

The Southwest District of Tau Beta Sigma



2024 Convention Minutes

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TBS Business Sessions

Opening Separate Session

- Call to Order @ 8:30 A.M.
- Seating of Delegates
 - See chart below

Chapter	1st round	2nd round	3rd round
Alpha	Present		
Beta	Present		
Delta	Present		
Iota	Present		
Xi	Present		
Tau			Alpha
Psi			Epsilon Beta
Alpha Omicron		Theta Theta	
Alpha Upsilon		Epsilon Beta	
Beta Gamma			Epsilon Psi
Beta Delta			Alpha
Beta Zeta			Beta
Beta Nu			Delta
Beta Omicron	Present		
Gamma Nu		Epsilon Beta	
Gamma Xi			Iota
Gamma Omicron	Present		
Gamma Tau			Xi
Gamma Phi	Present		
Delta Alpha	Present		
Delta Eta		Beta	
Delta Pi		Beta Omicron	
Delta Sigma			Beta Omicron
Delta Upsilon	Present		
Delta Phi			Gamma Phi
Epsilon Beta	Present		
Epsilon Psi	Present		
Zeta Mu		Epsilon Psi	
Zeta Phi			Epsilon Beta
Eta Epsilon		Iota	
Eta Nu			Epsilon Psi
Eta Pi	Present		
Theta Theta	Present		

- At the 2024 Convention, we started with the Delta Alpha Chapter during 3rd round seating.
- At 2025 Convention, we will start with Beta
- Explanation of Voting at Convention
- Standing Rules of Convention (2 mins)

- 11.02 The following are the standing rules:
 - 1. All business sessions shall begin promptly at the place and hour specified on the convention agenda.
 - 2. All reports shall be typed and electronically submitted to the District Secretary/Treasurer.
 - 3. Members desiring the floor shall rise, clearly state their name and chapter. Any Tau Beta Sigma member attending may speak to or discuss the question on the floor, but only delegates and proxies are entitled to vote on the motion.
 - 4. Reports of committees, which would change the Constitution or affect the district budget, must be reported to the Jurisdiction & Finance Committee chair for review before presentation to the floor.
 - 5. Motions amending the Constitution from the floor should be submitted in writing, signed by the mover and seconder.
 - 6. No member shall speak more than twice on any given question or issue. A maximum of 3 minutes shall be granted to the speaker without further permission of delegation. The question of granting permission shall be decided by a two-thirds vote without debate.
 - 7. Suspension of any standing rule would require a two-thirds vote without debate.
- The Chair entertains a motion to approve the standing rules as listed in the Southwest District Bylaws for the 2024 Southwest District Convention
 - Iota Chapter so moves
 - Theta Theta Chapter seconds
 - Motion Passes
- Reading of the Minutes (3 mins)
 - The Chair entertains a motion to approve of and dispense with the reading of the 2023 Southwest District Convention Minutes.
 - Beta Omicron Chapter so moves
 - Alpha Upsilon Chapter seconds
 - Motion Passes
- 24-25 Candidates (1 min per candidate)
 - Sec/Treas
 - N/A
 - VPSP
 - Mykaela Johnson
 - VPM
 - Kayla Anderson
 - President
 - Natalie Wilson
- Communications Climate Survey - sydney
- Spirit and Sisterhood Awards - ciara
 - Golden Tau-Most enthusiastic chapter overall
 - Congratulations to Iota Chapter!
 - Beta Tau Award-Large chapter
 - Congratulations to Delta Alpha Chapter!

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- Sigma Award-Small chapter
- Congratulations to Alpha Chapter!

- SWCON24 Buttons Display (2 mins) - 9:00 A.M.
 - Council Buttons are as listed:
 - Fundraiser buttons are as listed:
- The following Committees meet with Counselors at the front of the room at the end of this session.
 - Spirit & Sisterhood - Ciara (Right Side of the room)
 - Nominating - Netta (Left Side of the room)
- For the second year in the row, we will not leave the District Convention with a full council. There will be a call for applications for the Sec/Treasurer position.
 - We know that we have strong leaders here in this room today, or you know someone back at home who is a strong leader, please consider stepping up.
 - If you are curious about what it takes to be a member of the SWD Council please ask questions while we are here.
 - You can ask questions in Slack as well.
- Break (5 mins)
- National Council Update (35 mins) - 9:30 A.M.
- Break (10 mins)
- Women in Music Speaker (60 mins) - 10:15 A.M.
- Recess @ 11:15 A.M.

Separate Session 2

- Call to Order @ 3:52
 - All delegates present
- Final report of the Secretary/Treasurer (5 mins)
- Final report of the Programs Committee (5 mins)
- Final report of the Vice President of Special Projects (5 mins)
- Service Project Reminder
- Final report of the Membership Committee (5 mins)
- Area Workshop Survey
- Final report of the Vice President of Membership (5 mins)
- Scrapbook
- Final report of the Nominations Committee & presentation of slate (5 mins)
- Voting of the 2024-2025 Council Slate
 - Alpha Chapter so moves
 - Epsilon Psi Chapter seconds
 - Motion passes
- Recess at 4:43PM

Separate Session 3

- Call to Order @ 8:14AM
 - All present except Eta Nu
- Final report of the Spirit and Sisterhood Committee (5 mins)
- Final report of the Jurisdiction and Finance Committee (15 mins)
 - Budget Vote
 - Epsilon Beta so moves to approve the 2024-2025 proposed budget
 - Psi seconds
 - Motion passes
 - Bylaw Edits Voting
 - Iota Chapter so moves to amend the following
 - Theta theta seconds
 - Motion passes

10.01

Current Bylaw:

The following awards may be presented at District Convention:

- Chapter
 - Patsy D. Hejl Award (Outstanding Larger Chapter)
 - Dorothy Allen Nichols Award (Outstanding Smaller Chapter)
 - Dollie McDonald O'Neil Chapter Perseverance Award
 - Janet West Miller Award for Outstanding Service to Music Education
 - Spirit of Sisterhood Award-Beta Turtle (Larger Chapter)
 - Spirit of Sisterhood Award-Sigma Turtle (Smaller Chapter)
 - Tau Turtle (Most spirited chapter)
 - Chapter Distance Award
 - Outstanding Chapter Display
 - Outstanding Scrapbook
- Individual
 - Erika L. Pope Legacy of the Southwest Award
 - Christina M. Gordon Scholarship of Excellence
 - Southwest District Service to Music Scholarship
 - Daniel A. George Award for Fostering Joint Relations

Proposed:

The following awards may be presented at District Convention:

- Chapter
 - Patsy D. Hejl Award (Outstanding Larger Chapter)
 - Dorothy Allen Nichols Award (Outstanding Smaller Chapter)

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- Dollie McDonald O'Neil Chapter Perseverance Award
- Janet West Miller Award for Outstanding Service to Music Education
- Spirit of Sisterhood Award-Beta Turtle (Larger Chapter)
- Spirit of Sisterhood Award-Sigma Turtle (Smaller Chapter)
- Tau Turtle (Most spirited chapter)
- Chapter Distance Award
- ~~Outstanding Chapter Display~~
- ~~Outstanding Scrapbook~~
- **Outstanding Scrapbook: Virtual Submission**
- Individual
 - Erika L. Pope Legacy of the Southwest Award
 - Christina M. Gordon Scholarship of Excellence
 - Southwest District Service to Music Scholarship
 - Daniel A. George Award for Fostering Joint Relations

Rationale:

Having these categories physically at convention would increase expenses for a chapter due to needing to pay for a table.

Chapters are still interested in the scrapbook idea, but would like to do it virtually to reduce costs

Current Bylaw: N/A

Proposed: 3.08

Rationale:

Current Bylaw: N/A

Proposed: 3.08

The Secretary/Treasurer will be responsible for a year-long communication committee. The communication committee will consist of at least 6 active members representing each area of the Southwest District. Positions in this committee can include but are not limited to: Archive and History Officer, Social Media Analyst, Co-Chair & Outreach Officer, Website Improvement Analyst, and Resource Development Officer.

Rationale: This committee was only utilized for one year and the need for it is still there.

- Gamma Phi Chapter so moves to approve 10.01 as a block
 - Delta Pi Chapter seconds
 - Motion fails
- Epsilon Beta Chapter so moves 10.01
 - Delta Alpha Chapter seconds
 - Motion Passes

- Beta Omicron Chapter so moves to add Section 3.08 into the 2024-2025 Southwest District Constitution
 - Gamma Xi Chapter seconds
 - Motion passes
- Final report of the Southwest District Counselors (5 mins)
- Recess at 9:03am
- Credentials (9:13am)
- Final report of the President (5 mins)
- Voting for President (5 mins)
 - Slate candidate: Natalie Wilson
 - The floor is open for nominations for SWD President
 - The floor is closed for nominations
 - Theta Chapter so moves to vote by acclamation
 - Eta Chapter seconds
 - Motion passes
 - Congratulations, Natalie!!
- Voting for Vice President of Membership (5 mins)
 - Slate candidate: Kyla Anderson
 - The floor is open for nominations for VPM
 - The floor is closed for nominations
 - Beta Omicron Chapter so moves to vote by acclamation
 - Delta Pi Chapter seconds
 - Motion passes
 - Congratulations, Kyla!!
- Voting for Vice President of Special Projects (5 mins)
- Slate candidate: Mykaela Johnson
 - The floor is open for nominations for VPSP
 - The floor is closed for nominations
 - Alpha chapter so moves to vote by acclamation
 - Tau seconds
 - Motion passes
 - Congratulations, Mykaela!!
- Voting for Secretary/Treasurer (5 mins)
 - As there are no candidates, this position will remain vacant after convention
- Officer Installations
- Adjournment
- Beta Chapter so moves to adjourn
 - Alpha Chapter seconds
 - Motion passess

Opening Joint Session: Friday, April 5th @ 4:00 PM

Call to Order: (Davis and Johnn) 4:04 PM

“We now call the 2024 Southwest District Convention to Order” * rap gavels*

1. Introductions

Davis and Johnn: We will now do a few introductions.

- a. Introduction of 2023 - 2024 Joint Southwest District Council
 - i. Kappa Kappa Psi (Davis)
 1. President - Davis Vaughn
 2. VPLD - Gabe Sanders
 3. Sec/Treas - Araci Garcia
 4. MAL - Edgar Canales
 5. Governors
 - a. Andy Melvin
 - b. Lizzi Pineiro
 - c. Kadeem Sabari
 - ii. Tau Beta Sigma (Johnn)
 1. President - John McCray
 2. VPM - Natalie Wilson
 3. VPSP - Sydney Fishburn
 4. Sec/Treas - Aurora Goodnight
 5. Counselors
 - a. Ciara Gibbs
 - b. Chelsea Rasing
 - c. Linnetta Ratliff
- b. National Headquarters Staff (Araci)
 - i. Lisa Croston - NHQ Event Coordinator
 - ii. Kathy Webster - NHQ Accounting Manager
 - iii. Jake January - KKPsi Chapter Field Representative
- c. Kappa Kappa Psi National Council (Edgar)
 - i. Nic Rorrer - National Vice President for Membership and Expansion
- d. Kappa Kappa Psi Alumni Board
- e. Other National Leadership (KKY) (Edgar)
 - i. Kevin James - BOT member
 - ii. Garret Gardenhire - Chair of the Ritual Education Committee
 - iii. Ayleen Sanchez - Co-Chair of the Curriculum Development Committee
 - iv. Mason Thomas- Incoming CFR
- f. Tau Beta Sigma National Council (Aurora)
 - i. National President: Leslie Gartin

- ii. National VPSP: Katie Dukes
 - g. Tau Beta Sigma National Leadership (Aurora)
 - i. Board of Trustees Chair: Rosalyn McDonald
 - h. Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association Board of Directors (Aurora)
 - i. Membership Director: Jon Leeper
 - i. Other National Leaderships (TBS) (Sydney)
 - i. Natalia Harrison - Chapter Visitation Associates
 - ii. Tyler Hern - Chapter Visitation Associates
 - iii. Harrison Calvert - Chapter Visitation Associates
 - j. Southwest District Alumni Association (Johnn)
 - i. Natalia Harrison - Chairperson
 - ii. Amelia Dunmore - Programs Director
 - iii. Lea Sanchez - Communications Director
 - iv. Ryan Smith - Finance Director
 - v. Kiara Penn - KKPsi Member at Large
 - vi. Ciara Gibbs - TBSigma Member at Large
- 2. Recognition of Graduating Seniors (Davis)
 - a. Please stand to be recognized!
- 3. Recognition of Host Chapters (Davis)
- 4. Message from the Counselors and Governors
 - a. Make smart choices
 - b. Wear your name tags
 - c. Come as you are for ritual, we want you there!
 - d. Be mindful of other site patrons
 - e. (Netta) The Convention Name Tags have a QR Code that leads you to the schedule for the entire weekend, including room locations.
- 5. Joint Service Project
 - a. (Sydney): Our district service project for the 2024 SWD convention is to raise money for the band/music programs at the newly founded Wichita Falls Legacy High School and Wichita Falls Memorial High School. We are receiving monetary donations through the process of voting for who will get “pied” in the face; the counselors or the governors. We will also take band essentials, such as reeds, swabs, valve oil, etc. Voting will end at the beginning of our closing session.
- 6. Keynote Speaker
- 7. Opening Announcements / Recess
 - a. Gabe: Immediately following this Joint session will be our first workshop block from 5:45pm-6:45pm. After this we will have our dinner break. Doors for KKPsi Ritual Workshop and TBSigma Ritual will open at 8:45 pm. Please be on time so we can begin on schedule.

- b. **Natalie:** To reiterate, we want you at ritual! If you did not bring ritual attire you are still welcome to join us! Following this evening's events, we will start bright and early tomorrow with Separate Sessions at 8:30am. Please be sure to get here early so we may start promptly on time!
- c. **John and Davis:** We will now recess this joint session Sunday until at 11:00am.

Closing Joint Session: Sunday, April 7th, 2024

- Call to order at 11:08am
- Pie in the Face fundraiser results
 - Raised \$256.91
 - Governors will be getting a pie in the face!
- 2024-2025 council announcement:
 - Kappa Kappa Psi:
 - Member-at-Large: Hunter Olden
 - Sec/Treas: Chance Harmon
 - Vice President for Programs: Bella Eneff
 - Vice President for Leadership and Development: Alivia Holiman
 - President: Gabe Sanders
 - Tau Beta Sigma:
 - Sec/Treas: Vacant
 - Vice President of Special Projects: Mykaela Johnson
 - Vice President of Membership: Kyla Anderson
 - President: Natalie Wilson
- SWDAA awards
 - 2024 Chris Foster Alumni of the Year:
 - Chelsea Zuniga - TBS
 - 2024 Dionicio “Dino” Cardenas Alumni of the Year:
 - Kelton Ashcraft - KKY
 - 2024 Service to SWDAA Award:
 - Dionicio “Dino” Cardenas - KKY
 - 2024 KKPsi Delegate Grant Recipient:
 - Tyronne J. Locure III - Delta Alpha Chapter
 - 2024 TBS Delegate Grant Recipient:
 - Walerie Alvarez - Gamma Phi
 - 2024 KKPsi Ritual Scholarship Recipient:
 - Gamma Omega
 - 2024 TBS Ritual Scholarship Recipient:
 - Theta Theta
- Adjourn
 - Alpha Omicron - KKY so moves to adjourn the 2024 Southwest District convention
 - Beta - TBS seconds
 - Motion passes

District Council Reports

President – Johnn McCray

Spicy Southwest,

It is hard to believe that this term is already up. It seems only a short moment ago we traveled to Lafayette, but here we are assembled again in Wichita Falls. To summarize a year's worth of work for any office is difficult. I thought I would share some highlights as well as some thoughts I have about the office of District President.

To begin our term, we had the opportunity to search for a VPSP. There were several quality members who saw an idea, seized upon it, and followed it to apply for district leadership. We were fortunate enough to have Sydney join our team. We met for our summer council where we created the SWD Playbook, a plan of action for the semester, as well as a mission statement for how our district should operate. Shortly after we traveled down to Orlando for #NATCON23! At NATCON we were able to network with members from across the nation, learn more about our beloved organization, and of course earn the Spirit Stick for our district's talent show performance. (#SWSpiceltUp)

Once we returned from NATCON, we soon would be searching for a VPM and Sec/Treas. It became difficult to operate as a council with two members covering the roles of four during the intermission. Around our winter council meeting, we were able to add Natalie and Aurora to our team. We took a different approach to our Playbook as we had almost a whole new officer team. With joint collaborations and the team we had, it soon became clear that several goals I had set for our council would not come to fruition. While disappointing, I knew that we had to pivot and finish the semester to the best of our ability. My focus as district president shifted to trying to make this weekend the best it could be.

Following the lead of our recently resigned national president, I have a few hot takes to share (Siobhan Style):

1. The Southwest District needs to have a deep reflection on what the purpose of a district council is. I believe the district is meant to be a platform for local chapters to collaborate and strengthen themselves. That is difficult when half of the chapters in the district do not attend conventions or collaborate throughout the year. Training for district council members should focus on how they can best serve their members in their district.
2. If the district wants something to happen, the district needs to commit. If we want more from our district, we need to follow through by showing up throughout the year. It takes time, energy, and financial resources to make events happen for our district.
3. District communication and collaboration cannot take a back seat. Without a Sec/Treas for the majority of the term due to unforeseen circumstances, we were not able to get the

communications committee up and running. This should be a priority for all councils moving forward as communication is not something you work on once and is fixed forever, it is an ongoing growth/adaptation that must occur.

4. The joint councils need to act as a cohesive unit. Yes, we are two organizations serving and representing two different groups of students. However, if the joint districts are to continue planning and hosting joint events together then they need to be more collaborative.
5. The national councils should evaluate the district council experience. I believe that some of the training and guiding are a little too cookie-cutter-esque. The districts of our organization are vastly unique. Enable our elected student leaders to represent their delegation in the best way they can. If they do not know something or need skills, develop them. If there is a national council expectation for joint events such as district conventions, those should be communicated and upheld jointly.

I honestly have struggled trying to figure out what exactly to say in this report. I had a vision of making our district a force that could not be stopped. I wanted to see our students shine through the work of our district and district council. My vision and many of the goals I had for this office were not able to be achieved. There were various roadblocks I will leave redacted. Because of these, I did not have a positive outlook on this office for the majority of the spring semester. I was honestly discouraged, frustrated, and heartbroken. It was not until the morning of Saturday at convention that I took a look in the mirror and I said to myself that I did the best with what I had to work with in the situations personally and in the sorority. Sydney's comment in her final report to the Xi chapter was meant indirectly for myself. To quote Sydney "I would like to leave you with one piece of advice: With all of the pressure to be better than we were in the previous years, remember to stop and take a look at all of the amazing people around you and reflect on all of the great things you've done. Allow yourself to enjoy it and soak it in, because before you know it, time will pass you by." Boy the time has passed by.

Hindsight is 20/20, and with that there are a few things I wish I could have done differently. I know that I did my best to advocate for the district and our organization when the need and opportunity arose. The past three years on district council have been a blessing and I am forever grateful for the Spicy Southwest. The experiences I gained from being a district council member have been immensely valuable as I began my professional career as a music educator this year. The 8-5 have reminded me time and time again that we are capable to do many great things and that we can find a network of support in the bond.

With this in mind, I would like to charge the following:

To the 2024-2025 SWD President:

- Take a step back to smell the roses and analyze the progress and achievements you and your council have completed each quarter. Publicly exclaim these achievements via a "Smell the Roses" quarterly report.
- Set a vision for the district using feedback from chapter and district council members.

- Cultivate a strong joint relationship with your counterpart. Set a regular meeting with them and their council.

To the 2024-2025 SWD Council:

- Using the vision your president sets, create programming and opportunities for collaboration that will best serve the district.
- Be Proactive in communication, collaboration, and event planning.
- Communicate regularly with the chapters you serve, even the ones that don't respond to emails.

To the Southwest District Chapters and Chapter Members for the 2024-2025 term:

- Be invested in the work of the district, collaborate with others often and thoroughly.
- Be proactive in the work your chapter completes, do Tau Beta Sigma the best you can.
- Cultivate positive and meaningful relationships, not only within your chapter, but with all you associate with. This includes joint relationships with Kappa Kappa Psi, or other music organizations.

Thank you to the following individuals for your support during my term as District President:

- SWD Council: One year ago today, I was joined by a completely different council team. Here you are. You saw an ideal, seized upon it and followed it to lead you to become a district officer. Thank you for stepping up and out the best you could this year.
- SWD Counselors: As the most senior member of the council (yeah I was on council before all of the counselors), I urge you to keep the students at the forefront of your work. You have such an influence on chapters and students leadership. Keep fighting the good fight of Tau Beta Sigma.
- Lisa Croston: Thank you for allowing me to vent and share my experiences with you. You were there when I just needed to scream into the void. Your experience, wisdom, and expertise on all things Tau Beta Sigma is abundant and evergreen. HQ is thoughtfully blessed to have someone such as yourself on their team.
- My Fiance': Delta Mu may never welcome you into the sisterhood (because they are inactive), but you would be their star member. Without realizing it, you live out the 8 to 5 better than anyone I know. Thank you for reminding me to smell the roses, and I am excited to begin our married life this summer.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your district president. It has been an honor to be selected to serve. For the final time, stay spicy southwest.

Respectfully submitted,
Johnn McCray
2023-2024 Southwest District President
Alpha Chapter | Life Member #3996
Morrison Public Schools, Director of Bands
Forever Supporter of Tau Beta Sigma

Vice President of Membership – Natalie Wilson

To the Sisters and Brothers of the Spicy Southwest,

It is an honor to be able to stand here today with you all as a Sister and as a member of the Southwest District Council. Serving you this semester in this capacity has been an incredible experience and a fun chapter in my life as I took on a role that I have not been in before. I have loved getting to work with many of you across our district, as well as with KKPsi members, and it has been such a blessing to be able to meet and learn about you. Through all of the new opportunities, unique challenges and learning curves, I have felt myself grow as a leader, and I want to thank you, the Southwest District, for taking a chance on me to be a part of your leadership. It is hard for me to be using so many “I” statements, but here we go...

I know that being elected into this office at the beginning of this past December (2023) provided some unique circumstances for us all, but I was incredibly excited to go all in with this position upon its listing and once elected as well. Fun fact, I was sitting in the DFW Airport on my way to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria for the World Saxophone Congress when I received an email from the counselors about being elected! Because of this trip, I was actually unable to attend my first district officer meeting with the now full council, but rather two weeks later. It was fun, exciting, nerve wracking, and I was so ready to get to work!

The biggest task ahead of me first was coordinating this semester’s Area Workshops with my KKPsi counterpart, Gabe Sanders (VPLD), with a full day of planning at the Joint Council’s Winter Council the weekend of January 13th, 2023. It was a great pleasure to collaborate with the full TBS and KKPsi council here at the convention site mid January, amidst all of the phone calls and staring at my laptop for ten hours, and of course a fun evening of axe-throwing with my new friends. Every single council member’s passion and devotion has inspired me, and I’m proud of not only the preparation for that day, but also everything we accomplished while there. The council was tasked with near finalization of all district convention plans, myself coordinating the TBS Ritual, as well as collaborating with Gabe to connect with potential host chapters on logistics for multiple area workshops. I was planning to save my “thank you’s” for the end, but I can’t thank Gabe enough for the energy, charisma, and effort he put in to the beginning plans of the area workshops prior to my election, and I’m very happy to say that we were able to bring back the first in-person SWD Area Workshops since 2019!

Around the same time as coming into the position and diving deep into the workshop planning, I also had some talks with our National President, Leslie Gartin, about taking a second to step back and check in with the VPM’s of our district to see how you all were doing and what you might need from my position and from your collaborators. With this, I sent out a google form via Slack to all chapter VPM’s with questions and offering support as such. Your feedback has been

highly invaluable to me, and it seems that members are in agreement that more communication and knowing you are supported by your District VPM and Council as a whole is something you've been needing from us. I've carried this with me and made it an effort to check-in when I could, though not as much as I would have liked. I will admit, I did not reach my own personal goal of outreach, but the chance to still meet new faces, hear your feedback, and see what TBS means to you has helped me keep going in this position and strive to work towards improving myself as a leader for you all and myself. This also helped me assess and brainstorm even more ways to meet you where you are and what is most important to you as a member of our organization as we embark on our next journeys together in the bond.

Following this week of my initial introduction, check-in, and Winter Council, I quickly began further planning area workshops with Gabe through many meetings and many nights of Canva design editing - no really, I think the Council should be sponsored by now...

We successfully held three Area Workshops throughout our district, and I would just like to quickly shout out the following TBS Host Chapters for creating and executing this vision with us: Delta, Beta, and Gamma Omicron. I am incredibly grateful for the whole council for assisting Gabe and I with the execution of these events and for your overall guidance and support. This was by no means an easy feat, and I am still currently in the process of gathering feedback on these events, but I would just like to really encourage the next VPM to look greatly at the charges of this year's Membership Committee regarding how to help these events reach Sisters and Brothers even further and more effectively; I am more than happy to talk about it with anyone that would like to!

While in the midst of planning the workshops, and my junior recital amongst many other life things, I was also tasked with the organization and development of our Honorary Initiation Ritual that would initiate our incredible friends, Kadeem Sabari and Barbara McCray. Truthfully, as excited as I was about planning this sacred and treasured event, there were also quite a bit of nerves involved as I wanted to ensure that we were performing the ritual to its great potential, and also in that I have never read the role of "Conductor" before. This was extremely exciting and nerve-wracking and so incredibly worth it. This planning process entailed a walk-through of the space at Winter Council, designing the layout of the entire space and its moving parts, inviting speakers to join the ritual and sending official invites to our honoraries, organizing the ritual flex-band, hosting a virtual ritual rehearsal run-through... to finally doing the thing! Like I said, Canva is amazing. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible, for helping me organize it, and reminding me to just breathe.

I know that my term looked a little different from past VPM's, from job details to length of term, and while I wish I could be up here talking more about findings with Overture and my time with the National Curriculum Committee, I wouldn't have traded these past few months for the world

and have been so grateful for this journey with you all that brought us to this District Convention.

Now for a few very much needed thank you's:

To the SWD VPM's: We may have not had much time together, but it has been an honor to get to know all of you that I could and learn more about what the processes are like at your chapters. You are doing amazing things and the entire Sisterhood is grateful to you for helping foster the bond and guide more and more people into it!

To Gabe: I know I already shouted you out a little bit, but I just really wanted to reiterate that you've been a great counterpart and I am so grateful that as two silly Texas Tech kids we got to bring back workshops and grow as leaders throughout our event planning process. It was a lot of work but we made it happen. Your work ethic is incredible and you truly embody what it means to be a Brother.

To Tyler: Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for our district, our Sisters, and the legacy you are leaving for us all. It was so fun being with you in Arkansas for a work-shop, and advising the membership committee together. You are such a great leader and friend. Thank you for hyping me up and encouraging me to keep pushing forward.

To Sydney and Aurora: We all came in at different times which is so silly of us, but it has been so great getting to know and work with you both. Seeing how much work you've put into boosting our presence as a district and the work you do at your home chapters is admirable. I can't wait to see what you both do next and thank you so much for what you've done for me!

To Johnn: Our amazing District President. You are an astonishing servant leader and Sister, truly embodying every sense of those words. From watching you serve the district in year's past and seeing you lead in the role of President first hand has been really inspiring. Thank you for being a great friend and supporter, and for everything you have done for our district. You are creating an invaluable legacy in this organization as well, and I know you have reached and continue to reach so many people. Thank you for inspiring me to better myself as a leader and as a person.

To Katie and Siobhan: None of this would have happened if it wasn't for you both encouraging me and putting the idea of running for the District Council in my brain. I was shocked and really honored when Katie asked why I didn't run for council last year, but the encouragement you both provided me with at District Convention and NatCon brought me to where I am today. Your belief in me has never left and are incredibly valued memories of being in TBS.

To the SWD Counselors: I seriously don't know what I would do without you and don't think that I could ever thank you all enough for your support and guidance as you helped me navigate and grow in this position. Your patience and unwavering support has helped me through in more ways than you will ever know. Thank you for believing in me and for trusting me to help serve our district. The love you all have for TBS has helped me love and cherish it even more.

To Sara: My girlfriend and bestest friend in the whole world. You are my rock, and I could never thank you enough for all that you do for me and for supporting me in every chapter of my life. We met in Goin' Band but really truly TBS, and I could not be any more thankful for the blessings you've brought to my life and our chapter's, and all that I've learned from you. I am excited for every part of our future together!

To the Beta Chapter: Thank you for allowing me to be your President these past two years and for your support in me becoming a council member as well. Seeing our chapter grow and become so excited about all things TBS has been one of the most rewarding things ever, and I just love you all so much. Thank you for allowing me to lead with you for so long and for having my back. You are my family, and I am so proud to call you all my Sisters and Brothers.

And finally, once again a big thank you to the Southwest District for trusting me with this position and for the opportunity to learn more with you, while trying to give back to you as much as I can. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Southwest District Vice President for Membership!

MLITB,
Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Wilson
Tau Beta Sigma
Beta Chapter President
2023-2024 Southwest District Vice President for Membership

Vice President of Special Projects - Sydney Fishburn

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Southwest District,

Let me start off by saying how thankful I am to have been able to serve as your Southwest District Vice President for Special Projects! This year has offered so many opportunities to learn and grow, not only through my own chapter, but through this amazing district. I started off as a timid and shy membership candidate of the Xi Chapter in the fall of 2020, never even imagining that I would speak in front of the entire Southwest District.

I earned the title of VPSP during the summer of 2023, shortly after being encouraged to run by my friend and colleague, Dino Cardenas. My predecessor, Jacob Stover, helped to guide me through the transition period and was readily available if I ever had any questions about the vp sp position.

During the summer, I worked with my fellow officers through our summer council session in order to plan for the upcoming year. I made preparations to advertise the red stripe and make sure that all Focus on Five Liaisons were able to access the new Discord server.

As the fall semester began, I began my advertisement process, not only for the red stripe, but also for our new discord server. For the 2023-2024 center lyre piece, I decided to reinstate the Photo Challenge in order to increase involvement and encourage communication with the Southwest District.

Throughout the entire year, my colleague and I, with the help of the governors and counselors, reinvented the New ALTO. The New ALTO turned into a simple monthly newsletter that was posted to the website and featured many KKY and TBS chapters throughout the Southwest District.

During our winter council session in January 2024, it was decided that the service project for the Southwest District Convention would be to raise money and make other donations for the newly chartered schools here in Wichita Falls. The goal of the “Symphony of Support Music Drive” is to aid in the band/music programs at Wichita Falls Legacy High School, and Wichita Falls Memorial High School.

Before I pass off my responsibilities, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Southwest District. I cannot even begin to describe what an amazing experience I have had being able to serve this amazing district and the people in it.

To my fellow officers: I am so happy that I had the privilege of getting to know you guys throughout the year. I feel so inspired by each and every one of you. Your contributions to this wonderful district have not gone unnoticed, and I hope you know how proud of each and every one of you.

To the Southwest District Council: Where would we be without you guys? Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart for always providing so much guidance as I served in this position. You all work so hard for the district, and I do not know what we would do without you guys. Thank you again, for everything that you do.

To the Xi Chapter: You guys will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you so much for being so supportive as I embarked on this new journey. I am extremely proud of the growth that we have had throughout the year, and none of it would have happened without you guys. Because of you guys, this year has been the best collegiate year I've ever had. I'm so happy to be able to call you my sisters, and will always cherish all of our wonderful memories that we share. I would like to leave you with one piece of advice: With all of the pressure to be better than we were in the previous years, remember to stop and take a look at the amazing people around you and reflect on all of the great things you've done. Allow yourself to enjoy it and soak it in, because before you know it, time will pass you by. I love you guys!

Overall, I will always be eternally grateful for everything I have learned and everyone that I have gotten to know throughout my time as an officer for the Southwest District. To my fellow officers, the counselors, the Xi Chapter, and everyone else in the Spicy Southwest District, I

thank you for everything! I leave you all with the same advice that I left the Xi Chapter. Don't forget to stop and appreciate all of the hard work you have done. You owe it to yourself.

Thank you Southwest District, MLITB!

Respectfully submitted,

Sydney Fishburn

2023 - 2024 Southwest District Vice President for Special Projects

2023 - 2024 Xi Chapter President

Secretary/Treasurer - Aurora Goodnight

Spicy Southwest,

I would like to say thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Southwest District Secretary and Treasurer this Spring. I have learned so much from this position, and I have met so many amazing people throughout the district because of this. I have been in Tau Beta Sigma for a year and a half now, as I was initiated in the fall of 2022, my first semester of freshman year. I very quickly involved myself as much as I possibly could, and when the opportunity came around the fall 2023 to apply for the vacant sec/treas position I decided to take that leap of faith. This is an opportunity I will forever be grateful for, as I've learned so much more not only about my positions, but about the district and even the sisterhood as a whole.

Website

I have never worked on a website until this position. I learned very quickly that there was a love-hate relationship with this website, and it is really difficult to figure out still, after being in this position now for three or four months. I am hopeful that the next sec/treas will take time to look through the website and become more familiar with it than I will ever be.

Social Media

As I have been extremely familiar with the use of social media for quite awhile, and have even helped run several accounts over the years. Even though I've had plenty of experience with running different accounts in the past, this was still a challenge to keep up with at times. There is so much coordination that goes into running social media accounts, and while I had a plan that I tried to keep up with, sometimes I would miss uploads or have several posts in one day. This however, was a fun task to have, but I do hope the next sec/treas comes up with a much more efficient plan to allow for social media to be run as smoothly as possible.

Marketplace

This was a joint effort that was done by both myself and my KKY counterpart, Araci. This was one of the tasks I was immediately given following me being appointed in December. It was very new, as I have not done a lot of financial work up until this point. I feel like for the most part, this went pretty solid, and I felt like we were able to help support our chapters in fundraising for their programs.

Jurisdiction and Finance Committee

This was our first year doing virtual committee work prior to convention, but this was also my first district committee meeting that I have attended, as I was not able to attend convention last year due to a scheduling conflict. I was absolutely terrified to help run this, and my committee did such a great job being flexible with this new change. Thank you to Jenny, from Beta Gamma, who was the Committee Head, and to Kelly, from Alpha Omicron, for helping take minutes for this meeting as well. I also want to shout out the sisters of Delta Alpha, as so many sisters from your chapter were in attendance for both parts of the committee work.

I want to charge charge whoever the 2024-2025 Secretary/Treasurer with the following items:

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- Create a Social Media plan for both TBS and jointly before the fall semester starts, and get ahead with creating graphics for when school starts getting busy.
- Become familiar with the website, and work with your KKY counterpart to update any information or cosmetics that may need to happen. Also schedule when certain information needs to be updated on the website to keep it as up-to-date as possible.
- Complete the District Constitution edits before leaving for the summer.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of district communications, and look into ways to improve these communications if needed
- Use your resources, and be a resource! Your counselors, officers, and your counterparts are all here for you, and everyone wants to see you flourish! But also be of help for others as well, because in the end we are all sisters and we are all here for each other.

My time in office was short, but was so full of amazing memories! I want to make sure I thank a few people before I sign off as Sec/Treas.

- Thank you Johnn, my fellow council member and chapter member, for pushing me to apply for this position in the first place, and being a walk or phone call away when I needed it.
- Thank you to Ciara, for being such an amazing help these last few months! I would be so lost without your guidance, and I'm so thankful I got to work with you this Spring!
- Thank you to my KKY counterparts, Araci and Edgar, for being wonderful people to work with. Things got hectic at times, but I'm glad I got the opportunity to work with the two of you this Spring
- Thank you to my chapter, Alpha. You all mean the absolute world to me, and I would not be in this position without your love and support. No matter what happens, I always know I can count on each and every one of you. Thank you for such an amazing end of such a crazy year, I am so incredibly grateful and so insanely proud of you all.
- Lastly, thank you Southwest. You trusted me to serve you when I was still learning new things every single day. You trusted me, as someone with very little experience in this realm of things to be of service to this amazing district in such a short amount of time. MLITB

Respectfully Submitted,
Aurora Goodnight
Tau Beta Sigma
2023-2024 SWD Secretary/Treasurer
Alpha Chapter President

Counselors - Chelsea Rasing, Linetta Ratliff, Ciara Gibbs

Sisters and Brothers of the Southwest District of Tau Beta Sigma,

What can I say it has been a busy challenging year with many changes for your Southwest District Counselors! We hit the ground running after the 2023 SWD Convention in Lafayette, LA.

We got to work helping our chapters finish the year strong with the Chapter Summary Report and any pending New Initiate Paperwork. We had 80% of the SWD Chapters submit the Chapter Summary Report on-time last year. This was a drop in on-time submission from 2022. Those that were behind missed it by a few days. What does this mean for 2024-25? We must level up.

- Level up by making sure that we start your paperwork earlier and submit before finals.
- Ask questions
- Respond when asked questions

The Summer months brought the National Leadership Conference and National Convention in Orlando, FL, where we brought the Spicy Southwest to Disney. Our button trade that was created by your own Southwest District President Johnn McCray made its debut on the National Level. Your Southwest District Counselors were your fairy Godmothers at your service.

Congratulations to our finalists for the Patsy Drury Hejl Top Large Chapter Award: Beta, Xi, Epsilon Beta, Gamma Xi, Beta Zeta, Our finalists for the Dorothy Allen Nichols Top Small Chapter Award: Alpha Upsilon, and Delta Phi. We have no applicants for the Individual awards this year.

The fall semester the National Council introduced a few new things. We had the release of our highly anticipated new reporting system Opus. The fall activity report was the first paperwork submitted through the system. Due to the new system we didn't hit the 100% on time submission we were looking for and know that we need to educate more on how to use the system. We did have almost 56% of you all successful with completing the Fall Activity Report on time.

Fall 2023 the Counselors continued to evolve the 2022 strategy that was implemented to better serve all of our SWD Chapters in revising and editing the chapter Membership Education Plans, budgets, and constitutions due to this we are now at 100% completion for successfully using the Membership Education Template. You all continue to Amaze us with the work that you are completing.

Just before the start of the spring semester we welcomed a new Counselor to our team, Ciara Gibbs as the district Leveled Up Katie Dukes when she was appointed as National Vice

President for Communications & Recognition. Ciara has been remarkable in the work that she does! We are so excited to have her on the team.

The Spring semester started off with a trip to Wichita Falls, Texas for our Winter Council Meeting and SWD Convention site visit. We had a fun time exploring the city of Wichita. During our Winter Council Meetings we worked through logistics for SWD Convention and walked through this beautiful facility. The rest of the spring semester has consisted of finalizing SWD Convention plans and supporting our SWD Chapters as they bring in new classes of sisters and transition through officer elections.

This year the SWD Counselors continue to make strides in refining processes and creating new ones. We continue to meet the SWD Governors to ensure joint efforts are smooth and both organizations are represented fairly. We have completed the Standard Operating Procedure documents to outline how we conquer all of the tasks that come with running the Southwest District. We have redefined how our District Officers best support the chapters in the Southwest District by having targeted contact between the District Officers and the corresponding Chapter Officers. Most importantly, we have collaborated and developed a strong team dynamic that covers all areas of the Counselor role.

Our report wouldn't be complete without our thank yous:

Chelsea

What a fantastic year it has been!

To Natalie, Sydney, and Aurora, while you were not originally elected to our Council, all three of you stepped up, answered the call, and showed me why I love this position in the sorority.

Johnn - What a 3 years it has been working together! I am so proud to have seen you through your transition from a chapter member, to Sec/Treas, to President and life changes as well. You, most of all, have given me the profound reason for why I am doing what I do, because you have given me the most deja vu moments from when I served on my District Council and how I worked with my Counselor a decade ago. Thanks for that.

Thank you to the National Council for giving me this most wonderful opportunity to serve as a SWD Counselor.

Thanks to Ciara and Linnetta for your constant support as I had to take a step back at times throughout the year to deal with family situations and the tough times, and for being my Sisters that I can share everything with, whether it is a gif to make us laugh, support through the

struggles, and always making sure we keep our focus on the most important aspect, our SWD Students.

To Christina and Marissa, my best friends and sisters, while I don't get to see you as often, thank you for allowing me to always call when I need advice or just to listen while I rant about everything and nothing at the same time. I'm so grateful you're in my life.

Last, to the Sisters and Brothers of the Southwest District, thank you for giving your time and energies to making our Sorority what it is. I'm so glad that you have chosen this organization as something that you hold valuable to your life. Without your work on your campuses, and in the organization itself, we wouldn't have been able to have accomplished the things we did at District Convention, or even throughout the year. I hope to see many Sisters and Brothers this next year in person at an Area Workshop, or virtually as we prepare for next year's District Convention and National Convention!

Linnetta

That my friends is another wrap of a convention!! Thank you all!! I am so thankful to have made it to another SWD Convention. We had a scary time this year. Thank you to Katie and Chelsea for stepping in my place, when I was hospitalized shortly after the 2023 SWD Convention. The National Council and leadership team was super supportive to my family while we were trying to get me on my healing journey. To my family we have had a lot in this last year, our bingo card had lots of surprises. Thank you to my husband for the airport runs, allowing me to add mileage to the truck on our many ventures, dealing with my spending or as you say "another package", and overall support. To my children, thank you for all the many things you do

for me behind the scenes, especially when I decide to tackle a new task. To my second set of council students, thanks for the ride, I have seen you all grow and come into your own. Johnn whew I have enjoyed getting to know you over the years, I look forward to seeing your continued growth on the next level.

Ciara

Thank you to the national council for giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Thank you for Netta and Chelsea for guiding me through this transition and I look forward to the years to come working with y'all.

And finally to our dear Katie - Wow! What a year it has been. We would like our Fairy GodMother to come join us! Although you leveled up on us. We want you to know that we are so so proud of you and the path that you are on continuing on to support our active students. We would like to present you with this small token of appreciation for being our guide, as newer Counselors and leading the charge for the past few years. Always being willing to impart your

wisdom as we started our Journey as Counselors.

To our council kiddos we have a small token of our appreciation (engraved blue picnic blankets) for your work that you have done for the Southwest district, for many of you just in this Spring semester as you were recently appointed.

Looking forward to your next ventures in the organization as we continue to Level Up!!

MUCH Love in the Bond,
Your Southwest District Counselors,

Chelsea Rasing
Theta Mu, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Life Member #3355

Linnetta Ratliff
Theta Upsilon, Winston-Salem State University
Life Member #2394

Ciara Gibbs
Eta Pi, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
Life Member #3832

Committee Reports

Report of the 2024 Credentials Committee

Southwest District Convention 2024

Committee Chair:

Johnn McCray, Alpha Chapter - Life Member (SWD President)

Advisors:

Madison Calvert, Alpha Chapter - Life Member (Immediate Past SWD President)

The Committee was charged with the following:

1. Calculate the Chapter Distance Award (number of members in attendance times the miles traveled).
2. Have as many of the calculations done before the convention begins and put them in a spreadsheet.
3. Have the number of people in each chapter before the convention begins to ensure quick calculations.
4. Find out which dignitaries will be attending the convention and all positions they have held.
5. Complete the report as early as possible during/before the convention.
6. Bring materials for the Distance Award to the convention.

Discussion:

The Dignitaries present at the 2024 Southwest District Convention include the following members and their office(s):

- National Headquarters Staff
 - Lisa Croston - National Events Coordinator
 - Kathy Webster - National Accountant Manager
 - Jake January - National Chapter Field Representative for Kappa Kappa Psi
- Tau Beta Sigma National Council
 - Leslie Gartin - National President
 - Katie Dukes - National Vice President for Special Projects
- Tau Beta Sigma Board of Trustees
 - Rosalyn McDonald - Chair
- Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association Executive Council
 - Jon Leeper - Membership Director
- Tau Beta Sigma Chapter Visitation Associates
 - Natalia Harrison
 - Tyler Hern
 - Harrison Calvert
- Southwest District Alumni Association Board of Directors
 - Natalia Harrison - Chairperson
 - Amelia Dunmore - Programs Director
 - Lea Sanchez - Communications Director
 - Ryan Smith - Finance Director

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- Kiara Penn - Kappa Kappa Psi Member at Large
- Ciara Gibbs - Tau Beta Sigma Member at Large
- Past Southwest District Officers
 - Lisa Croston - President, Treasurer, Alumni Chairman
 - Madison Calvert - President, Vice President for Membership
 - Katie Dukes - Counselor
 - Ciara Gibbs - President, Secretary/Treasurer
 - Natalia Harrison - President, Secretary/Treasurer
 - Tyler Hern - President, Secretary/Treasurer
 - Johnn McCray - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Kathy Webster - Counselor, President, Treasurer
- 2023-2024 Southwest District Council
 - Johnn McCray - President
 - Natalie Wilson - Vice President for Membership
 - Sydney Fishburn - Vice President for Special Projects
 - Aurora Goodnight - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Chelsea Rasing - Counselor
 - Linnetta Ratliff - Counselor
 - Ciara Gibbs - Counselor

The 2024 Chapter Distance Award had the following considerations:

- The Chapter Distance Award is calculated by multiplying the total number of active/collegiate members present at the convention by the total mileage from the chapter's home campus to the convention site.
 - (Chapter Members Present) times (Miles from Campus to Convention Site)
- The following Chapters had the most members present:
 - Third: Beta Omicron with 14 Members Present
 - Second: Delta with 16 Members Present
 - First: Beta with 26 Members Present
- The following (present) Chapters had the farthest Travel Distance from their campus to the convention site:
 - Third: Tau with 379 Miles
 - Second: Beta Omicron with 380 Miles
 - First: Eta Pi with 392 Miles
- The calculations made for the award can be found on the spreadsheet attached below
- Presentation of the 2024 Southwest District Chapter Distance Award
 - Second Runner Up: Eta Pi Chapter with 4312 total miles traveled
 - First Runner Up: Beta Omicron Chapter with 5320 total miles traveled
 - Award Winner: Beta Chapter with 5486 total miles traveled

Charges for the 2025 Credentials Committee/Southwest District President:

1. Calculate the Chapter Distance Award.
2. Collect pre-registration data and complete preliminary calculations before the convention begins.
3. Update the Chapter Distance Award calculations once on-site registration closes.

4. List dignitaries in attendance at the convention including all National positions they currently hold and any Southwest District positions they have held in current or previous terms.
5. Complete the majority of the report before the convention begins.

Special Thanks:

- Chapters of the Southwest District for attending #SWDCON24!
- National/District Leadership and Alumni for your efforts and support of the convention.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Johnn McCray
 Alpha Chapter - Life Member #3996
 2023-2024 Southwest District President
 Chair of the 2024 Credentials Committee

Chapter	School	Number of Members Checked in at Registration	Miles from Convention Site to Campus	Total Distance (total members times distance)
Alpha	OSU	10	251	2510
Beta	TTech	26	211	5486
Delta	OU	16	138	2208
Iota	Baylor	7	203	1421
Xi	WTAMU	9	235	2115
Tau	UofH	1	379	379
Psi	UofA		160	0
Alpha Omicron	Sam Houston		308	0
Alpha Upsilon	Lamar		428	0
Beta Gamma	UT		302	0
Beta Delta	TCU		119	0
Beta Zeta	Stephen F Austin		304	0
Beta Nu	Ark Tech		397	0
Beta Omicron	Texas Southern	14	380	5320
Gamma Nu	UT Arlington		127	0
Gamma Xi	Ark State		537	0
Gamma Omicron	Southern Ark	5	326	1630
Gamma Tau	Central Arkansas		434	0
Gamma Phi	SWOSU	7	138	966
Delta Alpha	Langston	10	193	1930
Delta Eta	TAMU Kingsville		490	0

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Delta Pi	UofA Pine Bluff		421	0
Delta Sigma	ULMonroe		428	0
Delta Tau	Angelo State		235	0
Delta Upsilon	Howard Payne	6	170	1020
Delta Phi	Texas Lutheran		359	0
Epsilon Beta	TAMU Commerce	5	172	860
Epsilon Psi	Prairie View A&M	9	336	3024
Zeta Mu	Grambling State		388	0
Zeta Phi	Louisiana Tech		390	0
Eta Epsilon	TxSt San Marcos		332	0
Eta Nu	Tarleton State		133	0
Eta Pi	NW State of Louisiana	11	392	4312
Theta Theta	Henderson State	2	346	692
Iota Tau	UT San Antonio		332	0

Report of the Jurisdiction and Finance Committee

2024 Southwest District

Committee Chair:

Jenny Hagedorn, Beta Gamma

Committee Members:

Tau

Psi

Alpha Omicron

Gamma Tau

Delta Alpha

Delta Eta

Advisors:

Aurora Goodnight, Alpha, 2023-2024 SWD Secretary/Treasurer

Ciara Gibbs, Eta Pi, SWD Counselor

The 2024 Jurisdiction & Finance Committee was charged with the following:

- Review the report of the 2022-2023 Jurisdiction and Finance Committee
- Reallocate funds to reflect a non NatCon year
- Organize a fundraising effort for the TBS SWD to ensure a steady income.
- Evaluate the format of the budget in its entirety to balance income versus traditional expenses of the SWD.
- Evaluate the TBS/KKPsi SWD Constitution prior to District Convention.
- Acknowledge service project funds within the TBS SWD Budget.
- Determine feasibility of maintaining current scholarship amounts within the TBS SWD Budget.
- Propose a plan for fundraising

Finances:

We suggested that the Secretary/Treasurer immediately start fundraising so that it can be as efficient as possible. Here are the fundraiser ideas we discussed:

- Joint chapter fundraisers (popcorn, chocolate bars, cookies)
- More money for host chapters
- Profit share for area workshop or district
- T-shirts, wristbands, buttons
- Maybe making buttons over buying them

Proposed budget:

- The budget can be found in Appendix A (QR code for session)

Proposed Changes to the Southwest District Constitution:

- The constitutional amendments also be found in the Appendix B (QR code for session)

Charges for the 2025-2026 Jurisdiction & Finance Committee:

1. Review the report of the 2023-2024 Jurisdiction and Finance Committee
2. Reallocate funds to reflect a NatCon year
3. Organize a fundraising effort for the TBS SWD to ensure a steady income
4. Evaluate TBS/KKPsi Constitution prior to District Convention
5. Propose a plan for fundraising

Lastly, I would like to give a special thanks to Soror Goodnight and the rest of the jurisdiction and finance committee for this opportunity and to my chapter Delta Alpha, for the support and encouragement. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Briana Sambol
Delta Alpha Chapter

Jurisdiction and Finance Committee Report: Appendix A (Budget)

Income	
Estimated Starting Balance	\$3,298.72
Allocations from National Dues	\$1,650.00
Fall 2024	\$1,350.00
Spring 2025	\$300.00
Miscellaneous/Other	\$855.00
SWD Fall Fundraiser*	\$250.00
SWD Spring Fundraiser*	\$250.00
SWDCON25 Button T.A. Fundraiser	\$105.00
Service Project Fundraiser	\$250.00
Other Income	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00
Other Donations	\$0.00
Total	\$5,803.72
Budget Balance	
Total Income	\$5,803.72
Total Expenses	\$4,460.00
Final Balance	\$1,343.72
Starting Balance is estimated based on pending expenses	
Final Balance must stay below 5000	

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Expenses			
District Officer Travel Expenses	\$2,200.00		
President	\$550.00		
Vice President of Membership	\$550.00		
Vice President of Special Projects	\$550.00		
Secretary/Treasurer	\$550.00		
District Convention Expenses	\$400.00		
Honorary Membership Fee	\$300.00		
Materials for Host Chapter	\$100.00		
Scholarships	\$200.00		
2025 Scholarship of Excellence	\$100.00		
2025 Southwest District Service to Music Scholarship	\$100.00		
Assistanceships	\$600.00		
2025 District Convention Assistance and Delegate Registration	\$0.00	SWDAA does typically award several delegate	
2025 Workshop/District Travel Assistance	\$600.00		grants
Miscellaneous/Other Expenses	\$1,060.00		
Miscellaneous	\$0.00		
Button Trade (SWD Council Buttons)	\$600.00		
Fundraiser Supplies*	\$210.00	this will be based off of fundraising plan for the	
Service Project Donation	\$250.00		district
Total	\$4,460.00		

Jurisdiction and Finance Committee Report: Appendix B (Constitutional Amendments)

10.01

Current Bylaw:

The following awards may be presented at District Convention:

- Chapter
 - Patsy D. Hejl Award (Outstanding Larger Chapter)
 - Dorothy Allen Nichols Award (Outstanding Smaller Chapter)
 - Dollie McDonald O'Neil Chapter Perseverance Award
 - Janet West Miller Award for Outstanding Service to Music Education
 - Spirit of Sisterhood Award-Beta Turtle (Larger Chapter)
 - Spirit of Sisterhood Award-Sigma Turtle (Smaller Chapter)
 - Tau Turtle (Most spirited chapter)
 - Chapter Distance Award
 - Outstanding Chapter Display
 - Outstanding Scrapbook
- Individual
 - Erika L. Pope Legacy of the Southwest Award
 - Christina M. Gordon Scholarship of Excellence
 - Southwest District Service to Music Scholarship
 - Daniel A. George Award for Fostering Joint Relations

Proposed:

The following awards may be presented at District Convention:

- Chapter
 - Patsy D. Hejl Award (Outstanding Larger Chapter)
 - Dorothy Allen Nichols Award (Outstanding Smaller Chapter)
 - Dollie McDonald O'Neil Chapter Perseverance Award
 - Janet West Miller Award for Outstanding Service to Music Education
 - Spirit of Sisterhood Award-Beta Turtle (Larger Chapter)
 - Spirit of Sisterhood Award-Sigma Turtle (Smaller Chapter)
 - Tau Turtle (Most spirited chapter)
 - Chapter Distance Award
 - ~~Outstanding Chapter Display~~
 - ~~Outstanding Scrapbook~~
 - **Outstanding Scrapbook: Virtual Submission**
- Individual
 - Erika L. Pope Legacy of the Southwest Award
 - Christina M. Gordon Scholarship of Excellence

- Southwest District Service to Music Scholarship
- Daniel A. George Award for Fostering Joint Relations

Rationale:

Having these categories physically at convention would increase expenses for a chapter due to needing to pay for a table.

Chapters are still interested in the scrapbook idea, but would like to do it virtually to reduce costs

Current Bylaw: N/A

Proposed: 3.08

Rationale:

Current Bylaw: N/A

Proposed: 3.08

The Secretary/Treasurer will be responsible for a year-long communication committee. The communication committee will consist of at least 6 active members representing each area of the Southwest District. Positions in this committee can include but are not limited to: Archive and History Officer, Social Media Analyst, Co-Chair & Outreach Officer, Website Improvement Analyst, and Resource Development Officer.

Rationale: This committee was only utilized for one year and the need for it is still there.

Report of the Membership Committee

2024 Southwest District

Committee Chair:

Zoe Stovall, Xi

Committee Members:

- Alexis Brown, Delta
- Brianna Finnell, Epsilon Beta
- Hope Aziaka, Iota
- Isabelle Hawkins, Alpha Upsilon
- Kenneth Blankenship, Delta Sigma
- Kestionna Latchie, Zeta Mu

Advisors:

Natalie Wilson | SWD VPM | Beta

Tyler Hern | CVA/Life Member | Beta Nu

The 2023-2024 Membership Committee was charged with the following:

1. Review the charges of 2022-2023 Membership Committee
2. Review the charges of the 2023-2024 District Vice President for Membership
3. Review the charges of the 2023-2024 District Council
4. Review the charges of the National Vice President for Membership and Expansion
5. Review the progress of Overture and its implementation
6. Review the need for and effectiveness of Area Workshops

Discussion:

In the absence of the Chair presiding at the first meeting of the committee, Zoe Stovall, Xi Chapter, was appointed Committee Chair; Brianna Finnell was appointed as the Scribe. The committee reviewed and discussed the 2023-2024 Membership Committee report. Through discussion we reviewed the implementation of area workshops as well as virtual workshops

within the past year. We also discussed the progress and use of Overture and the lessons and activities within it. After further discussion, we discussed the possibility of having at least one in-person workshop in the spring and also encouraged the idea of making it hybrid to allow sisters who cannot travel to join via Zoom. We also discussed the possibility of virtual workshops allowing chapters to present their own platforms over approved topics. As a committee we thought it would be beneficial to send out a form to allow chapters to apply to host workshops, virtually and in-person. We also encourage the VPM to continue to hold MEP and Overture workshops for the summer and winter break. We discussed the possibility of having the summer workshop revolve around building an MEP, while the winter workshop would involve teaching Overture.

Charges for the 2024-2025 Membership Committee

1. Review the charges of the 2023-2024 Membership Committee
2. Review the charges of the 2024-2025 District Vice President for Membership
3. Review the charges of the 2024-2025 District Council
4. Review the charges of the National Vice President for Membership and Expansion
5. Review the progress of Overture and its implementation
6. Review the need for and effectiveness of Area Workshops

Charges for the 2024-2025 Vice President for Membership

1. Have at least one area workshop in the spring, with an in person option offered in each area
2. Have one virtual area workshop per semester
3. Have one virtual area workshop in each academic break (summer and winter break) dedicated to the Membership Education Plan.
4. Create a list of which chapters are in each area in the Southwest District
5. Follow up with all chapter VPMs to ensure that they have all updated Overture resources provided by the National Curriculum Committee
6. Review the report of the 2023/24 VPM and the SWDCon minutes
7. Along with council, continue the implementation of having Song Workshops during Area Workshops and District Convention

Charges for the National Vice President for Membership and Expansion

1. Ensure that all QR codes and links in the Overture Membership Candidate Workbook work
2. Ensure that all necessary websites are listed in Overture VPM Manual

Charges for the 2024-2025 National Curriculum Committee

1. Ensure all song resources on the necessary websites are up to date and accessible

Special thanks to our advisors and committee members, as well as our SWD council and chapters for being here today.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zoe Stovall | Xi

Chair of the Membership Committee

Report of the Nominations Committee

2024 Southwest District

Committee Chair:

- Avary Stutzman- Eta Pi

Committee Members:

- Ximena Fernandez de Jauregui -Epsilon Beta, Proxy for Zeta Phi
- Eylon Barnum – Iota, proxy for Eta Epsilon

Advisors:

- Leslie Gartin, National President
- Linnetta Ratliff, SWD Counselor

The 2024 Nominations Committee was charged with the following:

Charges for the 2024 Nominations Committee and/or Nominations Committee Chair and Advisor:

1. Review the 2023 Nominations Committee Report.
2. Collect all materials from all candidates running for District Council.
3. Schedule interviews with each District Council Candidate, and ensure that they are recorded and uploaded to the Facebook, SWD Website, and the Nominations Committee Folder.
4. Review the materials of each candidate.
5. Use or Create individual questions personalized to each candidate's platform and use them to interview each qualified candidate.
6. We also charge the District Council with advertising the candidate packets all across social media prior to convention, to ensure that SWD chapters are able to review each candidate's qualifications to interview each qualified candidate.
7. Charge the Council with requiring a pre-recorded video for Floor Candidates, along with their other required materials, entailing an Introduction, two general questions, and two position specific questions.
8. Discuss who the committee feels is best qualified for each office. Submit a slate in your preliminary report.
9. We also charge the Council with ensuring that Candidate Interviews are conducted at least 7 days prior to the start of Convention.

Charges for the 2025 Nomination Committee and/ or Nominations Committee Chair and Advisor:

Discussion:

1. Review the 2024 Nominations Committee Report.
2. Collect all materials from all candidates running for District Council.
3. Schedule interviews with each District Council Candidate, and ensure that they are recorded and uploaded to the Instagram, SWD Website, and the Nominations Committee Folder.
4. Review the materials of each candidate.
5. Use or Create individual questions personalized to each candidate's platform and use them to interview each qualified candidate.
6. We also charge the District Council with advertising the candidate packets all across social media prior to convention, to ensure that SWD chapters are able to review each candidate's qualifications to interview each qualified candidate.
7. Charge the Council with requiring a pre-recorded video , along with their other required materials, entailing an Introduction, two general questions, and two position specific questions no later than 21 days prior to convention.
8. Charge the Council to set a timeline for interested candidates to apply and set a committee with consideration to Chapter Proxy.

The Nominations Chairperson and Advisors were able to interview the candidates who submitted their reports prior to convention and the full committee reviewed the packets for individuals.

Following our review, the committee found the below individuals eligible to run for offices for the Southwest District Council:

- Natalie Wilson, Candidate for SWD President
- Kyla Anderson, Candidate for SWD VP for Membership
- Mykaela Johnson, Candidate for SWD VP for Special Projects

Special Thanks to the Southwest District Council for giving me the opportunity to speak and be on this committee and the delegates for Eta epsilon and Zeta Phi

Respectfully Submitted,
Avary Stutzman, Eta Pi
Chair of the 2024 Nominations Committee

Report of the Programs Committee

2024 Southwest District

Committee Chair:

Amy Gilmore, Beta

Committee Members:

Kailah Arnold, Beta Omicron

Walerie Alvarez, Gamma Phi

Advisors:

Natalia Harrison, Alumni Advisor

Sydney Fishburn, Xi, Southwest District Vice President for Special Projects

The 2023-2024 Programs Committee was charged with the following:

- 1) Review the charges from the 2023 SWD Programs Committee.
- 2) Review the participation from the 2023- 2024 photo challenge and determine a winner for the SWD photo challenge.
- 3) Review and discuss Chapter Participation in the Tau Beta Sigma National Programs and the Focus on Five Campaign

Discussion:

Charge 1: *Review the charges from 2023 SWD Programs Committee:* The 2024 Programs Committee reviewed the charges and report of the 2023 SWD Programs Committee.

Charge 2: *Review the participation from the 2023 - 2024 photo challenge and determine a winner for the SWD photo challenge:* As a committee, we discussed the photo challenge within the SWD to determine the SWD Photo Challenge winner to be **Epsilon Beta** for 2023-2024. There were 11 participants total, and 4 chapters earned their center lyre pieces.

Charge 3: *Review and discuss Chapter Participation in the Tau Beta Sigma National Programs and the Focus on Five Campaign:* The committee has determined that about 70% of the Southwest District has completed the red stripe. The committee is putting out a climate

survey in order to explore what platforms chapters are using, how they feel about Slack, Discord for Focus on Five, etc.

Charges for the 2025 Programs Committee:

- Review the charges from the 2024 SWD Programs Committee.
- Review the participation from the 2024 - 2025 center lyre piece challenge and determine a winner for the SWD.
- Review and discuss Chapter Participation in the Tau Beta Sigma National Programs and the Focus on Five Campaign.
- Review and discuss growth of the projects databases displayed on the SWD Website.

Charges for the 2024-2025 Vice President of Special Projects:

- Have more public recognition of stripe completions after due dates
- Encourage more communication between chapters
- Send monthly, or more regular, communication to chapters about status updates on participation in the Photo Challenge and FO5 stripe completions.
- Set criteria and call for video submissions to update the SWD Chant Demonstration Videos
- Create a more accessible database for Sisterhood, FO5, and National Programs ideas, as well as update submission forms for those databases

Charges for the 2024-2025 District Council:

- Keep close communication with Sec/Treas to ensure VPSP updates are effectively and timely communicated throughout the SWD
- Work on improving the website and implementing database updates in the VPSP Charges

Special Thanks

Thank you to the district council for letting me step into this opportunity to represent the Programs Committee. I am so thankful to have met Natalia and Sydney! This is my first time at a district convention, and our committee meetings beforehand only increased my excitement and confidence for this weekend. On a more personal note, I would also like to thank my home chapter, Beta, for giving me this opportunity to represent us at the district level. You have taken on many extra responsibilities throughout this week with being the host chapter, and I could not

have taken on this role without you. Finally, thank you to our president and SWD VPM Natalie Wilson for everything this week. MLITB.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Gilmore, Beta

Chair of the 2024 Programs Committee

Report of the Spirit & Sisterhood Committee

2024 Southwest District

Committee Chair:

Samantha Guernesey, Alpha

Committee Members:

- Zena Hargrove, Delta Upsilon
- Chasity Jones, Epsilon Psi
- Emily Chrisman, Gamma Phi (Proxy Delta Phi)
- Anmarie Proctor, Epsilon Beta (Proxy for Gamma Nu)

Advisors:

Ciara Gibbs, Eta Pi, SWD Counselor

The Committee was charged with the following:

1. Update the record of which chapters have received the awards in the past five years.
2. Review video submissions for the chants.
3. Discuss the chapters in attendance at the 2024 Southwest District Convention on the qualities of spirit and sisterhood. Award the Spirit and Sisterhood Awards in accordance with the District constitution.
4. Coordinate with the District President to review chants at separate sessions throughout the convention. ([google drive](#))
5. Evaluate effectiveness of the sisterhood database based on changes suggested in 2023

Discussion:

We started with discussing the Spirit & Sisterhood awards. We evaluated the awareness of the award and the effectiveness of the award. We believe that these awards are beneficial to stay and that the awareness of the awards need to increase in our district. We recommend the council creating a way for the receiving chapters to have a platform to showcase the award throughout the year. This can be things like letting them do instagram takeovers on the adventure of the award, submitting photos to be featured on social media and our district publication, etc.

Realizing there were no video submissions to review, we discussed ways that the call for submissions could take place throughout the year so that there are videos to review. We recommend the council to make a call for video submissions and use the content for social media stories leading up to district convention.

There were no changes to the sisterhood database to evaluate. We recommend for the district council to reach out to officers of every chapter of the district to get submissions for this database to build it back up.

Charges for the 2024-2025 Spirit and Sisterhood Committee:

- Update the record of which chapters have received the awards in the past five years.
- Review video submissions for the chants. (AV equipment required in committee room)
- Discuss the chapters in attendance at the 2025 Southwest District Convention on the qualities of spirit and sisterhood. Award the Spirit and Sisterhood Awards in accordance with the District constitution.
- Coordinate with the District President to review chants at separate sessions throughout the convention.

Charges for the 2024-2025 Vice President of Special Projects and/or Council:

- Call for submissions to update the Chant Demonstration Video in accordance with needs determined by the 2023 Spirit and Sisterhood Committee
- Re-open submissions for additions to the sisterhood database

Charges for the 2024-2025 District Secretary/Treasurer

- Reorganize/Simplify the SWD Website to make it more user friendly
- Create a video demonstrating how Chapters can access and navigate our Southwest District website

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Guernesey, Alpha

Chair of the Spirit & Sisterhood Committee

The recipients for this year's awards are as follows:

- Golden Tau - Iota

Tau Beta Sigma - 2024 Southwest District Convention Minutes

- Beta - Delta Alpha
- Sigma - Alpha