



PI KAPPA DELTA

The Art of Persuasion, Beautiful and Just

NATIONAL COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Gina Jensen, *Webster University*

PRESIDENT ELECT

Jeff Stoppenhagen, *Boise State University*

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Michael Bartanen, *Pacific Lutheran University*

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Philip Voight, *Gustavus Adolphus College*

EDITOR, THE FORENSIC & KEY

Nina-Jo Moore, *Appalachian State University*

HISTORIAN

Susan Millsap, *Otterbein College*

CHARTER & STANDARDS/ PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ryan Louis, *Ottawa University*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

David Bailey, *Southwest Baptist University*

PROVINCE COORDINATOR

Tomeka Robinson, *Marietta College*

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE

Sean Kolhoff, *St. Cloud*

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PROVINCE

Adam Schneider, *Webster Univ.*

NATIONAL OFFICE OF PKD

Lisa Vossekuil, *NFL/Ripon*

November 1, 2011

Greetings!

I hope that you are having a successful semester! I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the National Comprehensive Tournament in Kansas City! If you have had a chance to look through the annual report, the Key, or our website you probably noticed a lot of things have changed since we last saw one another. I wanted to take a moment to bring some of these new and exciting changes to your attention.

Four years ago, Pi Kappa Delta, with the help of our then president, Tom Huebner launched its Strategic Plan—a vision complete with ideas to help PKD become sustainable for another 100 years. We realized that as the economy struggled, budgets shrunk and gas prices soared, if we wanted our organization to continue past the foreseeable future, we needed to make some changes. As a National Council, we hope you share our enthusiasm about the changes we have made. Please keep in mind that while a lot may be different about Pi Kappa Delta, what makes us unique—our traditions and camaraderie—have not changed.

In order for an organization to remain vibrant, its constitution must work as a living document. Pi Kappa Delta's does just that. We try to ensure our constitution reflects the times and our members. We have made changes as necessary over the past century, with the last major constitutional changes being in 2000 under President Scott Jensen when he called a constitutional convention at which a new constitution, authored by Michael Bartanen, was debated and approved. Times have continued to change, and in March, immediately following the convention, we, as members, led by immediate Past President, Phil Voight, passed a new version of the constitution. Please see our website, www.pikappadelta.com to obtain a copy.

Most of the changes made to the constitution center around membership, chapters, orders and degrees. We now have six membership orders: active undergraduate, alumni, instruction, affiliate, attainment, and honorary. Within the categories of active undergraduate, alumni and instruction, there are now ten degrees of membership through which a person can move by accumulating points. The degrees are as follows: proficiency, achievement, merit, excellence, distinction, honor and key level accomplishments: bronze key, silver key, gold key and platinum key. We have also created three types of chapters: the Undergraduate Chapter, the Alumni Chapter, and the National General Chapter. Members may join the National General Chapter either by going to a college that does not have a PKD undergraduate chapter on its campus or by becoming a PKD member before

NATIONAL OFFICE • 125 WATSON STREET • PO BOX 38 • RIPON, WI 54971-0038

(p) 920.748.7533 • (f) 920.748.9478 • nflpikappa@nflonline.org

www.pikappadelta.com



their arrival on a college campus. The National General Chapter has three purposes: to practice and support forensics in all its forms and contexts, to nurture citizenship through competition, service and scholarship, and to promote the art of persuasion, beautiful and just. More detailed information about the chapters can be found on our website.

Becoming a member of Pi Kappa is now much easier, with everything available on line, including member applications and fees payment. Our fee structure has also been streamlined. We no longer collect province dues; all chapter dues have been set at \$60.00 and individual membership fees are \$35.00. Affiliate membership dues are \$50.00 per year or \$300.00 for a lifetime membership. Anyone who has previously joined Pi Kappa Delta as an undergraduate member, no matter how far in the past, may join as an affiliate member.

In addition to our constitutional changes, PKD has also become the official alumni organization for the National Forensic League. As a result of this partnership, anyone with NFL experience is now encouraged to join Pi Kappa Delta. High school students may become PKD members during their senior year, and may transfer 10 percent of their cumulative NFL points into the Pi Kappa Delta credit point system. Those who have already graduated from an undergraduate institution may join as affiliate members if they did not graduate from a college or university with a PKD chapter, making them eligible for among other things, the order of attainment. Further, any active member of Pi Kappa Delta in good standing, whose chapter dues and membership fees have been paid, may earn points for competition. Fees and dues must be paid prior to the competition in which the credit points were earned. Credit points will not be awarded retroactively to any individual who has failed to meet these criteria. Coaches and/or competitors may go to our website and enter points earned. In order to ease the transition, any current members of the Order of the Undergraduate from active PKD Chapters may record credit points from the 2010-2011 season. As of November 1, 2011 our website is ready for coaches to create an account and begin adding points for their students. Coaches will earn 1/10th of the points their students earn. Additionally, we are enclosing a form for coaches and alumni that will simplify the process of grandfathering their past contributions.

Another change with which I am sure you will be pleased is one Immediate Past President Phil Voight worked hard to secure. It is the generous two year \$135, 000 grant from the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation. The grant is designed to encourage the growth of audience-centered public forum debate at the intercollegiate level and it will allow PKD to hire a full time National Coordinator. Further, the generosity of the grant will allow for support of the 2013 National Tournament. Pi Kappa Delta will receive \$25, 000 as general tournament sponsorship and \$10,000 for program assistance to help underwrite judging and tournament entry fees for schools that would not otherwise be able to attend. We will also have a \$20,000 pool of scholarship awards for schools who are successful in public forum.

Finally, I want to share with you the excitement that I have for some of the new projects that you will be hearing about. Within a short period of time, we will have training videos for people new to forensics on our website. Also new to our website will be webinars in which everyone can participate.

I must say, I am honored to be your President at such an exciting time! I hope that this letter helps to put all of the changes together for you in one place. Please see our bylaws, constitution, and website for further information. We also plan to send out a points guide by early October helping you work through points entry. Feel free to contact me for any reason.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina L. Jensen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gina Jensen
President, Pi Kappa Delta

Webster University
jensen@webster.edu
314-968-7164