

# MIDWEST RESOURCE

Notes, news, tips and ideas from your Midwest District Officers and other chapters concerning recruitment, education, finances, leadership, logistics, and successful chapter activities!



## VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

In this issue, your District Officers will be describing their duties and responsibilities. With Midwest District Convention coming up, it's a great time to prepare a campaign and reserve a spot at the block party for your table and display!

### Sister of the Month: Karah Jones

Karah Jones is a freshman in Pre-Medicine at Iowa State University, and this Resource's Sister of the month. Her future goals include always remaining active with music, as well as accomplishing her life long dream of becoming a pediatric neurosurgeon. She was initiated into Tau Beta Sigma in the Sigma class of prospective members, and at Iowa State she is involved with the university marching band, concert band, pre-medicine club, freshman honors program, and enjoys learning to play the guitar, and playing hockey.

Ever since attending her first meeting as a prospective member, Karah has shown outstanding enthusiasm for the Sorority and becoming a sister. Her energy is contagious, and her optimistic attitude is wonderful in helping people smile after a long day, or even acting goofy and silly with her closest friends. She typifies and embodies the Ideals that we as sisters hold dear, and the qualities in a sister we desire. She continues to be a positive influence on the chapter, and we expect to see great things from her in the future.

Respectfully submitted, Theta Xi Chapter  
Tau Beta Sigma, Iowa State University

Want to nominate an outstanding sister?  
Email [mwdvpm@tbsigma.org](mailto:mwdvpm@tbsigma.org) with a brief paragraph and a picture!

## Sister of the Month

## A Word from Jason: What is it Like to be Midwest District President?

---

Hello Sisters of the MWD,

As convention draw closer, this years district council starts to reflect on all that they have done this term. The position of district president is an enjoyable office to hold. I had good idea of what to expect when I ran for this office, because off my past experience as TBS convention chair. There were moments this year when thing got rather hectic, stressful, complicated but all those moments are out weighed by the friendships we have made. When things get harry I just think of the road trip to OK City and the fun of the being left on the side of the road as I searched for red rocks amongst the dirt clots.

According to the constitution the MWD President responsibilities are as follows...

The President shall preside at all Midwest District meetings, shall be a nonvoting member of all committees which she/he shall appoint, and shall render all possible assistance to the Counselor. In the absence of the Counselor, the President may be designated as the Official Midwest District representative whenever such representation shall be required. The President is the official District delegate at National Convention.

Other duties include presiding over and preparing agendas for all meetings of the Midwest district. Coordinating district officer meetings with summit and convention hosting chapters. Oversee chapter operations to ensure that obligations are met on time. Coordinating the annual district convention with the host chapter and working closely with chapters and active members to shape the future of our District.

I think that this year I have completed most of these duties and would like to expand on them, if given the chance to be MWD President again. I do plan on running again and encourage everyone else to also run.

Until next time,

Jason Dornbush

---

*See you at Midwest District Convention! April 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at  
Kansas State University, in Manhattan, KS!*

## A Word from Seanna: Why Should You Be Midwest District Vice President for Membership?

Midwest District Sisters,

It has been an enjoyable experience being a District Officer. From District Leadership Conference, to Stillwater Station, to ten hours in a car with four relative strangers and coming back friends, to biweekly phone conference meetings, and planning Education Summits, to hard times and good times, tears and twice as many laughs, it has been an experience being on council. We have worked hard to provide for the District, and I wouldn't have regretted a single minute.

As I have recently sent a letter of resignation, my office was unfortunately marred by serious health issues. As a result, I felt I could no longer serve as the District Vice President of Membership. This was by far the most difficult decision of my time as a sister.

As Vice President of Membership, I created a blog that was updated biweekly [until I unknowingly published them as private, hah!] as well as a monthly newsletter I invited titled the "Midwest Resource," which you are reading right now! I have also reevaluated the District Membership Education Guide, and have created presentations concerning Meaningful Ritual, and Midwest District History. As the Vice President for Membership, it will be your job to organize all the chapters concerning prospective members' education, continuing education, and serving as a resource to chapters for questions and problems they may experience.

I would not take back any of the time I had as a District Officer, and wish my term did not have to end so abruptly, but alas, health obstacles tend to bring your life as you know it to an immediate halt. As I end my time as an office, I wish to leave you with two things: Always remember that the sisterhood you belong to is special in an intimate way: we serve a common purpose, music, the universal language, and that is a privilege, not a right. I also hope that everyone takes advantage of every day, because you never know what tomorrow will bring, or what will be knocking at your door.

LITB,  
Seanna Callahan

---

*Don't forget to nominate for Sister of the Month!  
Email the MWD VPM to nominate!*

## A Word from Mac: Take a Walk in my Shoes as Vice President for Special Projects!

Hello again Midwest District!!

This volume of the Resource we were asked to talk about our term as an officer. My role as Vice President of Special Projects has been an interesting time. As this was not the position I originally ran for. I kind of knew what the VPSP did, but didn't realize exactly what my job was going to entail. I am happy to say that I finally found my niche as your district VPSP. I have redone the format on all the awards and had all the applications sent out with our registration packet. Once we get to convention I will help finish this years scrapbook by adding your pages that highlight what your chapter has done and see what your chapter mascot has been up to. (Hint: it's never too late to start those scrapbook pages) I can't wait to work with the programs committee at convention because I know that EVERYONE is going to be submitting AWESOME applications for as many of the awards as possible.

I decided to run for a district office after I had traveled to my first national convention in 2005 and saw a new level of intensity that truly inspired me to do more for Tau Beta Sigma. After my first national convention, I made up my mind to run and had so much fun the first time around that I wanted to run again. I am so glad the district has elected for two terms now and I have truly enjoyed the road traveled each time because the council has made it an AWESOME experience.

Being elected an officer took some time to set in. I was so excited after convention that I don't think being elected really sunk in until we made it back to Kearney from Cedar Falls, IA. I didn't know what to expect coming in as a district officer, but what I did know is that I was taking that journey with four other individuals who would be right there to help if I needed it. I can't thank the council enough to helping make this year a successful one and I hope that you consider running for an office. If you have any other questions or would just like to chat, as always, please email me at [mwdvpsp@tbsigma.org](mailto:mwdvpsp@tbsigma.org).

LITB,  
Mackenzie Cochran

---

*Theta Mu is bidding for District Convention 2010!  
You should be at KSU this April, to see our presentation!*

---

## A Word from Amanda:

### May I Take Notes For You? I'm the Midwest District Secretary/Treasurer!

Dear Sisters of the Midwest District,

As a district officer, being the Midwest District Secretary/Treasurer, I have had the opportunity to meet new sisters at many different levels through chapter visits, district conventions, and the District Leadership Conference, where I also met National Officers (and Wava Banes Henry!).

As Secretary/Treasurer, I take minutes at all District Officer meetings as well as keep track of the budget for the District. At the 2007 MWD convention in Kearney, no one had decided to run for Secretary/Treasurer, so I saw an opportunity to help out the district and get more involved in the organization.

I jumped at the chance!

An older sister from my chapter, a former DO, helped me put together a last-minute packet (I recommend NOT doing that).

I have loved (almost) every minute of being a district officer and I hope that you will consider running for an office in the future!

LITB,  
Amanda Clark

---

*Don't forget!!*

*Midwest District Convention  
April 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS*

## Counselor's Corner with Wendy, your Midwest District Counselor

"What does the Counselor do?" I hear this question in various forms from chapter members as well as people who are not involved with Tau Beta Sigma or college bands. I have had the honor to serve as the TBS Midwest District Counselor for nearly 5 ½ years, and soon enough (at the 2010 District Convention), I'll be turning over the reigns to a new Counselor (because I reach my term limits), so it seems an appropriate time to reflect on what I do and why.

As I see it, my role has three major components. I work with 1) chapters and members in the Midwest on both chapter problems and successes; 2) District Officers (DOs or Council) & Kappa Kappa Psi Governors (Denali and Tony, my counterparts) to facilitate communication and build programs within the district, including planning district events (primarily District Convention); and 3) National Officers & Headquarters Staff to communicate the needs of the Midwest District and to seek guidance when I need help. My goal is to work behind-the-scenes to support members, chapters and the district as you pursue your goals, though I do strive to stay involved in the daily activities of the district (and the DOs would probably tell you I am NOT quietly staying in the background when it comes to working with them!).

Members contact me for a variety of reasons, including questions or concerns about chapter issues, district events and national programs (so if you have a question or concern, don't hesitate to call me—that's why I'm here!). If I contact your chapter, does that mean you are in trouble? Typically, no. One of my ongoing goals (which I share with the TBS District Council) is to have frequent contact with chapters and members. I want to be available to answer your questions and to make you aware of district and national programs. I enjoy working with active members to make you and your chapters better members and leaders – which will increase your ability to serve your bands.

I work with the District Officers to assist them in their duties. Their role in the district is to plan district programs and events, especially convention (April 3-5 at Kansas State - plan now to attend!) and to increase communication between chapters. At National Convention (July 21-26 in Phoenix, Arizona – you can't miss this!) I work with the chapters and DOs to speak out on behalf of the district. The DOs refer serious chapter issues to me, and I strive to provide consistency with the change in officers each year.

"Why do I do this?" I enjoy my volunteer role as Counselor primarily because of you; TBS is a student-run and student-focused organization, and I enjoy working with college students to support university bands. I am also grateful to have the opportunity to continue serving the Sorority in this vital role. Ask some folks who have served as District Counselor and in other roles...it truly is "the best gig in the Sorority!" My thanks go out to everyone who has helped me along the way because I certainly couldn't do this alone! I look forward to seeing all of you at least twice this year... come to conventions!

LITB,  
Wendy