

June 2006

Volume 1, Issue 10

VCMEP

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

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<http://www.kkpsi.org>

This month with Drs. Rod Chesnutt, Rick Greenwood, and Michael Golemo

## *A year from now*

This time next year, hundreds of Brothers and Sisters will gather from all over the country to learn, to meet each other, and to determine the course of the Fraternity. There will be concerts, workshops, reports, awards, elections, people to meet, memories to make. All of this is the 2007 National Convention.

Will you be there?

Getting someone there from each chapter is our goal. Making sure that your chapter is represented and that your membership gets the most from the 2007 National Convention should be yours. Since most people reading this are working hard to have the finances to attain our goals, that will take planning.

Students from the nation made the 2005 convention

quite a success, so there are many ideas about saving money and raising money to go. I hope some of those conversations happen on this list. *I urge each chapter to make this a priority during the coming year.* It will take more than a few months to make this happen.

A year from now, a new National Council will be elected. Brothers from across the nation will set the direction of the Fraternity for the next two years and beyond. Workshops will help lift performance, spread ideas, and energize chapters. Performance opportunities will bring Brothers and Sisters together, literally, in harmony. Will you be there to cheer, learn, and participate in this great moment, or will you simply get the news by email?

Save the end of July 2007 for your Brothers and Sisters!

Malinda

## *What is in store for National Convention?*

by Dr. Rod Chesnutt, National President

When looking forward to 2007 and designing the convention, first and foremost is how will this experience benefit the active membership in their efforts reach their goals. The need to conduct business is easily recognized, but scheduling musical experiences, workshops and information sessions all come into play. When considering business, we consider the delegates and how they will be involved with committees. We are considering the means of delivering reports and looking at ways to increase interaction between the national, district and chapter components through alternative options. There are discussions about doing an "Info Fair" that will facilitate these opportunities for 'face-to-face' time with National and District Councils, and with Chapter Leadership Finalists. We hope to allow for more relaxed opportunities to interact among the membership and with the convention community.

Workshops are a key component of every convention and this will be no exception in Orlando. There is a push to "Focus on our Foundation," which means we are looking at service and music as the key components driving the workshops. This will occur in two primary tracks. Dr. Lisa Hunter has agreed to take on the challenge of creating a music track. This track will feature band directors

who will help actives develop skills in areas such "How to rehearse a sectional." These will be musical growth opportunities regardless of major.

Realizing that organizational skills allow our chapters to provide effective and efficient service to our bands, we are creating an office skills track [notice it doesn't say 'officer']. These workshops will present ways to develop the skills and organization necessary for the various offices that operate a chapter. They are open to everyone, not just officers, as these are skills that relate to everyday success.

With this "Focus on our Foundation" in mind, we are looking at what musical and service opportunities can be provided in the form of concerts and guest speakers. The inspiration that comes from these two forums are an important part of the convention experience and help define who we are.

The question is oft asked as to how the active membership and directors can be involved. First, make certain you go to convention! Second, Vice President Adam Cantley has been gathering input from district presidents. Contact him, them, and us! Now is the time to offer ideas. We have already decided to 'borrow' some ideas from the recent round of District Conventions. This is the time to get an exchange going between your and National and District officers.



## Kappa Kappa Psi

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*Strive for the Highest*

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

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### Golemo funding tip:

Let me encourage you to find ways to help finance sending your students to a convention. Many universities have a campus activities office that will help fund student travel and registration costs for various conventions and seminars. Sometimes, all we have to do is ask and complete the required paperwork to acquire funding.

## National Intercollegiate Band highlights to come

by Dr. Rick Greenwood, National Vice President for Professional Relations

Kappa Kappa Psi is pleased to announce the 31st Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma National Intercollegiate Band (NIB) to be held as part of the 2007 National Convention. The NIB has a rich history of outstanding performances since its beginnings in 1947. We are indebted to Dr. F. Lee Bowling, Kappa Kappa Psi Grand National President from 1941-47, for his role as "Founder of the National Intercollegiate Band."

In addition to exciting performances, the NIB contributes to the music profession by commissioning a major composer to write a piece to be performed by the group. This project began in 1953 and has seen major composers, including Robert Russell Bennett, Gunther Schuller, Norman Dello Joio, David Mazlanka and a host of others, contribute significant works to the wind band repertoire.

The commissioned composer for the 2007 NIB is Eric Ewazen. Mr. Ewazen's music has made a dramatic impact upon the wind band literature while enjoying performances by a variety of symphony orchestras, college wind ensembles, and

professional bands. We are confident that the work Mr. Ewazen is writing for the premiere by the 2007 NIB is of the highest musical quality. Discover more about Mr. Ewazen contributions by visiting [www.ericewazen.com](http://www.ericewazen.com).

The tremendous history of excellence the NIB requires a nationally acclaimed conductor. The impressive list of past NIB conductors include Fred Fennell, Donald Hunsberger, James Croft, Francis McBeth, Arnald Gabriel and many others. Frank Wickes has agreed to serve as guest conductor of the 2007 NIB. Mr. Wickes, Director of Bands at Louisiana State University, has been a prominent conductor and educator for the past thirty years. Every Director of Bands will offer encouragement to students to take advantage of an opportunity to work with Mr. Wickes.

Of course the NIB does not function without outstanding performers. Fraternity and Sorority members, as well as other students, should apply to become part of the NIB tradition. Look for updated application information at [kkpsi.org](http://kkpsi.org).

## Why do I want to send my students to National Convention?

by Dr. Michael Golemo, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Having served as a chapter sponsor since 1984, and having sent numerous students to district and national conventions... the real question should be, "Why *wouldn't* I want to send students to a convention?"

It is always fun to talk to our students after they have attended their first convention. Their eyes are opened to the fact that other chapters do similar activities to what we do here. They are amazed at the size and scope of our Brotherhood. Other chapters may differ, perhaps being a different size or running meetings differently. There are some things that are consistent, that bind us all together, e.g. our mission and vision, our Ritual, and even the way we sing our Fraternal songs.

During the past few biennia, there has been a focus on offering more leadership, musical, and educational workshops. Conventions help our students become re-energized and provide them with ideas and fresh perspective on the potential and possibilities of our Brotherhood.

Here are some of the things your students can do at a convention – and why directors should encourage them to attend:

other chapters.

- Attend workshops from guest presenters, and national and district officers.
- Participate in Reading Band.
- Attend the Ritual and renew your fraternal vows.
- Purchase Fraternal merchandise, e.g. jewelry, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.
- Make new friends and contacts.
- Recharge their batteries while learning more about the fraternity.
- Meet district and national officers.
- Learn how to improve chapter activities, such as the membership education program.
- Understand how a large organization functions.
- Enjoy Fraternal fellowship while taking enormous pride in our Brotherhood.

This summer, Kappa Kappa Psi is presenting two leadership symposia (Dallas and Louisville). I believe that it is critically important for our students to attend these types of events. Our band department contributed \$500 towards sending several students to the symposium in Louisville. I am happy that our department can "give back" to the Fraternity in this way – knowing how much our band benefits from our chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi.

- Gain service and fundraising ideas from