

If you move away from your home district

Like learning about a new chapter, learning about a new district can be difficult. Make sure to contact the District Local Alumni Association – they can inform you about conventions, state days, state or city alumni associations and help you get information for and about your closest chapter. You also want to get a hold of a copy of that association's bylaws, because different districts have different rules regarding involvement. The people you meet and the NAA database can help you find new contacts and possibly housing, job info, etc. It is also a good idea to find out how to sign onto the district listserve. As with changing chapters, try and find some form of mentor who can answer any questions you have and help you to figure out any differences between what you are used to and what you will be learning.

I want to ask a question that's not covered in this book!

If you have a question that is not discussed in this booklet, please feel free to contact any of the members of WDJAA, and we will do our best to help. If we can't answer your questions right away, we probably know where to go for the answers.

Congratulations! The reason you are receiving this handbook is because you are finally about to become an alumni member. (YAY!) Whether this is due to graduation, transferring schools or for some other reason, you've worked hard for it.

Alumni status means different things to different people. You may choose to continue serving your chapter, a new chapter or the district. Remember that life comes first and many alumni have gone away for a year or so, gotten everything in order and come back. The choice is up to you, and we wish you the best of luck.

We're sure you already know all there is to know about your approaching status, but we thought you might like this handy little reference for any questions you may still have.

So what does it mean to be an alumnus?

According to nationals, an alumni member is:

(For Kappa Kappa Psi):

“those active, associate or conditional members of the fraternity who have completed their education or who have terminated their affiliation with their college or university. Any alumni member shall have all privileges of an active member, except those of voting and introducing business. In the event an alumni member wishes to reactivate with the respective chapter, said alumnus must be registered as a student, be an active member of the institution's band, and meet requirements as an active member of the local chapter. **Members can only be alumni one of the two ways underlined at the end of the first sentence. A chapter cannot vote a member alumni.**”

(For Tau Beta Sigma):

“those who have completed their undergraduate education or terminated their collegiate affiliation. An alumni member may serve as a nonvoting member of any active chapter committee. In the event an alumni member wishes to reactivate, said alumnus must be a student and enrolled/actively participating in the institution’s band, meet requirements as an active member of the local chapter and must petition the chapter annually for active status and be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. **People can only be alumni one of the two ways underlined in the end of the first sentence. A chapter cannot vote a person alumni.**”

There is no cost to become an alumni member, once you terminate your affiliation in one of the ways listed above, you are alumni. This is a non-voting position and can help out any place at anytime. Basically, this means that once you are alumni – you can transfer said status wherever you wish in the nation. As an alumni member, you can join the NAA and any number of LAA’s (Local Area Associations), such as WDJAA. You may choose to become active again in certain circumstances, but be forewarned, it includes an involved process.

What is the NAA exactly?

According to nationals

NAA (National Alumni Association) - This is a national organization, which has an annual fee that is used for insurance, administrative costs (which will cover all organizations against hazing or other legal problems), district allotments, and national programs. Within this framework are

change. It is the hardest thing in the world to sit back and watch your chapter change and not be able to do anything, but you have to be careful. Speak up when you feel it’s necessary, and make sure that your chapter knows you want to help. With any luck, this will be enough. If not, you may want to speak to an older alumni or the chapter sponsor about any concerns you may have. If you don’t feel like you can do enough through your home chapter, consider becoming a member of WDJAA or another organization as a means to continue serving.

If you move away from your home chapter

You already know that chapters are different. As soon as you know you’ll be moving, attempt to contact as many people from your new closest chapter(s) as possible. It is advisable to get a hold of the person in charge of contacting that chapter’s alumni, remember that web pages often get out of date, so meet as many people as possible.

Find at least one person who can explain any differences between their chapter and your old one. It helps to be able to sit down with one person and get acquainted with the new chapters way of doing things. Think of it as finding a new big brother or sister or a new vice president – it will make things much easier. You may even consider going to prospective classes, or reviewing the education materials.

Get a copy of the chapter’s bylaws – sometimes this will help you see differences between your home chapter and your adoptive chapter.

If you don’t feel like you can do enough through your new chapter, consider becoming a member of the closest LAA as a means to continue serving.

Life membership does not entitle you to participate in the local alumni association, unless you have paid the dues for that association. A Life Member must pay dues to the National Alumni Association in order to participate in Alumni activities. Payment of Life fees does not register you with the NAA beyond the first year and does not register you with WDJAA

Part of the fee is a donation to nationals. This donation helps to keep the organizations going.

What happens if my statuses overlap?

If you become alumni and/or life in a national convention year, or in the middle of a school year, you get the benefits of any statuses for which you qualify, as you choose. That means that at convention, you can sit in on active or alumni meetings. Basically, you can do either or attempt to do both active and alumni activities (it's hard to plan, but highly recommended – you meet more people that way, and get the experience of being an alumni in stages)

This is true until the next dues date (when you would pay active dues to your chapter) – once that date is passed, you are officially no longer active, unless you decide to reactivate, which is done by paying dues and basically doing what you were doing as an active: being involved with the band and enrolled in school. This is usually for those pursuing a higher degree, although some people do choose to reactivate for other reasons.

Tips for becoming alumni and staying near your home chapter

Rule number one – remember that like people, chapters

local associations like WDJAA, because you must be a member of the NAA before you can join a local association. NAA Homepage - <http://www16.brinkster.com/kkytbsnaa/>

Some of the added bonuses of being a member of the NAA include discounts, the NAA listserv and the alumni database.

Discounts

From time to time alumni are given codes for different discounts. Discounts are usually announced over the NAA listserv and are available to all members. Currently, Avis gives the following discount on car rentals to alumni members.

- 10% off Super Value daily and weekly rates in the contiguous USA
- 5% off Promotional rates in the USA
- 20% off Time and Mileage rates in W. Europe
- 10% off rates in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East
- 15% off rates in Asia and the Pacific
- Special Rates in Canada
- Frequent Flyer Mileage accrual for each rental with participation programs
- Our Program ID number is #T624700 and the reservation number is 1-800-331-1212 (info)

NAA Listserv

Similar to the National and District Listservs, the NAA Listserv allows alumni to discuss those issues that are of particular interest to them. The list is in the form of a

Yahoo group, and can be found at :
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kkytbsnaa/>

NAA database

The database was designed as a way to keep track of members of the NAA for their chapters, transfer chapters and other people who want to contact members. To check it out, go to <http://harmony.gatech.edu/naa/>. The guest password is goband.

Currently, you can request a user name of your own once you join the NAA. The sign up info can be found at the database site listed above.

TIP- if the password you are given doesn't work; try accessing your user name with a blank password box.

Tips and tricks when it comes to Alumni status

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact officers from WDJAA <http://www.kkytbs.org/wd/wdjaa/contact.html> or our NAA representative <http://www.kkytbsnaa.org/BOD.htm> . Ask a lot of questions, even if you think that they may seem silly and BE PERSISTENT, if someone doesn't get back to you in a couple days or a week, remind them or ask again.

What is an LAA?

LAA stands for Local Alumni Association (sometimes called an AAA for Area Alumni Association) The Western District currently has WDJAA as the only LAA although several are in the works. Many of the other districts have multiple LAA/AAA's. The requirements for creating such an organization are listed on the NAA webpage <http://www.kkytbsnaa.org/local.htm>

(for Tau Beta Sigma)

“Life Membership, along with privileges of such, is granted to Alumni or Active senior members upon payment of Life membership fees submitted with an application to the National Headquarters. If an application for Life Membership is requested within two years of graduation, it must have chapter approval. Purchase of a Life Membership by a senior does not exempt a person from payment of annual Active membership dues during their senior year. The privileges of a Life Member include:

- Membership in the National Alumni Association for one year.
- A one-year subscription to the *Podium*.
- The individual's name listed and displayed at the National Headquarters.
- Discounts offered by the National Headquarters on selected merchandise or events. (to be announced as they occur)
- Eligibility for appointments as deemed necessary by the National Council.
- All privileges granted by the National Constitution.”

(Currently, Life Membership fees are a \$250 payment that includes a membership card, shingle and pin)

Why go life?

As a Life Member, you may sit as the delegate for your Chapter at the National Convention if there is no Active Member from that Chapter present. In some chapters, Life Members may also vote on the Chapter level, have little and participate in ritual.

- Ten free local phone calls (except in measured areas).
- One free incoming fax (five pages maximum).

Travelodge Discount Information:

- Call 1-800-578-7878
- Discount ID# 800600
- 10% off at all participating Travelodge locations.

So what's the difference between being alumni and life?

According to nationals, life membership is:
(for Kappa Kappa Psi)

“Life membership, along with the privileges of such, shall be granted to any Alumni member upon payment of a Life Membership contribution the amount to be set by the National Chapter along with an application to the National Headquarters. The privileges of a Life member include:

- Membership in the National Alumni Association for one year.
- A one-year subscription to the *Podium*.
- The individual's name listed and displayed at the National Headquarters.
- Discounts offered by the National Headquarters on selected merchandise or events. (to be announced as the occur)
- Eligibility for appointments as deemed necessary by the National Council.
- All privileges granted by the National Constitution.”
(Currently, Life Membership fees are a \$250 payment that includes a membership card, shingle, pin)

So what does WDJAA actually do?

Many of us have spent years actively involved in our organizations, and could not see ending that involvement just because we have graduated. Our purpose is to continue to promote music throughout the community. We want to show the rest of the country that the Western District is really cool, even after graduation. Every member of WDJAA must first be a member of the NAA. When you join you will be added to the WDJAA mailing list. Forms for membership in the NAA and WDJAA are available

<http://www.kkvtbs.org/wd/wdjaa/forms.html> . The current WDJAA constitution is available from the website.

<http://www.kkvtbs.org/wd/wdjaa.html> .

Vision: To jointly provide enhanced local and district wide opportunities for alumni to continue promoting excellence in bands and become a valuable resource to assist band programs.

Mission: The Western District Joint Alumni Association is an organization that provides the Western District alumni with communication and information from the NAA & Western District, and provides professional, organizational and financial assistance to the Western District active membership.

WDJAA is always looking for ideas on how we can promote the goals and ideals of our organizations within the community, how we can aid individual chapter alumni relations with an information forum and a centralized affiliation for alumni. As a member, you can help with ideas about activities we can provide for the Western District and by

giving this to alumni Brothers and Sisters who want to get re-involved.

Like the NAA, WDJAA has some individual discount deals with varying companies.

WDJAA Discounts:

Dollar Rent A Car:

- Call 800-800-4000 to make a reservation.
- Reservation ID is AL2626
- 5% discount off daily, weekly, and weekend Sensible Rate for economy to full-size vehicles.
- 5% discount off daily, weekly, and weekend retail rates for Premium, Luxury and Minivan vehicles.
- Sensible Rates are available at all participating Dollar locations when vehicle is returned to original renting location.
- Rates include unlimited mileage in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.
- In Canada, rates include 200 kilometers free per day. Additional kilometers are .12/kilometer.
- U.S. Border crossings require prior written approval of rental location.
- Minimum age for rental is 21 years of age, unless otherwise stated by law. An additional fee may apply to renters 21 through 24 years of age.

- No charge for additional drivers presenting a valid driver's license at time of rental and listed on the rental agreement.
- On weekends and during certain Holiday periods, Sensible Rates for Alumni are not available in the New York Metro area, New York City Airports and Newark, NJ.
- Additional blackout periods may apply.
- Sensible Rates do not include taxes, fuel, other optional items or applicable fees.
- Dollar locations in Latin America, Mexico and Caribbean will provide a 10% discount on time and mileage upon presentation of valid Dollar Association membership identification.

Days Inn Discount Information:

- Call 1-800-DAYS-INN
- Discount ID# is 24134
- 10% off at Days Inn locations.
- Includes the following:
 - Complimentary morning coffee.
 - Complimentary newspaper.

The Soon-To-Be-Alumni Handbook

(Everything you already knew,
but may still have wanted to ask)



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