

*Michigan Region of Phi Theta Kappa
Regional Convention
May 18th-20th, 2012*

*Host Chapter: Alpha Omicron Omicron, Mid-Michigan Community College
Conference Minutes*

Friday, May 18th

Present

Michael Wisniewski, President
Ashley Flees, Secretary/Treasurer
Hope Buell, PR/Historian
Roger Hammonds, Alumni Representative
Kari Kahler, Regional Coordinator

Registration was held from three pm until half past six. Dinner then took place in the campus cafeteria. The contestants in the visual arts competition were able to set up their pieces during dinner. At seven pm the Premier General Session commenced in the MMCC Auditorium.

Welcomes and Updates

The session began with Hillary Denslow and Allyson Sura of the host chapter, Alpha Omicron Omicron, welcoming the region and providing an overview of the weekend. Updates from the host chapter and an overview of the agenda took place. The host chapter and the board took a moment to recognize the advisors and all that they do for their chapters and the region. In addition to some room changes for sessions, there was a change in the leader of the session Luke Davis was presenting. Martha Petry will instead lead the session since she will be a faculty scholar for the upcoming Honors Institute in Denver, CO.

Following the welcome from the host chapter, regional president, Michael (Mike) Wisniewski, also provided a welcome to the region from the board. He took this opportunity to introduce the board members to those in attendance who may have not attended prior conferences. At this time, absences of the regional Vice President, Nathaniel (Nate) Erickson, and our headquarters guest, Luke Davis, were explained. Changes to the agenda were then announced. Following this the parade of flags proceeded. Nine chapters took part in the ceremony providing the region with a splendid show of our many chapter colors.

Due to Luke's absence, Kari Kahler, Regional Coordinator, provided the Update from Headquarters. The update included information on the Orbendorf Scholarship and the goals that have been met and are now in place. At the Annual Convention, as a region, we donated \$2,500 to the scholarship fund helping Phi Theta Kappa meet the challenge of raising \$125,000 to be matched by the Orbendorfs to make a total of \$250,000 for the new scholarship fund. In order to continue to be able to meet the need of students who qualify for the scholarship, a second challenge of \$125,000 has been set for the coming year. In addition to updates on the Orbendorf scholarship, members were informed of a new study abroad programs that Phi Theta Kappa is organizing. More detailed information is to come. Following the Headquarter updates a last call for candidates took place. The candidates for 2012-2013 Regional Office are:

President

Matthew Ramey of Alpha Upsilon Zeta, Wayne County Community College
McKenzie Campbell of Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College
Franklin Taylor of Alpha Omicron Omicron, Mid-Michigan Community College

Vice President

Katrina Soper of Alpha Tau Alpha, Montcalm Community College
Gregory Dykstra of Alpha Rho Nu, Kalamazoo Community College

Secretary

Joshua Trader of Xi Delta, Delta College
Stephen Krygier of Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

PR/Historian

William Lethig of Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College
Twana Pinsky of Lambda Mu, St. Claire County Community College
Ranequa Kelly of Omicron Iota, Schoolcraft Community College

Following this last call Kari Kahler explained the process of running for office and for bidding to host an upcoming conference. Candidate Orientation took place directly prior to the session and Voting Delegate Orientation took place directly after the session.

Finishing up the Premier session, the Performing Arts Competition displayed the vast array of talent that our region possesses.

To conclude the night the MRAA Social took place at the Gateway Bowling Alley in Clare. In addition to bowling the regional Rock, Paper, Scissors Competition also took place.

May 19th, 2012

The Matinee General Session kicked off the Saturday of the conference. The president of Mid-Michigan Community College, Dr.(?) Carol Churchill, welcomed the Michigan Region of Phi Theta Kappa to her campus and shared some history of the campus and her excitement for us all being there. Following her welcome the Regional Business Meeting took place.

Business Meeting

Regional President, Mike Wisniewski, welcomed the region and again introduced the board. Following his introductions Secretary, Ashley Flees, proceeded with the regional Roll Call and Spirit Stick Competition. There were fifteen chapters of the Michigan Region present totaling 151 members, alumni, advisors, and guests in attendance. Ashley then carried on the meeting with the approval of the Mini Honors Conference Minutes. Some corrections were called for, after all corrections were noted Twana Pinsky of Lambda Mu, St. Clair County Community College, made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Matthew Ramey of Alpha Upsilon Zeta, Wayne County Community College. The treasury report was then stated to the region. Our coffers currently consist of \$21,611.11. Following these reports, Hope Buell, Regional PR/Historian, shared with the region the regional newsletter. Hope also distributed DVDs on which the regional yearbook is housed so all chapters have a copy of the year's endeavors for their records. Hope continued with a short talk of the regional website and what it had to offer the region. The MRAA report was then delivered by Roger Hammonds, the Alumni Representative. Roger recognized the various alumni association that lie within the Michigan Region and the twenty-five alumni that were present at the conference. In addition to recognizing the twenty-five alumni that were present, he recognized those that were former board members and introduced the MRAA Board members. Roger then informed the region that the MRAA meeting would take place later that day during lunch and during this meeting the elections for the new MRAA Board will take place. Following Roger and his updates, Kari Kahler, Regional Coordinator, provided the region with the Coordinator Update. Kari shared with the region the history of our endeavors and those that had been recognized in the past on the International Stage. She also encouraged the region to keep up the hard work and continue to reach out to students on their campuses, in their community, and at large.

Candidate Speeches and Convention Bids

Each candidate for the regional board position is asked to provide the region with a short three minute speech that details the Honors Study Topic. At this time the candidates proceeded, beginning with the PR/Historian position and ending with the Presidential candidates. In addition to speeches, each candidate must also answer questions from the current board. Following the speeches and interview process, chapters will have an opportunity to place bids for the upcoming conferences. Alpha Rho Pi, of Northwestern Michigan College, bid to host Leadership. Omicron Iota, of Schoolcraft College, bid to host Mini Honors. Xi Delta, of Delta College, Beta Lambda Kappa, of Macomb Community College, and Beta Gamma Alpha, of Washtenaw Community College placed bids to host Regional Convention.

This concluded the second general session; members were then able to leave for lunch.

Educational Workshops

Four educational workshops were available for members to attend following lunch and prior to the political rally. The workshops were; “Economic and Business: How does the American compete in the global labor pool” Dr. Kaustav Misra, “Leadership/Teambuilding: If you can doge a wrench you can doge a ball” Danae Berry, Hillary Denslow and Allyson Sura, “Exploring the Honors Study Topic: An overview of the Culture of Competition” Martha Petry, “Compete in Gaming” Jim Langley.

Marketplace

Following the educational workshops, members were able to learn more about the candidates for regional office. In addition to the candidates, members were also able to learn more about some universities that are in attendance. Chapters also had this time to sell some of their own merchandise to their fellow members. Following this, members had free time to enjoy before attending the Oscar Honors Gala and the Oscar Honors After Party and Dance. Voting for the board members and the host chapters took place prior to dinner and the Oscar Honors Gala.

Oscar Honors Gala

Most Distinguished Chapters:

3rd Runner Up: Alpha Upsilon Zeta, Wayne County Community College District

2nd Runner Up: Alpha Rho Lambda, Jackson Community College

1st Runner Up: Alpha Omicron Omicron, Mid-Michigan Community College

Winner: Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

Distinguished Honors in Action Awards:

3rd Runner Up: Alpha Upsilon Zeta, Wayne County Community College District

2nd Runner Up: Alpha Omicron Omicron, Mid-Michigan Community College

1st Runner Up: Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

Winner: Alpha Rho Lambda, Jackson Community College

Distinguished College Project Awards:

3rd Runner Up: Alpha Omicron Xi, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge

2nd Runner Up: Beta Xi Xi, Muskegon Community College

1st Runner Up: Alpha Omicron Rho, Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills

Winner: Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

Distinguished Advisor Awards:

Earlene Williams, Alpha Upsilon Zeta, Wayne County Community College District

Paragon Awards for New Advisors:

Jamie Valente, Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College
Martha Petry, Alpha Rho Lambda, Jackson Community College

Continued Excellence Advisor Award:

Jennifer McCabe, Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College
Michelle Casanova, Alpha Omicron Rho, Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills

Distinguished Officer Team Awards:

Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College
Alpha Omicron Xi, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge
Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

Distinguished Chapter Officer Awards:

Sean Feehery, Alpha Omicron Omicron, Mid-Michigan Community College
William Lethig, Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College
Danae Berry, Alpha Omicron Omicron, Mid-Michigan Community College
Rochelle Robinson, Omicron Iota, Schoolcraft College
Ashley Flees, Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

Distinguished Chapter Member Awards:

McKenzie Campbell, Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College
Elaine Langlais, Omicron Iota, Schoolcraft College

The Chapter Five Star levels were presented to their chapters.

Following the Gala the Oscars Honors, After Party and Dance took place.

Sunday May 20th, 2012

The morning began with the Keynote Speaker, Charles Bowden, a MMCC Professor, Director of Sociology Programs and Senior Member of the MMCC Faculty. His talk was entitled “The Dark Side of Competition and the Power of Cooperation”.

Following his presentation the chapter announcements took place. Alpha Rho Lambda, Jackson Community College, took the opportunity to thank Alpha Omicron Omicron for hosting an amazing event. A member of the chapter(?), Katrina Soper, (Katrina is from Alpha Tau Alpha, Montcalm Community College) presented Alpha Omicron Omicron with an “Oscar”. Twana Pinskey of St. Clair County Community College, Lambda Mu Chapter, then shared with the region an endeavor that she has taken on in her community and that would be applicable to many elsewhere. She shared the details of a program that utilizes the student leaders of a campus to connect with “at-risk” students at the elementary level and then assists them in creating a mock newspaper. This has proved to be an effective endeavor in her area and has aided those “at-risk” students with seeing past their label and striving to succeed. Joe Shaw and Olivia Kintgen, Alpha Xi Delta Chapter of Bay De Noc Community College, proceeded with announcements. Joe presented Olivia with a token of their chapter’s appreciation of all the effort she has put into her tenure as a member and officer. In addition to this, Olivia shared with the region recent devastating events that occurred to her and her family. She provided also an opportunity for the region to help alleviate the travesty by attending a Spaghetti Benefit. While this occurred members of the region took it upon themselves to start a collection in her families honor. Before the end of the meeting the region had pooled together nearly \$600 to donate to Olivia and her family.

Talent, Arts and Yearbook Awards

Performing Arts:

Drama and Comedy:

2nd runner up Aaron Tennis
1st runner up: Greg Dykstra
Winner: Twana Pinskey

Instrumental:

2nd runner up: Aaron Tennis
1st runner up: Joel Smith
Winner: Alex Walsh

Vocal:

2nd runner up: Aaron Eichler
1st runner up: Aaron Tennis
Winner: Hope Buell

Visual Arts:

Drawing/Painting

Color:

1st runner up: Aaron
Tennis
Winner: Katrina
Soper

Photography:

2nd runner up:
Shelly Helifax
1st runner up: Mart
Spencer
Winner: Twana
Pinskey

Sculpture:

1st runner: Alan
May
Winner: Aaron
Tennis

Drawing and

Painting BW:

1st runner up: Robin
Colin
Winner: Cherly
Garnet

Yearbook Awards:

2nd runner up: Bata Lambda Kappa
1st runner up: Alpha Tau Alpha
Winner: Beta Xi Xi

Once the announcements of the winners for the visual, performing arts, and yearbook competition were completed an act of vandalism was announced that occurred to one of the visual art pieces submitted.

Mike Wisniewski then presented the host chapter with an award thanking them for hosting an excellent event. Roger Hammonds continued with the Regional Scholarship Announcements. Roger provided the region with an overview of the scholarships, their history, and the application process. The board then announced the recipients of those scholarships.

Michigan Region Memorial Scholarship

Danae Berry, Alpha Omicron Omicron, Mid-Michigan Community College

Susan Freidrich Scholarship

Erica Hamilton, Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

Arleen Quigle Scholarship

Nargilya Gasanova, Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

Dr. Richard Trombley Scholarship

Joel Smith, Lambda Mu, St. Clair County Community College

Thomas Obee Scholarship

Lulzime Rira, Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College

After the announcement of the scholarship recipients the new MRAA board members were announced.

Michigan Region Alumni Association Officers:

Clara Cherry, President, Alpha Rho Pi
Denea Venoy, President-Elect, Alpha Upsilon Zeta
Elaine Langlais, Vice President, Omicron Iota
Monica Burchi, Treasurer, Beta Lambda Kappa
Katy Matthews, Secretary, Beta Xi Xi
Michael J. Wisniewski Jr, Alumni Representative, Omicron Iota

Following the awards the Regional Officers offered the region their Farewell Speeches. Each board member shared with the region their heartfelt goodbye and appreciation of a year as their representatives.

After the speeches the Host Chapters for this coming year's conference was announced.

Leadership— Alpha Rho Pi of Northwestern Michigan College
Mini Honors— Omicron Iota of Schoolcraft Community College
Regional Convention— Xi Delta of Delta College

Once hosts were announced it was then time to pass the time capsule. At this time the Michigan Region Time Capsule was passed from Alpha Omicron Omicron to next year's Regional Convention hosts, Xi Delta of Delta College.

The Mike Sherman Award was then determined, after voting the Mike Sherman Award was awarded to Matthew Ramey. This award is voted on by the candidates and goes to the candidate that best exemplifies the hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa.

The 2012-2013 Michigan Regional Board was then announced and installed:

Alumni Representative, Michael Wisniewski Jr., Alumnus of Omicron Iota, Schoolcraft College
Public Relations/Historian, Ranequa Kelly of Omicron Iota, Schoolcraft College
Secretary/Treasurer, Joshua Trader of Xi Delta, Delta College
Vice President, Katrina Soper of Alpha Tau Alpha, Montcalm Community College
President, Matthew Ramey of Alpha Upsilon Zeta, Wayne County Community College

Matthew Ramey, the new 2012-2013 Regional President, then adjourned the 2012 Michigan Regional Convention. Brunch fellowship and photo opportunities followed the adjourning of the convention. The outgoing and incoming Regional Board members then met in the room adjacent to the cafeteria.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ashley Flees (2011-2012)
Secretary/Treasurer Michigan Region