

**International Fraternity of Delta Sigma Pi**  
**Report of the Southern Provincial Vice President**  
**Janene W. Markuske**  
**January 2016**



**High Priority Risks**

- Xi Sigma (Wingate) - PROBATION
  - The chapter is on probation for chapter size and operations. Without drastic improvements to both, it is likely that the chapter will close within the next year despite the dedication by the officers and chapter members.
- Zeta Upsilon (Virginia Tech) - PROBATION
  - Chapter was recently put on probation after the university put the chapter on probation for having a keg party and violating the university's alcohol policy. Two brothers who hosted the party have also been put on board trials. New officers were recently elected for the spring semester, and the chapter is cooperating with the terms of the university's probation.
- Eta Kappa (Troy) - GUIDANCE
  - Currently they are on guidance for operations. The chapter struggled with motivation this semester some, but their new officers for the spring semester look like they will be leading the chapter in the right direction.
- Kappa (Georgia State) - GUIDANCE
  - Currently they are on guidance for operations. The chapter is doing well. They initiated 9 of 10 pledges this semester. They currently have 56 members.
- Beta Lambda (Auburn) - GUIDANCE
  - Currently they are on guidance for operations. They have struggled with leadership, but their new officers seem to be leading them in the right direction.
- Alpha Sigma (Alabama) - GUIDANCE
  - Currently they are on guidance for operations. The chapter is improving. They initiated 21 members this semester effectively tripling their chapter size. Their operations are getting stronger.
- Delta Iota (Florida Southern) - GUIDANCE
  - Currently they are on guidance for operations.
- Sigma Tau (Duke)
  - Continues to struggle with motivation. Transportation has also become an issue since fewer than 5 brothers have cars.
- Kappa Psi (Bellarmine)
  - The chapter struggles with morale, motivation, and deadlines.
- Eta Upsilon (West Florida)
  - The chapter struggles with finances and CMP deadlines.
- Gamma Lambda (Florida State)
  - Struggles with diversity, transitions, and communication.
- Epsilon Chi (Georgia Southern)

- Struggles with operational issues, conflicts, and diversity. They're working towards increasing the diversity within their chapter.
- Kappa Pi (N. Florida)
  - Heavily reliant on the DD for support to the detriment of the chapter.

### Action Items

- On-site help with Nashville LEAD
  - Since I will not be able to attend the Nashville LEAD, I am seeking help for various on-site duties that I would normally perform including emceeing the event. PVP's Tricia Smith and Jodi Schoh have expressed willingness to help since they both will be attending.
- Social media chair
  - I would like to have a social media chair for our province to help post reminders on Facebook and to help increase activity on social media.
- Alumni Development chair
  - For years our province has struggled with alumni participation. We are still searching for someone who is willing to take on this daunting task.
- All leaders (RVP's and DD's) become CDL certified

### Committees and Leadership

- RVP's:
  - Atlantic Coast: Opeola Bukola
  - Central Gulf: Holly Vernon
  - Mid-Atlantic: Karin Olivo
  - Mid-South: Erin Lee
  - South Atlantic: Chris Sands
  - Southeastern: Carrie Burns
- Professional Development: Liz Cotner (chair), Gabriela Pantoja, Penny Guiles, Amanda Maldonado, Michael Caira, Victor Calero
- Community Service: Ashley Bernstein (chair), Victor Calero
- Awards: Gina Irvin (chair), Richard Brandt, Jennifer McGill
- Discipline: Janene Markuske, Carrie Burns, Erin Lee

### Projects

- Change our Voluntary Withdrawal policy
- Proposal of new colony CMP module
- Proposal of updated colony installation policy

### Goals

- *Leadership Development*
  - We are continuing to look for alumni who are interested in volunteering.
- *Increase the number of chapters achieving Accredited, Recognition, or Excellence in CMP*
  - The RVP's and DD's are encouraging their chapters to turn in their reports on time. The use of the Facebook group to remind brothers also helps.
  - Chapters who did not attend GCC in August 2015 will automatically not be able to achieve Accredited status. This will decrease our overall success rate for this year.
    - 6 of 40 collegiate chapters in Southern Province did not attend GCC.

- Despite educating chapters through word of mouth, emails, detailed Facebook group instructions, and having the CMP manual, chapters still struggle with the Pledging Ceremony report. Most of the struggle stems from chapters who host more than one pledging ceremony.
  - 16 of 40 collegiate chapters' fall Pledging Ceremony Reports were not approved/late.
- *Increase participation in social media from collegiate and alumni members*
  - We have seen an increase in use of chapter Facebook groups, recruitment pages, Twitter hashtags, and the provincial group.
- *Increase participation in the COY and chapter awards programs*
  - For the second year in a row, our province had 100% submission for COY nominees from chapters.
  - One nominee never started his application in addition to another nine nominees who did not submit the applications that they started. A total of 10 nominees out of 40 did not submit applications. This was lower than previous years.
    - It recently came to my attention that COY applications could not be submitted unless both letters of recommendation were included. I did not receive any complaints from COY nominees about not being able to submit their applications, but I am curious to know how many of the nine who did not submit their applications were not able to do so because they did not have one or both of their letters of recommendation.
- *Increase attendance at the LEAD School, LEAD Provincial Conference, and GCC*
  - At the Greensboro LEAD School in fall 2015, nearly 400 people attending, surpassing our expectations. Our province historically has fewer early bird registrants and more registrants in the last few weeks. For this event, we saw a large percentage of attendees register using the early bird rate.
  - We are excited to host the 2016 Southern Provincial Conference in Nashville, TN, (Franklin) on February 19-21, 2016. Although it is still early, we already have 66 people registered including 46 collegiates.
- *Encourage RVP's to utilize DD's and take an active role in the success of their chapters*
  - Most of our RVP's have seen numerous returning District Directions. We are also trying to utilize more DD for alumni chapters to help increase alumni chapter events and communication.

### **Lessons Learned**

- LEAD events
  - Contact info for all speakers – often requested by attendees
  - “Announcements” slideshow to decrease the number of talking points
- Chapter letters, especially guidance and probation letters, need to be sent in a timely manner

### **Best Practices with RVP's and Committee Chairs**

- After much discussion at our recent leadership team retreat, RVP's will be in charge of writing their own letters of encouragement including, but not limited to, letters such as kudos on some event or task, keep up the good work, etc. If they wish to have the PVP sign the letter as well, I am willing to do so. This should alleviate the requests being sent to Central Office and should increase the timeliness of these letters.
- Sharing DD training and expectations information with RVP's at the beginning of the year

### **Best Practices that could be considered for national practices**

- District Director Visit Report on Google forms
  - <http://goo.gl/forms/wQIQixsBGA>
  - Each time a DD visits his or her chapter, he or she submits a report. This report gets recorded in a Google Sheet in addition to automatically emailing the RVP with a copy of their DD's report.
    - This has worked really well with newer DD's. “Seasoned” DD's were much less inclined to use the form.

- Slideshow of announcements playing throughout opening session, lunch, and closing session at LEAD except during keynote presentation
  - Because of the very long list of announcements that need to be publicized at LEAD's including foundation, CMP deadlines, sponsorships, vendors, etc, we utilized a PowerPoint presentation at the Greensboro LEAD so that there would be fewer verbal talking points. We noticed that the audience was more willing to listen to the speaker since there were fewer "boring" announcements to which they had to listen.
- Utilizing a Google form to allow chapters to submit requests to sell items at LEAD's

### **Provincial Highlights**

- Colonies
  - Georgia Tech Colony in Atlanta, GA, opened in October 2014 with a tentative installation in March or April 2016.
  - Eckerd College Colony in St. Petersburg, FL, opened in September 2014 with a tentative installation in April 2016.
  - Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC (opened August 2014) had originally expressed interest in being installed in April 2016, but it looks like it may be fall before they are ready to install.
  - Elon University Colony in Elon, NC, opened in October 2015.