

Pi Kappa Delta Newsletter

November 8, 1995

Volume 15, No. 2

Bringing Information to Members from the National Office of Pi Kappa Delta

PLEASE RETURN ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW TO:

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Greetings from the National Office!

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 1995-96 directory. Please check over the information and let the National Office know if there are any inaccuracies. We have already found two, so you know we are human! Bill Hill has a new FAX number which is (704) 547-3961; and Robert Littlefield's prefix for telephone and FAX is 231 not 237.

Two new features are included in the 1995-96 directory. Those schools requesting information about becoming a PKD chapter are added, as well as the e-mail addresses of those who responded to the June Newsletter's call for them. We encourage you to contact the invited chapters and ask them to join PKD. We will add e-mail addresses as we go. Keep us posted of changes.

Name the Newsletter

We would like suggestions--what should we call this newsletter? Submit your suggestions by December 15th. Help us to find a name!

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Jan Jovonovich joins the National Staff as Office Manager

Jan Jovonovich is the new "Office Manager" of Pi Kappa Delta. In an effort to improve communication and service to the local chapters, the National Secretary-Treasurer was able to secure funding to hire a part-time office manager. Jan was hired in mid-October and works 10-15 hours a week. Her assistance is a welcomed addition to our fraternity.

Jan and her husband live in Fargo. She has three children, two of which attend NDSU. As a student, Jan was active in speech and debate, and her family enjoys having "round table" discussions on a variety of subjects.



SCA MEETINGS TO BE LIVELY

PKD meetings schedule for SCA will provide opportunities for the National Council to carry out fraternal business and members of the fraternity to interact and discuss issues of importance to our organization. Of particular importance is the SCA "Affiliate Organization Policy Proposal" which will be discussed by leaders of all affiliate organizations. Listed below are the meeting times for PKD:

Friday, November 17 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Menger Hotel Room #10
National Council Executive Session. This is in conjunction with the FORENSICS RECEPTION which Pi Kappa Delta co-sponsors with other forensic organizations.

Saturday, November 18 2:30-3:45 p.m. Marriott RiverCenter Room 514
This meeting time will be used if the agenda from Friday has not been completed. Working groups from the summer meeting will continue discussions.

Sunday, November 19, 1995 7:00-8:30 p.m. Marriott RiverCenter Grand Ballroom, Salon B, Level 3
General Business Meeting for all PKD sponsors and members in attendance.

SCA ACTION ITEMS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL ACTION

1. Proposal to Change Election Procedures

This action item addresses the procedures to be used at the 1997 Convention. Direct and complimentary changes to the current process were proposed and developed by Bill Hill. The implementation of this item will enable the membership to gather more information about the candidates before voting.

2. Proposal to Institute Receptions in Conjunction with Wednesday Evening Meetings

This action item provides opportunities for recognition of new PKD coaches and an event to promote fraternal associations. The justification for this action item is a good way to help integrate new educators into the profession and to acquaint seasoned educators with PKD.

Ask Dr. Forensics. . .

In the September NEWSLETTER, we previewed a new column entitled "Ask Dr. Forensics. . ." Since then, there has been an "internet" discussion among coaches and students about whether or not debate should be a "formal" activity. Here is some of the dialogue:

Comment 1: Debate is certainly a less formal activity than it used to be. I can't say that I object to getting to go to tournaments and not wear a tie. However, is the activity getting too informal? What manners are appropriate in the "postmodern" world? I find it particularly upsetting that debaters find it acceptable to angrily argue with the judge after a round. I think I will quit announcing my decisions after the round. What do you all think?

Comment 2: Manners are appropriate at all times and places. Good manners are especially appropriate. I think debaters need to dress appropriately. Dresses or professional attire, suits or sportcoats, or at least decent, clean clothes one would wear to an important event should be the norm. Sloppiness and a lack of cleanliness ought to be avoided. Debaters should clean up after themselves. Food and debris should not be put in garbage cans. It is especially bad form to leave half-full cans of pop or bottles or cups lying around where they can be spilled. Arguing with the judge about his or her decision should be forbidden. Judges work hard to give a good, fair constructive critique meaning--reinforcing good arguments and good strategies; pointing out bad arguments and strategies and commenting on how they might be improved. Judges do not need to be attached. Most judges deserve respect as they are trying to be good adjudicators (fair decision makers) and good teachers (good critics). Those two functions in 10-15 minutes after the end of the round and before going to the next are tough. I know debaters work hard and are emotionally involved. These things are no excuses for sloppiness in dress or manners or

discourtesy to one another, to opponents, to audience members, or most especially to judges.

Dr. Forensics: I think that any time a speaker addresses a judge, group, or audience, she or he should take it seriously enough to appear "at his or her best." If this means that someone wears her or his best outfit, so be it. I think there are reasonable standards. For example, a shirt and tie give one the appearance of appearing "at one's best." If the shirt is pulled out and the tie is loosened and disheveled, the impact is lessened. Finding the current "rage" of the second hand store is okay, as long as it doesn't distract from what is being said or done in the round. Being uniquely dressed is okay with me if the clothes are clean, pressed, and fit appropriately. Regarding behavior following rounds, I always say "There is a statement on the ballot that says 'in my opinion, the better debating was done by. . .'" If you did not influence my opinion in your favor, you should think about what you could have done in the round to be more effective. I never announce decisions unless commanded by the tournament director, but I do keep my notes so I can respond to coaches or teams after the fact.

Please submit your comments or questions to "Ask Dr. Forensics. . ." by the 15th of each month. Watch for our next column! Information about local chapters is also welcomed. Let's make this newsletter a way for chapters to communicate with each other!

PKD joins the Minnesota Foundation

The PKD Endowment Fund has joined the Minnesota Foundation as an affiliated organization. "The Minnesota Foundation is a statewide community foundation that develops, receives, and administers funds, largely from private sources, and manages these funds for philanthropic purposes. Assets totaled over \$23 million in 1993, primarily held in designated, restricted or donor advised funds. Minnesota Foundation is affiliated with The Saint Paul Foundation, whose assets are over \$220 million, and thus enjoys the benefit of unusual breadth of resources, experienced staff, training programs, and other sources of strength in pursuit of its mission and goals." Permanent funds are invested in a "balanced" investment strategy which seeks to earn a real total rate of return (interest and dividend income plus realized and unrealized appreciation, expressed as a percent of market value and adjusted for inflation), averaging at least 5% per annum measured over a three to five year period (i.e. full market cycle). Annual distribution amount is equal to 6% of the Fund's average market value, but not less than 5% of the Fund's average market value. Investment costs are approximately .55 of 1% of the Fund's average market value. Administrative fee is equal to .275 of 1% of the Fund's average market value.

Help Needed at U of Alabama-Birmingham

Funding for the Forensic Program at UA-Birmingham is in danger of being cut. If you wish to send a letter of support for the program, do so:

Dr. Claude Bennett, President
The U of Alabama-Birmingham
701 South 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35204
FAX (205) 975-8505

copy to:

Alyce Hartley, DOF
The U of Alabama-Birmingham
Comm Studies-1612 10th St. S.
Birmingham, AL 35294
FAX (205) 934-8916

Editor of The Forensic Seeks Materials for Publication

Steve Hunt, Editor of *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta* needs your submissions of scholarly articles, pedagogical materials, opinion pieces, and book/video/software reviews. This is your opportunity to contribute to forensic scholarship.

In a recent mailing, Dr. Hunt provided a detailed handout describing the kinds of materials being requested. If you would like a copy of this handout, contact Dr. Hunt at Dept. of Communication, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR 97219. You may call: 503-768-7617; FAX 503-768-7620; or e-mail hunt@lclark.edu.

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the MLA Handbook, 3rd ed. or APA Publication Manual, 4th ed. Deadlines for submission are: Articles for Winter 1996 issue due by December 15; Spring 1996 issue by March 15; and Summer 1996 issue by May 15.