

Kappa Kappa Psi

Southwest District Convention 2026



Minutes | Final Officer Reports | Committee Reports

March 27-29, 2026

Dallas, Texas

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Opening Session | March 28th @ 9:06 AM CT

1. Call to Order @ 9:06 AM

- a. “Welcome to the 2026 Southwest District Convention of Kappa Kappa Psi, I now call this First Session to order!”

2. Introduction of Council and Governors

- a. Tyler Slough - SWD President
- b. Samantha Whitaker - SWD VPLD
- c. Roman Beames - SWD VPP
- d. Caitlyn Colca - SWD Sec/Treas
- e. Jessica Pearce - SWD MAL
- f. Kadeem Sabari - SWD Governor
- g. Garret Gardenhire - SWD Governor
- h. Dr. Derek Stoughton - SWD Governor

3. Delegate Roll Call

- a. Seat all Delegates.
 - i. Random Seating for the 2027 SWD Convention will begin with Iota Upsilon

4. Delegate Instruction

- a. “Are there any Delegates sitting on a committee that places them in a conflict of interest?”

5. Accepting the Minutes of the 2025 SWD Convention

- a. Motion to accept the 2025 SWD Convention Minutes
 - i. Motion - Lambda
 - ii. Second - Zeta Gamma
 - iii. Pass/Fail - Pass

6. Founder’s Circle Keynote: *Student Keynote Speaker SWDCON 2026*

- a. “Welcome to our Keynote Speaker, Haley Brookshire!”

7. National Council Town Hall

8. Announcements

9. Recess until Saturday, March 28th @ 2:45 PM

Separate Session #2 | Month, 00th @ 2:48-3:49 PM CT

- 1. Call to Order @ 2:48 PM**
- 2. Delegate Roll Call**
- 3. Committee Reports**
 - 1. Report of the Ways and Means Committee**
 - a. Motion to Accept the Report
 - i. Motion - Delta Chi
 - ii. Second - Zeta Beta
 - iii. Pass/Fail - Pass
 - b. Motion to Adopt the 2026-2027 Budget
 - i. Motion - Beta Gamma
 - ii. Second - Epsilon Beta
 - iii. Pass/Fail - Pass
 - 2. Report of the Chapter Leadership Committee**
 - a. Motion to Accept the Report
 - i. Motion - Epsilon Theta
 - ii. Second - Zeta Kappa
 - iii. Pass/Fail -
 - 3. Report of the Nominations Committee**
 - a. Motion to Accept the Report
 - i. Motion - Alpha Psi
 - ii. Second - Lambda Pi
 - iii. Pass/Fail - Pass
 - 4. Final Officer Reports**
 - a. Final Officer Report of Member-At-Large**
 - i. Motion to accept Jessica Pearce's Final Officer Report as read
 1. Motion - Alpha
 2. Second - Beta Alpha
 3. Pass/Fail
 - b. Final Officer Report of Secretary/Treasurer**
 - i. Motion to accept Caitlyn Colca's Final Officer Report as read
 1. Motion - Beta Sigma
 2. Second - Rho
 3. Pass/Fail - Pass
 - c. Final Officer Report of Vice-President of Programs**
 - i. Motion to accept Roman Beame's Final Officer Report as read
 1. Motion - Delta
 2. Second - Epsilon Beta
 3. Pass/Fail - Pass

d. Final Officer Report of Vice-President of Leadership and Development

i. Motion to accept Samantha Whitaker's Final Officer Report as read

1. Motion - Zeta Beta
2. Second - Gamma Sigma
3. Pass/Fail - Pass

e. Final Governors Report

i. Motion to accept Derek Stoughton's Final Officer Report as read

1. Motion - Epsilon Beta
2. Second - Alpha Chi
3. Pass/Fail - Pass

5. Announcements

6. Recess until Sunday, March 29th @ 9:00 AM

Separate Session #3 | March 29th @ 9:06 AM CT

- 1. Call to Order: @ 9:06 AM**
- 2. Delegate Roll Call**
- 3. Committee Report**
 - a. Report of the Spirit and Recognition Committee**
 - i. Motion to Accept the Report
 1. Motion - Zeta Zeta
 2. Second - Beta Sigma
 3. Pass/Fail - Pass
 - b. Report of the Jurisdiction Committee**
 - i. Motion to Accept the Report
 1. Motion - Zeta Kappa
 2. Second - Delta Chi
 3. Pass/Fail - Pass
 - ii. Motion to Adopt the Constitution Amendments
 1. Motion - Beta Alpha
 2. Second - Mu Chi
 3. Pass/Fail - Pass
 - iii. Motion to Adopt the Policy Guide Changes
 1. Motion - Epsilon Theta
 2. Second - Delta Chi
 3. Pass/Fail - Pass
- 4. Final Officer Report of President**
 - a. Motion to accept Tyler Slough's Final Officer Report as read
 - i. Motion - Zeta Kappa
 - ii. Second - Epsilon Delta
 - iii. Pass/Fail- Pass
- 5. Final Officer Report of Governors**
 - a. Motion to accept Garret Gardenhire's Final Officer Report as read
 - i. Motion - Lambda
 - ii. Second - Delta
 - iii. Pass/Fail - Pass
 - b. Motion to accept Kadeem Sabari's a Final Officer Report as read
 - i. Motion - Alpha Omicron
 - ii. Second - Epsilon Theta
 - iii. Pass/Fail - Pass
- 6. District Officer Elections**
 - a. President
 - i. Slated Candidate: Caitlyn Colca, Beta Sigma

- ii. Nominations from the Floor
 - 1. None
 - iii. Election Procedure
 - 1. 2 Minute Speech from each candidate
 - 2. 3 Minutes of moderated Q&A with each Candidate
 - iv. Counting Votes
 - 1. Elected Individual: Caitlyn Colca
- b. Andy the Armadillo, presented by Iota Upsilon, was passed to Rho at Tulane.
- c. Vice President for Leadership and Development
 - i. Slated Candidate: Sarah Johnson, Alpha
 - ii. Nominations from the Floor
 - 1. None
 - iii. Election Procedure
 - 1. 2 Minute Speech from each candidate
 - 2. 3 Minutes of moderated Q&A with each Candidate
 - iv. Counting Votes
 - 1. Elected Individual: Sarah Johnson, Alpha
- d. Chapter Percentage Award:
 - i. Epsilon Chi
- e. Chapter Participation Award:
 - i. Gamma Omega
- f. Secretary/Treasurer
 - i. Slated Candidate: Hunter Burks, Beta Sigma
 - ii. Nominations from the Floor
 - 1. None
 - iii. Election Procedure
 - 1. 2 Minute Speech
 - 2. 3 Minutes of moderated Q&A with each Candidate
 - iv. Counting Votes
 - 1. Elected Individual: Hunter Burks, Beta Sigma
- g. Chapter Distance Award:
 - i. Gamma Omega
- h. Delegate Distance Award:
 - i. Gamma Iota
- i. SWDAA Awards
 - i. D.C. al Coda Award was awarded to the following:
 - 1. Audrey, Delta
 - ii. Ritual Scholarship was awarded to the following:
 - 1. Lambda, University of Arkansas

- iii. Chapter Delegate Grant was Awarded to the:
 - 1. Delta Chapter, University of Oklahoma
- j. Member-at-Large
 - i. Slated Candidate: Mackenzie Schofield, Lambda
 - ii. Nominations from the Floor
 - 1. None
 - iii. Election Procedure
 - 1. 2 Minute Speech from each candidate
 - 2. 3 Minutes of moderated Q&A with each Candidate
 - iv. Counting Votes
 - 1. Elected Individual: Mackenzie Schofield, Lambda
- k. National Announcements

Welcome to the 2026-2027 SWD Council!

 - i. President: Caitlyn Colca, Beta Sigma
 - ii. Vice President for Leadership and Development: Sarah Johnson, Alpha
 - iii. Secretary/Treasurer: Hunter Burks, Beta Sigma
 - iv. Member-At-Large: Mackenzie Schofield, Lambda

7. Announcements

8. District Officer Installation

9. Adjourn @ 10:5 PM

- a. Motion - Beta Sigma
- b. Second - Beta Alpha
- c. Pass/Fail - Pass

Appendix A: Final Officer Report - Member at Large - Jessica Pearce

Brothers of the Southwest District,

It has been an absolute joy to serve you and your chapters this year. Watching our chapters grow, adapt and continue striving for the highest has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this position. Whether through working together to develop ideas for social media content, preparing for conventions, or supporting one another through adversity, I have been continually inspired by the dedication and resilience of our brothers. I am deeply grateful for the bonds formed over the course of this year and the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of our district.

As I approach the conclusion of my time as an active member of this organization, it's hard to overstate just how significantly Kappa Kappa Psi has shaped both my professional aspirations and personal confidence. I was so shy and nervous when I began college, and receiving a bid to Kappa Kappa Psi baffled me more than anything else—I had no idea there were so many people who not only knew who I was, but thought I was worthy of membership. My experience serving as historian for my chapter helped me find my place in the fraternity, allowing me to use my skills to document the work of my brothers while strengthening connections within the chapter and preserving its legacy. When I made the decision to pursue this district position, I was motivated by the opportunity to expand these efforts across the Southwest District. I hoped to foster broader connections among chapters, highlight the meaningful work being done across our region, and contribute to a more cohesive and communicative community, both at the council and district level.

At the beginning of the term, I was charged with the following responsibilities:

- Create a posting calendar for timely planning
- Celebrate the stories of the chapters within our district
- Connect with chapters on a personal level
- Coordinate with the VPP to distribute the *New ALTO*
- Foster frequent communication with the Tau Beta Sigma counterpart

Over the course of the year, the following goals were achieved:

- Maintained an active presence across district social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, and Discord, while improving coordination between platforms to ensure more consistent communication
- Facilitated chapter takeovers highlighting a range of conferences, chapter sizes, band traditions, and service initiatives
- Worked one-on-one with chapters to strengthen their own social media presence
- Updated and verified chapter records, including charter and recharter dates as well as contact information

To the 2026–2027 Southwest District Member-at-Large, I give the following charges:

- Collaborate with the Secretary-Treasurer to maintain consistency and clarity across digital communications and district platforms
- Continue developing intentional methods of highlighting chapter history, traditions, awards, and leadership achievements, and be aggressive in working with chapters to engage in those projects
- Foster meaningful relationships within the District Council and chapters through both in-person and virtual opportunities for connection
- Always remember that this position is a collaborative role—don't be afraid to ask for feedback, experiment, and get creative!

This position offers an incredible opportunity to witness the strength of our brotherhood across a wide geographic area and a diverse range of chapters. Through this experience, I have seen firsthand how recognition, communication and storytelling can strengthen both our pillars and relationships across the district. I am forever grateful and proud of the lasting connections I've had the opportunity to foster with brothers throughout the Southwest and an understanding I've gained of being not only a member of my chapter, but also a brother of a national fraternity.

I close with a final charge to all brothers of the Southwest District: take time to recognize and celebrate the efforts of those around you. The continued success of our organization depends on our willingness to support and acknowledge one another's contributions.

Also, make sure to tag our Instagram when you do.

Fraternally submitted,

AEA

Jessica Pearce, Southwest District Member-at-Large
Alpha Chapter

Appendix B: Final Officer Report - Secretary/Treasurer - Caitlyn Colca

Brothers of the Southwest District,

I am so grateful and honored to stand before all of you, as the Southwest District Secretary/Treasurer for the final time. This has been one of the most meaningful experiences I have had in my life, I have gotten to meet so many wonderful people throughout this past year, and learned the true meaning of brotherhood. Before this year I truly wasn't sure what kappa kappa psi meant to me, but now I am certain it will be a part of my life forever.

When I ran for this office I was still in my first year as a brother trying to figure out how to be a chapter treasurer and honestly not sure what was next in my fraternal journey. I had no clue what I was getting myself into, and I assumed "there's no way they'll pick me". Well I was wrong and that random decision to apply was the best decision I've made as a brother. Caitlyn a year ago would never have had the confidence to stand in front of a group this big or to reach out to so many new people, as a leader I am an entirely different person and so much of that development has come from holding this office and from the people I have met because of it, so I owe all of the Southwest a thank you for trusting me!

Brothers, if there's one piece of advice I can offer all of you, talk to each other, talk to people from other chapters, put yourself out there. The moment I did that, I realized how special KΚΨ truly was! The bonds you make here will last a lifetime.

The charges as the 2025-2026 Secretary/Treasurer are as follows:

- Maintain a running budget throughout the year, and keep it updated as expenses occur
- Work with your governor and council team to effectively relay convention information in a timely manner utilizing listserv.
- Familiarize yourself with the website early on, so your later duties will run smoothly so you do not get bogged down in the uploading of documents.
- Prepare the 2025-2026 Ways and Means Report as soon as possible, so you may work easier with your governors and council members to catch any unpredicted problems early on.

My charges for the 2026-2027 Secretary/Treasurer are as follows:

- Learn how to update the website as soon as possible to make the later parts of your term easier.
- Check your email and group me once a day! It will take 5 minutes and keep you from getting overwhelmed.
- Do your best to stay ahead, write your emails before the day of, update the budget each time you get sent something, do the little things when they come so you don't end up with a stack of work
- Ask for help, your governors and other district officers are there to help you and only want you to succeed!

Finally I owe a few people some thanks!

To my fellow council members,

Y'all are one of the funnest groups of people I have ever got to work with, especially, you Jess, genuinely one of the most funny people in the world. Watching all of us grow over the past year has been so fun, I will deeply miss our talking about what team is doing great in sports, some stupid thing that happened at band rehearsal or meeting or just talking about our lives. I wish you all the best as we move forward and I wished we had more time together.

To the Governors,

Thank you, for being there to answer any silly question I had and for always supporting every one of us in all we do. Your passion, for this fraternity, shows in all the work you do. Getting to know y'all, throughout the past year has been nothing short of an honor. The 3 of you are some of the kindest and funniest people I've had the privilege of working with. Thank you, and I look forward to keeping in touch with y'all!

To Beta Sigma

Thank you most of all for believing in me from the very beginning, y'all support and friendship means the world to me. It has been an honor to represent you over the past year and to serve as your president alongside with serving the district this year. Thank you for dealing with every time I asked one of you "Hey can you re this email" and inevitably fixing at least 8 miss spellings before I send it out. But truly I couldn't have done this without y'all's love and support. I am forever honored to call myself a brother of Beta Sigma GO COOGS, I LOVE YALL SO MUCH! 🤗

Fraternality submitted,

Caitlyn Colca

2025-2026 Southwest District Secretary/Treasurer

Beta Sigma Chapter

Appendix C: Final Officer Report - Vice President for Programs - Roman Beames

Brothers of the Southwest District,

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as your Vice President for Programs this past year. One of my greatest joys in this fraternity is getting to meet brothers from across the country and learning all about what makes their experiences special, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the chance to channel this passion into an opportunity to give back to our District.

During my time as a brother, I never considered myself someone of the Officer or Exec type. You can ask my dear Delta brothers; I believed that there were people who were far more talented and better suited than me for titled leadership. I never even considered District Office until a trip to Central Arkansas and some encouragement from Hunter, even if her car blew up on the way back. When I attended the Area Workshop hosted by Epsilon Beta (massive shoutout to Goober), I realized that there is far, FAR more to Kappa Kappa Psi than what resides in Norman, Oklahoma. Not only did I return home with several pages of ideas for Delta to implement, with solutions to problems I didn't even know we had, I got to meet many incredible brothers from chapters I never would have met otherwise. This, combined with a simple but genuine "I think you would make a great Member at Large" from Hunter solidified my decision to run for office.

You may have noticed that I said Member at Large. Bella and I have much more in common than being shorter than 5 foot 5; I, too, did not originally run for VPP, but when I received the text that I was slated for this position, I happily accepted it, because I remained committed to using my skills to give back wherever was best fit for me.

The 2024-2025 charges for this position were as follows:

- Be assertive in your deadline requests. It is okay to encourage people to do their job in the timeline that works best for you to do your job.
- Continue to find ways to make the New ALTO relevant to non-executive members. Branch out beyond deadlines and reminders.
- Create an end-of-term publication of the New ALTO to some capacity.
- Set the joint service project up for success, starting with area workshops.
- Keep up the trajectory of getting awards information out in advance. Stay in touch with Awards-eligible chapters.
- Enjoy the process; get close with your council peers, make connections with your chapters, and have a good time.

This year, we promoted the 2025 Chapter Assistance Grant to help fund ten of our chapters' travels to National Convention over the summer. To help reach more brothers and condense our deadlines into one notable place, I reformatted the New ALTO into two halves: a monthly newsletter of our important updates and deadlines, and a semesterly publication to feature pictures and accounts from you all, my brothers of the Southwest, because all of you deserve to have your quirks and stories shared with the class. Our Governors helpfully reached out to all of our awards-eligible chapters, and I had the opportunity to review our awards applications as chair of the Spirit & Rec committee. As a District Officer, I have had an incredible time meeting my nine chapters, my fellow Officers, as well as all of you. (If you have never heard from me, please check your spam folder.) My time as an Officer has been nothing short of memorable, and the lessons I have learned during this term will stay with me long into my future studies and my career.

Because we are combining VPP and Sec/Treas with the power of friendship, my charges to the 2026 Southwest District Secretary/Treasurer are as follows:

- Have a clear vision and goals for your term, and set goals to reach them. Never be afraid to have ideas and act upon them.
- Continue improving upon the New ALTO to increase its engagement and benefit to our brothers. Collect information from chapters early and often, and don't be afraid to reach out individually!
- Be assertive in your deadlines, and remain confident in your own abilities.
- Create a schedule for yourself and your office's responsibilities. You will have recurring deadlines, keep them consistent!
- Enjoy your time with your council, and meet as many brothers as possible. These relationships will last a lifetime.

To the Delta chapter,

Thank you for believing in me and celebrating my accomplishments with me, even if I didn't always feel confident enough to earn them. Your support pushed me to do more than I thought I possibly could, and for that I'll always be grateful. I love all 100 of you, and I know you'll all do great things as brothers, both at home and in the District.

To Jess,

I always thought it was a little fun how Delta and Alpha did a little flip flop with our two offices this year, and I DEFINITELY always enjoy making fun of where you go to school. Thank you for driving my own vehicle down to Winter Council when I was too afraid of I-35 to do it

myself. As much as I like to make fun of Oklahoma State (it is a contractual obligation after all), I've always been profoundly impressed by your well-spokenness, your storytelling, and your ability to come up with and complete so many ideas at a high level. I joke that Oklahoma State is the little brother, but I hope I grow up to be like you one day.

To Caitlyn,

I am incredibly proud of your ability to always find some way to ensure you are serving the most that you possibly can, even if it means seeking out or inventing your own things to do. From all you've shared with me, you are one of the most passionate brothers I know, and I have absolutely zero doubt in my mind that wherever you may end up, your drive will bring profound success for yourself and your community.

To Sam,

I appreciate you for always responding to my yapping in the group chat and for sharing my love for Dr. Pepper (even if I can't actually drink it anymore). You showing us how to line dance at the NatCon was the most fun I've ever had on a dance floor, and thank you so much for cramming (almost) the entire council into your Jeep so we could go to Chili's at Winter Council. I promised we'd go back for this year's Convention, and the current Roman writing this sincerely hopes that we returned that favor for you. I'm proud of everything you were able to accomplish as VPLD. You are ALWAYS invited to come with me to any Big School Football Game; I'll have tickets waiting for you any time.

To Tyler,

Mr. President, I have no idea how you're able to do it all. I have so much respect for all that you do, and how you do it between all the concerts you go to. You made me realize that I am not at all exercising my free will properly, and that it's possible to say yes to the really fun things in life while still maintaining excellence in my responsibilities. You inspired me to say yes to seeing Bruno Mars in Dallas next month, and to be more intentional about enjoying the fun things in life.

To Derek,

As one of our two new Governors this year, if you were ever a little nervous about that, it never showed. We first met at the UCA workshop that inspired my run for office and I saw your degree from UT Austin, and despite your choice in burnt orange cows, you're one of the most friendly and encouraging people I've ever met. When I reached out to you three about my worries about grad school, you reminded me that I'll always have brothers wherever I go that will be there for

me. You've done an amazing job as a Governor this year, and I am so excited for future councils to meet you.

To Garrett,

As a fellow computer science goober, you've always been incredibly helpful and supportive of me, and if my future in the industry looks anything like yours, I'll be very very happy. You've shown us so much patience as a council, and you've done so much for us as our other brand new friend. I sincerely hope we stay in touch because I know I still have so much to learn from you. (And I promise I won't call you that nickname you don't like.)

To Kadeem,

Thank you so much for always holding me to a high standard, and for doing so in a way that was always gentle about my inner fears of not doing good enough. I remember when I complimented your pride shirt during convention last year, and you sought me out after I had sat down just to acknowledge that you heard me and to say thank you. You've done so much for our council throughout all of the changes, and I've learned so many things from you that I'll take with me into my career.

To my brothers of the Southwest District and all of your glorious mascots,

I would not be who I am today without all of you. I would not have run for office if not for the encouragement of my fellow brothers. If you believe in someone, please tell them, because maybe that's all they need to feel good enough to try. Even if I went to your spam folder more often than not, I was always delighted to be able to reach out to you and help you in some way. You all have amazing individual stories and personalities; I love that our silly band activity brought us together so that we may share them. You remind me that there is far more love in the world than I can comprehend, and your mascots remind me that there is always a place in life for a sense of whimsy.

Thank you all for everything; AEA and Boomer Sooner.

Fraternally submitted,

Roman Beames

2025-2026 Southwest District Vice President for Programs

Appendix D: Final Officer Report - Vice President of Leadership and Development - Samantha Whitaker

My dearest brothers of the Southwest District,

Where to begin? My time here has been hectic, fun-filled, and definitely packed with learning experiences! Although the office of Vice President for Leadership Development was not the office I ran for, and not one I initially saw myself in, I am very grateful for my brothers that had the confidence in me to vote me into this position. It has truly been an honor to serve as your VPLD this term. Thank you.

This year, I worked with the Governors to plan the Southwest District Development Days, which were workshops throughout the Spicy Southwest to help brothers in our chapters develop leadership skills and strategies to utilize back in their home chapters. These events were successful in their goal, and the feedback gathered from presenters and students alike should help these events continue to improve in order to be even better for brothers to grow in this organization as well as individually; I cannot wait to see what future VPLDs do in this position.

To the 2026-2027 Southwest District Vice President for Leadership Development, I charge the following:

- Find the best way for you and the Governors to communicate timely and effectively. The Governors are your main support team when it comes to planning the Development Days and other events, and it is vital that you communicate your ideas, issues, and concerns with them.
- Establish a concrete advertisement plan for District Development Days, making sure that they have been properly announced before the start of winter break, that way brothers can be adequately prepared to attend these events.
- Find a good balance between District responsibilities and life early on into your term. A lot of the work done by the VPLD is done later in the term, so it is important that you begin planning to avoid unneeded stress later on in your term.
- Overall, have fun with this office, bond with your District Council, and don't be afraid to ask questions. You are always able to ask for clarification or help, so don't be afraid to ask your Council members and Governors.

When I first got to college at Howard Payne, I never expected myself to join a band fraternity. After much deliberation, research, and talk with the active brothers, I decided to join Kappa Kappa Psi. My first District Convention was in Wichita Falls, and it was the same year that one of our Zeta Beta brothers (shout out to Chance!) ran for District Office. Seeing the process of becoming and being a District Officer from an outside perspective, and how Chance made connections with people outside of Zeta Beta, I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of. Garret told me to tell everyone that they were “so cool” in my notes of gratitude, but I have a few more things that I’d like to say to some very important people.

First off, to Chance,

I honestly didn’t think you expected to be in my list of thank you’s, but you definitely deserve it. You have made a huge impact on my life since I got to college. From leading me through the band recruitment process at Howard Payne, to answering my questions about KKPsi, to even answering my questions when I eventually decided to change my major to music ed. You never forget your VP when you go through Membership Education, and I am very glad you were mine. Thank you so much for paving the Zeta Beta pipeline to District Office, and for working so hard to help me get an office. I’m glad you didn’t have to eat your boot. But in all seriousness, I can’t wait to see where graduation and your career takes you; never stop striving for the highest.

To Jess,

It has been such a pleasure getting to know you and work with you on social media stuff for my events this term. I absolutely loved getting to yap about all sorts of random things after Council Meetings, or our adventures throughout Dallas traffic at Winter Council. You have such a gift with the social media and pictures thing, and I know you are going to do great things in your life. Thank you for being you.

To Caitlyn,

I adore your passion for all things KKPsi and District. Thank you so much for answering my random questions, talking about the differences between our chapters, and talking about all the things music majors talk about. I have loved having you as my fellow music major on the Council. You are such a well-rounded and knowledgeable individual, and I know there are great things in store for you in both Kappa Kappa Psi and life.

To Roman,

I am so glad to have been able to add the tiny D3 school of mine to your hat wall. Your enthusiasm is unmatched, and I'm so grateful to have worked with you this year. It has been so interesting getting to learn about how such a large chapter operates, and I admire your confidence to ask the question to help other people. You are going to do amazing things, so just keep being you.

To Tyler,

It takes so much work and dedication to be the person that puts together Convention, and you have definitely shown the spirit and taken the time to do all the things. I am so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Thank you for being your positive self and for checking in on me throughout the term. I loved getting to spend time with you and your chapter at Natcon, and I know you are destined for great things.

To Kadeem,

The ever-so-lovely Southwest District Diva. Thank you for being your outgoing and fun self. I admire your confidence, and am grateful that you were a person to be encouraging and supportive when we needed it and to push us to strive towards our goals when we needed it. You are doing awesome epic awesome things as a Governor, and I know your hard work will continue to show this. Thank you so much.

To Garret,

You're so cool! Actually, it has been great getting to know you since National Convention when you walked me back to the hotel my chapter was staying at. Your constant support and willingness to get to know me both as an Officer and as an individual were greatly appreciated. I'm excited to see where your life takes you, and I look forward to seeing what Kappa Kappa Psi and the Southwest District has in store for you.

To Derek,

Thank you so much for bringing a band director's perspective to this District Council. Your love of musicianship is admirable, and I aspire to show that kind of attitude towards music to my future students and inspire them like you do. You are going to do amazing things as you continue to be a Southwest District Governor, and I am always glad to share when Howard Payne has a concert if you want to tune in and listen. Thanks again for all the encouragement.

To Zeta Beta,

My wacky, wild, enthusiastic, beloved Dr. Pepper brothers. I am so beyond blessed to have you as my home chapter. You all have provided me with lifelong friendships, connections, and so many memories. Thank you so much for all the encouragement and support you have given me throughout my campaign process and the term. I am proud to be able to call myself a brother of the Zeta Beta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi.

AEA,

Samantha Whitaker

2025-2026 Southwest District Vice President for Leadership Development

Zeta Beta Chapter

Appendix E: Final Officer Report - President - Tyler Slough

Dear Brothers of the Southwest District,

Serving as your Southwest District President for the 2025–2026 year has been one of the most profound honors and privileges of my life. It is a responsibility I have never taken lightly, and an experience for which I am deeply and sincerely grateful for. If I am being honest, the freshman version of myself would have never imagined standing in this position, reflecting on a journey like this. When I first began my college career, I was fairly set in my decision not to join a fraternity. However, that perspective shifted entirely once I came to understand what Kappa Kappa Psi truly represents—the values it upholds, the purpose it serves, and the brotherhood it cultivates. Receiving a bid was an honor, and accepting it was an even greater one.

I vividly recall class elections during my membership process. At the time, I convinced myself that I was not suited for leadership and had no intention of running for any position. Despite that, I was nominated for Treasurer. With hesitation, I chose to run—and to my surprise, I was elected. Following my initiation as a brother on April 12th, 2022, nominations came around once again. I repeated the same internal narrative, insisting I would not run. Yet again, I was nominated for Treasurer—and again, I was elected. This pattern continued. The following year, despite telling myself I would step back, I became Vice President of Brotherhood, and I had the privilege of serving in that role for a second consecutive term. At every stage throughout this journey, I told myself, “This is where it ends. This is as far as I go. This is my limit.”

Yet this organization continually challenged that belief.

I remember attending my first District Convention in Louisiana as a newly initiated brother, serving as my chapter’s Delegate. It was there that I truly grasped the magnitude of this organization—its reach, its influence, and the powerful impact it has on so many individuals. That experience sparked something in me. For the first time, I began to see myself in a broader role and considered the possibility of serving as a district officer. Even then, I continued to push that idea away. I convinced myself I was not prepared, not capable, and that it was something meant for others. It remained a distant dream—something I admired, but did not pursue. It was not until I made the decision to take a fifth year that I realized it was my final opportunity to even try. Even then, I nearly let it pass me by.

It was my brothers who refused to let that happen.

They encouraged me when I could not justify it myself. They saw potential in me that I had not yet accepted. Because of their unwavering support, I chose to run—and I was entrusted with the role of Southwest District President. I still remember the night before elections, staying up until

only a few hours before they began, overthinking my platform and rehearsing what I intended to say. I questioned every detail, unsure if I was truly prepared.

In reflecting on this journey, I have come to recognize a consistent truth: I doubted myself at nearly every step. I repeatedly convinced myself that I was not capable. And yet, at every critical moment, it was the belief my brothers had in me that carried me forward. Their encouragement, their confidence, and their willingness to challenge me pushed me beyond the limitations I had placed on myself. If I were to describe my role in this position, I would characterize it as that of a lens—one that gathers and focuses the collective energy, passion, and dedication of the brothers of this district. The light has never been mine alone; it has always come from each of you. My responsibility has simply been to help direct it in a way that strengthens and uplifts our brotherhood as a whole.

This journey has been defined by growth, often occurring in moments of discomfort and uncertainty. I have been placed in positions I once believed were beyond my capacity. Even standing before you all and speaking publicly is something my past self would have found impossible. Yet through these experiences, I have developed in ways I could not have anticipated. I leave this position having gained far more than I could have ever expected—skills that will guide me, knowledge that will ground me, and friendships that will endure far beyond my time in this organization. These are things I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

If there is one message I hope resonates from my story, it is this: do not allow self-doubt to dictate your limitations. More often than not, you are capable of far more than you realize. And sometimes, it takes the perspective of those around you—the brothers who believe in you—to illuminate that truth. Embrace that support. Trust in your brothers. Pursue the opportunities that challenge you. Place yourself in situations that feel unfamiliar or uncomfortable, because it is within those moments that the most meaningful growth occurs. I stand here today not because I always believed in myself, but because others believed in me when I could not. For that, I will always be grateful. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and for allowing me the privilege to serve this district. It has been an experience I will forever cherish.

To the SWD Council & Governors

It is difficult to put into words how much this group has meant to me over the course of this term, but I will always be grateful that our paths crossed. Getting to know each of you and spending this time together has been one of the most meaningful parts of this experience. Every one of you brings something unique—your personalities, your perspectives, and the way you care so deeply about this organization and the people in it. It made every meeting, every conversation, and every shared moment something I genuinely looked forward to.

I will always remember the laughs we shared, the stories we told, and even the moments where things felt overwhelming—but we worked through them together. Those are the moments that stick with me, because they show what this council truly was: not just a group of officers, but a team that supported one another through everything. Serving alongside each of you has been a gift. There is something special about being surrounded by people who are just as passionate, driven, and committed as you are. It made the challenges easier to face and the successes that much more meaningful.

You have all been a constant source of support for me—more than I can fully express. There were times when I needed reassurance, perspective, or just someone to lean on, and you were there without hesitation. In many ways, you became the foundation that helped me carry out this role, and I am incredibly thankful for that. What we built together goes beyond this term or these titles. I know that the connections we formed and the support we gave one another will not end here. That is something I take a lot of comfort in.

Thank you for trusting me, for working alongside me, and for making this experience one I will always look back on with appreciation. I could not have asked for a better group of people to serve with.

To Zeta Kappa,

Zeta Kappa has been my home in every sense of the word. It has been the place where I grew, where I struggled, where I learned, and where I was never once asked to go through anything alone. Through some of the most difficult moments in my life, this chapter never let go of me. Even in silence, even in distance, and even in the moments where I did not have the words to ask for help—you were there.

What I will always remember is not just the memories themselves, but the way this chapter made me feel supported in ways I did not always know how to express. You never treated me as someone who had to figure everything out on my own. Instead, you gave me space to grow, while still making sure I never had to do it alone. That kind of presence is something I will never take for granted.

Every version of myself that I have been—especially the ones that were unsure, overwhelmed, or struggling—was met with patience and support from this chapter. And slowly, because of that, I became someone I never thought I could become.

Leaving this chapter is not something I do lightly. It is something that carries weight, because a part of who I am was shaped in this space, by these people, in ways that cannot be undone or

replaced. But I leave with gratitude, because what this chapter gave me was more than just experience—it was a sense of belonging during moments I didn't even know I needed it most.

If there is one thing I hope you all truly understand, it is that you mattered to me in ways I will never be able to fully articulate. Zeta Kappa was not just a chapter I joined—it was a place that held me steady when I could not do it for myself. And even as time moves forward, there will always be parts of who I am that only exist because of what I found here.

There are people in life who shape you quietly, without ever needing recognition for it. That is what this chapter has been for me. And I will spend a lifetime being grateful that I got to be a part of it.

My charges from the 2024-2025 Southwest District President are thus:

- Work in tandem with your TBS counterpart and establish open, effective communication across the council. This is vital for the success of all council members.
- Support and bond with your council—be there for them when they need you.
- Hold them accountable when necessary but ensure they know you are there to support them.
- Pace yourself. Set not only feasible goals but also a realistic timeline to achieve them. Many responsibilities in this role are long-term, and planning ahead will be key to your success.
- And lastly, but most importantly—take care of yourself. Find a balance between work and fun, because there's only so much stress any situation truly requires. When you need guidance or just need to talk, don't hesitate to reach out to the governors or fellow council members. It will make you more effective and help you grow in this role.

My charges to the 2025-2026 Southwest District President are thus:

- Remain grounded in the values of this organization, allowing them to guide your decisions even when circumstances, opinions, or pressures begin to shift around you.
- Check in on your District Council, not only in moments of productivity, but in moments of pressure, uncertainty, and exhaustion, ensuring that every member feels supported and valued throughout their term.
- Take care of yourself as intentionally as you take care of the brotherhood—rest is not weakness, it is sustainability.
- Trust in and rely on your fellow council members and governors, remembering that true leadership is carried through shared strength, not alone.

Brothers of the Southwest District, I hope I have made you proud and that you do not regret your decision in electing me to this office. That trust has never been something I took lightly, and it is something I have carried with me in every moment of this role.

While I may not know each of you personally, every one of you has been at the forefront of my mind in every decision I have made. Whether large or small, easy or difficult, I have always tried to lead with the understanding that my responsibility was not just to a position, but to each brother who makes up this district.

This experience has reminded me that leadership is not about perfection, but about intention, accountability, and care for the people you serve. I can only hope that, through my efforts, I have honored that responsibility in a way that reflects the values of this brotherhood.

Thank you for your trust, your support, and the opportunity to serve you.

Fraternally submitted,
Tyler Slough
Zeta Kappa Chapter
2025-2026 Southwest District President, AEA

Appendix F: Spirit and Recognition Committee Report

Brothers of the Southwest District,

The 2025-2026 Spirit and Recognition Committee was charged with the following:

- Review the Report of the 2024-2025 Committee
- Review individual award applications, discuss, and select recipients
- Discuss the recipient of our Southwest District traditional award, Andy the Armadillo
- Calculate the recipients of the Chapter Distance Award (number of attendees times the distance), Delegate Distance Award (furthest distance of a chapter delegate), Chapter Percentage Award (largest percentage of active members attending convention), and Chapter Participation Award (largest number of attendees).
- Continue with persistent award promotions.

The Spirit and Recognition Committee met once prior to Southwest District Convention. After brief introductions and sharing of very fun facts, this year's committee efficiently worked together to review the calculations for our eligible Distance and Participation award chapters, as well as our applicants for the Cornerstone Award. Additionally, we proposed and discussed potential recipients of our good friend Andy the Armadillo, ultimately deciding between some of our most involved and compassionate chapters. We were very pleased with the chapter engagement shown in the Distance and Participation awards' calculations, and we hope to see more applicants for our individual awards in the future.

Our Charges to the 2026-2027 Spirit and Recognition Committee are as follows:

- Review the Report of the 2025-2026 Committee
- Review individual award applications, discuss, and select recipients
- Discuss the recipient of our Southwest District traditional award, Andy the Armadillo
- Calculate the recipients of the Chapter Distance Award (number of attendees times the distance), Delegate Distance Award (furthest distance of a chapter delegate), Chapter Percentage Award (largest percentage of active members attending convention), and Chapter Participation Award (largest number of attendees).
- Continue with persistent award promotions.

Charges to the Southwest District:

- a. Believe in yourself and your accomplishments, and actively seek out and apply for awards! You truly never know unless you try, because the answer to an application left unsubmitted is always a no.

Thank you to our committee members:

Sam Richie - Beta Sigma

Isa Alejandro - Delta

Mackenzie Schofield - Lambda

Frida Gonzales - Alpha

Sam Graves - Epsilon Beta

Cameron Dixon - Zeta Kappa

Ari Wright - Chapter Field Representative (Advisor)

Thank you all for the time you volunteered and for your willingness to serve the Southwest District. It was wonderful getting to meet each of you.

Fraternally Submitted,

Roman Beames - SWD VPP

2025-2026 Spirit and Recognition Committee Chair

Appendix G: Ways and Means Committee Report

Committee Chair:

Caitlyn Colca – SWD Secretary/Treasurer

Committee Advisors:

Kadeem Sabari – SWD Governor

Garret Gardenhire - SWD Governor

Dr. Derek Stoughton - SWD Governor

The 2026 Ways and Means Committee was charged with the following:

- Review the 2025 Ways and Means Committee Report.
- Present an overview of the 2025-2026 District Account.
- Determine if any line item in the budget needs to be adjusted.
- Create and present a budget of the 2026-2027 District Account.

The District Council and I reviewed the 2025 Committee Report and then discussed the proposed budget from the year.

2026-2027 Proposed Budget

Fall 2025 Allotment	\$4,500.67
Spring 2026 Allotment	\$1,200.19
Days of Giving	\$875.00
Carry-Over Balance from 2025-2026	\$32,396.10
Estimated Total Revenues	\$5,700.86
District Officer Budgets	
President	\$625
VPLD	\$625
Secretary/Treasurer	\$625
M-A-L	\$625
District Awards	
District Awards	\$500
Other	
Unassigned Funds	\$500
Grants	
Chapter Assistance Grant for Travel	\$3,000
Estimated Total Expenses	\$6,500

Charges to the 2026-2027 Ways and Means Committee are as follows:

- Review the 2026 Ways and Means Committee Report.

- Present an overview of the 2026-2027 District Account.
- Determine if any line item in the budget needs to be adjusted.
- Create and present a budget of the 2027-2028 District Account.

Charges to 2026-2027 Secretary/Treasurer:

- Update the allotments when they are made available for the 2026-2027 Year.

Charge to 2026-2027 District Council:

- Send all requisition forms to the Secretary/Treasurer and the District Governors as soon as an expense arises.

Thank you so much to the District Council, for helping me and assisting in filling out / preparing the Budget. You were all super helpful and much appreciation for everything you do for this fraternity!

Fraternally Submitted,

Caitlyn Colca

2026 - Ways and Means Committee Chair

2025-2026 Southwest District - Secretary/Treasurer

Appendix H: Chapter Leadership Committee Report

Brothers of the Southwest District:

The 2026 Chapter Leadership Committee was charged with the following:

- Review the Report of the 2025 Chapter Leadership Committee
- Review all Applications for the D.O Wiley Award and Pillar Awards to ensure all applicants are eligible for consideration
- Organize a schedule for Applicant Chapter Presentations
- Review the Applying Chapters and their Presentations to deliberate on the 2026 D.O. Wiley Recipient and Pillar Award Recipients
- Ensure the addition of a data question in the application that requires chapters to state the amount of current active members in order for the committee to more easily compare the applicants
- Work with the Southwest District Governor team to implement either an overall page limit or word count per question to ensure ease of application review
- Include the requirement of formal powerpoint or visual presentation to ensure the equal and adequate platform for all chapters to showcase their attributes.
- Include the wording of “formal presentation” to ensure that the members of the applying chapters understand the conduct and essence to be carried with each meeting.
- Recommend any changes to the D. O. Wiley Selection Process to the Jurisdiction Committee

In total, the Chapter Leadership Committee met virtually four times prior to convention. In these meetings, we reviewed the list of potential questions provided by the 2025 Chapter Leadership Committee. After some deliberation, it was decided that each applying chapter would be asked the following questions after their virtual presentation:

1. What does the D.O. Wiley award stand for in your own words?
2. Why do you deserve the D.O. Wiley award?
3. What Pillar do you believe your chapter struggles with, and what could be some steps you can take to strengthen it?
4. Where has your chapter experienced the most growth, and how does that impact the future?
5. What is a characteristic that makes your chapter unique?

As a committee, we took time to carefully review all of the applications prior to the interviews to get a background feel of all the individual chapters and their individual qualities. On the following Saturday we conducted all applicants' presentations of five minutes each showcasing the best these chapters have to offer to their communities, the organization, and themselves as brothers. After these interviews, with careful deliberation and much discussion, we decided on the winners of the following awards: The D.O. Wiley Award, The Service Pillar Award, The Brotherhood Pillar Award, The Musicianship Pillar Award, and the Leadership Pillar Award. It is important to note that both our advisor Dr. Derek Stoughton and committee member Christopher Rahn removed themselves from all delegation, interviews, and presentations involving the

applicant chapter Epsilon Beta, due to personal ties to said chapter. This was done to ensure that there would be absolutely no bias when coming to a decision for the previously listed awards. I'd also like to note all awards were decided without discrediting any applying chapter's hard work, but honoring going above and beyond expectations and going against the norm.

Award Winners:

Service Pillar - Alpha

Musicianship Pillar - Epsilon Beta

Leadership Pillar - Zeta Beta

Brotherhood Pillar - Beta Sigma

D.O. Wiley Award - Lambda

I would like to personally thank the members of this year's Chapter Leadership Committee. Despite having such booked schedules, each member found time to ensure we made this happen in an efficient and time effective way. There was a ton of energy put towards adding to this vision of giving chapters a reason to strive for the highest. I'm extremely blessed and honored to have been able to meet and work with this set of brothers. They served tirelessly with no expectation of recognition, but I would like to have each brother recognized, as it is the very least they deserve.

- Kenyouna Taylor - Epsilon Theta
- Kaden Nirschi - Delta
- Kavontay Fletcher - Epsilon Chi
- Justin Johnson - Delta
- Christopher Rahn - Lambda Pi

Charges to the 2026-2027 Southwest District Chapter Leadership Committee:

- Review the Report of the 2026 Chapter Leadership Committee
- Review all Applications for the D.O Wiley Award and Pillar Awards to ensure all applicants are eligible for consideration
- Organize a schedule for Applicant Chapter Presentations
- Review the Applying Chapters and their Presentations to deliberate on the 2027 D.O. Wiley Recipient and Pillar Award Recipients
- Include the requirement of formal powerpoint or visual presentation to ensure the equal and adequate platform when scheduling presentations, to confirm all chapters can showcase their attributes.
- Include the wording of "formal presentation" to ensure that the members of the applying chapters understand the conduct and essence to be carried with each meeting.
- Recommend any changes to the D. O. Wiley Selection Process to the Jurisdiction Committee

Last but not least, I would like to thank the advisor for this committee, Dr. Derek Stoughton, one of our very own Southwest District Governors. There are not enough words to explain how

helpful you were during this process. No matter what the question or circumstance, you always were at the forefront of finding the solution. Your dedication to serve is something that has truly inspired me and, I'm certain, many others to continuously strive for the highest no matter the situation. Your ability to bring the joy out of all of us, no matter how tired or busy we were, was truly a blessing that did not go unnoticed. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Fraternally Submitted,
Garrett Jackson Frost
2026 Chapter Leadership Committee Chair
Epsilon Theta Chapter, University of Louisiana at Monroe

Appendix I: Nominations Committee Report

Brothers of the Southwest District,

The charges to the 2026 Nominations Committee were as follows:

- Review the [2025 Nominations Committee Report](#)
- Review candidate packets and attend all interviews. If attendance is not possible, review all interview recordings.
- Update the list of general questions and specific questions for each officer position. After reviewing the packets, determine if any clarification questions are needed for each candidate
- Come up with specific criteria of what would be a positive recommendation for the district.
- Prepare a slate of one candidate for each position that the committee feels would benefit the district most. If the committee feels that no one candidate is most qualified, then the committee can announce “no slate” for any or all offices.
- Recommend any changes to the nominations/election process to the jurisdiction committee as needed.

We began by reviewing the 2025 Nominations Committee Report and charges. We then reviewed all the general and office specific questions. We specifically focused on how to modify the questions related to the Office of the Secretary/Treasurer. They will be absorbing the duties of the Vice President for Programs and their office specific questions now have a question related to their duties surrounding the New ALTO. We also added 2 general questions as we felt they should be asked to all candidates. Question 4 was taken from an office specific question from the Secretary/Treasurer and made a general question as we felt it relevant to all candidates. Question 5 was included as it is part of the entire District Council’s responsibility to communicate with chapters within the district, not just the Secretary/Treasurer.

Following these amendments to the questions, the interviews were scheduled for the weekend before convention. In each interview, each candidate for office was asked all general questions alongside the office specific questions for the office of which they are a candidate for. The questions for each office are as follows:

General Questions:

1. Are you interested in serving in another office if slated? If so, which ones?
2. If elected, how would you ideally collaborate with other members of the District Council?
3. Individual accountability is an important aspect of being a district officer and fulfilling your responsibilities.
 - a. Can you describe a scenario where you struggled to hold yourself accountable? How did your practices change in response to that?
 - b. What is one way you show accountability in your day to day life?
4. How have previous experiences helped prepare you for the responsibilities of this position?

5. How do you intend to send written correspondence to the chapters of the SWD? What will they entail?

President:

1. What is the greatest challenge you foresee as the District President? How do you plan to overcome that?
2. How will you coordinate with the TBS President to plan the 2027 District Convention?
3. What are some improvements and/or ideas you would like to implement at the 2027 District Convention?
4. How would you describe your style of leadership, and how will it be effective for leading the District Council?

Vice President of Leadership Development:

1. What logistical factors should be considered when planning the District Leadership Conference and Spring District Workshops? Can you describe a rough timeline?
2. Have you been to an in-person event? If so, what did you like/what would you improve?
3. How would you make in-person events more accessible for people to attend?

Secretary/Treasurer:

1. Could you explain how to access the District Council meeting minutes?
2. How will you maintain records of district finances?
3. How would you gather more content for the New ALTO?

Member-at-Large:

1. How would you bridge the gap between chapters and the District Council?
2. How could you promote chapters to connect with each other?
3. What ideas do you have for creating engaging content for chapters and individuals on our social media platforms?
4. What have you seen from other District or National social media pages that you like or would want to improve upon?

Each candidate received 30 minutes to introduce themselves and answer all questions asked by committee members. Following each interview, the committee deliberated over each candidate. Following all deliberation, the committee had a final meeting and decided on our official slate for the 2026 Southwest District Convention.

The 2026 Nominations Committee is proud to present our Final Slate and Recommendation for the 2025-2026 District Council:

- President: Caitlyn Colca
- Vice President of Leadership Development: Sarah Johnson
- Secretary/Treasurer: Hunter Burks
- Member-at-Large: Mackenzie Schofield

The Nominations Committee would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to all candidates for their interest in running for district office. Your willingness and commitment to serve as a leader on the district level is admirable, and should serve as an example to all brothers in the Southwest District. I would like to personally thank and express my utmost gratitude to their dedication throughout this process. Our committee was not large and we worked on a very tight schedule, but we were still able to adequately complete our duties.

The charges to the 2027 Nominations Committee are as follows:

- Review the 2026 Nominations Committee Report.
- Review all candidate packets and attend all interviews. If attendance is not possible, review all interview recordings.
- Update the list of general and specific questions for each officer position. After reviewing the packets, determine if they should be changed prior to all interviews.
- Prepare a slate of one candidate for each position that the committee feels would benefit the district most. If the committee feels that no one candidate is most qualified, then the committee can announce “no slate” for any or all offices.
- Recommend any changes to the nominations/election process to the Jurisdiction Committee as needed.

The 2026 Nominations Committee was made up of the following members:

Jacob Couger, Chair - Alpha Omicron, Texas Tech University
Kadeem Sabari, Advisor - Zeta Chi, SWD Governor
Gustin Boone - Iota Upsilon, McNeese State University
Veronica Flores - Zeta Kappa, East Texas A&M University
Anastazia Gross - Delta Chi, Southern Arkansas University
Aaron Rhodes - Epsilon Beta, University of Central Arkansas
Megan Riffe - Delta Chi, Southern Arkansas University
Jorge Mena Jovel - Epsilon Beta, University of Central Arkansas

Fraternally Submitted,

Jacob Couger
2026 Nominations Committee Chair
Alpha Omicron Chapter, Texas Tech University

Appendix J: Jurisdiction Committee Report

Brothers of the Southwest District,

My name is Daniel Itheme, of the Zeta Kappa chapter at East Texas A&M University. I am honored to have had the privilege to head your Southwest District Committee on Jurisdiction.

This year, the 2026 Southwest District Jurisdiction Committee was charged with the following:

- Review the report of the 2025 Jurisdiction Committee.
- Review the Constitution and Policy Guide for inconsistent language use or unnecessarily lengthy descriptions.
- Review the Constitution and Policy Guide to ensure terms are clearly defined.
- Continue to foster open lines of communication with the Southwest District Governors to ensure that amendments and policy changes are effective for District operations.

Convention Work & Focus

During this year's meetings, the committee examined the Constitution and Policy Guide to ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with current Southwest District operations. Particular attention was given to:

- Aligning officer roles and responsibilities with current expectations.
- Clarifying governance procedures.
- Updating publications and awards processes to reflect current practice.
- Removing outdated or redundant language.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their work and dedication to the Southwest District:

- Megan Blair (Alpha)

- Savannah Skelton (Alpha)
- Hunter Burks (Beta Sigma)
- Yvonne Vu (Beta Sigma)

- Amaury Covington (Zeta Kappa)
- Garret Gardenhire (District Governor)

Throughout our work, we remained committed to the principles of Kappa Kappa Psi while ensuring that our governing documents remain clear, concise, and adaptable. Our goal was to ensure that all revisions reflect the current and future needs of the Southwest District.

Charges to the 2027 Jurisdiction Committee

The charges to the 2027 Jurisdiction Committee are as follows:

- Review the report of the 2026 Jurisdiction Committee.
- Continue reviewing the Constitution and Policy Guide for clarity, consistency, and conciseness.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of recent changes to officer roles, publications, and awards processes.
- Update language in the policy guide regarding Area Workshops to reflect current practices.
- Continue strengthening communication between the Jurisdiction Committee and District leadership.

Fraternally Submitted,

Daniel Iheme

2026 Jurisdiction Committee Chair

Zeta Kappa/East Texas A&M University

Proposed Constitutional Changes

Section 3.01 – Elected Officers

Old Content:

“The elected Officers of the Southwest District shall be, in order of succession: President, Vice President for Leadership Development, Vice President for Programs, Secretary-Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. “

New Content:

“The elected Officers of the Southwest District shall be, in order of succession: President, Vice President for Leadership Development, Secretary-Treasurer, and Member-at-Large.”

Rationale:

This change clarifies officer succession and aligns titles with current District leadership structure. Consolidating the responsibilities of the VPP onto the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 5.06 – Areas

Old Content:

“The District shall be divided into Areas for the purpose of conducting annual regional workshops presenting educational sessions and information about District activities. These workshops shall be held prior to the District Convention. The number of Areas and their organization shall be determined by the District in conjunction with the Southwest District of Tau Beta Sigma.”

New Content:

“The District shall be divided into Areas for the purpose of conducting annual regional workshops presenting educational sessions and information about District activities. These workshops shall be held prior to the District Convention. The number of Areas and their organization shall be determined by the District.”

Rationale:

This change removes outdated language referencing joint determination and reflects current operational structure.

Policy Guide Changes

Section 3.3 – Secretary-Treasurer Duties

Old Content:

“3.3. The District Vice President for Programs shall promote and publicize the programs of the District to the membership and the outside community. The Vice President for Programs shall work alongside the Tau Beta Sigma Southwest District Vice President of Special Projects to plan and execute joint District programs and co-chair The New ALTO Team. The Vice President for Programs shall be responsible for administration of District awards. The Vice President for Programs shall be responsible for corresponding with the Secretary-Treasurer to publicize on the District website all active grants available to all chapters of the Southwest District as per Section 3.4 of the District Policy Guide.

3.4. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall record, publish, and distribute to all chapters in the District, the District Council, and all members of the National Council, the minutes of all meetings of the District and shall, as necessary, control the receipt and disbursement of all monies of the District. The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit reports, on December 1 and April 1, of all changes to each chapter, District Officers, and District Governor(s). The Secretary-Treasurer shall be required to submit an itemized list of all District expenditures on the following dates: December 1 and April 1. Copies of the itemized expenditures list will be furnished to all District Officers, the District Governor(s), and the National Headquarters. The Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute a revised and amended District Constitution to each chapter in the fall term following a spring District Convention. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep records of all chapters in attendance at District Convention with regards to official delegates and chapters for which they proxy. This information will be used to assist the District Council with

encouraging less active chapters to participate in District activities. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for maintenance and updates to the Southwest District website.”

New Content (Revised Section):

“3.3. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall record, publish, and distribute to all chapters in the District, the District Council, and all members of the National Council, the minutes of all meetings of the District and shall, as necessary, control the receipt and disbursement of all monies of the District. The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit reports, on December 1 and April 1, of all changes to each chapter, District Officers, and District Governor(s). The Secretary-Treasurer shall be required to submit an itemized list of all District expenditures on the following dates: December 1 and April 1. Copies of the itemized expenditures list will be furnished to all District Officers, the District Governor(s), and the National Headquarters. The Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute a revised and amended District Constitution to each chapter in the fall term following a spring District Convention. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep records of all chapters in attendance at District Convention with regards to official delegates and chapters for which they proxy. This information will be used to assist the District Council with encouraging less active chapters to participate in District activities. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for maintenance and updates to the Southwest District website. The Secretary-Treasurer shall work alongside the Tau Beta Sigma Southwest District Vice President of Special Projects to plan and execute joint District programs and co-chair The New ALTO Team. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for administration of District awards and publicizing on the District website all active grants available to all chapters of the Southwest District.”

Rationale:

This revision expands and clarifies the responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer, including financial reporting, record keeping, website management, awards administration, and collaboration with Tau Beta Sigma leadership. Essentially combining the positions of VPP and

Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3.6 – Officer Publications

Old Content:

“Each District Officer shall be required to submit an article or letter for publication in The New ALTO once per term.”

New Content:

[Requirement removed]

Rationale:

This requirement is removed to provide flexibility in officer contributions and better match the current structure of the New ALTO.

Section 8.1 – Committees

Old Content:

Chapter Leadership

The Chapter Leadership Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and evaluating all applications for the D.O. Wiley Award and selecting a recipient at each Convention. The committee shall also evaluate the application process and make recommendations to the Convention if necessary. No member of a chapter under consideration for the D.O. Wiley Award may serve in any capacity on this committee.

....

Spirit and Recognition

The Spirit Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and evaluating all

applications for the Four Pillars Awards and the Outstanding Service to Music Education Award and selecting recipient(s) at each District Convention. No member of a chapter eligible for awards granted by the Spirit and Recognition Committee at District Convention shall serve on the Spirit and Recognition Committee.”

New Content:

Chapter Leadership

The Chapter Leadership Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and evaluating all applications for the D.O. Wiley Award and the Four Pillars Awards and shall then select recipients at each Convention. The Committee shall also evaluate the application process and make recommendations to the Convention, if necessary. No member of a chapter under consideration for the D.O. Wiley Award or the Four Pillars Awards may serve in any capacity on this Committee.

....

Spirit and Recognition

The Spirit Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and evaluating all applications for the Outstanding Service to Music Education Award and selecting recipient(s) at each District Convention. No member of a chapter eligible for awards granted by the Spirit and Recognition Committee at District Convention shall serve on the Spirit and Recognition Committee.”

Rationale:

This change better aligns awards evaluation with the committee responsible for chapter

performance and leadership assessment.

Section 9.2 – The New ALTO Publication

Old Content:

“Vice-President of Programs and Tau Beta Sigma Vice President of Special Projects set deadlines.”

New Content:

“Secretary-Treasurer from Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma Vice President of Special Projects shall set submission deadlines.”

Rationale:

This aligns publication responsibilities with updated officer roles.

Section 9.4 – Submission Email

Old Content:

“The Southwest District Vice-President of Programs email shall be maintained for submissions to the New ALTO.”

New Content:

“The Southwest District Secretary-Treasurer email shall be maintained for submissions to The New ALTO.”

Rationale:

Clarifies responsibility and ensures consistency with officer duties.

Section 9.5 – Transition of Materials

Old Content:

“All materials pertaining to The New ALTO shall be turned over from the outgoing publication team to the next Kappa Kappa Psi Vice President for Programs, Tau Beta Sigma Vice President of Special Projects, and New ALTO team once selected.”

New Content:

“All materials pertaining to The New ALTO shall be turned over from the outgoing publication team to the next Kappa Kappa Psi Secretary-Treasurer, Tau Beta Sigma Vice President of Special Projects, and New ALTO team once selected”

Rationale:

Ensures continuity and proper transition of publication responsibilities.

Section 10.6-10.7 – Awards and Traditions

Old Content:

“Complete on-time transaction of the Chapter Summary Report for the previous year”

New Content:

“Complete on-time transaction of the Spring Activity Report for the previous year”

Rationale:

Aligns terminology and responsibilities with current National yearly forms.

Section 10.6 – Awards and Traditions

Old Content:

“A chapter may only receive one of the Four Pillars Awards at any District Convention. The Spirit

and Recognition Committee is not obligated to select a winner for each award if the Committee finds there is not a deserving chapter.”

New Content:

“A chapter may only receive one of the Four Pillars Awards at any District Convention. The Chapter Leadership Committee is not obligated to select a winner for each award if the Committee finds there is not a deserving chapter.”

Rationale:

Aligns terminology and responsibilities with current District practices.

Section 12.2 – Traditions

Old Content:

“In the event that chapters in possession of the Spirit Drum or Andy the Armadillo do not submit an article to The New ALTO, it is recommended that an article be published by the editors as to the whereabouts of these items.”

New Content:

“In the event that chapters in possession of Andy the Armadillo do not submit an article to The New ALTO, it is recommended that an article be published by the editors as to the whereabouts of these items.”

Rationale:

Removes outdated tradition references no longer in active use.

Appendix K: Final Governor Report - Dr. Derek Stoughton

Dear Brothers of the Southwest District,

It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to speak with you and deliver this report. Although I have only served as Governor since October, this experience has already been incredibly rewarding; something for which I am deeply grateful. My appreciation for the students of the Southwest District knows no bounds, and the opportunity to connect with so many of you in my home district is something I will never take for granted. I hope this marks the beginning of many years of service in this role, and I look forward to supporting you as best I can.

As a new Governor, I have spent much of the past few months settling into the role and learning how to best collaborate with my outstanding colleagues. I bring a unique perspective as both a college band director and chapter sponsor, and I have done my best to use those experiences to contribute wherever I can. My goal is to continue using that perspective to better serve all of you: the exceptional students of the Southwest District.

I have also thoroughly enjoyed serving as chair of the Leadership Committee, working alongside Garrett Frost and the rest of the team. Their willingness to dedicate their time and assist with this important process confirms what I know to be true about the character of the students of this district. The future is incredibly bright for universities across the Southwest, as shown by these amazing brothers.

No one can accomplish what we have alone, and I'd now like to take a moment to recognize and thank our amazing Governor team and share a few words about each of these remarkable folks:

Kadeem - Thank you for being QB1 of the Governor team. You are, no doubt, the MVP of our group, and I have thoroughly enjoyed learning from you over these last few months. We wouldn't have made it without you, and your passion for the fraternity and knowledge of our district is invaluable. I am grateful for our friendship and look forward to many fruitful years of serving together!

Garrett - We've known each other for several years, and it's been so fun watching you ascend into this role. You have a strong passion for our organization, and often fill in the gaps that I cannot. You are a wealth of knowledge, and I learn from you each time we work through what we need to. I'm so excited for everything that is coming your way in the future. You deserve nothing but the best in life!

To our District Council:

Jessica - It has been an absolute pleasure to get to know you! I absolutely love your energy, quick wit, brilliance, enthusiasm, and personality. Your story and how you ended up at OSU are inspiring, and I'm so excited to see where life takes you. I am beyond grateful that our paths crossed, and I am rooting for you to achieve everything you want in life!

Caitlyn - I absolutely love your energy! You brighten every room you enter and liven the spirits of the people around you. Thank you for your enthusiasm and willingness to go above and beyond to serve our organization. You are a wonderful musician and person, and I am excited to see what you will accomplish over the next several years!

Roman - It has been a great pleasure to get to know you! Your enthusiasm and spirit are infectious, and I love the energy that you bring to everything you do. Hearing you tell a story makes it have so much more impact, and I always look forward to your anecdotes. Thank you for your leadership and for keeping everyone in the district aware of its happenings. I am excited for you and the next phase of your life's journey!

Sam - It has been such a joy to watch you grow over this last year. Ever since we met at National Convention a year ago, I knew there was something special inside of you. You continue to grow more confident in your work every day, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for you. Thank you for your kindness, positive spirit, and dedication to our fraternity! Our lives are better because you are a part of them!

Tyler - Thank you for everything you accomplished over the time I've known you. Being a leader is not easy, and you faced challenges that were out of your control. However, you persevered, asked for help, and grew tremendously throughout the adversity. I'm very proud of you and, as with everyone on the council, I am incredibly excited for what is going to be coming your way in the future! There's something very special inside of you, and I can't wait to see it flourish!

Finally, to all of the brothers of the Southwest District: Let's all keep striving for the highest, so we can share even more remarkable moments and accomplishments when we reconvene in 2027! You all continue to inspire me every single day, and I am proud to be associated with all of you!

Fraternally submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek Stoughton". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dr. Derek Stoughton
Southwest District Governor
Life Member - Alpha Tau

Appendix L: Final Governor Report - Garret Gardenhire

Brothers of the Southwest District,

Over the course of my first year as Governor, we were in a state of transition. I began my term during this past National Convention. Here I got to know all of our District Officers and the outgoing Governor team. This time was also used to onboard me into the role by past Governors Lizzi Pineiro and Andy Melvin and my current fellow Governor, Kadeem Sabari. Shortly after the Convention, Kadeem and I would welcome our third counterpart, Dr. Derek Stoughton.

The three of us were immediately thrown into the fire as we dealt with different hurdles throughout the year. But we always managed to make time for the students around us, which I think is the number one measure of our success. We worked on transitioning to our new District Development Days, holding these events at both Gamma Phi and Alpha, the latter of which I attended and even presented. I would like to thank these chapters specifically for their patience for the new endeavor, and commend them on being exceptional hosts.

Looking forward I want to focus on improving our District Development Days alongside the VPLD, focusing on having them throughout the district to allow for easy travel. Additionally, I want to work with the Secretary-Treasurer to evaluate the effectiveness of our District programs. Before I state my formal charges, I would like to acknowledge each council member.

Tyler, you had a lot fall on your plate this year. But you persevered and we were able to get through it. I hope this experience was both meaningful and fun for you, as being District President during a National Convention is a special experience that very few brothers will ever get to experience. Keep your head up and look back on a great year, and carry that forward as you continue your journey. Lastly, get more sleep. I can't iterate enough how much you need to sleep more. 8 hours. Every night.

Sam, your love for the fraternity and your brothers at Zeta Beta is very clear. You had a lot to juggle this past year, including a few curveballs we threw your way every once in a while. I think you will continue to grow and I am excited to see where you will go in the future. I respect your love for Dr. Pepper, and have been looking forward to taking a few from Zeta Beta home with me.

Roman, you bring an energy to the room that is vital for groups like this to function at their full capacity. I appreciate that you have a persistent drive to keep pushing though, even when things look tough. I am eagerly looking forward to seeing where you go after your time in undergraduate, so please stay in touch. Keep up the good work, and don't tell the Lambda or Alpha chapters that I secretly like OU.

Caitlyn, I am thrilled that you will be staying on the District Council for this next year. You took on a lot this year with being Secretary-Treasurer and your chapter's President, but you wouldn't have been able to tell due to you handling both positions with grace and eloquence. Let's keep this ball rolling and have a great term Ms. President.

Jessica, you have a gift for story telling, both in-person and over social media. The journalism world is in desperate need of someone like you. Please take your gift and harness it for good. Also if you

have freetime, I would recommend watching some Spongebob, you missed out as a child and I think it would be good for your well-being.

Kadeem and Derek, this was a year for sure, but I wouldn't want to have anyone else on my side. I think we are finally entering a flow-state as a governor team, so let's keep up the good work and continue to push the district forward. With the student's well being as our number one priority.

I charge myself with the following for the 2026-2027 term:

- Work with VPLD on reshaping District Days to better meet the needs of the Southwest District, and find incentives to improve participation.
- Review the current workload of the newly reshaped Secretary-Treasurer position, and evaluate District Programming alongside them.
- Respond to communication in a timely manner

Respectfully submitted,

AEA

Garret Gardenhire
Southwest District Governor
Life Member - Lambda Chapter

Appendix M: Final Governor Report - Kadeem Sabari

What a whirlwind year! I would've never thought that I would be standing here today as the only returning Governor from last year. I was honestly terrified. Having only been living in Texas for five years and only been involved in the Southwest District only two years prior...I was terrified that I wasn't going to succeed. Terrified that I would fail.

But here we are in Dallas, TX!

To the District Council:

Your youthful innocence was so refreshing to experience and thank you for always keeping us on our toes with our various yaps! Each of you is filled with so many talents and gifts that should be shared with the world! The role of a district officer isn't an easy job and can sometimes feel thankless.

Continue to be shining beacons of light and hope for the future of this organization! Continue to put yourself out there! Most importantly, believe in yourself. You are more capable than you think! Some of you may be leaving the council, but if you ever need anything. You know how to reach me!

To Ari:

You deserve all of your flowers! The Southwest District is forever indebted to the work you have done during your time as CFR! You went above and beyond to ensure that the students were seen, heard, and made to feel as though they belonged! Words cannot express enough the gratitude I have for you! Thank you for being such a phenomenal Brother!

To Garret & Derek:

Wow! I cannot thank you enough for being such a rockstar team! I know the beginning of our time together was disjointed and felt like a rollercoaster but the way y'all grabbed those handle bars and held on for the ride! Thank you for answering the call to serve! The District is so lucky to have you and I'm so grateful to have you by my side!

To The Southwest District:

Last year, I said that I wanted more of you all to join us for the ride at convention and I'm so happy to see a larger turnout this year! Especially from chapters that haven't been involved in several years! I'm honored to be able to stand in front of you today because five months ago I almost walked away from this position. There were only two things that kept me from resigning in October.

The first one being you all. Being able to serve as a District Governor has been one of the greatest joys in my life. Every time I thought about leaving, I would always think about what I would do without being able to see you all. Seeing your infectious energy, love, and growth warms my heart every time I get to

interact with you all and I know that each of you will continue to grow into phenomenal Brothers and even better people.

The second being my closest friends that I've made in the Fraternity. None of these friends were friends from my home chapter. These were friends that I've made along the way by attending conventions, both district and nationally. Friends I've made by choosing to be involved and staying involved. These friends lifted me up when I needed it most and showed me that no matter how dark the clouds may get, by staying true to who you are and what you love, the sun will always come out one way or another.

I tell you this because you are going to be in this organization longer than you will be in college. Continue to show up! Continue to build those connections! Now is the time to start planting those seeds because one day when everything seems dark, scary, and frustrating...maybe you will have forged a bond so strong that those Brothers you have met along the way will be able to make the sun come out for you one day.

Fraternally submitted,

Kadeem Sabari
Southwest District Governor
Life Member - Zeta Chi Chapter