.

### *What future topics are in store?*

Here are sample topics throughout the biennium. If your topic of interest isn't here, let me know. Likewise, if you have questions relating to any of these topics, your questions can help us provide better information for everyone.

- What is continuing membership education?
- Discipline process
- Membership selection tips
- Membership recruitment tips
- Colony "friendraising"
- Ways to celebrate initiation
- Ways to raise band awareness
- Crafting a band history
- Awards
- Teaching styles

- How does colonization differ from membership education
- Weaving together candidates with actives
- What role, if any, does community service have?
- How to meet with your director of bands, other directors, or sponsor
- Responsibility and power of officers

As issues emerge, we'll work to provide VCMEPs on those topics as well.

*To share your ideas or questions, contact Malinda at [mmatney@umich.edu](mailto:mmatney@umich.edu)*