



Southern Province Report
Meghan Hill, PVP
February 13, 2022

Committee Members

Scholarships & Awards	Michelle Cain, Chair
Alumni Development	Mitch Simmons, Chair
Communications/Marketing	Melissa Garcia, Chair
Professional Development	Velvet Simmons, Chair
Community Service	Heather Ferguson, Chair

Action items and High Priority Risks or Concerns

Action Items

- Appoint committee chairs and encourage committee membership among alumni and collegiate brothers (complete)
- Assist RVPs in appointing District Directors for all collegiate chapters.
- Planning and finalizing details concerning LEAD Provincial Conference
- Facilitating interviews and hiring our next Executive Director

High Priority Risks or Concerns

The highest priority concern for the Southern Province is best described as the “knowledge drain” that COVID has caused. Many chapters have faced a semester of face to face meetings with brothers who have never experienced a face to face fraternity experience. This has also caused such issues as missing ritual books and incorrect badge inventory, along with a lack of knowledge on ritual and how to run a chapter in a hybrid world. There is also concern over the mental health toll the stresses of COVID have had on brothers and chapters as a whole.

There is also a lack of transition that is contributing to the knowledge drain. Train the trainer sessions for DDs and ADDs to help guild chapters through effective transitions would be very helpful.

Projects

Brief summary, as needed for any projects you're sponsoring or assigned to your committees.

- **Alumni Engagement:** Each Region to appoint a regional Alumni Development Chair and invite all VPAR and VPCRs in the region to participate in regular meetings to promote communication and event participation. This is a new idea for the Province and is a little slow getting off the ground, but there is enthusiasm to continue working toward a working committee.
- **Regular Leadership Meetings:** The PVP and RVPs meet twice a month to discuss current fraternity events, receive and give feedback, and teambuilding. A Provincial Leadership Retreat is being planned for late Spring/early Summer 2022.

Goals

- District Directors: All chapters have at least one DD and 14 chapters have an Assistant DD
- DD/CDL: 29/63 (46%) Current DD/ADD are CDL Tier 1 (9 Lapsed) and 19 are CDL Tier 2 (4 Lapsed)
- COY Nominees: 41/44 (93%) chapters submitted a COY Nominee
- Chapter Leadership Funds: 35/44 (80%) of chapters have a balance of funds in their CLF, with six chapters having a greater than \$1,000 balance

Lessons Learned

This is hard and it takes a village! Team-building in a virtual world is very difficult, but the Southern Province is lucky to have a team truly committed to working together and sharing ideas through regular meetings and frequent slack-chats. Help is there, sometimes you just have to ask for it. This is an important takeaway for not just our volunteer leaders, but our collegiate brothers as well.

Best Practices

Each committee chair in the Southern Province chairs a working committee with both alumni and collegiate brothers as members. This helps the volunteer leadership facilitate the sharing of best practices and listen for areas of need.

Regional Reports

Atlantic Coast - Trina Kirk, RVP

All six universities in the Atlantic Coast Region started moving back to in person classes for the Fall 2021 Semester. Along with in person classes, Chapters started moving back to conducting meetings and events in person. This in itself proved to be a challenge across the board for Chapters, because most of the Brothers have never been to an in person face to face Meeting or Event, because they were Initiated during the Pandemic. For those Brothers who have, most have now graduated and moved on to the next Chapter in their life. While there were a lot of baby steps in this new journey, the Leadership of the Atlantic Coast Region, as well as, the Collegiate Brothers faced it together and we will continue to do so as we move forward. One thing is for certain, the Brothers of the Atlantic Coast Region are constantly reminded often to go the extra mile to make sure they check on each other. Together we can get through anything.

Central Gulf - Kyle Bischoff, RVP

The Central Gulf has a great leadership team with strong District Directors at each chapter and Assistant District Directors at most chapters. I have also implemented a Regional Alumni Development Committee headed by Brother DaCotah Collier. The ultimate goal of this committee is to encourage the continued interaction between alumni and collegiate chapters. However with alumni interaction on the decline in the Central Gulf region, this committee is currently tasked with updating alumni contact information. The current focus is on "Lost" alumni and the committee has started updating some of these contacts already.

There are plenty of opportunities within the Central Gulf to strengthen the region. As previously mentioned, we are looking at starting more alumni chapters to help with alumni support. We need to focus on recruiting within the existing chapters to get their numbers back up to the levels suggested by Central Office. In the long term, the goal of the Central Gulf will be to look at chapter expansion targeting the following schools: Mississippi State University (reactivation), and Jackson State University in Mississippi and University of Alabama, Birmingham, University of Alabama, Huntsville, University of North Alabama, Florence in Alabama.

Mid-Atlantic - Chelsey Fix, RVP

Chapters in the Mid-Atlantic Region are very creative in terms of events and increasing engagement. Chapters have also done a fantastic job of transitioning back to in-person initiations and ritual. Alpha Lambda is excitedly looking toward their 100th anniversary celebration.

We have a great opportunity to increase the quality and frequency of communication between chapters and volunteer leaders. While many chapters may engage their own alumni for events and feedback, there's much to be gained by looking to local alumni that may be outside of a chapter's own alumni base.

Mid-South - Madison Whitehouse, RVP

Overall the chapters in our region have a variety of strengths, including recruitment and marketing. Many chapters struggle with transition and would benefit from communicating with each other to share their strengths to build their own chapters in the areas where they struggle. COVID has brought many challenges to chapters and caused some disconnect on basic chapter operations.

South Atlantic - Ron Neto-Taylor, RVP

Coming Soon!

Southeastern - CJ Cook, RVP

Overall, the Southeastern Region is in pretty good shape. Recruitment has generally gone well, in some cases better than usual. Chapters are quick to reach out to leadership with questions and are responsive to the volunteer leadership. The main concerns for the region are Transitions or Alumni Relations. Updating the resources that we have regarding transitions could be beneficial. As for alumni, there is opportunity across the region to foster the collegiate/alumni relations, for both collegiate and alumni chapters. The chapters that have strong VPARs primarily reach out to recent alumni from their home chapter and not the local alumni in the area. The region has formed an alumni relations committee however there is still extremely low engagement and currently only has 3 (out of 13) engaged members. This is particularly concerning since this not only limits alumni engagement at collegiate events, but also limits the growth for the alumni chapters themselves.