

Report of the Vice Presidents of Projects
Western District Joint Alumni Association
2003 – 2004
Dawn Farmer & Tanya Marsh

To the Members of WDJAA:

This year we faced many hurdles as we served our term of office. We came into this office in July at the National Convention in Norfolk. At the time we accepted the position, we were very enthusiastic about serving in WDJAA and creating new projects. As counterparts, we were excited to serve Chapter again and wanted to be a productive force in the group.

As the VP of Projects, we were to coordinate projects, philanthropical and social in nature, for the Western District Alumni. After brainstorming, we thought we had some pretty good ideas including a trip to Vegas as well as some suggestions for the WD Day of Music. All we really needed was a roster to get my information out. Our repeated inquiries for an updated roster went answered until less than two months ago. Without a list of current membership, it was near impossible to arrange any sort of projects. When we did get a roster, we were amazed that we only had eight members listed as having paid dues. With that information, we scrapped what little projects we could have completed and changed our focus. My new project was to recruit past District leadership into becoming members of WDJAA. This project, Operation New Members, involved many phone calls to friends, past District Council Members, alumni from all around the district, and to individual chapter Presidents. After countless emails, phone calls, and visits, we feel like we have started to successfully recruit quality membership for the future of WDJAA.

Another project allowed encompassed the VPs of Projects creating a "newbie graduated" persons list in order to educate and inform about WDJAA and the benefits of membership. Through our research, we were able to compile a list of OVER 100 new alumni (including people from graduation 2003 and Spring 2004). This duty taken upon ourselves, it was another approach to upsurge the membership of the alumni organization. Unfortunately, this duty itself is something that other officers of WDJAA should have taken upon themselves or delegated from the leadership - thus highlighting the lack of accountability, ambition, and responsibility to the organization.

On paper, people may say that we did not complete any great project for this group. But we feel we have done more. We are trying to revitalize the image of WDJAA and spark once passionate alumni to become reinvolved in chapter activities. We hope that the work we have done in the past few months will come to fruition in the next year and beyond.

In the future, we charge the executive council of WDJAA to have a current roster ready and available at all times and it should be accessible to officers and members alike. I also charge that there be more communication between the members of the council. I think it is the responsibility of the Officers to share what they are working on with each other. This way, when asked 'What is WDJAA doing?' we can have answers.

WDJAA exists to allow a great way for alumni to remain involved, and should not consistently just be a small organization of apathetic members with titles. The joint organization needs to continually find new

ways to support active chapters and individual members, and at all times setting the supreme example of serving music themselves. We can not just remain a group of people who remain clueless about what is happening in the active membership, and all WDJAA is known for is just purchasing ritual equipment for chapters. WDJAA should encompass the passion for serving music, and provide a social and enjoyable atmosphere conducive to accepting alumni members who wish to remain involved and engaged in the two national organizations. It is very easy to purchase equipment for a chapter, and takes little effort on a group of people - yet, it is difficult to continually support and help inspire active members to continually serve their bands through active membership and after graduation. This is a challenge that WDJAA should consistently remain constant to the ideals of the organizations and obtaining this high expectation.

In conclusion, we hope to continue to serve WDJAA and the Western District. I feel the future of WDJAA can be bright if we work on recruitment and image adjustment. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to stay involved in Chapter events.

In the bond,
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Life – Omega, TBS

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