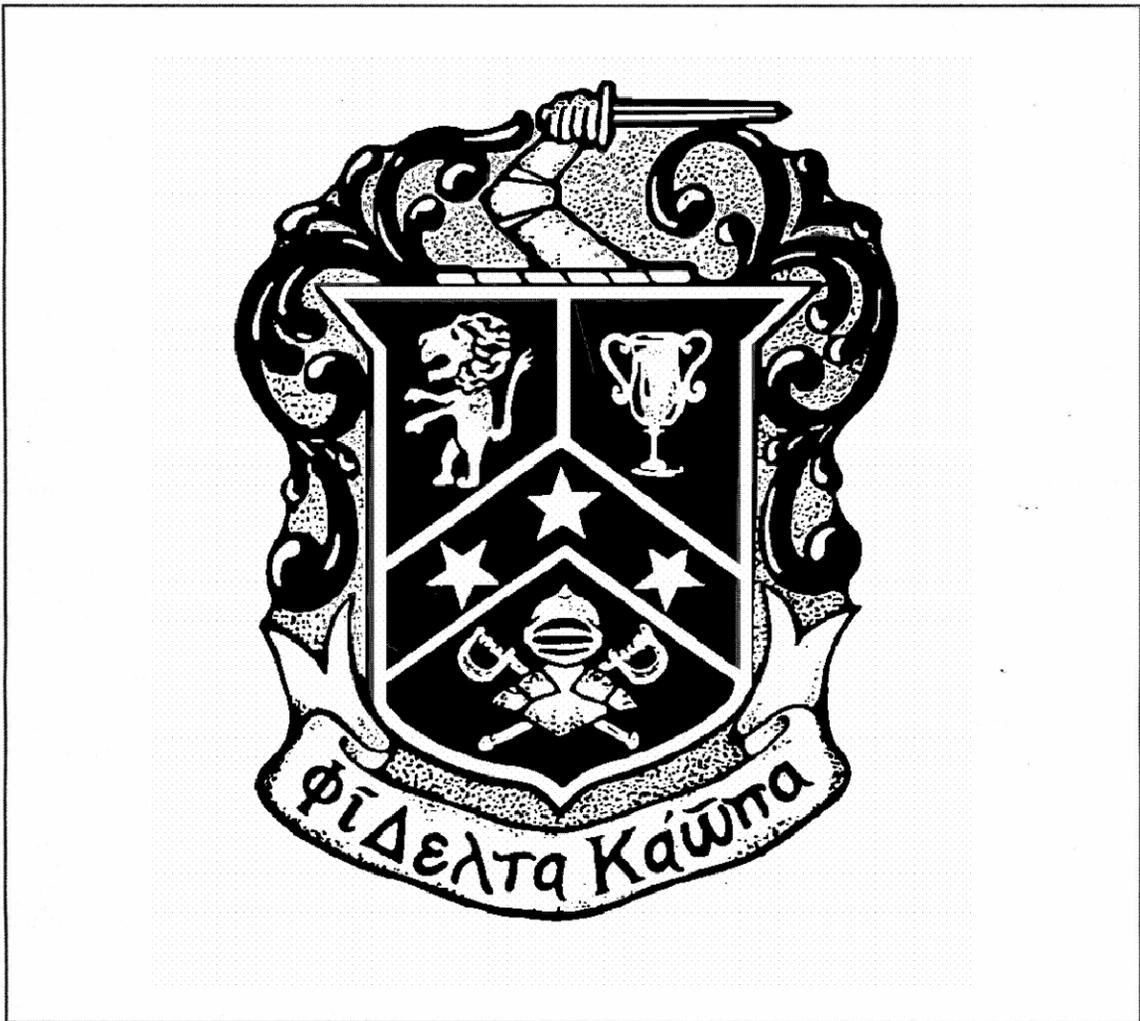


PHI DELTA KAPPA

MAGAZINE



THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE PHI DELTA KAPPA FRATERNITY, INC.



APRIL 2011

PHI DELTA KAPPA MAGAZINE

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

River Ranch

I finally made it to River Ranch! I have been trying to get down there ever since I became a Red Coat. I heard so much about the fun and the brotherhood, that every year I would put it on my calendar right after Convention. Then something always happened at the same time that prevented it. This year I made it my top priority (short of death or arrest) and everything came together. Florida Nu did a super job in putting it into action and running the event. I spent most of my time in the Hospitality Room, when I could find it. Even the meeting was held there. I say "when I could find it" because the Hospitality Room at the Raccoon Run Pavilion was located in the RV Park, and the map of the grounds I was given when I checked in did not include the RV Park. I think you had to check in with a camper in order to get that map.



Brian Nelson, his wife Candie, and I were driven to Raccoon Run Pavilion shortly after we checked in. I tried to remember the route we took, but there were an awful lot of turns. Brian rented one of the golf carts that afternoon and learned the locations of many of the features of the ranch, including Raccoon Run Pavilion. He offered to drive me to the Hospitality Room for the evening's events put on by Florida Nu. We ate, played games, and socialized Phi Delta Kappa style. I had a lengthy conversation with Big Jim Clark, a died-in-the-wool Liberal. I learned a lot from Big Jim. Liberals have changed their name to Progressives, a more appropriate title for this elite, intelligentsia. Many notable philosophers and college professors are among their ranks. Conservatives (that would be me) are narrow minded, gun toting, comic book readers who sometimes graduate from high school or, at least have a GED. We like to sit in bars with tea bags pinned to our tee shirts and talk about patriots of a dying Republic. Okay, maybe Big Jim didn't say all those things exactly like that. I may have exaggerated a little but, Big Jim, I'm only making use of my writer's privilege. I thoroughly enjoyed the back-and-forth and look forward to researching for our next talk. We conservatives have to think long and hard before we make a decision. Progressives can make things up on the spot that would convince the Pope of their veracity.

I had planned on driving my car to the pavilion the next day for the meeting. Fortunately, Jim Bates was just leaving his cabin as I was walking out the door of mine. I asked him if I could ride with him. He said he was walking, but I could walk with him if I wanted. The RV Park was just across a nearby footbridge and well within walking distance. After we crossed the bridge and walked to a fork in the path, Jim said this is where he always had a hard time remembering whether to go right or left. I chuckled to myself and wondered if this was one old codger leading another. Jim found our way after asking only one man how to get to the Laundry Room which is adjacent to the Hospitality Room. I found a new respect for Jim after I tried to find the way back to my cabin and got lost. That RV Park, and all of River Ranch, is a maze of interlocking circles. And in the RV Park there is an RV at every intersecting circle. I passed a man on a bicycle who told me how to get to that bridge. I thought I followed his directions, but ended up back in his front of his RV. He asked me, "Still lost?" After confessing my error, he had me walk beside his bicycle as he led me to the bridge.

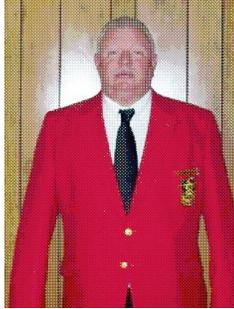
The meeting was chaired by PNP Tim Musser. They opened and closed by ritual, and Tim conducted business with aplomb and conscientiousness. The meeting ended with a better understanding of what would be discussed at National Convention. I hope to see all of you there.
God bless,

Jon Handy
National President

A THOUGHTFUL REPRINT
By Craig Brutout
National Vice President

**The Young
 Phi Delt**

By Troy L.
 Pucketi



A young man asks, "What will I receive from Phi Delta Kappa if become a member? My father was a Phi Delt, and I'd like to be, but I want to know what the Fraternity has to offer me." Phi Delta Kappa "offers" nothing. The petitioner requests; the Chapter mayor may not give. But the question is entirely legitimate; any young man sufficiently thoughtful to want to know something of the Fraternity which he expresses a desire to join is good material for a chapter, and should receive a satisfying answer.

The first gift of the Fraternity is that of standing in the community. To pass the investigation of a competent committee, and the secret ballot of a chapter, is to be stamped with the earmark of good character. Acceptance as a Phi Delt marks recognition of character by men well thought of in the community. Cicero said: "To disregard what the world thinks of us is not only arrogant, but utterly shameless." If Phi Delta Kappa makes the community think better of a man, it is worth all it may cost in time and effort. The young man who becomes a Phi Delt has the privilege of giving charity and relief to those less fortunate, in a way which is beautiful, because it is secret and unselfish. Charity is a

virtue of the heart and not of the hands.

The young Phi Delt has also the privilege of receiving charity and relief for himself, should he need it. But Phi Delta Kappa is not primarily a charity and relief association. These are incidental to her practice; as and a result of her teachings. No Phi Delt has a right to either, but he has the certainty of receiving both, should he, or those dear to him, be in need! This gift of the Fraternity makes a greater appeal to men as they grow older. To the young man, facing the world with the future stretching hopefully before him, the possibility of needing the comfort of a hand on his shoulder, a helping hand, seems remote. But he receives the precious privilege of giving to those who have traveled further on life's pathway. Gifts of Phi Delta Kappa are the opportunities she provides for services other than charity: service in friendship', service to the ill, service to brethren in trouble, service to the chapter. As all know who have lived, service to others generates the greatest happiness. He who lives to himself alone lives miserably. He who lives somewhat for others finds that peace which passed all understanding.

Our Fraternity gives to her members a liberal education in the difficult art of character building. "World activities are founded upon compensation, every sweet has its sour; every evil its good. For every grain of wit there is a grain of folly. For everything you have missed, you have gained something else; and for everything you gain, you lose some-

thing. If riches increase, they are increased who use them. If the gatherer gathers too much, nature takes out of the man what she puts into his chest; swells the estate, but kills the owner. Nature hates monopolies and exceptions. There is always some leveling circumstance that puts down the overbearing, the strong, the rich, the fortunate, substantially on the same ground with all others. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

ramifications of character. "We travel in an airplane at dizzy speeds, secure in the belief that the plane is controlled by a man of character, sober, reliable, careful, cautious, able, but we know that he could not be there unless he had demonstrated character. Business is done on credit, which is only faith in a man's word. We have faith in the character of our doctor, our lawyer, the judge in the court. Character is the foundation of our civilization. Phi Delta Kappa offers such opportunities for the development and the increase of the stature of character as can be found nowhere else in like amount.

Phi Delta Kappa offers the gift of intelligent patriotism. To the "one hundred percent American. American," first and the devil takes the hindmost," patriotism of the demagogue, but the real patriotism of genuine love of country which comes to those who genuinely try to make their country "- able. We learn to reverence the "ashes of our fathers" and the temples of our liberties and our traditions.

Phi Delta Kappa gives to her members the gentle gift of fellowship, which is quite different from

friendship. Our friends are those who love us, who know us well, perhaps as much because of our faults as in spite of them. Those with whom we fellowship we may see once only, and yet, because of our common bond, we know them as men who might become friends did opportunity offer. It is to be hoped that they feel thus of us. The spirit of fellowship in a chapter cannot elsewhere be found. "We came to the door of the chapter a stranger; when passed within we are not among strangers, but brethren. Fellowship is heaven and lack of it is hell; fellowship is life and lack of fellowship is death; and the deeds that you do upon the earth, it is for fellowship's sake that you do them.

Phi Delta Kappa stops not with fellowship. She gives the gracious gift of the most favorable opportunity to make friends which can come to any man. If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life he will soon and himself left alone. A man should keep his friendships in constant repair Samuel Johnson's philosophy might have been written of him who finds the chapter the cradle of new friendships. The initiate is vouched for by his fellows. This is a man, so the committee has said. He is worthy. He is well qualified His reputation suffers not under the tongues of his friends. He is honest, upright, of good character. Surely no happier beginning to friendship could be imagined.

The young Phi Delt who cannot find in his chapter the men who will later become the friends of his heart, surely is he unfortunate in his choice of a Fraternity. The chapter gives the gentle gift of innocent recreation to her members.

The young Phi Delt will find here a conception of "good time" quite different from that of the world without. The "good time" of a chapter smoker, banquet, picnic, ladies night, has a charm all its own, quite distinct from similar functions arranged by other societies. The camaraderie of the social hour of a chapter of Phi Deltas cannot be equaled elsewhere. The good time is not confused by the questions of "who is he?" or "what does he do?"

A great gift of Phi Delta Kappa is that of home in a strange place. The Phi Delt is never "homesick" in any town in the nation where there is a chapter. Come to any chapter a stranger and knock upon the door. If the knocker can prove he is a member, a royal welcome awaits, warming to heart, easing the pain of loneliness, comforting to him who is far from those he loves and knows. "Tis sweet to know there is an eye that will mark our coming and will look brighter when we come" Nor is this "home away from home" all sentiment. Many a Phi Delt has been stranded in a strange place, and been speeded to his destination by brotherly hands. Many a Phi Delt in a town he does not know has entered it a stranger and departed with new friends upon his list. This mystic tie is too strong for breaking, be the strain put upon it ever so great.

A young man petitions a chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, is passed by the committee, receives the favorable ballot of his fellows, and lives thereafter with the proud privilege of wearing a Phi Delt emblem, near his heart, and saying to those who ask, "I am a Phi Delta Kappa" For a little space he walks forward up the hill of life, then in after years he steps downward on the sunny side, facing the western sun. At long last the shadows fall and he steps into sunlight beyond the horizon - a Phi Delta Kappa. Just thinking it takes two things to blow down a tree - a heavy wind outside, and rot and decay within. So it is with man. The winds of adversity may cause him to bend, but if he is strong and vigorous within, he will arise and grow to new heights after the storm passes. - Sunshine Magazine

INVOLVEMENT
By Chris Parks
National SGT at Arms

Hello Brothers and Sweethearts! April is here, winter is gone and another year has passed and we still haven't come together as

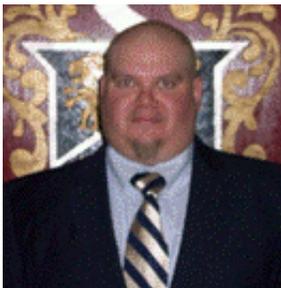


a fraternity as a whole and established a program for the Wounded Warriors, one in which as a fraternity, as a whole, we band together for one week-end and do a fundraiser in each of our prospective chapters. The time for talking about it has now come to an end, it's time for action! I charge each chapter president with this responsibility. You were chosen and

elected by your Brothers because you were perceived to be a man of vision, with the leadership skill necessary to guide your chapter into the future. so I have no doubt that you can accomplish this task. I hope that this year at the National Convention that we can add the Wounded Warriors Program to our national endeavors. As many of our Brothers are veterans and we have Brothers who are still members of our Armed Forces this would be a fitting way for us to show the respect they and the rest of our Armed Forces deserve and the debt of gratitude we owe them for the sacrifices they and their families endure so that we may go about our daily lives, safe from the tyranny abroad. For without them, Phi Deltas would not exist. At the present time a program is being devised and will be presented at the National Council for consideration. If you have any thoughts or suggestions for the program please contact me or Brother Craig Brutout.

Community Service By Jimmy Bateman National Outer Guard

As an organization, we should all take a moment for some self-reflection from time to time. How



exactly does our organization, and more specifically our chapter, look to those that who are outside of the brotherhood? From this side of the fence, we might appear

to be a group of guys who like to get together and have a good time while doing all that we can to improve our communities. To the general public, our chapter house might be looked at as little more than a haven for an occasional card game or a place where the local "characters" get together for a barbeque.

While these types of activities are great to share with our brothers, the core values of our fraternity encompass a broader set of obligations. We must ask ourselves, when others look at us, are we considered a mysterious bunch which thrives on secret meetings, or are we considered pillars of the community who strive to improve everything in which we are involved. I, for one, would like to think that we are seen in a positive light in everything that we do. Unfortunately, this might not necessarily always be the case. However, there are at least a couple of things which we can do to ensure that our organization is seen in the light which it deserves. Odds are, there are probably members in your chapter who might not always lead the charge in more traditional chapter activities, but might be able to contribute in other positive ways.

The first and foremost means of improving our public image is to engage in more activities to benefit the community. While every brother is not a master of the grill, most brothers have something that they can contribute. Many of us own property which can be a simple means of benefiting the community. How about hosting a Boy Scout campout, or a children's fishing rodeo? It might be the one

thing which you have the most passion for that can benefit us the most.

The second aspect of our community image is publicity. In the book, *Phi Delta Kappa National Fraternity: Some Thoughts About IT!*, Tony Guido discusses the merits of using the local media to further our causes. While this is still totally relevant today, we must recognize that as a society, we are more connected than ever. In our chapter lately, we are entertaining more discussions about the use of electronic media, particularly social networking, to bring greater exposure to our public facing activities. Are you aware that this is all free? All it takes is a small amount of time for a member to keep it up to date.

There are many ways in which we can help our fellow man in the face of the current economic climate. There are also many low cost means in which to get the word out about our organization. Due to these factors, if there is any reason that our organization should have a less than exemplary reputation in the community, it is solely due to our lack of effort. To paraphrase Tony Guido's words, if someone says "Phi Delta Kappa? What's that, a college fraternity?", we have nothing to blame but our own complacency. Proud to be a Phi Delt!

**MAGAZINE
BOOSTER
PLATINUM
MARY RIEKER
DAVE RIEKER
BUCK RODMAN
LOUISE RODMAN
GOLD
SILVER
BRONZE**

APRIL

By Brian Nelson

National Master of Ceremonies

Howdy brothers and sisters. I have a confession, I have sinned. And it one of the big sins, it is



envy. I went to River Ranch in February and the weather was so warm and wonderful that I was envious of you the brothers of the south for living in such a great climate. Candie and I had a great weekend meeting up with our brothers and sisters from the south. It's not very often we get a chance to visit and fellowship with them. While we were down there, Candie and I took advantage of exploring the grounds. We went on an air boat ride, and sunned at the pool. For all of you who live in Florida thank you for showing us a wonderful time and I hope you all can come up to Michigan City this year for convention so we can show you the wonders and beauties of Indiana.

Next month we will have Northern District at Kokomo May 14. If there's something in the constitution or by-laws you do not like or think we no longer need, this is the forum for it to be heard, so it can be brought up at convention in July.

**Sam Agresti
National Auditor**

Hello to all my brothers from sunny south Florida. I just got back from the annual PDK Florida state meeting at River Ranch and



it was great. National President Jon Handy and National Master of Ceremonies Brian Nelson attended the meeting Saturday morning. Also our National Sweetheart Deb Reid was there from Indiana. The meeting centered around how an outgoing president selects the person to be called an Emir. It was very good to hear input from not just members but past PNP's in attendance.

Florida has a couple events planned in March and April at Fla Nu. The annual Luau and Southern Districts will be good times for all attending. In my travels I'm seeing new membership happening and it is inspiring to see our chapters growing with new young members. I also see activities that are bringing the brothers together making the chapter a solid unit. In March, we will be at Winchester for the Spring SEC meeting and that should be fun. I sent to every chapter president the annual audit form for their chapter, so please get that back to me as soon as possible. Talking with Jon and Brian at River Ranch, it sounds like the National Convention is shaping up fine in Michigan City.

All in all PDK 2011, is making headway and let's keep it go-

ing. Chapters plan activities and bring more members into the fraternity, club officers demonstrate leadership by making things happen and meetings are well attended and our National Officers continue their role of giving advice whenever asked, so that we continue to be the best we can be. Again, it was nice to see brothers from around the state give updates on what is going on in their chapters so others might try them out. The next couple of months will be busy for me and I hope to see everybody as I travel around the country. In closing, to all the members of PDK, continue the good work. National Auditor

Sam Agresti

**Southern District Meeting
April 8th and 9th
Host Fla Nu**

**Hotel Clarion Inn,
Phone (561) 968-5000
Rate \$74.00 + tax per night**

COMING EVENTS

Apr. 8 - 9 Southern District, Florida Nu, West Palm Beach, FL
Apr. 16 Beta Eta 99th Anniversary Party, Beta Eta, Winchester, IN
Apr. 16 Poor Mans Dinner, Gamma Theta, Danville, IN
May 2 Northern Brotherhood Meeting, Zeta Eta, LaPorte, IN
May 7 Derby Party, Gamma Theta, Danville, IN
May 14 Northern District Meeting, Beta Nu, Kokomo, IN
May 28 Race Donation Rally, Gamma Theta, Danville, IN
Jul. 27 - 30 National Convention, Michigan City, IN Gamma Lambda

**Standing Events**

Every Friday, Dinner, Gamma Theta, Danville, IN
Every 2nd Friday, Bingo & Dinner, Florida Nu, West Palm Beach, FL
Every 3rd Saturday, Dinner, Beta Nu, Kokomo, IN
Every 3rd Friday, Dinner, Bunko, Florida Mu, Lake Worth, FL

Hello from Cracker Country **By David Rieker**

Hello again from cracker country. Be careful where you wear your P.D.K. shirt. You know, the one with the OAK over the pocket. The reason being, that if you're visiting a local store in your neighborhood and you're wearing one of these shirts, some customer may walk up to you and try to put you to work. It happened to me the other day at an Ace Hardware Store. Now, I'm the last person you want to start horsing around with, because I like horsing around and I horse back. I had forgotten that I was wearing one of my shirts. Anyway, this old guy, (I use the word old in the most complimentary way) came up to me and asked "where are the washers?" I just stood there staring at him for a moment when a woman (I guess it was his wife) walked up and said to him, "He doesn't work here." He replied to her, "Well, what does that say on his shirt?" she replied, "Well, it

doesn't say ace, it says O--something." Well, this chit-chat between them gave me just enough time for my sense-of-humor to kick in. So I asked them what kind of washers were they looking for, the little round kind you put screws and bolt through or the laundry-type? Because we have thousands of the little round kind and only one of the laundry type? And it's not for sale. I was just about to ask them if they knew the password to get into the store, when they both turned around and sped off. Both had a look on their faces as though I had caught on fire. Anyway, I'm kind of used to it because my wife, Mary, looks at me like that quite often.

In the last couple of weeks we, at Florida Alpha Lambda, have been favored by visits from P.N.P. Jim Cressman, Fla. Nu, P.N.P. Jim Dodd and Sandy from Beta Eta, P.N.P. Butch Marshall and Judy from Beta Eta, National Auditor, Sam Agresti from Fla Mu and National Inner Guard, Jim Bateman

and Celeste from Mississippi Alpha. I guess most of you know where these folks are from, but there are those of us who don't. Once in a while when we have visitors from other chapters I try to get them to transfer their membership to our chapter. Hasn't worked yet. Anyway, thanks for coming, y'all!

So, here's some fiction and fact from the Phi Delt almanac. A study was required to evaluate the advantage of experience. Naturally, on the face of the earth, there are no better qualified individuals than a club-house full of Phi Delt's. Our study results were; "Tried And True" and "Hindsight Is Better Than Foresight" could not be truer slogans, however we should be careful how we dictate these words around children. We expect them to be the voice and not the echo." So, be well and full of he%\$. Cracker Boy signing off. Dave Rieker.