

**Michigan Region of Phi Theta Kappa
Mini Honors Conference
October 26-28, 2011
Host Chapter: Omicron Iota, Schoolcraft Community College
Conference Minutes**

Friday, October 28th

Registration began at 5pm in the College Center Atrium on St. Clair County Community College campus. Dinner was held in the College Center as well and was followed by a welcome from the host chapter, Lambda Mu. Regional President Mike Wisniewski Jr. then announced the changes to the Regional Spirit Stick and unveiled the new Spirit Stick.

At 6:45, Ms. Cynthia Leino-Handford, an education and advocacy specialist with the Michigan Epilepsy Foundation spoke to the Region about Epilepsy. The region held a moment of silence in honor of Rebecca Cosman, an active officer in the Alpha Xi Mu Chapter, who had passed away in October from a seizure. Purple ribbons were also distributed in her memory.

After a brief break, a second speaker, Professor Becky Lubbers, spoke on “The Impact of the Internet on Social Media and the Political Arena”.

West Williamson followed Professor Lubbers with an update from Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters. Williamson shared with the members upcoming scholarship endeavors and general updates of what Phi Theta Kappa offered including information on Competitive Edge and Collegefish.org. The MRAA Hospitality event concluded the first day of the Michigan Region Mini Honors Conference.

Saturday, October 29, 2011

Regional Business Meeting

Present

Michael Wisniewski, President

Nathaniel Erickson, Vice President

Ashley Flees, Secretary/Treasurer

Hope Buell, PR/Historian

Roger Hammonds, Alumni Representative

Kari Kahler, Regional Coordinator

Regional President Mike Wisniewski Jr. called the regional business meeting to order at 8:30 am in the College Center, he then continued with a welcome and a reintroduction of the new Spirit Stick.

At this time the new spirit stick was unveiled and the spirit stick of past competitions was retired. Lambda Mu, the creators of the original spirit stick, and Beta Lambda Kappa, the creators of the new spirit stick, worked together to provide a proper setting in which to retire the original and unveil the new spirit stick.

Following this Regional Secretary, Ashley Flees, proceeded with the Chapter Roll Call. The Conference Totals consisted of sixty-five officers, nineteen advisors, thirteen members, nineteen alumni, and six guests for a grand 122 individuals in attendance. Continuing the meeting Ashley then called for a review of the minutes from the Leadership Conference. Corrections were called for by A motion to approve the corrections to the minutes was made by:

Enida Huremovic of Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College
Seconded by Meagan Hanson of Beta Xi Xi, Muskegon Community College
Minutes were approved by majority vote

Ashley Flees urged members to look at the Regional Directory and update their information. Update form are always available. Ashley also provided the regional with the Treasury Report.

Regional Vice President, Nathaniel Ericson, then followed Ashley Flees. Nathaniel reiterated the regional goals for those who had not attended Leadership. He also reiterated the regional board member's C.O.R.E. Chapters and encouraged chapters to call upon their regional board member to attend inductions and as sources of assistance. Nathaniel also drew member attention to the regional website for the new all-inclusive regional scholarship application. Rather than filling out separate scholarship forms members would now only have to fill out one. Nathaniel continued with an explanation of the symbolism of the scholarships.

Regional President Mike Wisniewski Jr. continued the business meeting with the Honors in Action proposal. Mike explained a proposed project to the region involving raising funds for our sister region, Alabama. The proposal was moved for acceptance by:
Matthew Ramey of Alpha Upsilon
Seconded by Steve Detkowski, Macomb Community College.

The motion passes to include the completing commitment scholarship also known as the Obendorf Scholarship. Members were also invited to help create a text-a-code program and additional program ideas that could aid in providing support to our sister region. Mike then continued by asking if individual members were interested in assisting with updating the regional by-laws. There is no real example to follow as to how to update the by-laws, as it seems other regions have not tried to do so. Interested members were instructed to seek out their C.O.R.E. regional officer if they are interested in participating.

Regional PR Historian, Hope Buell, followed this by providing a Regional Newsletter update. She requested articles from the region to place in up-coming newsletters; also, pictures are always welcome. Please submit pieces by February so that the next newsletter can be available in March. Hope also shared with the region new yearbook requirements. She explained that a digital format is acceptable but only the first five minutes will be judged. Chapters must also provide all necessary technology to accompany their yearbooks if required. More information is available on the regional website. Hope also mentioned that if chapters want their chapter websites to be linked onto the regional website, they can contact Hope and she will work with chapters to display that information. Hope also explained the use of the list serve and asked for interested chapters to sign-up. In addition, the new ptk.org website has been release and Hope offered a reminder to all to check that their information transferred correctly.

Alumni Representative, Roger Hammonds, proceeded to share with the region the MRAA Update. He introduced the MRAA board, Clara Cherry, Amy Deter, Tammy Alvaro, Roger Hammonds, and Dan Karlskin. He also took a moment to recognize the efforts of chapter advisors and alumni members. Roger reminded members of the new all-inclusive scholarship application that is now available on the website. He also reminded members of the Backpack raffle and the Golden Opportunity Scholarship that will take place at the last general session at the regional convention.

Regional Coordinator, Kari Kahler, continued the meeting by providing the Coordinator Update. She reminded members that marketplace would be open at lunch and after the sessions. She then encouraged chapters to divide themselves among the breakout sessions so that they could come together and share what each had learned. Kari continued with deadline reminders for the Administrator Awards, December 6th, Hallmarks, deadline Feb 1st. Kari continued with an Annual Convention teaser, stating that international officers will be elected and that all members are eligible to run for an international office. Currently we have three individuals interested in running for the position of International President. Applications will be out in the coming week. Members are also encouraged to consider running for regional officer positions. Elections will take place in mid-May and apps will need to be in early May. Kari also reminded the region of our Collegefish enrollment goal of fifteen percent of members. Kari also shared that commit to complete events will be taking place throughout the region.

President Mike Wisniewski Jr. then adjourned the business meeting and members were released for a brief break.

After a short break the day continued with a speech delivered by keynote speaker, Professor Thomas Obee entitled, "The Allegory of the Farm". This presentation took place in the College Center.

Following Professor Obee, Regional PR Historian, Hope Buell, shared a speech on the importance of college completion and C4. Directly after this a C4 signing took place along with the regional marketplace.

Marketplace continued during and after lunch.

After lunch, the breakout sessions took place. Members had the choice to attend the following sessions:

- Session One
 - o Jeff Arnold: "A Business Perspective of Stephen R. Covey's book The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People".
 - o Rob Richardson: "Too Much of a Good Thing: Reveling Some of the Risks Associated with Everyday Technology".
 - o Shawn Starkey: "Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?"
 - o Nate Erickson: "Diversity: The Puzzle Pieces of Success".
- Session Two
 - o Jeff Arnold: "Motivational Advice and Stories".
 - o Rob Richardson: "Too Much of a Good Thing: Reveling Some of the Risks Associated with Everyday Technology".
 - o Nate Erickson: "Diversity: The Puzzle Pieces of Success".

Between 2:30 and 3:30 the Alumni meeting was held. Marketplace reopened at 3:45, sponsored by Wayne State University. Following this, members had free time until dinner at sevenpm. Members then returned to College Center for dinner and the Birthday/Halloween Party. Happy fiftieth birthday Lambda Mu!

Sunday, October 29th, 2011

Breakout sessions continued on Sunday. Members had the option to attend the following sessions:

- Session One
 - o Ashley Flees “College Project and C4”.
 - o Kari Kahler and Roger Hammonds: “Honors in Action/Hallmark Writing”.
 - o Hope Buell: “How to Build Your Chapter’s Website”.
 - o Mike Wisniewski Jr.: “Collegefish.org”
- Session Two
 - o Ashley Flees “College Project and C4”.
 - o Kari Kahler and Roger Hammonds: “Honors in Action/Hallmark Writing”.
 - o Hope Buell: “How to Build Your Chapter’s Website”.
 - o Mike Wisniewski Jr. and Erica Hamilton: “Running for Regional and International Office”.

Following the sessions the host chapter provided a brunch and final farewells took place. Promptly following brunch, West Williamson presented Lambda Mu with the host chapter plaque and Kari Kahler presented Lambda Mu with a 50th Anniversary plaque. Mike Wisniewski then adjourned the 2011 Michigan Regional Mini Honors Conference.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ashley Flees
Secretary/Treasurer Michigan Region