



**International Fraternity of Delta Sigma Pi**  
**Report of the Southern Provincial Vice President**  
**Carrie Sagel Burns**  
**January 2018**

With almost 100% turn-over in the province getting started this first semester has been challenging, but we are on our way! Some chapters have gone for awhile without a District Director in place so really working on changing that. We now have a District Director in place at all chapters and looking forward to a productive Spring semester in the Southern Province. As I step into this new role and have a clearer picture, it seems risk management concerns are prevalent at a number of chapters and working to instill the proper Delta Sigma Pi procedures and minimize potentially harmful “traditions” is a big focus. This is not meant to negatively impact the Brotherhood at the chapters, but to encourage positive methods of pledge and Brother education and grow strong leaders with strong morals and character.

**Southern Provincial Leadership & Committees**

- Regional Vice President's:
  - Atlantic Coast - Trina Kirk
  - Central Gulf - Holly Vernon
  - Mid-Atlantic - Aimee King
  - Mid-South - Madison Whitehouse
  - South Atlantic - Gabby Leto
  - Southeastern - Meghan Hill
- Professional Development - vacant
- Awards/Scholastic Development - Gina Irvin (chair), Catrina Murray, Lee James, Heather Lewis, Jen McGill
- Community Service - Holly Vernon (interim chair)
- Alumni Development - Eric Thim (chair)
- Discipline - Carrie Burns, Holly Vernon, Meghan Hill

**High Priority Risks**

- Appear to be ongoing issues with drinking, pledges and general risk management that need to be addressed at a number of chapters. Being able to identify these issues is key and really needs to start w/ the Exec Committees and District Directors. Better education and training to spot issues early is suggested. A portion of this problem appears to stem from what chapters have known to be a “tradition” and rather than correcting they fall on “well that’s the way it’s always been done”. Chapters need to fully understand the

severity of poor behavior where risk management is concerned and is a big work in progress in this province as well as nationally.

- **Atlantic Coast Region:**
  - Beta Eta (Univ of FL, Gainesville) - PROBATION until 12/12/18
    - University deferred suspension until 5/4/18, then probation until 10/12/18. DSP probation until 12/12/18 due to risk management issues during initiation. Goal is to work on improving pledge education and risk management. Finding a local DD is a challenge.
  - Kappa Pi (Univ of N FL, Jacksonville) - PROBATION until 8/15/18 & RECEIVERSHIP
    - Of the 8 requirements of probation they achieved 5, receivership has been suggested for an additional semester to continue improvement.
  - Theta Sigma (Univ of Central FL, Orlando) - Overall chapter well-being concerns
  - Epsilon Chi (GA Southern) - Diversity and declining CMP concerns
- **Central Gulf Region:**
  - Gamma Tau (Univ of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg) - Financial concerns
  - Eta Kappa (Troy) - WARNING for decline in operations. Diversity concerns.
  - Tau Phi (Jacksonville State, AL) - Leadership concerns
- **Mid-Atlantic Region:**
  - Iota Omega (UNC Greensboro) - Diversity concerns
- **Mid-South Region:**
  - Epsilon Psi (Christian Bros, Memphis) - RECEIVERSHIP until 6/30/18 to increase overall chapter operations
  - Rho Omega (Richmond) - GUIDANCE until 8/11/18 due to declining CMP
- **South Atlantic Region:**
  - Epsilon Rho (Univ of Tampa) - PROBATION until 12/14/18
    - University disciplinary probation until 12/14/18 due to risk management issues during initiation. Goal is to work on improving pledge education and risk management.
  - Zeta Phi (FL Atlantic) - GUIDANCE until 8/11/18 due to declining CMP
  - Theta Phi (USF-Tampa) - WARNING for risk management concerns
- **Southeastern Region:**
  - Kappa (GA State Univ) - PROBATION until 8/11/18
    - Risk management and continued diversity issues. Reorganization was a long process, especially w/ new RVP/PVP in place and finding a DD for the chapter has been challenging. Appealed probation, BOD upheld.

#### **Chapter Watch/Help Items:**

**\*make sure to submit events right when they happen to eliminate rushing at the end**

- (AC) Beta Eta - no professional activities submitted
- (AC) Theta Sigma - only one professional activity submitted
- (CG) Gamma Tau - no professional activities submitted
- (CG) Eta Upsilon - only one community service submitted
- (CG) Tau Phi - no community service or professional activities submitted

- (MA) Alpha Lambda - no community service or professional activities submitted
- (MA) Xi Sigma - no professional activities submitted
- (MA) Rho Omega - large past due balance
- (MS) Tau Upsilon - large past due balance
- (SA) Upsilon Phi - no professional activities submitted

## Projects

- None at this time

## Province Goals

- Member Education
  - Improve on DD training to better assist with spotting risk management and other concerns that could end up being ongoing and debilitating in a chapter
  - Improving on transition documents, templates and procedures for national leaders - leadership development/education
  - CDL - Ensure all RVPs and DDs are at least Tier 1 - currently at 83% of RVPs are Tier 1 (may be 100% by Provincial, fingers crossed) and 25% of DDs are (also hoping this is higher)
- Member Engagement
  - Engaging alumni for speaker roles at national events and volunteer sign-up
  - 1 additional alumni chapter in each region by 2019 GCC
  - Increase use of social media throughout the chapters and alumni by enlisting students and alumni to assist with engagement on a regular basis
- Membership Growth
  - Working on growing numbers, but quality members so we minimize the need for trials and have engaged, educated Brothers
- Organizational Excellence
  - Increase use of available technology and communication portals
- Increase numbers for COY, Awards and Scholarship recipients
  - COY - For the 2nd year in a row we had 1 chapter not submit, but pretty close to 100% and next year we will work on achieving that; 12 of the 41 nominees did not submit applications, gotta get those applications in to be eligible
- Increase number of chapters taking advantage of Leadership Foundation scholarship funds
- Increase attendance at provincial/national events
  - Myrtle Beach LEAD was low on attendance, but there were a lot of storms and things that played into that and thankfully hotel was forgiving
  - Charlotte Provincial is pretty light right now, great opportunity to network and a relatively easy spot to get to
- Increase number of chapters achieving Accredited, Recognition and Excellence
- Find ways to further decrease the cost of LEAD/GCC
- Work on further establishing committees and task force members
  - Alumni development finally has a chair and our region struggles with alumni participation so time to get a game plan together to improve

- Professional development chair moved, have inquired w/ a few, but important committee for the region and working on finding someone w/ an HR/Mgmt background
- Community service needs committee members who can take the load off Holly
- Task force positions are all available - Ritual Education, Pledge/Ed Program, Membership, Chapter Financials, Pledge Selection

### **Best Practices**

- Recently implemented volunteer online sign-up for LEAD
- Merchandise sales Google form
- Speaker information online for ease of reaching post-LEAD
- Slack for team communication

### **Province Highlights**

- Alpha Sigma, Univ of Alabama - Initial concerns due to reports from a Brother and her father, but visit resulted in confirmation that the chapter is doing very well. Chapter advisor and new DD engaged and communicating.
- Phi Psi chapter at Elon was installed and appear to be on track
- Both Atlantic and South Atlantic regions are having productive discussions about regional initiations and working towards being able to have them w/o issues
- Finally at a point where almost all chapters have a DD so now time to really work with them through Spring semester, encourage and empower them
- While the numbers were down for Fall LEAD School, there was attendance by almost all chapters in the province, only missed 1 ( )
- GCC we were only missing 1 chapter (Beta Omega), this is not an event to miss, start planning for Atlanta now
  - Delta Iota was at GCC for the first time since 2007, big congrats!
  - 4 schools received funds from the Eddie Stephens South Atlantic Leadership Fund (Beta Omega, Delta Iota, Zeta Phi). This fund has been expanded and is now open to all South Atlantic schools who send at least 2 delegates to Provincial or 1 delegate to GCC.

### **Expansion Efforts**

- Colony at Old Dominion (on track)
- Colony at Kentucky (concerns)
- Reactivation at Vanderbilt (on track)
- Possible colony at South Alabama
- Possible colony at Rollins University in Orlando
- Possible reactivation at Nova in West Palm
- Possible colony at Jacksonville University

### **Regional Summaries**

#### **Atlantic Coast Region - Trina Kirk**

- The Fall 2017 semester for the Atlantic Coast Region was a work in progress. The Chapters took a step back and reviewed what areas they excel in, as well as, what areas need work. The Atlantic Coast Region will be hosting their first Regional Conference since 2013. While there are so many important topics that can be discussed, the topics to be focused on for this event will be the Proper way to Conduct Ritual, Risk Management, CMP, Officer Positions, & Pledge Education. The Kappa Pi Chapter will be hosting this event towards the end of March or first of April. All but 1 chapter had attendance at Fall LEAD (Gamma Lambda/FSU) and GCC (Beta Omega/Univ of Miami) and all Chapters are geared to attend the Spring 2018 Southern Provincial LEAD Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

### **Central Gulf Region - Holly Vernon**

- The Central Gulf Region is working towards becoming outstanding chapters of the fraternity. Positive notes include all chapters attending GCC, with two chapters for the first time in many years. All chapters had at least one member present at GCC and the Fall LEAD School in Myrtle Beach, and all chapter COYs submitted their applications. The region has struggled with ritual memorization and declining membership numbers, but all hope to improve that in the coming spring.
- **Alpha Sigma**- This chapter has continued to make improvements. Compared to last fall, they have over doubled their membership. They continue to consistently hold events and achieve CMP standards. They've dealt with some issues the past year, but they continue to improve their knowledge of fraternal operations. They won most improved Chapter in the region for 2017.
- **Beta Lambda**- While membership has decreased since the prior fall, they are doing better with CMP. They are focusing on keeping members motivated and working towards better participation. They submitted 4 awards, winning outstanding Financial Operations for the Region.
- **Gamma Tau**- The chapter has declined in membership and is having financial and CMP issues. An incident occurred with a former officer, causing the chapter to be behind on payments to Central office. The chapter is focusing on moving forward from this issue and becoming current with Central office and growing their membership. They have a dedicated officer team in place who is working hard to better the chapter. On a positive note, they tied for the most Brothers attending LEAD in the Region.
- **Eta Kappa**- Membership has dwindled due to graduating members, but the chapter has plans to grow this spring. They are doing a lot better concerning CMP compared to the prior year. They've consistently attended LEAD and continue to improve.
- **Eta Upsilon**- They have maintained steady membership over the past year. They are doing well with CMP compared to some struggles with being late in the past. They submitted 3 awards, winning the Outstanding Service award.
- **Tau Phi**- Tau Phi has fallen behind on CMP due to some communication issues within Chapter leadership. The DD is working with them on improving this. Like the rest of the region, the pledge classes have been smaller, resulting in a smaller roster size from recent graduating members.

### **Mid-Atlantic - Aimee King**

- The fall semester started off with a rocky start, with having a couple of chapter not being able to have a District Director, but by November, all the region's chapters were equipped with a District Director. Lack of communication and weak recruitment still seems to be an issue with most of the chapters. Other than the above, some chapters

are striving for Chapter of Excellence due to the CMP change this year. All chapters were in attendance at GCC and Fall LEAD.

### **Mid-South Region - Madison Whitehouse**

- The first piece of major news in our region this semester was the addition of the Vanderbilt Colony. Throughout the semester they have grown from a handful of students to a solid 30 and still growing. The colony has big goals to have several events throughout the spring semester and would like to charter in the Fall of 2018. They have the enthusiasm and passion for making things happen and the right people to do the job. With Kimberly Loudon and Vanessa Leithoff as their District Directors, they are in good hands to succeed and I can't wait to see what big things they are able to accomplish.
- In other Nashville news, we have several alumni that are willing and excited to get the Nashville Alumni Chapter up and running again. Hopefully they can get rechartered and we will have three active alumni chapters in our region next year.
- Tau Upsilon and Kappa Psi hosted a joint Founders Day event and invited alumni to dinner at a local restaurant. The founders day dinner also coincided with the University of Louisville vs Bellarmine exhibition basketball game, so many things were celebrated that night with nearly 20 brothers in attendance. Both Kappa Psi and Tau Upsilon plan to continue working together on a few events each year and have already set plans in motion to have a joint initiation in the Spring.
- Recruitment seemed to be strong for most of the chapters, several even had higher numbers of initiated members for this semester than they have in recent semesters. Alpha Zeta (University of Tennessee-Knoxville) knew they were going to have nearly half of their chapter graduate this school year so they worked tirelessly to improve their recruitment and ended up initiating 35 new brothers into their chapter, that is the 6th largest pledge class of the fall semester for all of Delta Sigma Pi.
- Zeta Theta initiated their 1000th brother this semester and they had a large reception afterwards to celebrate. Over 60 guests including chapter members, alumni, and faculty were in attendance to celebrate this milestone. I think the president described this event best when he said "[it] was a very successful and memorable event that has been the capstone of our hard work over the past few years to overhaul chapter operations and boost our campus presence".
- As each year comes to a close we often reflect on the things we have accomplished throughout the year and this semester with the Mid-South Region is no exception. The fall semester has flown by and many events and milestones have occurred. I may not have started out the year knowing I could end up the Mid-South Regional Vice President, but I am so grateful for this opportunity to work with the region and to assist in the journey for the next three semesters. I can see great things on the horizon for the Mid-South and look forward to the adventure ahead as we work together.
- 100% attendance at Fall LEAD

### **South Atlantic Region - Gabby Leto**

- The South Atlantic region is currently in a state of improvement. We currently have all chapters looking to reach Accredited with four chapters looking to become Chapter of Excellence. We currently have Epsilon Rho on probation until the end of fall 2018, but they are working to improve their methods and get back in good standing. Zeta Phi has been on guidance until the end of spring 2018 and they have been working hard to achieve their goals. They will be hosting two other chapters in a regional initiation in April. Theta Phi has received a warning letter for risk management issues, but they are

planning educational events and holding everyone responsible to look out for each other and report anything. Lakeland will be hosting an amazing fundraising opportunity called Business with a Bang. This is one of their biggest fundraisers of the year. Rho Psi is currently making great strides towards their endowment fund. Beta Omega is currently looking to improve their retention rate. As being the largest chapter in the South Atlantic, their retention is not good, but their officers are looking events that will draw in the brothers and grow their brotherhood. 100% Fall LEAD attendance by the region.

#### **Southeastern Region - Meghan Hill**

- The Southeastern Region has an amazing team of dedicated DDs that are very quick to help each other find answers and work together to help their chapters. This camaraderie is also filtering down to the chapters as I am seeing more effort on the part of chapters to interact with each other and plan joint events. Unfortunately, the Kappa chapter continues to be a challenge with working to find a DD to assist, but on the whole, the region is very strong. Every chapter has brothers registered for Provincial in Charlotte and Beta Gamma (which has a history of poor participation in national events) has seven brothers registered.