

The Southwest District of Tau Beta Sigma



2015 Convention Minutes
Fayetteville, Arkansas

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Sessions

Joint Session 1

5:00 Friday, March 27, 2015

Verizon Ballroom

- I. Call to session
 - A. 4:55 pm
- II. Introduction of dignitaries
 - A. For a list of dignitaries, see the thing
- III. Recognition of Seniors
- IV. Recognition of life members
- V. Important announcements about various policies from Erika and Toni
- VI. Call for 2016 convention site bid packets
- VII. Announcements from the councils
 - A. Committee Chairs and Advisor meeting in Eply Band Hall
 1. Moved from Verizon
 - B. Talent show Tonight
 - C. Vendor situation
 1. online marketplace
 2. merchandise presentation
- VIII. Announcements from the hosts
- IX. Recess until Saturday at 8:00 am

Separate Session 1

5:30 Friday, March 27, 2015

Hillside Theatre

- I. Parliamentarian installation
- II. Reading of the standing rules by the parliamentarian
- III. Announcement of dignitaries by Erika Pope
 - A. See Report of the Credentials Committee
- IV. Alumni Association
 - A. Recognition of seniors
 - B. Join TBS AA if you're a graduating senior
- V. Past District Officers
- VI. "How to enjoy convention" by Erika
 - A. Be on time!
 - B. Attend Open Committees
 - C. The Southwest Chapter Quest
- VII. Spirit Awards
 - A. Tau Turtle-Most Spirited
 - B. Beta Turtle-Spirited Bigger Chapter

- C. Sigma Turtle-Spirited Smaller Chapter
- D. Tau's Book of Spirit
- VIII.SWD AA
 - A. Donnelle' is awesome!
- IX. Call for District officer candidates
 - A. Sami Belford
 - B. Ashlyn Kubacak
 - C. Kelsey Branson
- X. Call for national Officer Candidates
 - A. Dr. Katherine Gerret-Kelly
 - B. Terri White
- XI. Chair and advisor meeting in band hall
- XII. Ritual tonight
- XIII.Alumni Workshop description
 - A. Everyone from KKPsi and TBS is invited
- XIV. Announcements from Host
 - A. Official hashtag is #SWDCon2015
- XV. Chant session
- XVI. Recess until Saturday at 8:00 am

Separate Session 2
 8:00 Saturday, March 28, 2015
 Hillside Theatre

- I. Seating of the delegates
- II. Chris Foster's Robert's Rules and meeting efficiency
- III. Motion to accept minutes without reading
 - A. By Beta Omicron
 - B. Second
 - 1. Alpha Upsilon
 - C. Passes
- IV. Assigning of Committees
 - A. See Something
- V. Sami's Awards
 - A. Monthly Photo contest winners announced
 - B. Grand winner is Heather Vo and the Tau Chapter
- VI. Ashlyn's Awards
 - A. Rush Event Database
 - 1. Kelsey Branson and the Delta Chapter
- VII. Tau Beta Sigma Keynote Speaker
 - A. Lindsey Barnhill
- VIII. Words from National Council
 - A. Updates about happenings
- IX. Words from SWDAA with Katie Rixon
- X. Short break until 10:00 am

- XI. Women in Music Speaker
 - A. Mrs. Nighten is amazing
 - B. She was just made an honorary member of the national chapter
 - 1. Whoa...
- XII. Announcements
- XIII. Recess until today at 4:30

Separate Session 3
4:40 Saturday, March 28, 2015
Hillside Theatre

- I. Seating of the delegates
- II. Report of the Vice President of Membership
- III. Report of the Membership committee
 - A. Motion to accept report
 - 1. By Theta Theta
 - 2. Second
 - a) Delta Alpha
 - 3. Motion Passes
- IV. Report of the Vice President of Special Projects
- V. Report from the History and Traditions Committee
- VI. Geoff Palkvocs from the the AA speaks
- VII. Report of the Programs Committee
- VIII. Report of the Nominations committee
- IX. Move to accept the report and slate
 - A. Tau
 - B. Second
 - 1. Zeta Mu
 - C. Motion Passes
- X. Announcements from Erika
 - A. Delegates leave first
 - B. Delegates must be on time tomorrow
- XI. Announcements from the host

Joint Session 2
6:53 Saturday, March 28, 2015
Verizon Ballroom

- I. Call for bids to host 2016 convention
 - A. None
- II. Announcements
 - A. A lost phone with a mustache was found
 - B. Emergency Jurisdiction Committee meeting right after this
 - C. Sunday Funday

1. Sunrise Yoga
2. Fun Run
3. Meet at Old Main for both!
- D. Announcements from hosts
 1. Parking for banquet
 2. Photo after this session
 - a) Area has been chalked off, go stand in the chalked area
- E. Music Drive
 1. Due to lack of participation, there will be no reserved table at banquet
- F. There will be spots available for national convention trip from Texas A&M Commerce
 1. 8 spots left, going to to chapters that need their vote
- G. Erika talks about birthday lanterns

Sperate Session 4
 8:45 Sunday, March 29 2015
 Hillside Theatre

- I. Seating of the delegates
- II. Report of the Secretary/Treasurer
- III. Elections Part 1
 - A. President
 1. Nominations
 - a) Ashlyn (from slate)
 - b) Sami
 2. Speeches, and questions
 - a) Sami
 - b) Ashlyn
 3. Alpha Upsilon moves to caucus
 - a) Second by Iota
 4. Voting and counting of the vote
 - a) Announcements from President about National Convention proxies
 5. Sami is the winner!
 - B. VPM
 1. Nominations
 - a) Colin Peters (from slate)
 - b) Ashlyn Kubacak
 - c) Megan Brzymialkiewicz
 2. Nominations committee takes Magen for interview
- IV. Report of the Presedent
- V. Elections Part 2
 - A. VPM
 1. Nominations decides Megan is eligible to run
 - B. Speeches and questions
 1. Ashlyn

- 2. Megan
- 3. Colin
- C. Delta Sigma moves for 2 minute caucus
 - 1. Delta Eta seconds
 - 2. passes
- D. Voting
- VI. Report of the Spirit and sisterhood committee
 - A. Tau goes to Theta Theta
 - B. Beta goes to Gamma Tau
 - C. Sigma goes to Gamma Nu
 - D. Tau's Book of Spirit goes to Alpha
- VII. Elections Part 3
 - A. VPM
 - 1. Ashlyn Kubacak Wins!
 - B. VPSP
 - 1. Nominations
 - a) Kelsey Branson
 - b) Colin Peters
 - c) Emily Morris
 - 2. Nomination Committee takes Emily
- VIII. Report of the credentials report
- IX. Christy gives Erika a succulent
- X. Chapter Quest
 - A. Emily Shain wins
- XI. Elections Part 4
 - A. VPSP
 - 1. Nominations committee returns
 - a) Emily Morris is eligible
 - 2. Speeches and Questions
 - a) Kelsey
 - b) Colin
 - c) Emily
 - (1) Motion to extend time for two minutes Alpha Upsilon
 - (a) Second by Alpha
 - (b) Motion passes
 - 3. Motion to caucus Delta Tau
 - a) Second by Alpha Omicron
 - 4. Voting
- XII. Scrapbooks from Sami
- XIII. Elections Part 5
 - A. VPSP
 - 1. Emily Morris wins!
 - B. Sec/Treas
 - 1. Nominations
 - a) Colin (from slate)
 - b) Megan

- c) Kelsey
- 2. Speech and Questions
 - a) Colin
 - (1) Motion to extend questioning by 2 minutes
 - (a) Beta Nu
 - (b) Zeta Phi second
 - (c) Motion passes
 - b) Megan
 - c) Kelsey
 - (1) Motion to extend questioning by two minutes Gamma Phi
 - (a) Second Epsilon Eta
 - (b) Motion Fails
- 3. Alpha Omicron moves for 2 minute caucus
 - a) second Delta Tau
 - b) Motion Passes
- 4. Voting

XIV. Nicole Sanches talks a bit about NatCon

XV. Elections Part 6

A. Sec/Treas

- 1. Colin Peters wins!

XVI. 5 Minute Break While Sami shows some more scrapbook stuff

XVII. Emily got recognized for Parliamentarian

XVIII. Report from Jurisdiction and Finance Committee

A. Constitution Changes

- 1. Parliamentarian Office Description
 - a) Motion to accept the amendment by Gamma Zi
 - (1) Second Gamma Tau
 - b) Passes
- 2. Striking scrapbook from history and traditions committee charges
 - a) Motion to accept Beta Zeta
 - (1) Second Iota
 - (2) Passes
- 3. Changing wording and selection for webmaster and New ALTO
 - a) Motion to accept Theta Theta
 - (1) Second Eta Nu
 - (2) Passes
- 4. Workshop Realignment
 - a) Motion to table until next year by Delta Alpha
 - (1) Second Delta Pi
 - (2) Passes
- 5. Changes to wording of Alumni section
 - a) Motion to Accept Beta Gamma
 - (1) Second Beta
 - (2) passes
- 6. Budget
 - a) Motion to Accept Zeta Phi

- (1) Second Delta Tau
- (2) Passes
- XIX. Erika's Counselor report
 - A. It was fabulous
- XX. Installation of new officers
- XXI. Motion to adjourn Psi
 - A. Second by Delta
 - B. Passes

Joint Session 3
12:00 Sunday, March 29, 2015
Verizon Ballroom

- I. Call to order
- II. Presentation of join awards
 - A. Talent show
 - 1. best skit
 - B. Displays
- III. Recognitions
 - A. New ALTO and Webmaster
- IV. Recognition of 2015-2016 Council
 - A. TBS
 - B. KKPsi
- V. Joint Action Committee Report
 - A. Motion to accept Zeta Nu KKPsi
 - 1. Epsilon Beta TBS second
 - 2. Passes
- VI. Report of the Convention site committee
 - A. Motion to accept Delta TBS
 - 1. second Zeta Kappa KKPsi
 - B. No bids where submitted; no slate
 - C. Presentation from chairs about what to expect when hosting convention
 - D. Words from Erika and Toni about what to do when there's no bid
- VII. A special thanks to Sarah Bogue and Laura Kirkley for the hard work they've done this year
- VIII. Announcement of Workshop hosts (not binding)
- IX. Final announcements
 - A. SWDAA race to the top announcement
 - 1. TBS Winner is Iota
 - 2. KKPsi winner is Delta Delta
 - B. district day
- X. Motion to adjourn Psi TBS
 - A. Second Lambda KKPsi

Officer Reports

Report of the President

Sisters,

Let me tell you, these past 11 months have been a whirlwind. From election as SWD President to starting my career in my hometown of Houston, TX, I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to be my backbone in this transitioning time in my life. I loved every second of my time in office and I am sad to leave as this has truly been a wonderful experience. I look forward to the future of the Southwest District and all the chapters and members within it and am certain that the best will continue to come from the Southwest.

My wonderful year on the Arklahoma council started nearly right after we were elected. I talked on the phone with Erika Pope on my drive back to Oklahoma in lieu of the traditional transition meeting, and from that point forward, knew I had my work cut out for me, but also that I was going to have a lot of fun and some great experiences along the way. The entire council first met up when we all went to Little Rock for Riverfest to see Erika's band, the Big Dam Horns, open for Chicago. I think that was also the first time that Tyler and I met, strangely enough considering we were at workshops together and both went to school in Oklahoma. Also during the summer, I was able to attend District Day which was put on by the SWDAA at a Rangers game in Arlington versus the Indians. I was able to meet many brothers and sisters from the SWD and had a lot of fun! Thank you to the SWDAA for setting up that event and I look forward to attending again in the future. Later in the summer, I shipped off to Stillwater, OK to attend the District Leadership Conference; a time where all the District Presidents and Counselors meet up and have meetings to jump start the year. This year it was also in conjunction with the Wava Memorial Garden unveiling and Caboose Dedication. It was an amazing weekend that really challenged me and got me working hard in my position, and the he entire council was able to attend and sit in on the video chats within the districts as well as the memorial garden ceremony. As I was working as an intern in Houston for the summer, I was able to make my first chapter visit to the Beta Omicron chapter at Texas Southern and watch the Ocean of Soul gear up for band camp and take some pictures with Tau. After that, I really saw how crucial work/life balance was as I prepared for our annual Chapter Leadership Conference, 2 work presentations, and moving out of my house in Norman in one night. CLC happened at Texas A&M – Commerce in Commerce, Texas where the Zeta Kappa chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi and the Epsilon Beta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma reside. Thank you to Ashlyn Kubacak and Zachary Dabney for setting that event up, and to all that attended. This event was the first time we were about to meet up as joint councils for the first time, I think this is also when I realized that not only were we all going to be working together, but also that we'd all be friends, even with just seeing each other only every once in a while.

I returned back to the land of the Crimson and Cream for my final semester at the University of Oklahoma. I was not a member of the marching band which afforded me many opportunities to get to travel to other University football games (as well as attend OU home games) during the Fall semester. I got to visit the Tau chapter at University of Houston, the Theta Theta chapter at Henderson State (for their homecoming game), and the Gamma Phi chapter at Southwestern Oklahoma State during their home football games. Thank you to all of those chapters for being such gracious hosts and sharing your game days with me. It was also very nice to be able to meet some women from the Iota chapter when they came to OU and having the opportunity to

Skype into the Iota Beta's chapter meeting once during the semester. It was a great end to my last football season as a student when the entire council was able to come sit with the band during our Bedlam rivalry game versus Oklahoma State University. I graduated the very next weekend and was off...

I spent some time travelling, and in a strange happenstance, I was able to meet up with Dylan Charrin from the Kappa Kappa Psi district council and Steven Burt, the Southeast District Counselor, in Orlando, Florida. This was eye opening for me and showed me that Tau Beta Sigma goes beyond your chapter and your district and that there are literally sisters and brothers everywhere. I just missed the OU bowl game in Orlando, but was able to see the Arkansas/Texas band rehearsal and the Psi and Beta Gamma chapter members rehearsing before their bowl game down in Houston. Still in the search for a job, I travelled down to Austin, TX for an interview and during my trip I was able to visit the Eta Epsilon chapter at Texas State, the Delta Phi chapter at Texas Lutheran, the Tau chapter at the University of Houston, as well as the Beta Omicron chapter at Texas Southern. Next on the docket was Winter Council at the beautiful University of Arkansas campus. I met my best friend on that trip, Charlie Kirkley, and the joint councils woodshedded and knocked out a bunch of business that led us here today, with the help of the amazing folks in Lambda and Psi.

I decided to sow some wild oats in my break before I started my job so I attended the X Games in Aspen and then lived on an organic vegetable farm in Arkansas while going to area workshops on the weekends. I was able to attend the Arkansas Area Workshop at Henderson State, the South Texas area workshop at Texas Lutheran, the East Texas area workshop at Lamar University, the West Texas/New Mexico area workshop at Angelo State University, and the Louisiana Area Workshop at Tulane University. I had opportunities to present at 3 of the 5 that I went to and I want to thank Ashlyn Kubacak and Graham Delafield for their hard work in planning these events as well as the host chapters for putting your best foot forward in hosting. And a huge thank you to all that attended one or even multiple! It was great getting to meet new sisters and to see beautiful faces from all across the district. I also had the wonderful opportunity to go to National Headquarters with Tyler and present Steve Nelson with his bid for honorary membership to the Southwest District. It is always a great time getting a chance to chat with those folks at National HQ and getting hang out with the Alpha chapter, even if it was for uniform check in.

I started my career in Houston, TX at the beginning of March and even in this transitional time have had endless support from sisters all around, including the Houston area. I attended Alpha Omicron's 2nd degree ritual and meet up with Tau for their fundraising night and just this week spoke at Tau's Women in Music speaker event. I am eternally grateful for all of the chapters that have invited me to and allowed me to participate in their events all year.

Thanks to the amazing support of my council this year, I think we were able to get a lot done and blaze some new trails for the district. I cannot say that anything I did was without the help and support from them. We revamped the District Awards system with the addition of a rubric and the involvement of the SWDAA in choosing our winners, we worked to streamline committee work by trying to be more transparent in our operations and expectations, we visited many chapters and travelled long distances, we created many opportunities for information sharing among chapters with the start of our databases and logs, we revised our music hour to focus more on participatory activities, we excelled in the Focus on Five program for National Programs, and we made countless friends and discovered that Sisterhood crosses all boundaries and includes all walks of life.

And now, for all of my thank yous:

- o To the joint Delta chapters – thank you for supporting me while I was at the University of Oklahoma as well as when I embarked on this endeavor and for tolerating me being the awkward old person my last semester. I’m very proud of the chapter I came from and will always be a “Delta Doll”. Thank you for providing me the experience to operate and excel on this level and for being my favorite place to come home to for some hang out time at New York Pizza or some cheese fries at the Mont.
- o To the Psi/Lambda chapters especially Sarah – Woo Pig. Thank you all for all of the hard work you put into preparing for convention, for more than a year now, and for working tirelessly to ensure everything gets done, and everything gets done right, even if that caused speedbumps. I could not have asked for better host chapters and a better convention chair to work with.
- o To everyone who participated in this convention: chairs, advisers, presenters, conductors – I hope you all are able to see that you have added significant value to this organization and this district. Like I’ve said before, this convention would not be a convention, but rather just a hangout, if it weren’t for you. Thank you for taking the time to travel up here and choosing to help. I hope you all had a great experience at the University of Arkansas.
- o To Lindsay Barnhill, Emily Gulick, Nichele Rios, Luke Kennedy, Brielle Johnson, Heather McGowan, Geoff Palkovics, and Katie Rixon – thank you for playing a role in convention whether it was as Keynote speaker, District Parliamentarian, a conductor during separate session, a conductor during banquet, or a SWDAA pop-in speaker, it was much appreciated and I am very grateful for you all!
- o To the National Council, Board of Trustees, TBSAA/SWDAA, and National Headquarters staff – Thank you for your continued commitment to our organizations and constantly working to maintain the sorority and help the students within it. For those of you I have had the pleasure to work with at DLC, via the internet or video chat, in person, or over text or email, I appreciate your support and advice. I look up to each and every one of you and hope to remain in contact as I move from this position.
- o To the KKPsi council – Brandon, Graham, Dylan, Austin and Eric. Ya’ll are my homies. Thanks for always making me laugh and listening to me talk when I probably didn’t need to. I’m thankful to have had the chance to work with you and look forward to hanging out forever.
 - Brandon – It has been a wild ride from DLC and through these endless hours of convention planning. I may not miss your unannounced phone calls and email bombs that much, but I will miss all the laughs and good times we’ve had and working with you. Congratulations on your new job as a band director, and I can’t wait to see you at National Convention.
 - Graham – Thank you for being my roommate for the past 2 years and for being the best listener and human ever. I have the utmost respect for you and know you will do great things in anything and everything you will do.

There are many things I will miss about living with you, definitely the sharing of a bathroom and Hawaiian rolls, but I know I will definitely miss train fruit the most.

- Dylan – I knew when we met up this past summer, and then again in Orlando, that we'd be friends. H-Town kids for life. Thanks for hanging out with me in Houston and being a great road trip buddy. I'm thankful to have met you through this time in office and I love the attitude you have adopted...Go Coogs.
- o To my Arklahoma/CASTE council – I could speak for days on my love and respect for all of you. I think that this group has been the first in my life that where I haven't felt like there was a weak link, not once. You all constantly worked hard and put so much effort and heart into everything you did. You came up with new, innovative ideas and saw them through to the end. You took initiative and no one was ever scared to step up if needed. If I was to describe my perfect team to work with, you all would be it. Literally perfect. Your love for this organization and for those within it astounds me and you all are some of the best Sisters to have come through my life. I'm very thankful that our paths in Tau Beta Sigma crossed and I look forward to them never uncrossing.
 - Ashlyn – You seriously always have the right thing to say. You were so supportive and willing to do whatever needed to be done, even under a ton of pressure and with all the things already on your plate. Thank you for working so hard getting CLC and area workshops done and for being the ultimate Membership Educator to all of the district Membership Educators. I can't wait to see what amazing things you'll do in this organization and in life.
 - Sami – I have always been impressed by you from when you gave the keynote speech to being the only one from Psi at National Convention and rooming with me to all the work you've done this year and beyond. I'm thankful to have gotten to know you as a sister and as a friend. Your dedication is inspirational and my hope is that everyone in this organization gets a chance to work with you and meet you so they can see what I'm talking about. Keep on keepin on and keep in touch!
 - Tyler – I don't know how we didn't really ever meet until we drove together to Little Rock, but I am glad we finally did. Snap chat, good food, and our Oklahoma-ness connected us, and I hope to remain connected as are lives move in different directions. Thank you for working so hard on fundraising and working with me to shake up some things in the realm of committee work. Your work and attention to detail constantly impressed me, along with your stories about Taiwan and life and times in Weatherford. I wish you well on your journey into the real world and look forward to seeing what you do next!
 - Erika –I wouldn't have been able to do this job successfully if it wasn't for you. Thank you for answering my countless questions and for helping me grow as a leader and Sister. Thank you for really taking ownership of your position and of us as a council; your support in our lives as well as in our

positions speaks to what a great person you are. Thank you for putting so much time and effort and thought and love into this organization and for always putting others before yourself. You are a stand out Sister and revered by many, including me. I look forward to what the future holds for you, in Tau Beta Sigma and in life. I can see you doing nothing but great things.

- o To everyone who I've met in this organization that has not been aforementioned – you have all had a hand in my time not only as District Officer, but also as a Sister in Tau Beta Sigma. I am thankful for each and every one of my Sisters and Brothers and would not trade this time or those relationships for the world. Thank you for making me feel like I could be myself and for always being there. See you all at National Convention!

I am forever grateful to the Southwest District for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity and for my sisters and brothers all around the District and the Nation for supporting me and continuously encouraging me with the hard work that you all constantly do. For all of the things that I was given the opportunity to do, I would be remiss to not mention all that you all have given to me. Love, support, encouragement, hard work, embodiment of our values, and true Sisterhood. You all have all my love, always and forever.

In the words of Merritt Wever during her Emmy speech for Nurse Jackie...Thank you so much! Um. I gotta go, bye.

It was an honor to be selected to serve,
Respectfully submitted,

Christy McKinney
SWD President 2014-2015

Report of the Vice Present of Membership

Sisters and Brothers of the Southwest District,

I cannot believe it has been a year since I was elected as your Southwest District Vice President of Membership. Within this year I have met so many incredible brothers and sisters, and the time has truly flown by. Each day I am grateful and humbled by the fact that you elected me to this position. I am honored to have been chosen to serve the Southwest District at this capacity.

After being elected in Waco, TX, last year, it was an absolute joy getting to know my fellow council members. We had our council retreat in Little Rock, AR, and I hosted Christy and Tyler at my home. It was a blast showing you both the sights around Little Rock, and we all got to hear Erika play with the Big Dam Horns at Riverfest. After that, we planned our trip to Stillwater, Oklahoma, for the Wava Memorial Garden Dedication. This was my first official event to attend as a district officer, and I could not have been more excited. It was an inspiring experience listening to many sisters and brothers speak about Wava and the impact she had on not only their personal lives, but the on the future of this organization.

The next weekend was Chapter Leadership Conference Day. Thank you to the chapters at Texas A&M Commerce, the Epsilon Beta and Zeta Kappa chapters, for being such gracious and welcoming hosts. It was a joy getting to know each of you. Thank you to the District Council members for your advice and wisdom when planning this event. Thank you to all of workshop presenters for making Chapter Leadership Conference 2014 a success.

As school started in the fall, it was time to start planning for the year. I created a Membership Educator's Facebook Group and added all of the membership educators from around the Southwest District. This became our open line of digital communication. Educators posted on the group asking questions and seeking advice from other educators. The group was a great way for membership educators to seek out, meet, and learn from other chapters. Throughout the year I hosted a couple of Membership Educator Chats. The educators would RSVP to an event, and when the time came, those sisters who RSVPd were included in a group Facebook chat thread. Within this message thread, educators could post questions and ask for advice, and in return, the members in attendance would answer with their own opinions and personal experiences. These Educator Chats were a great platform to share ideas between chapters, as well as distribute pertinent district information. Thank you to each membership educator who participated in the chats. Your ideas and advice were well received, and the district will benefit from your involvement.

Throughout the year, I also sent emails and information to each Membership Educator individually. These emails contained important district announcements and information about upcoming events. I also included information about a new project I was starting this year, the Rush Event Database. This database will be used a resource to all future membership educators and chapter event coordinators. Membership Educators were encouraged to send information and details regarding rush events and informationals that take place at their chapters. These events were then organized into categories and placed on the Southwest District website under the Resources tab for everyone to view. I will say, every chapter who sent in events did an ice cream social for interested candidates! I think we found our official Southwest District Rush Event. Thank you to the chapters who sent in submissions, Alpha, Delta, Iota, Psi, Beta Zeta, Delta Eta, and Eta Nu. Also, a huge thank you to Stephen Miller, our Southwest District Webmaster, who was able to publish the database and display the information on the District website.

In the fall I had the opportunity to visit several chapters around the district. Thank you to the Beta Nu chapter at Arkansas Tech University for inviting me to your second degree ceremony. Cracker Barrel afterward was a treat, and I loved getting to know each of you more personally. Over my fall break, I had the opportunity to visit the Gamma Tau chapter at the University of Central Arkansas. It was great listening to your chapter meeting, and I had a blast playing the sisterhood games at the end. After visiting Gamma Tau, the next day I was able to travel to Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and visit the Theta Theta chapter at Henderson State University. Thank

you for getting dinner with me and letting me sit in on your chapter meeting. I enjoyed getting to know the Theta Theta sisters on a more personal level.

Later in the semester, I had the opportunity to go to Norman, Oklahoma, for the Bedlam Game with the other members of the district council! A huge thank you to Christy and friends for being gracious hosts and showing us the fun places to eat and hang out around Norman. Thank you to the Pride of Oklahoma Band program for allowing us to join them for the game. Afterward, the council was able to join the Alpha and Delta chapters on the OU field for singing and pictures. It was a truly memorable experience.

This year was the first year the Vice President of Membership was charged with planning workshops. Workshop planning started in the early fall semester and continued through the end of workshop season. It was a blast getting to plan each of the workshops with the host chapters. Together, the Kappa Kappa Psi Vice President and I contacted all of the host chapters and helped them through the planning process. The host chapters were wonderful and gracious hosts, and I could not have asked for a better group of brothers and sisters to work with.

Thank you to the Theta Theta and Theta Phi chapters for kicking off our workshop season. After Arkansas Area was South Texas and North Texas Area Workshops. Thank you the Gamma Nu and Delta Sigma chapters for hosting the North Texas Area Workshop at the University of Texas at Arlington. Thank you to our South Texas Area Workshop hosts, the Delta Phi and Zeta Gamma chapters.

The weekend of the South Texas Area Workshop turned into my Texas Adventure. On my way to South Texas Area, I had dinner with the sisters of the Iota chapter at Baylor University. It was great getting to spend time with such a fun group of sisters. Thank you to Nichele Rios, the Delta Phi president, for allowing me to stay at her home before the workshop. After the workshop, I traveled to Kingsville, TX, and met up with the Delta Eta chapter. It was a blast getting to know each of you on a more personal level. Dinner and brunch was great, and I will never forget my time in Kingsville. After leaving Kingsville, I headed toward Tarleton State University to meet up with the Eta Nu chapter. Thank you for inviting me to your second degree ceremony; it was a beautiful experience. And finally, a huge thank you to Sarah Bogue, a sister from the Psi chapter, for traveling with me. Those 36 hours in the car would not have been possible without you!

After the South Texas Workshop and Texas Adventure, it was time for the East Texas Area Workshop. Thank you to our workshop hosts, the Alpha Upsilon and Gamma Zeta. It was fun getting to explore the Lamar campus and the restaurants around town. The next weekend was the Oklahoma Area Workshop and the New Mexico/West TX Area Workshop. Thank you to the Delta Tau and Epsilon Kappa chapters for putting on a great workshop at Angelo State University. Thank you also to the Mu Mu chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi for being great workshop hosts for the Oklahoma Area Workshop event. Our final workshop of the season was Louisiana

Area Workshop at Tulane University. Thank you to the Rho chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi for planning a fun event.

This workshop season would not have been a success without the help of everyone involved. Once again, thank you to ALL of the host chapters. Your hard work throughout this planning process has not gone unnoticed, and I hope to have the chance to work with you all in the futures. To everyone who presented at the workshops, thank you for being flexible and providing a fun, yet educational, opportunity for brothers and sisters to network and learn from each other. To the District Council members of Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi, thank you for taking time out of your busy school schedules to attend multiple workshops and spread district announcements and information.

Alongside the workshop planning, work was being done in preparation for Southwest District Convention. This truly kicked off at our Winter Council meeting which took place in Fayetteville, AR. Thank you to our host chapters' district chairs for giving us insight into your planning for convention. Winter Council was a great time to really get to know each of the council members, and I enjoyed every minute of the experience. It was a fun, productive weekend.

As convention approached, my main task was to plan for the rituals that would take place during convention. Thank you to the Tau Beta Sigma district council for their ideas and advice, as well as the Psi and Delta chapters for allowing us to use your ritual supplies for the weekend. It was truly an honor planning such a memorable event. Thank you to our newest honorary members of the Southwest District, and I hope the experience was memorable and special for you as well. We are honored to call each of you sisters in the bond.

Now, I know I've been thanking people throughout this report, but I have a few more individuals to thank...

To the Psi chapter, thank you for everything. Your continued support and encouragement has meant the world to me, and I am so lucky to have such an amazing group of sisters. This chapter has truly become my home, and I am excited to spend one last year with you as an active member.

To the Lambda chapter, thank you for showing me what brotherhood means. I have loved getting to know each of you, and I am proud to call you all brothers. Thank you for your continued support.

To my roommate and best friend, Ashley McKinley, THANK YOU! Our times throughout this sorority are the memories I will never forget. This past year, anytime I was confused or didn't know what to do, you were the voice of reason. Thank you for keeping me grounded!

To Graham Delafield of the Kappa Kappa Psi District Council, thank you for being such an amazing brother. This year would not have been possible without your help. I'm so blessed to have such a fantastic counterpart and friend. Thank you for everything. To the entire Kappa

Kappa Psi District Council, you guys always know how to have fun and make me laugh. Thank you for working together with us to elevate the Southwest District to new heights.

To Christy McKinney, our fearless leader – You are hilarious, unique, and always know exactly what to say. After our fun Little Rock retreat, I have stopped using so many plastic water bottles. Thank you for educating us about the dangers of plastic bottles and encouraging us ALL to recycle. It was fun traveling with you throughout the district, and I know you're going to be successful throughout your life.

To Tyler Gorshing – I still remember meeting you at the 2014 Oklahoma Area Workshop. It was so much fun talking with you and learning about your experiences in our organization. I also remember at Arkansas Area in Jonesboro when we both revealed to each other that we're running for the same district office. I remember thinking, "Oh no! He's running?!?! Who do I vote for?!?!" I am so happy that it worked out for us to be on council together. I knew this year was going to be fantastic after our fun day at Six Flags after Chapter Leadership Conference. I couldn't imagine going through this year with anyone else. You are always a source of laughter during our council meetings, and I will miss seeing your beautiful face at least once a month. I will always, always, always, cherish our memories.

To Sami Belford – Where do I even begin? I don't know what I would do without you by my side at the University of Arkansas. We have been through everything together, through thick and thin. I am so happy to call you a sister. This past year our friendship went to a new level, and I am so thankful that we can share the same experiences. You always know exactly what to say, and you're never afraid to give me your honest opinion. Thank you for being not only a great friend, but an amazing sister.

Lastly, to Erika Pope – You have always been someone I looked up to in this organization. I still remember my freshmen year when you came to our initiation. I was freaking out because THE Erika Pope was going to be there! I'm pretty sure I was so nervous that I didn't even introduce myself. Now, I am so thankful that I have gotten to know you better. Thank you for always being supportive and offering guiding advice and insight to our endeavors. You are an inspiration to this organization, and the Southwest District is definitely changed for the better because of you and your passion for service and music. Thank you for everything.

To the entire Southwest District, thank you for listening to my report. I am so happy to have all of you as sisters in the bond. I hope to meet even more of you in the years to come. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Southwest District Vice President of Membership for the 2014 – 2015 year.

Respectfully Submitted In the Bond,

Ashlyn Kubacak

Tau Beta Sigma – Psi Chapter

Southwest District Vice President of Membership

2014 - 2015

Report of the Vice President of Special Projects

Dear Sisters of the Southwest,

My time on council has been truly amazing. I have been so gratified working with such dedicated, hardworking sisters across the district. My love for this organization has grown and been reassured time and time again.

Looking back over my goals I originally set from last year, I proudly can say I achieved each of the things I set out to do.

Promoting National Programs became much easier with the help of Jonathan Markowski's Focus on Five program. It is so exciting watching chapters participate in our National Programs on such a wide scale like we did this year. So thank you all so much for jumping in on that campaign and really making it such a success.

Next, creating a resource for the district, through the blog and I'm proud of all of the posts we put up on that as a council. Things from membership, to chapter operations, to how to guides on several different topics. And I hope it continues to be useful in the future.

Some of the other projects include the monthly themes, the district scrapbook, and the New Alto, all which were great projects and I was so excited to work on each of them. One of my favorite goals that I achieved was visiting chapters. My Great North Texas Adventure was exhilarating. Seven chapters, three days, two sisters, and one amazing road trip. Huge thank yous to Beta Delta, Gamma Nu, Eta Nu, Delta Upsilon, Iota, Beta Zeta, Epsilon Beta, Hannah Hoffman of Iota and Kat Howell for visiting with me and for putting me up for that weekend. An even bigger thank you to my driving buddy, beloved sister and friend who went with me, Shelby Plichta. Also I'm sorry we dented your car that weekend. I also got the great pleasure of seeing the Alpha and Delta chapters when our council went to Bedlam in December and of attending second degree for Beta Nu.

Speaking of the council, I am thoroughly grateful for the members on council I got to work with. We were able to bond as a council really quickly. Unlike many other councils, we had several chances to hang out with all of us during the fall semester. Riverfest in Little Rock to see Erika rock out a great performance with Big Dam Horns, putting on Chapter Leadership Conference at Texas A&M Commerce, Bedlam in December, and Winter Council where everyone came here and we made pasta in my kitchen and had a meeting by the light of glow sticks.

Each of you has meant so much to me. I am so grateful for the time we've gotten to spend together.

Now for the thank yous.

To the VPSPs, VPSP equivalents, Historians, and every other sister I've interacted with in the district this year: thank you for trusting me and thank you for participating. The joy that comes from coming up with an idea, carrying out the idea, and watching other people participate in this program is beyond words, so thank you for giving me such joy throughout the year.

To the Psi Chapter: you have molded me, formed me, grown me, and learned me into who I am today. The experiences you all have given me meant so much to me. I want to thank each of my littles, Natalie, Blake, and Hannah, for putting up, and often joining in, with my craziness and being so beautiful! To the sisters who have traveled with me on countless road trips, you have quite literally kept me alive so I am forever grateful. To the chapter has a whole, past and present, thank you each one of you for supporting me in all of my endeavors and giving me such a wonderful experience in my first three years in Tau Beta Sigma.

To my parents, Chris Kinnison, and Brielle Johnson: you have been my backbone, my support, my unwavering, unconditional loving supporters. I most truly would not be where I am, as confident and poised as I so often seem without you. Thank you for dealing with the meltdowns, the late night panics, the random stress relieving dance breaks, and loving me so unendingly. You're too much for me, I don't know what I did to deserve such great supports from my two soul mates and my amazing parents.

To Tyler: You are so fun and productive at the same time! It has been so cool watching you flawlessly handle yourself as you navigate different challenges throughout the year. You are such a good friend and care so deeply for those around you. Thank you for making a difference. And I know you'll remember that I'll love you always, always, always.

To Christy: You are such a great leader and I have absolutely loved working with you this year. The cool manner you maintain in all things that you do is something I envy greatly. I have looked up to you all throughout the year and I'm so excited that you have a big girl job and are taking on the world, but I'm also sad that I won't get to work with you like I have this year. I'll miss you terribly.

To Ashlyn: Ashlyn. You have been such a solid rock for me this year. Since I was a wee freshmen, I have looked up to you and I'm so glad that our relationship has elevated to a whole new level this year and I am so excited that we both have one more year of college to take on the world side by side. Thank you for being such a life changing influence for everyone you come into contact with. I love you dearly.

To Erika: You have been one of the most influential people in my life. You believed in me when I was still so early on in my personal TBS history. You have championed me and so many others to do such great things. The part you play in the good that is done is so instrumental. I don't know if you realize just how much of a difference you have made for me, for every district officer from the past 5 years, for everyone here in the Southwest and across the nation. You are the real MVP, Ms. Erika Pope. No one else. You literally are BAE, before anyone else. Thank you so much.

As I wrap up my report and my year as the Vice President of Special Projects for the Southwest District of Tau Beta Sigma, I wish to remind each of you to remember the reason you joined. What lit the fire inside of you that pushed you to keep fighting for what you believe in? Take that and use it to motivate you, motivate you to have fortitude and courage, to see the many beautiful ideals of this organization and to follow them wherever they may lead you in Tau Beta Sigma and beyond.

Respectfully submitted with much love,

Sami Belford, 2014-2015 VP of Special Projects

Psi Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma

Report of the Secretary/Treasurer

To my beautiful sisters of the Southwest District,

I'm sure many of you know what's coming. This report will be full of what I've done this year, but it will also be full of some of the most fond memories of my life to date, but I'll save the fun for the end and jump right into the boring stuff.

When I was elected (after many runoffs), I had no clue what a secretary or a treasurer did, but there I was, the newly elected sec/treas of the Southwest District. I had to figure out my office, and I had to figure it out quickly, but luckily I had an incredibly supportive council and councilor.

As soon as I was made an officer, I was busy with requisition forms. These are a never ending task of the Secretary/Treasurer, and I grew quite fond of helping the rest of the council get their reimbursements. The first real job I had in the office was to update the constitution with everything that was passed at the 2014 convention. With this, I also reformatted the constitution, and hopefully made it a little easier to read.

The summer of 2014 had DLC where I met our national officers, but more importantly, I had a meeting with Amy Dauphinais, the National Vice President for Communication and Recognition, and Jefferson Vlasnik, the Midwest District Secretary/Treasurer. This is where we talked about what it means to be a district sec/treas and we discussed our goals for the office. I learned an awful lot that day.

As the summer came to an end, it was time to prepare for CLC. CLC was my first time to be in front of the district as an officer, and it was a great opportunity to sit with a few of the other treasurers in the district to discuss budgets, fundraisers, and resources available to help them succeed. The ending of the summer brought about the fall semester with our monthly council meetings where we discussed our 'Chapter Draft', reports, planning various events, blog posts, trips we've taken throughout the district, and other business things. Because I was the secretary, I was tasked with taking minutes at these meetings, but I loved being a part of every meeting. It was a time to see the rest of the council and to be immersed in the wonderful world of Tau Beta Sigma.

The following semester was much busier. It started with the annual winter council meeting at our convention site. The meetings at winter council were long, but they were incredibly important because without them, this convention wouldn't be happening.

We discussed plans and schedules, toured campus, met with the host chapters, and made many important decisions that had a huge impact on what is happening this weekend. A lot was accomplished, but there was still a lot to do.

From Winter Council, there were two weeks to the beginning of the workshop season with the Arkansas Area Workshop. The workshops I attended (Arkansas Area and North Texas Area) were incredibly educational, and it was an opportunity to meet other sisters and chapters of the Southwest District. The workshops also saw the debut of the District's T-shirt for national convention. This came from a design contest that Dylan Charrin, the Kappa Kappa Psi Secretary/Treasurer, and I put together throughout the year. This contest was won by Olivia Belsher from Delta Upsilon with the outstanding design that I am wearing right now.

As district convention drew ever nearer, the number of things to do increased and my free time was taken up by budget writing, delegate packet stuffing, and general convention planning. This effect was only intensified when the news of the University of Arkansas's policy on third party vendors became known. With no vendors allowed at convention, it was a mad dash to mitigate the obstacle this posed to many chapters. The solution I worked on was actually something I had been doing research into all year.

The online marketplace was an idea discussed at DLC when Jefferson Vlasnik, Amy Dauphinais, and I had our meeting about the goals of our offices, and during my year I spent many hours researching the details of the marketplace. Toward the end of workshop season, I had formed an idea of how it was to work, but I decided to leave the implementation to the next secretary/treasurer. Unfortunately, this was not the case, and as soon as the vendors at convention were shut down, Stephen, the district webmaster, and I worked hard on getting a very basic form of the marketplace available. I am happy to say its launch has been a success, and it is now up and running.

The weeks up to convention also saw our monthly meetings turn into weekly meeting as planning intensified. This was the time I wrote a new budget to propose, assembled delegate packets, and organized other paper work of this weekend. Yes, I've been incredibly busy, but I've loved every bit of it.

I don't think I can relate to everyone here how amazing this council has been. I have been working with some of the most competent people I have met in my entire life, and just being around them has taught me many great lessons. I will forever hold myself to a higher standard just because being around such an amazing group of people has motivated me to elevate my personal expectations.

As this year comes to an end, I can only look back fondly at what I've learned: The Big Dam Horns is one of the best bands in the country; when taking a boat through a canal system, it's important to stay at the end of the pier; while riding a roller coaster, your glasses will fly off, and Six Flags will not find them; Six Flags is even more exciting when you can't see anything; middle spoon is best spoon; Alpha Out-a-control-micron really is out of control; when eating with the Delta's executive council, it's best not to dump nachos all over yourself; arguing over plush turtles is the best; no matter how hard Delta Alpha tries, white boys can't stomp; Christy is weird, y'all; Ashlyn and I have the same taste in music—except for her undying love of heavy metal; Sami will always always always...; Erika is the best boo I will ever have; my sisters from all around the district are amazing; and no matter where you go in this awesome district, the bond we share as sisters will never die.

Let's get my thank-you's out of the way. There are several, so I'll make them quick. First, I need to thank the rest of the council. Christy has been such an excellent president, and it has been a true honor working under her leadership. Thank you Christy. Ashlyn has been the best Vice President of Membership I have ever worked with (and I'm not just saying that). Her diligent work has set a precedence of excellence in my time on council. Thank you Ashlyn. Sami, my love, has been the source of energy and excitement for the council. She has never been afraid to make any situation more awesome. Thank you Sami. Erika has been my guide for my time on council. She has never failed to answer any of my countless questions, help me in any situation, or give her time to discuss what ever happens to pop into my head at the time. Thank you Erika.

These four people, Christy, Ashlyn, Sami, and Erika, have become some of my closest friends, and are now some of the most important people in my life. They have all been incredibly good at

their job—seriously, I don't think I can relate to anyone how good they've been at their office this past year—and I will always consider them some of the best friends in my life.

Thank you to the Psi chapter for hosting convention this year. Thank you to the Delta, Beta Gamma, Alpha Omicron, and Delta Alpha Chapters for your amazing hospitality. Thank you to the OU marching band for letting me experience my first large university football game. Thank you to Dylan Charrin for working so hard as my counterpart on the Kappa Kappa Psi Council. Thank you to Graham Delafield for driving me hundreds of miles around the district. Thank you to Kat Howell and Donnelle' Mitchell for giving such amazing support. Thank you to Katie Langley for motivating me to be this involved in Tau Beta Sigma from the very start. Thank you to the Gamma Phi Chapter for being a home during my time in Tau Beta Sigma. And thank you to my beautiful sister (who is also a sister) Millie because she's just such an amazing person.

I hope everyone here has an experience as incredible as mine in this great organization. My time here has been wonderful. I'm sad to leave not only the office I now hold, but also the organization as an active member, but even though I graduate this May, I will always be involved in Tau Beta Sigma.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Gorshing

Tau Beta Sigma Southwest District

Secretary/Treasurer

Report of the District Councilor

Greetings Southwest,

It's so great to be back with you all again, my sisters of the Southwest District! I'm doing things a little different this year at one point during this report, in that it's going to be an interactive, crowd participation kind of Counselor Report. I'll let you know when. First, there are the things that I did this year including:

- Fellowshipping with our sisters and brother from around the nation in Stillwater, OK at the 2014 District Leadership Conference, that wrapped up with the unveiling of the Wava Memorial Gardens and the dedication of the Kappa Kappa Psi's History Train Caboose.
- Out in the real world, I uprooted my life in Central Arkansas and moved to the southern part of Texas, by way of College Station, for a new job as a Membership Development Executive for the Girl Scouts of Central Texas.
- Back in the TBΣ world, I had a great time watching you, the students in action at the 2014 SWD Chapter Leadership Conference hosted at Texas A&M University – Commerce.

- I continued to work with many of you on your MEPs (and it should be noted that by the time the new school year begins, all 36 Chapters and 1 colony WILL HAVE AN APPROVED MEP).
- I know I pushed and prodded you all a little harder to complete your annual reports on time and I'm pleased to say that we were the closest we've ever been to 100% with our Chapter Personnel Report, in that we had 34/36 chapters on time!
- I managed to continue my many travels around the District by visiting 10 different chapters, as well as the Epsilon Psi Colony from Prairie View A&M
- Winter Council Meeting in January with the convention hosts and the council was a blessing, in that we were able to see the hard work being put in by both groups to pull off the convention that you have experienced this weekend.
- I FINALLY got to attend Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) in San Antonio and the TBΣ/KKΨ Sing was absolutely the highlight of the day I spent there, as I had a chance to see some of you in action leading our fellow sisters and brothers in song.
- Area workshop season pulled into the station and I was able to attend 5 of those (Arkansas, South Texas, East Texas, WTX/NM and LA), they were so fun and informative and I had a blast meeting new sisters and my favorite part, meeting soon to be new sisters.

Now...I know this report is really supposed to be about what I did this year, but I'd much rather spend some time talking about what you've done. Keep in mind; this is not an all encompassing list of chapters that are making great things happen in our sorority, because many of you are doing great things. But here are just a few mentionable chapters:

- a) The Tau Chapter did what every chapter should be doing every so often and that is, they took an extreme amount of time to get not only their MEP up to a standard that can be approved and passed down, but they did quite the overhaul of their Constitution to make sure that they were in compliance with National policies and current practices. In the long run, they are setting up their chapter for great success in looking towards the future.
- b) The Zeta Phi Chapter, under the leadership of their President Ashley Green made tremendous strides to get all of their paperwork in on time during this entire school year. This is truly a commendable effort, in that this was one of our chapters that was on the verge of being placed on operational probation due to an abundance of late or missing pieces of paperwork from the year before. Well done, Zeta Phi for doing your best to improve upon this operation!
- c) The Beta Nu Chapter have been at the forefront of success as a chapter this year and this is a great mention because after an entire year of a campus mandated suspension, that also required the national organization to suspend them as well, they easily could have folded under pressure or came back with no drive at all, but instead they made the necessary changes and have slipped right back into excellence, completing all of the Focus on 5 elements, initiating their first ever male member of the chapter and being eager to get out and fellowship with their sisters and brothers around the district. They

are a chapter to watch for the future and one in which other chapters can really learn a lot from!

And now to the Thank You's:

- To the Chapters that have invited me onto your campuses and into your band lives this year:
 - i) Alpha Omicron Chapter @ SHSU (Specifically thank you so much for making me feel at home, when I was my most home sick in transitioning to life in Texas!)
 - ii) Tau Chapter @ U of H
 - iii) Delta Eta Chapter @ Tx A&M Kingsville (It was such a great privilege to see our National President walk in with her entourage, aka as her alma mater's marching band).
 - iv) Theta Theta Chapter @ HSU (It's always nice to come home!)
 - v) Beta Delta Chapter @ TCU
 - vi) Iota Chapter @ Baylor
 - vii) Iota Beta Chapter @ ETBU
 - viii) Delta Chapter @ OU
 - ix) Delta Alpha Chapter @ Langston
 - x) Beta Nu Chapter @ Arkansas Tech
- **SWDAA** (Katie, Donnelle', Kathy, Crystal and all the supporting members) - The work that you have done for our students this year has been so great. You've truly been the best examples of life after being an active can go on in TBΣ!
- **National Headquarters Staff** (Aaron, Di, Debbie, Yvonne, Andy, Chris and now Steve)- We would not be anything without you, you literally keep us going and I am in awe of the work you are able to do to keep a combined 300+ chapters. I think you all might be magic.
- **The Counselor Team** (Trudy, Adrienne, Wendy, Stephen, Lee, Anthony, Meghan and now Leslie) – This is the greatest team to be a part of! Only a handful of people will ever know what it's like to be in a position such as this and I know how lucky I am to have the chance to do this and that I've had all of you to sit in the passenger seat next to me on the speeding train that is the TBΣ student.
- **The National Council** (Nicole, Kathryn, Jonathan, Amy, Adrienne and Beth) – Thank you for allowing me the chance to continue to do something that I love, by being the SWD Counselor.

- **Dollie O'Neill**- I think we should just call you the National Cheerleader of Tau Beta Sigma! You are such a great motivator and I always feel so invigorated about Tau Beta Sigma after our epic phone chats.
 - **Cathy Miles**- If I have a spirit animal, I think you might be it. Your perspective on sorority topics and the way you make me think about things is truly beautiful.
 - **Amanda Dickson**- For always being that person who's not afraid to point out the purple elephant in the room, I am often braver as a counselor because of your support. Thank you for the countless calls just to vent.
 - **Wendy McCann**-I am in awe of your unfaltering faith and support of me throughout this year and beyond. I love you and wish you could have been here, but glad that you are getting the chance to watch me now (Thanks Aaron!).
 - **Chris Gordon**- First, thank you for the beautiful flowers that you sent to SWD Convention. I love you to the moon! You're the one person in TBΣ who has never given up on me, who's allowed me to stumble and really helped to pick me up every time, no matter what. If I am any kind of decent counselor, it's because of the example set by you.
 - **The 2014-15 SWD Council**: All of you have been a big part of my life both in and out of Tau Beta Sigma. It meant the world to me to be able to do a once in a lifetime thing such as having your band open for the legendary Chicago and having each of you there on the front row dancing and singing along. I've played a lot of shows since then and yet even now there are certain songs that we play that every time we play them, I can't help but see images of Sami and Ashlyn doing the dance moves to "Happy," Christy air bumping to T.I.'s "Whatever You Like," and Tyler just dancing to everything, but losing his mind as we played "Play That Funky Music (White Boy)." In our TBΣ life, your work for our District has been so amazing. You all were tasked with dealing with some major changes within the way we've done things from year to year and you all met every challenge head on. I often make the joke that the SWD sisters get to basically decide a whole year of my life (or in this case, 11 months...), so much like a box of chocolates...I never know what I'm gonna get. Southwest, you typically get it right and in this case, you voted into office the perfect combination of hard work, determination and sisterhood. **"The perfect punctuation to a counselor life well lived."** ***Shirt Presentations!***
- xi) Tyler Gorshing "Captain America" – Leads and loves TBΣ with his heart, much like the captain. If I can do my part to protect your hero's heart, then I will proudly present you with the Captain's shield shirt!
- xii) Sami Belford "Wonder Woman" – You have no idea how she does all the things that she does effectively, she leaves you wondering of her awesome. From writing a letter to welcome visitors to her campus, to learning an instrument that she's never played to stay in band, to holding down both a district office and a chapter office. She's just a clear example of epic.
- xiii) Ashlyn Kubacak "Black Widow" – It could be the Red hair...She so unassuming, but give her a minute and she'll have you learning TBΣ things covertly like a ninja. She's the kind of person that jumps into action for our sorority not because of anything she'll get out of, but just because she knows it needs to be done. Super hero style ☺

xiv)Christy McKinney “The Breakfast Club” – You’re the only one who doesn’t get a super hero shirt, not because I don’t think you are epic, but simply because you are unlike any other. You’re probably the most unique District Officer that we’ve ever had, you’re a little weird, but in a good way. You march to the beat of your own drum, and the beat you march to, your sisters have fallen in line with. All year long your approach to Tau Beta Efficiency has made a very positive impact on our district and so yeah, you are different and march to the beat of your own drum, but it’s a cadence we love, much like the characters from “The Breakfast Club.”

Finally, to you The Sisters of the Southwest District:

In a few moments, I’m going to take the Oath of Office as the SWD Counselor for the last time. These past 5^{1/2} years have been some of the best moments of my life. I know at times it may have seemed as though I pushed some of your chapters very hard, but that’s because I truly believe in what we are doing and I have often had the mindset that anything worth doing, is worth doing right, otherwise why bother? If I could stay your counselor forever, I might just have the gall to try to be, but constitutionally I am unable to do that. But it’s because of the time I’ve spent working for and with you as you serve your bands that I have the confidence to stand before you today and announce my intentions to go to National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky this summer and run for the office of National Vice President of Communication and Recognition. There will never be anything as truly gratifying as being your district counselor and I have loved every minute of it, you all have made my life so much more worthwhile and enjoyable and so you should know that no matter if I’m your counselor for another four months or for one whole year, I will give you my best until the end. Thank you so much for another great year, I love you and now here’s the interactive, crowd participation of the report, so if I could get some snapping going right here ***Begin snaps/claps***

“Gone, Gone, Gone”

When life leaves you high and dry
I'll be at your door tonight
If you need help, if you need help.
I'll shut down the city lights,
I'll lie, cheat, I'll beg and bribe
To make you well, to make you well.

When enemies are at your door
I'll carry you away from war
If you need help, if you need help.
Your hope dangling by a string
I'll share in your suffering
To make you well, to make you well.

Give me reasons to believe
That you would do the same for me.

And I would do it for you, for you.
Sisters, I'm not moving on
I'll love you long after I'm gone.
For you, for you.

You will never be alone.
I'll love you long after I'm gone
And long after I'm gone, gone, gone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erika Pope
Your Southwest District Counselor
Tau Beta Sigma

Committee Reports

Report of the Membership Committee

Committee Chair Name and Chapter:

- Emily Morris- Epsilon Beta

Committee Member(s) Name(s) and Chapter(s):

- Katy Shepherd- Beta
- Veronic Cardenas- (Eta Epsilon) proxy Beta Gamma
- Vivian Kirk- (Tau) sitting for Beta Omicron
- Lakaisha Simon- Delta Attendee
- Patricia Morrow- Theta Theta Alumni Attendee

Advisor(s) Name(s):

- Ashlyn Kubacak- Psi
- Donnelle' Mitchell- Theta Theta

The 2015 Membership Committee was charged with the following:

- Review the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Membership Committee Report
- Review the 2014-2015 charges for the VPM and discuss the effectiveness of their implementation
- Evaluate and discuss the CME databases' effectiveness and make changes if necessary
- Evaluate the usage of the online discussion medium for cross chapter relations
- Evaluate the effectiveness of CLC and make changes if necessary
- Evaluate the method of the VPM's personal connection with chapter VPM's and make revisions if necessary

Discussions during meetings/Relevant information:

We discussed the charges for the VPM and determined that she completed most of the charges to an exceptional extent

We discussed the effectiveness of the CME and determined that more promotion would be helpful

We discussed the online cross chapter communication opportunities and determined that more chats would be beneficial

We discussed the effectiveness of the CLC and determined that planning a second CLC date as well as distributing the information and allowing online attendance would increase the effectiveness of the CLC and the spread of information district wide

We discussed the personal connection between the District VPM and chapter VPMs and determined that her efforts were astoundingly beneficial

Charges for the SWD are as follows:

- Provide timely updates on officer changes by reporting names and contact information of new officers to the corresponded SWD Council member

Charges for the 2015-2016 VPM are as follows:

- Design a hands-on workshop to explain the SWD resources followed by an interactive summarization workshop later on at the same event.
- Create incentives for utilizing SWD resources and further promote them on social media
- Host more online chats between SWD Membership Educators
- Create options for modes of communication between SWD Membership Educators via remind 101, Group Me, Facebook, and email to allow reliable communication possibilities for Membership Educators
- Plan 2 Chapter Leadership Conference days for the summer of 2015, provide online attendance options, provide video recordings of presentations for the SWD, and share the power points and other information with the SWD via some form of digital communication
- Promote and expand the CME database and the rush event database

Charges for the 2016 Membership Committee are as follows:

- Review the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Membership Committee reports
- Review the 2015-2016 charges for the VPM and discuss the effectiveness of their implementation
- Evaluate the promotion of the various databases and make changes if necessary
- Discuss the effectiveness of the resources workshop and make changes if necessary
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the CME database and the rush event database
- Consider the development of an action plan for the gathering of chapter officer information if necessary

Thank you to the committee advisors for assisting in our efforts, to the chapters and their representing delegates, to the South West District Council for their diligence in planning our legacy, and to the entire Southwest District for your continued dedication to the success of our membership education.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Morris from Epsilon Beta

Report of the History and Traditions Committee

The district activities in chronological account of the past 2014-2015 year in the Southwest District:

District Day: June 7th, 2014

Rangers Game in Arlington, TX

Wava Memorial: June 26th, 2014

Stillwater, OK

Chapter Leadership Conference: August 2nd, 2014

Commerce TX

Arkansas Area Workshop: February 7th, 2015

Henderson State University

- KKY Theta Phi & TBS Theta Theta

North Texas: February 21st, 2015

University of Texas at Arlington

- KKY Delta Sigma & TBS Gamma Nu

South Texas: February 21st, 2015

Texas Lutheran University

- KKY Zeta Gamma & TBS Delta Phi

East Texas Area Workshop: February 28, 2015

Lamar University

- KKY Gamma Zeta & TBS Alpha Upsilon

Oklahoma: March 7th, 2015

University of Central Oklahoma

- KKY Mu Mu

West Texas/New Mexico: March 7th, 2015

Angelo State

- KKY Epsilon Kappa & TBS Delta Tau

Louisiana Area Workshop: March 14, 2015

Tulane University

- KKY Rho

SWD Convention: March 27th-29th, 2015

University of Arkansas

- KKY Lambda & TBS Psi

District Officers:

- **President:** Christy McKinney; Delta Chapter (University of Oklahoma)
- **Vice President of Membership:** Ashlyn Kubacak, Psi Chapter (University of Arkansas)
- **Vice President of Special Projects:** Sami Belford, Psi Chapter (University of Arkansas)
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Tyler Gorshing; Gamma Phi Chapter (Southwestern Oklahoma State University)
- **Counselor:** Erika Pope; Theta Theta Chapter (Henderson State University)

The 2015 History and Traditions Committee was charged with the following:

- Review the 2014 and 2015 committee reports

- Review past years' charges to district officers to discuss effectiveness
- Review relevant sections of the constitution
- Propose any constitutional amendments the committee deems necessary to the Jurisdiction and Finance Committee

Discussions during meetings/Relevant information:

Southwest District Traditions: We discussed a few traditions that take place each year at the SWD Conventions such as the talent show, banquet, and singing together as brothers and sisters.

Chapter Traditions: We discussed the traditions that each of our chapters participate in for the founding day of our chapters. We also talked about some of the activities that our committee members do to celebrate their Chapter's Founder's Day (ex. Dress up in Sunday best, wear membership pins and meeting in a public place to sing TBS songs, buying a cake for the chapter to share or even celebrating with the brother chapter)

Amending the Constitution: We discussed striking the last sentence of the History and Traditions section of the Constitution which states the History and Traditions Committee is to review and make changes to the District Scrapbook. However the District Scrapbook has been organized by the VPSP digitally prior to convention. Information regarding the constitutional changes were sent to the Jurisdiction and Finance Committee.

Charges for the 2015-2016 VP of Membership are as follows:

- Continue making meetings more exciting
- Give sisters opportunities to meet each other such as the chapter bingo, during sessions break out to meet sisters who are wearing same color shirts, sit next to someone you don't know
- Chapter introduction through song/dance/chant (DO-IT)

Charges for the 2015-2016 VP of Special Projects are as follows:

- Start publicizing sisterhood week a month in advance

Charges for the 2015-2016 District Council are as follows:

- Helping members learn the National Songs (ex. Uploading individual parts on YouTube to help members practice)
- Find out who has received what awards at previous District Conventions

Charges for the 2016 History and Traditions Committee are as follows:

- Review the 2014 and 2015 committee reports
- Review past years' charges to district officers to discuss effectiveness

- Review relevant sections of the constitution
- Propose any constitutional amendments the committee deems necessary to the Jurisdiction and Finance Committee

I would like to thank the History and Traditions Committee for being so wonderful and patient with me.

Respectfully Submitted,

TaShana Hooker- Delta Upsilon; History and Traditions Committee Chair

Brianna Boykin- Epsilon Psi

Carly Shields- Eta Epsilon

KeKe Collier- Theta Theta

Heather McGowan – Iota Life Member; History and Traditions Committee Advisor

Report of the Programs Committee

Report of the Programs Committee

Committee Chair Name and Chapter:

- Cameron Price, Alpha Omicron

Committee Member(s) Name(s) and Chapter(s):

- Caitlin Roberts, Delta, proxy for Delta Alpha
- Danielle Durham, Gamma Omicron
- Maigen Anderson, Psi, proxy for Beta Nu
- Maranda Davis, Beta Delta, proxy for Iota Tau

Advisor(s) Name(s):

- Sami Belford, Psi
- Meredith Brill, Beta Delta, Life

The 2015 (Committee) was charged with the following:

- Review the 2014 Committee Report.
- Analyze the March for Music program to see if it is possible for the district to implement.
- Take all that the VPSP has done during the year, analyze it, and make a Programs Guide for the Southwest District Service Project, Adopt-a-band and other programs if time permits.

Discussions during meetings/Relevant information:

Discussion on Charge 1: We reviewed the 2014 committee report.

Discussion on Charge 2: We discussed the March for Music Program. Since the chapters in our district are so spread out, having multiple marches would be best, possibly at the workshops. Another option would be to incorporate with District Day in the summer. Either making the events 2 day events or having the event in the morning and the March in the evening are options. We discussed letting each March decide the specifics, and we are charging next year's VPSP and Programs Committee with planning to implement the March next year or a following year.

Discussion on Charge 3: We discussed 4 main programs from either the District or chapters that the district could implement. We wrote out summaries for the programs and different ways to implement them, and will give this to the new VPSP for them to put a Programs Guide on the SWD website.

Charges for the 2015-2016 VPSP are as follows:

- Work out two ways for the March for Music to be implemented, either at each district workshop or working with the TBSAA to try having it at the 2016 District Day in the summer. Meet with the 2016 Programs Committee to iron out the final details and decide to implement it in 2016 or a following year.
- Continue the Blog that Sami Belford started during her 2014-2015 term as VPSP.
- Continue the SWD Service Project and work on how to promote it better. (Programs Committee has ideas we will give them)
- Put a SWD Programs Guide on the SWD website. The 2015 Programs Committee has a rough draft if wanted.

Charges for the 2016 Programs Committee are as follows:

- Review the report of the 2015 Programs Committee.
- Update the SWD Programs guide online with the 2015-2016 VPSP.
- Meet with the 2015-2016 VPSP to work out the final details of the March for Music and decide whether to implement it the following year or a later one.

Thank you:

Respectfully Submitted,

Cameron Price, Alpha Omicron

Report of the Nominations Committee

2015 Report of the Nominations Committee

The 2014-2015 Nominations Committee is charged with responsibility of investigating each candidate for the District Council. By reviewing the materials provided and conducting interviews, the committee submits to the floor a list of who they feel best meets the needs for each office or the slate. By being slated by the committee, each slated candidate is automatically placed into nomination by the committee at the time of the election.

The nominations committee met March 27-29th to discuss and nominate the slate of officers for the 2015-2016 term. The committee was charge with the following:

- Review the 2013-2014 Nominations Committee Report
- Collect all materials from all candidates running for district council
- Schedule interviews with each district council candidate
- Review the standard questions asked of each district council candidate, and add or remove questions as seen fit.
- Review the materials of each candidate, and verify that each candidate packet contains required items, in accordance with the district constitution
- Interview each qualified candidate by asking them pertinent questions about the office of which they are running.

- Discuss who the committee feels is best qualified for each office. Submit a slate for each office in addition to the Nominations Committee report.

The committee reviewed the charges and discussed the qualifications for being eligible for running for a district officer. The committee then reviewed the questions from the previous year and asked the following questions to each of the nine candidates:

1. How can you help the district and the council with the required duties of your respective office? How would you benefit the council by being in this office?
2. How would you improve your respective office if elected?
3. What is your academic course load for the entire term of office?
4. Explain how you would balance your other responsibilities with being on District Council.
5. What will your chapter responsibilities be for this next year?
6. What involvement will you have with band in the coming fall and spring semesters?
7. Being a district officer requires that you fund several of your commitments up front, with an opportunity for reimbursement within thirty days. What is your plan to finance your term in office?
8. If the Nominations Committee felt you were more suitable for another officer position, would you be willing to accept an alternate office? If so, what are your preferences? If not, explain.

Thank you to our advisor, Amanda Dickson. You kept us focused and right on schedule. We appreciate your guidance, support, humor, being devil's advocate, and Dublin's Soda. We love you. Thank you to my chapter for always keeping me going and having faith in me in everything I do for Delta Phi. I would also like to thank my committee members for their hard work in the interview and deliberation process. This was a very big responsibility and I thank you for all that we accomplished as a committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichele Rios

Delta Phi Delegate, Texas Lutheran University

Nominations Chair

Committee Members:

Deanna Mireles, Alpha Omicron

Taylor Alexander, Delta Sigma

David Lutz, Alpha

Meri Terpstra, Beta Delta

Anna Cantu, Delta Tau

The Slate:

President: Ashlyn Kubacak

VP of Membership:

VP of Special Projects: Sami Bellford

Secretary/ Treasurer: Colin Peters

The committee charges the 2015-2016 Nominations Committee with the following:

- Review the 2014-2015 Nominations Committee Report
- Collect all materials from all candidates running for district council
- Schedule interviews with each district council candidate
- Review the standard questions asked of each district council, and add or remove questions as seen fit.
- Review the materials of each candidate, and verify that each candidate packet contains required items, in accordance with the district constitution
- Interview each qualified candidate by asking them pertinent questions about the office of which they are running.
- Discuss who the committee feels is best-qualified for each office. Submit a slate for each office in addition to the Nominations Committee report.

Report of the Spirit and Sister Committee

Report of the Spirit & Sisterhood Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Spirit & Sisterhood Committee met on March 27th and 28th to discuss the following charges:

- Review the 2013-2014 Spirit & Sisterhood Committee Report.
- The Southwest District Alumni to start the chant/song competition and challenge a chapter in the fall of 2014.
- Review and update the Spirit Award chart that was created this year.
- Discuss getting rid of the sisterhood awards, “Beta and Sigma” due to lack of sisterly activity.
- We charge the VPSP (Vice President of Special Projects) to compile a consistent list of award recipients for the past years.
- Evaluate the importance of each of the awards, and find a way to place more emphasis on the awards and more of a drive to achieve them.
- Discuss the chapters in attendance at the 2015 Southwest District Convention on the qualities of Spirit and Sisterhood.
- Award the Spirit and Sisterhood Awards in accordance with the District constitution.

The Southwest District Alumni to start the chant/song competition and challenge a chapter in the fall of 2014:

- We decided that it would be best to continue the tradition of the chant/song competition and challenge. We are charging the winners of “Tau”, “Beta”, “Sigma”, and “Tau’s Book” to post their chant/song and then challenge another chapter to post their own chant/song.

Review and update the Spirit Award chart that was created this year:

- The Spirit Award chart has been created to keep a chart of winners of “Tau”, “Beta”, “Sigma”, and “Tau’s Book”. The chart is referenced to prevent chapters from winning an award several years in a row so other chapters can be

recognized for their efforts. It will be the responsibility of future Spirit & Sisterhood Committees to maintain the chart.

Discuss getting rid of the sisterhood awards, “Beta and Sigma” due to lack of sisterly activity:

- After discussion, “Beta” and “Sigma” will remain awards. We decided that due to lack of sisterly activity, we would make sisterhood the primary focus of this committee’s time in order to promote not only the development of sisterhood between chapters but promote the ideas behind sisterhood, the Five and the Eight, in everyday life.

Evaluate the importance of each of the awards, and find a way to place more emphasis on the awards and more of a drive to achieve them:

- We decided that the importance of the awards is not to give praise for activities at District Convention, but how each chapter behaves at their respective colleges is the reason they show spirit and sisterhood at convention. Their chapter life reflects on how they behave at district.

Discuss the chapters in attendance at the 2015 Southwest District Convention on the qualities of Spirit and Sisterhood:

- A huge shout-out to our colony of Epsilon Psi! You guys are great and we can’t wait to have you fully in the bond.

Award the Spirit and Sisterhood Awards in accordance with the District constitution:

- **“Tau”** went to _____ Chapter of _____ . Congratulations!
- **“Beta”** went to _____ Chapter of _____ . Congratulations!
- **“Sigma”** went to _____ Chapter of _____ . Congratulations!
- **“Tau’s Book”** went to _____ Chapter of _____ . Congratulations!

Charges for 2015-2016 Spirit and Sisterhood Committee:

- Review the 2014-2015 Spirit & Sisterhood Committee Report
- Update and maintain the Spirit Award chart.
- We charge the 2015-2016 Spirit & Sisterhood committee chair and advisor to contact the current host of the spirit awards prior to convention to ensure their display at District convention.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the chant/song competition that challenges chapters to create and post a video of their chapter's spirit chant.
- Evaluate the importance of each of the awards, and find a way to place more emphasis on the awards and more of a drive to achieve them.
- Discuss the chapters in attendance at the 2015-2016 Southwest District Convention on the qualities of Spirit & Sisterhood.
- Award the Spirit & Sisterhood Awards in accordance with the District constitution.

Charges for the 2015-2016 District Council:

- To create videos of the District chants and post them to the District page in order to promote sisterhood within the Southwest District.
- To create an activity to promote sisterhood between the districts for national convention. Our proposed idea is to have each SWD member give out "Just a Note" to five sisters from outside the district. Each note will contain a generalized compliment or encouraging word.
- Contact the previous hosts of the Spirit & Sisterhood awards and organize their transfer to their new host chapters.

Charges for the Recipients of "Beta" and "Sigma":

- We charge the recipients of the winners of the "Beta" and "Sigma" turtle awards to post pictures on the District Facebook page of the sisterly activities they perform as a chapter.

I would like to thank my fantastic committee for their hard work and dedication. I enjoyed every moment with you. I would like to give a special thank you to Kathryn Howell, our amazing advisor for guiding us through all our efforts and keeping us on track.

Delegates:

Sarah Koennecke, Xi

Whitney Rose, Gamma Xi

Raleigh Simms, Delta

Respectfully submitted,

-Anthony Braden,

Gamma Phi of Southwestern Oklahoma State University,

Spirit & Sisterhood Committee Chair

Winner of the “Tau” spirit award goes to Theta Theta from Henderson State for most spirited chapter during convention. Congratulations!

Winner of the “Beta” outstanding large chapter sisterhood award goes to Gamma Tau from UCA for sisterly conduct and general kindness towards others during convention. Congratulations!

Winner of the “Sigma” outstanding small chapter sisterhood award goes to Gamma Nu from UT Arlington for sisterly conduct and general kindness towards others during convention. Congratulations!

Finally, winner of “Tau’s Book” goes to Alpha from OSU for most school spirit during their stay at convention. “Go Pokes!”, and congratulations!

Report of the Credentials Committee

Committee Chair Name and Chapter:

- Christy McKinney - Delta

The 2015 Credentials Committee was charged with the following:

- To review and assess the personnel in attendance at Southwest District Convention and report to the delegation.

Discussions during meetings/Relevant information:

- National Officers
 - o Dr. Nicole Sanchez - President
 - o Dr. Kathryn Kelly – Vice President of Colonization and Membership

- Board of Trustees
 - o Dollie O'Neill - Vice Chair
 - o Lisa Croston – Trustee
 - o Dr. Nicole Sanchez – National President
- Past National Officers
 - o Dollie O'Neill – Past National President
 - o Lisa Croston – Past National Vice President of Special Projects/Secretary
- National Headquarters Staff
 - o Steve Nelson – National Executive Director
 - o Aaron Moore – National Alumni, Historical, and Development Coordinator
 - o Yvonne Daye – National Chapter and Colony Education Coordinator
 - o Chris Young – National Chapter Field Representative, Kappa Kappa Psi
- National Alumni Association
 - o Amanda Dickson - Chairperson of the Executive Council
 - o Chris Foster - Communication Committee Chair
- Southwest District Alumni Association
 - o Katie Dukes Rixon – Chair
 - o Donnelle' Mitchell - Membership Director
 - o Kathy Webster – Finance Director
- Southwest District Council
 - o Christy McKinney – District President
 - o Ashlyn Kubacak – District Vice President of Membership
 - o Sami Belford – District Vice President of Special Projects
 - o Tyler Gorshing – District Secretary/Treasurer
 - o Erika Pope – District Counselor
- Convention Parliamentarian
 - o Emily Gulick - Delta
- Past Southwest District Officers

- o Lisa Croston - Past SWD President/Treasurer
 - o Chris Foster - Past SWD President/Treasurer
 - o Nicole Sanchez - Past SWD President/VPCM
 - o Amanda Dickson - Past SWD President/Secretary/Treasurer
 - o Patricia Morrow - Past SWD Secretary/Treasurer
 - o Kathryn Howell - Past SWD President
 - o Erika Pope - Past SWD VPCM
 - o Katie Langley - Past SWD VPM
 - o Scott Sergeant - Past SWD VPM
 - o Heather McGowan - Past SWD President
 - o Emily Murphree - Past SWD Secretary/Treasurer
 - o Meridith Brill - Past SWD VPSP
- Chapter Percentage Award
 - o The Delta Pi chapter, Theta Theta chapter, and Epsilon Beta chapter all had 100% of their members in attendance.
 - Chapter Distance Award
 - o The Beta Chapter had 21 members travel 578 miles for a total of 12,138 miles.

Charges for the 2015-2016 District President/Credentials Committee are as follows:

- Get the information on personnel from the host chapters after registration is over and calculate the Chapter Percentage Award (based on chapter percentage of people in attendance) and Chapter Distance Award (number of members in attendance times the miles travelled).
- Have numbers of people in each chapter before convention begins to ensure quick calculations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christy McKinney
 SWD President 2014-2015
 Delta Chapter

Report of the Jurisdiction and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Name and Chapter:

- Monserrat Quiñones-Vargas from Tau

Committee Member(s) Name(s) and Chapter(s):

- Micaela Lumkins from Beta Zeta
- Skylar Connor from Delta Pi
- Dylan Schildt from Zeta Phi
- Rachel Brookins from Delta – Observer
- Madeline Gibbs from Beta Zeta – Observer
- Emily Gulick from Delta – District Parliamentarian 2015

Advisor(s) Name(s):

- Tyler Gorshing from Gamma Phi – District Secretary-Treasurer
- Katie Langley from Psi

The 2015 Jurisdiction and Finance Committee was charged with the following:

- Redistribute money to provide national convention travel funds for the district officers and national convention travel assistance to be applied or by district chapters.

Discussions during meetings/Relevant information:

2015-16 Budget: We discussed that the 2015-16 budget should change to reflect a National Convention year.

Changes to the Constitution: We discussed changes in the SWD Constitution involving District Parliamentarian, the Committee on History and Traditions, the New Alto, and workshops.

Charges for the 2016 Jurisdiction and Finance Committee are as follows:

- Redistribute district funds to reflect a non-national convention year.

Thank you to the rest of my committee for being so proactive and for bringing up all ideas and questions you had. You made my job so easy, I truly am incredibly thankful. Thank you to the Gamma Phi chapter for giving me a ride to my hotel after our emergency meeting, you guys were such a gift, a perfect example of Sisterhood. Thank you to Emily, the District Parliamentarian, for being so well prepared and for being an active participant within the committee. Lastly, I would like to thank Tyler and Katie, the committee advisors, for being so easy to work with and for being so encouraging throughout all of our meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Montserrat Quiñones-Vargas, Committee Chair, Tau Chapter)

Proposed Changes to the Southwest District Constitution

1. Adding District Parliamentarian description.

CURRENT:

Nothing.

PROPOSED:

The District Parliamentarian shall be chosen by the presiding District President prior to District Convention. Interested candidates will go through an application and interview process to be determined by the District President. District Parliamentarian will not be considered an official District Office per this Constitution and shall only serve in this position for the duration of District Convention weekend; the position will be vacant the remainder of the year. The duties of the Parliamentarian are as follows:

- Should be well-versed, and have quick access to Robert's Rules of Order.
- Should be well-versed, and have quick access to the Tau Beta Sigma National and Southwest District Constitutions.
- Will serve in a parliamentary role at all meetings of the Tau Beta sigma delegation, both jointly and separately from Kappa Kappa Psi.
- Will be responsible for the reading and upholding of the Standing Rules of convention.
- Will assist in the seating of Convention (chapter?) Delegates and in the election process of District Officers where needed (i.e. Official Time Keeper, Q&A Moderator, etc.)
- Will serve as a witness to the counting of election ballots by the District Counselor and one member of Tau Beta Sigma National Leadership.
- Will be a participant in the Third Degree Ritual for Tau Beta Sigma.

RATIONALE:

Currently, there is no description for what a District Parliamentarian is or does, simply the position doesn't exist. Because this is a position that is yearly created by the President, it should be in the Constitution.

2. Striking the scrapbook from the Committee on History & Traditions.

CURRENT:

3.07 The Committee on History & Traditions will examine, recommend, and submit to the District Convention all proposals relating to the preservation of the oral, written, and pictorial history of both the chapters in the Southwest District and the Southwest District itself. The Committee will also review and make additions to the Southwest District Scrapbook as deemed necessary.

PROPOSED:

3.07 The Committee on History & Traditions will examine, recommend, and submit to the District Convention all proposals relating to the preservation of the oral, written, and pictorial history of both the chapters in the Southwest District and the Southwest District itself.

RATIONALE:

The Committee on History & Traditions does not change the scrapbook, that is part of what the Vice President of Special Projects does. It is already part of the VPSP description in the constitution, and should be taken out of the description of this committee.

3. Changes to the New Alto

CURRENT:

7.02 The New ALTO will be published by the Southwest District Council. The Council may appoint a member or members to manage the advertising, publications, and distribution of the New ALTO, and/or to manage the design and maintenance of the Southwest District and/or New ALTO websites. These members may be appointed as needed and shall be active or associate members in good standing. The Council will create any necessary application processes and may require application materials that it deems necessary, such as cover letters, portfolios, letters of recommendation, and any other materials.

PROPOSED:

7.02 The New ALTO will be published by the Southwest District Council. The Council may appoint members to manage the following positions: one formatting editor, two copy editors, and a webmaster to manage the design and maintenance of the Southwest District and/or New ALTO websites. These members may be appointed as needed and shall be active or associate members in good standing. The Council will create any necessary application processes and may require application materials that it deems necessary, such as cover letters, portfolios, letters of recommendation, and any other materials.

RATIONALE:

The New ALTO is no longer required to be printed and distributed throughout the District. Instead, it is solely put online for everyone to have access to. This changes the positions which the Council may need. This puts more responsibility on the council, and gives more assistance to the editors.

4. Changes to area sectioning and workshops

CURRENT:

9.01 The Southwest District will be divided into seven areas. Each area will host an annual workshop. The host(s) of each workshop will change every year based upon a rotation schedule maintained by the Joint District Council. The areas will be as follows:
West Texas/New Mexico.

East Texas.

South Texas.

North Texas.

Louisiana.

Arkansas.

Oklahoma.

PROPOSED:

9.01 The Southwest District will be divided into four areas. Each area will host an annual workshop. The host(s) of each workshop will change every year based upon a rotation schedule maintained by the Joint District Council. The rotation will be created by chapters who have submitted an application to the Joint District Councils. The areas will be as follows:

West Texas and New Mexico.

North and South Texas.

Arkansas and Oklahoma.

East Texas and Louisiana.

RATIONALE:

Separating the district into 4 areas instead of 7 will reduce the number of workshops each year, allowing for better planning. This way more chapters will be able to plan ahead of time whether or not to go to a workshop.

The addition of an application process to host a workshop will create a more specific rotation. In the past locations have been difficult to settle on because some chapters are unable to host in certain years. An application process will significantly reduce the amount of time spent in trying to find a chapter that can host. This also will achieve better and faster scheduling, giving more chapters the ability to get to workshops.

CONCERNS:

Separating into only 4 areas, greatly increases the size of all areas. This will mean longer driving distances for many chapters. In the past, distance has been a major factor in whether or not chapters are able to attend workshops.

With less workshops, there are less opportunities for chapters to send representation to the workshops. This significantly limits the options for those chapters with very busy school/band/TBS calendars.

The application process description is vague. What exactly goes into an application?

How are chapters to be selected? What happens if no one applies?

The Jurisdiction and Finance Committee was left unclear as to how exactly these

changes will help in boosting attendance at workshops. We wanted to bring up what JAC presented to us, with our concerns, to allow the delegation to make its own decision.

5. Changes to the Alumni section

CURRENT:

10.01 All Alumni matters shall be referred to the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association representative present at Convention and the Southwest District Alumni Association, Ask and Answer.

PROPOSED:

10.01 All Alumni matters shall be referred to the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association representative present at Convention and the Southwest District Alumni Association.

RATIONALE:

The Southwest District Alumni Association dropped the “Ask and Answer” part of the name.

CURRENT:

10.02 In the event that the Ask and Answer is no longer recognized by the National Alumni Association, the National Alumni Association members residing in the Southwest District, present at District Convention, will be solely responsible for determining the next Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association representative.

PROPOSED:

10.02 In the event that the Southwest District Alumni Association is no longer recognized by the National Alumni Association, the National Alumni Association members residing in the Southwest District, present at District Convention, will be solely responsible for determining the next Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association representative.

RATIONALE:

“Ask and Answer” is again, no longer part of the name.

Proposed Budget (2015-2016)

New Alto	\$50
District Officer Travel Expenses	
President	\$500
Vice President of Membership	\$500

Vice President of Special Projects	\$500
Secretary-Treasurer	\$500
District Officer National Convention Expenses	
President	\$100
Vice President of Membership	\$150
Vice President of Special Projects	\$150
Secretary-Treasurer	\$150
Convention Expenses	
Convention Assistance and Delegate Registration	\$300
Honorary Membership Fees	\$250
District Awards	\$150
Chapter Leadership Conference	\$150
Scholarship of Excellence	\$250
National Convention	\$300
Miscellaneous	\$500
<hr/>	
Total	\$4,500

Report of the Joint Actions Committee

Chairs – Austin Bordelon, Kappa Kappa Psi SWD CoMember at Large Whitney Nichols Delta Pi, TBS Proxy for Zeta Mu, TBS

Advisors – Josh Stickney, Past Kappa Kappa Psi SWD Co Member at Large Katie Rixon, SWD Alumni Association Chair

Charges from 20132014 Joint Action Committee

- We Charge the 2014 SWD council of KKY and TBS to have more prepared materials for the committee.
- We would ask that the SWD council on both sides to include more materials for committee heads and advisors. These materials would include but are not limited to previous reports/ awards etc. that need reviewing. Format and layout of report. Access to all resources that each committee would need, and contact info for the jurisdiction committee heads and advisors.

- Deciding if Travel costs should be included into the grant money.

The grant has enough money for travel costs to be included. Consider possible pro's and cons for paying for travel costs.

Charges for the 20142015 Joint Action Committee

- Propose any changes to the district constitutions.
- Propose a new division and restructuring of district areas, especially in regards to hosting area workshops (with Erika Pope)
- Discuss the New ALTO Committee and decide how the selection process should continue in the future (Options: people hold the position until they graduate or reapplication each year)
- Discuss the Webmaster position and decide how the selection process should continue in the future (Options: people hold the position until they graduate or reapplication each year.)
- Clarify job roles for New ALTO committee
- Propose a constitutional amendment to both organizations with the New ALTO Committee and Webmaster selection process

Report of the 2015 Joint Action Committee

th JAC met for two meetings on Saturday, March 28 .

New ALTO Committee:

The Joint action committee reviewed the efficiency of the New ALTO Committee and proposed recommendations to improved productivity.

The following recommendations were approved and sent to jurisdictions:

- Two Copy Editors
- One Design Editor
- Advertising: Tau Beta Sigma VPSP and Kappa Kappa Psi District CoMALS; responsibilities would transition to the new district Kappa Kappa Psi Vice President of Programs; Committee Members will report to the VPSP and CoMALS
- Term on this committee would last one year with the option to reapply. Constitution changes were sent to the Jurisdiction Committee.

Webmaster:

The Joint Action Committee tabled the discussion of the term of the district webmaster until next year when the term of the current webmaster is finished.

Grants:

The following addition was approved and sent to jurisdictions:

“The Joint Action Committee General Service Grant can be used to cover the travel costs at the discretion of the district Tau Beta Sigma Counselor and the Kappa Kappa Psi Governors.”

Restructuring Area Workshops Proposal:

Background: The Joint Action Committee was presented with a proposal to realign the current Areas within the SWD. The logic was to reduce the number of areas within the SWD to increase participation at the Area Workshops. The committee was presented with two options for how the new Area Workshop schedule would work: Option 1: Having a rotation similar to what is currently in place, but allowing chapters to opt in/out of the rotation, and Option 2: having set schools/chapters for each area who would host that area's workshop each year.

The Joint Action Committee reviewed the proposal and both options, weighing the pros and cons, and decided upon option 1: Application pool to include or remove chapters that qualify to host the workshop, with requirements that are approved by the Counselor and the Governor. This was sent to the Jurisdiction Committees from both organizations.

Charges from the 20142015 Joint Action Committee

We charge the following for 20152016 joint council:

- Read the 20142015 Joint Action Committee Report
 - Select the New ALTO Committee.
 - Reevaluate the number of participants on the New ALTO Committee and the application/selection process
 - Reevaluate the application and selection process for the Webmaster position and define term limits
 - If restructuring is approved by jurisdiction, create a proper restructuring of the district for area workshop based upon chapter density and travel distance
 - Submit charges to BOTH CHAIRS of the committee in a timely manner.

We charge the following for the 20152016 Joint Action Committee

- Read the 20142015 Joint Action Committee Report
- Reevaluate the number of participants on the New ALTO Committee and the application/selection process
- Reevaluate the application and selection process for the Webmaster position and define term limits

● Revisit the following motion regarding the wording of the amendment for the
Joint
Action Committee General Service Grant:

○ “The Joint Action Committee General Service Grant can be used to cover the
travel costs at the discretion of the district Tau Beta Sigma Counselor and the
Kappa Kappa Psi Governors.”

○ Will not be approved by governors and counselor until the language is specific.

In
other words, travel costs must be properly specified (who is it going to).

Thank you to the following brothers and sisters:

● Elyse Whitmarsh Iota: TBS

● Sara Westra Beta Lambda: Kappa Kappa Psi

● Gregory Obregon Mu Tau: Kappa Kappa Psi (Proxy for Alpha Tau: Kappa
Kappa Psi)

● Joshua Fletcher Epsilon Chi: Kappa Kappa Psi

● Jessica Arrandondo Zeta Zeta: Kappa Kappa Psi (Proxy for Zeta Gamma:
Kappa Kappa
Psi)

● Lyndsey Hockaday Gamma Tau: Kappa Kappa Psi

● LeeAnn Tustison Epsilon Eta: Tau Beta Sigma

Thanks to the members of The Joint Actions Committee, and our awesome advisors Josh
Stickney and Katie Rixon for all of your hard work in making our committee awesome. Also,
thank you to Erika Pope for extra white hairs on our heads.

AEA and MLITB,

Austin J. Bordelon
Beta Gamma: Kappa Kappa Psi
SWD CoMember at Large
2015 SWD Joint Action Committee CoChair

Whitney Nichols
Delta Pi: Tau Beta Sigma
2015 SWD Joint Action Committee CoChair

Report of the Convention Site Committee

2015 Convention Site Committee Report

The 2015 Convention Site Committee was charged with the following

- 1) Collect information packets from all schools bidding to host the next district convention by the set deadline
- 2) Continue to add convention to the bid library
- 3) Review the report of the 2014 Convention Site Committee
- 4) Ensure that bidding chapters present the same information to the Convention Site Committee and the Joint Delegation, with the SAME presenters
- 5) Review all bid packets from bidding chapters, and schedule interviews/presentations with each one. Each bidding university that meets the stated requirements have presentation and question/answer period during the 2nd joint session.
- 6) Discuss bids and slate a host chapter for the 2015 SWD Convention. If the committee feels that no chapter is prepared to host, a "no slate" option can be suggested.

Our streamlined committee report

Unfortunately the Convention Site Committee had no bids to review, therefore there is no slate.

The committee discussed reasons why chapters feel they cannot host district and ways to make hosting district more approachable. We will have a presentation during workshop season every other year in order to show the district that hosting convention is not scary. The committee decided to have a trial run for a hard deadline of March 1, 2016 for all convention bids. We feel that having a set deadline will allow chapters to know well in advance when bids are due.

We charge the host chapter

- 1) Ensure that the proper amount signage is put up early on the day of convention
- 2) Have an emergency contact member on call for directions
- 3) Have a very clear and detailed map for directions

We charge the 2016 Convention Site Committee Report

- 1) Review the report of the 2013 Convention Site Committee
- 2) Collect information packets from all schools bidding to host the next district convention by the deadline.
- 3) Ensure that bidding chapters present the same information to the Convention Site Committee and the Joint Delegation, with the same presenters

- 4) Review all bid packets from bidding chapters and schedule interviews/ presentations with each one. Each bidding university that meets the stated requirements will have a presentation and question/answer period during the second joint session
- 5) Discuss bids and slate a host chapter for the 2017 SWD Convention. If the committee feels that no chapter is prepared to host, a “no slate” can be suggested.
- 6) Review the Prezi and make any necessary changes

The committee would like to thank our advisors, District Counselor Erika Pope and SWD Governor Toni Castle as well as Danny George for their guidance and words of wisdom during our meetings.

We would also like to thank the members of the 2015 Convention Site Committee. From Tau Beta Sigma: Andrea Rodriguez of Gamma Nu, Jennifer Lacy of Eta Nu, Joshua Holcomb of Epsilon Eta, Paula Johnson proxy for Eta Pi, Skye Austin proxy for Delta Eta

From Kappa Kappa Psi: Jose Hernandez of Zeta Beta, Connor Terry of Alpha, Josh Ready of Theta Kappa, Ryan Matejek of Delta Delta, and Cody Walter of Lambda who gracefully took minutes for us.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sorrells
Tau Beta Sigma- Psi
University of Arkansas

Laura Kirkly
Kappa Kappa Psi- Lambda
University of Arkansas