

*2013 Michigan Region of Phi Theta Kappa
Leadership Conference
September 6-8, 2013
Host Chapter: 2013-2014 Michigan Regional Officer Team*

Conference Minutes

The 2013 Leadership Conference was held at the Leelanau Outdoor Center or LOC

Friday, September 6th

Registration

Registration took place under the big ash tree beginning at 1:30pm. As chapters registered, they were given nametags, burlap back sacks that included water bottles (donated by Wayne State University), a dog tag and mini Ike College Fish (donated by Jennifer Blalock) Members also received Camo bags loaded with a ColleeFish folder (donated by Jennifer Blalock, a spiral notebook, ink pen (donated by WSU and Accountant & Associates and Northwestern Michigan College). Each person received a colored wrist band debossed with Winning the War on College Completion, to identify team colors throughout the weekend; this provided members an opportunity to meet others, Fellowship and establish new bonds.

Shortly after registering individuals participated in the high-ropes course from 2pm to 4pm, while others zipped into new territories at the Zip Line course or canoed the Crystal River. After returning from activities, chapters found their way to cabins and were allowed to settle in prior to dinner. Dinner started at 5:30pm in the Great House and lasted until 6:30pm.

Next, Regional members attended an orientation from the Leelanau Outdoor Center staff who informed all members of the general rules and regulations needed to be observed over the weekend, followed by a ten minute break before the Regional Business Meeting.

Present

William (Bill) Lethig President
Alan May, Vice President
Denea Venoy, Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Owens, PR/Historian
Joshua Trader, Alumni Representative
Kari Kahler, Regional Coordinator

Regional Business Meeting

William Lethig, President of the region opened the meeting with a warm welcome and introductions. Bill introduced the current officer team, Alumni representatives and Mia Ramos; Associate Director, Regional and Chapter Development – Division III.

Roll Call

Monica Burchi began by showing a short video of past Michigan Regional Chapter roll-call examples to get everyone motivated and charged up. Secretary; Denea Venoy, announced the start of roll-call and the "spirit stick" competition. Denea began calling chapters forward to receive their Business packets and or present their skit for the spirit stick competition. There were a total of 118 members and advisors and 3 guest; for a grand total of 116 in attendance.

Regional Minute Approval

After roll call Denea presented the Conference Minutes from the 2012-2013 Regional Convention to the Region. Corrections were made to these minutes and a motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by:

Markus Davis Mu Tau; Lansing Community College
Seconded by Liz Powell; Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College

The minutes were approved as corrected by unanimous vote.

Treasury Report / Proposed Regional Budget

Secretary; Denea Venoy, presented the treasury report and proposed 2013-2014 Regional budget. Members were asked to review the budget for a few moments and asked if there were any questions or concerns. After a few minutes of review, Denea Venoy called for a motion to approve the budget.

A motion was made by:

Markus Davis of Mu Tau, Lansing Community College
Seconded by Norm Bona of Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College

The budget was passed by unanimous vote.

Regional Goals

Vice President; Alan May, shared the proposed regional goals. Alan shared a condensed version of the Regional goals for this term and advised members that a detailed explanation is available for members to review all weekend if they had any questions or needed additional information.

A motion to approve the goals was made by:

Monica Burchi of Beta Lambda Kappa, Macomb Community College
Seconded by Ashley Flees of Alpha Rho Pi, Northwestern Michigan College

C.O.R.E Program/ Sister Chapters

Vice President; Alan May, informed members to review the list of C.O.R.E chapters document received in each chapters packet previously handed out by Denea. Members were encouraged to contact their C.O.R.E officer, and to update their current officer team contact information with Headquarters and with the Region. Martha Petry; Advisor, Jackson Community College pointed out a correction to the C.O.R.E document to remove Henry Ford listed after Alpha Rho Lambda. Alan announced the opportunity to renew or establish Sister Chapter pledges will be available at Mini-Honors at Macomb College, October 11-13, 2013.

Tool Boxes

The Regional Officer Team was pleased to announce the completion of remaining “Tool Boxes” and proceeded to present them to the Chapters in attendance that had been waiting for them to be completed. Vice President; Alan May, explained the concept and advised Chapters to visit the Regional web site for additional copies of documents as needed. A chapter representative was called up to the stage to receive their toolbox.

Special presentation 1

Bill Lethig; Regional President, introduced Dr. Rod Risley; Executive Director, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. After introductions and thanking Dr. Risley for attending the Leadership Conference, Alan read a letter to Dr. Risley from the Michigan Region and presented him with the Michigan “Leadership Toolbox” for both himself and Headquarters. In addition, a special gift was presented to Dr. Risley from the Michigan Region; Dr. Risley received a Petoskey stone and stand, along with its history when it’s printed and presented in a beautiful frame with a desk holder for his desk. Dr. Risley was very pleased and stated the “Importance of grooming leaders and how completion impacts your life”

Regional Honors in Action Project

Bill Lethig; Regional President, informed the Region that we would be concentrating on Theme Number 8 “*Making the Grade: Competition and Education*” for our Regional Honors in Action project. We talked about the importance of research and asked members to assist with our research by contacting their colleges to request data showing the student completion rates for the past 5 years. Members were asked to provide this data via email or at our next regional event, Mini-Honors held at Macomb College, October 11-13, 2013.

Regional Pin / Dedication

Bill Lethig; Regional President, unveiled the first Michigan Region Pin. A short video cataloging the idea of the pin through the many revisions and ending with the final design was shown. After the introduction Bill recognized Trish Sanders of Kirtland Community College for her design work and for helping make the dream a reality. Trish was presented with the first pins as a thank you for her hard work. Bill then announced the pins would be on sale throughout the weekend starting tonight at the dance and that all money from the sales will go toward the \$5000 needed to start the paperwork for MI-NE Oberndorf endowment. The cost of the pins are 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$25.

Regional Newsletter/ Yearbook

Regional PR/Historian; Michael Owens, asked members to submit articles and chapter announcements for the upcoming newsletters. Members can submit their articles and photos either via email to miregion.ptk@gmail.com or to Michael directly to mnowens@midmich.edu. Articles being submitted must be received by the second Friday of each month to be published in the current month's newsletter. An extension for September was given due to Leadership conference this weekend and are due by Friday, September 20, 2013. Michael asked chapters to submit digital pages for the yearbook, 2-3 pages with 4 or 5 pictures per page. Our theme is *No Chapter is an Island*, so please be creative and innovative with your submissions; members are encouraged to use PowerPoint and send them via email to Michael at mnowens@midmich.edu.

Website

Regional PR/Historian; Michael Owens, talked about the Region's current website and shared in conjunction with Regional goals that we are working with a designer to spruce up the overall look of the site. Some improvements needed are: making all pages uniform, making the overall site more user friendly, and updating the entire design. Michael also requested that chapters update their Chapter websites on our chapter directory.

Headquarters Update

Bill Lethig; Regional President, introduced Mia Ramos; Associate Director, Regional and Chapter Development – Division III. Mia passed out documents with topics she will address on Sunday.

MRAA Update

Joshua Trader; MRAA Representative, introduced the MRAA Board and announced the MRAA Hospitality event scheduled for Saturday on the beach with a "Root beer Kegger". Joshua also announced; all weekend the MRAA would sell 50/50 raffle tickets and tickets to win the MRAA Backpack filled with ample school supplies.

Coordinator Update

Kari Kahler; Regional Coordinator, welcomes all the members and also thanked all those that helped make the conference a possibility. There were several first-timers at this year's meeting, Kari mentioned two years ago 64-65 people attended L.O.C, last year 78 and as long as L.O.C is available and the Region is good with holding Leadership here we will continue to do so. Kari then announced we have 119 people this year and that both the 2011-2012 & 2013-2014 Officer team hosted this year's event together.

Honors in Action Research

Kari talked with members about the Honors in Action project the Region needs research help with. She went on to tell everyone how the Graduation rates were low and between 12-13% for Community College students with the average in Michigan being 14%.

Special presentation 2

Bill Lethig; Regional President presented both Mia Ramos; and Dr. Rod Risley with Michigan Regional Pins and a compass bracelet.

8:45pm- 15 minute break

Why Completion Matters

Special guest Dr. Rod Risley; Executive Director, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, gave his address “*Why Completion Matters*”, Dr. Risley first congratulated the Michigan Region on winning the contest to have him attend our Regional event by having 100% participation in the Oberndorf challenge. We learned that this year the first Oberndorf Scholarship recipient graduated, and that Phi Theta Kappa is \$15,000 away from the \$125k needed to receive the \$125k match from the Oberndorf foundation.

During the presentation we learned about the plan to extend the C4 initiative and bring it to a whole new level.

Some key points are:

- Graduation rates are not why C4 is so important
- By 2020 double the graduation rates
- The United States have fallen from #1 to #16 in terms of the percentage of adults having earned a degree or credential and rank 25 out of 34 in Math scores

With this information we learn the consequences why completion matters:

- We are training international students to be competitive against US Students
- Members must first collectively understand why behavior change is necessary
- No accountability to Colleges besides the first 8 weeks

Dr. Risley expressed; poor policy is why jobs are unfilled and that students are being prepared for jobs that no longer exist; not because jobs are not available.

The next phase is called “The Completion Imperative” and should focus on the High School dropout rates. He spoke of how the workforce is dwindling, and 2/3 of new jobs will require post-secondary credentials. Students with a College degree:

- Are more valuable
- Lead healthier lives
- Volunteer
- 30% less likely to be unemployed
- Advisor/student ratios are 1000 to 1
- Students earn \$500,000 more over a life time than those without a degree

In order to begin the next stage; C4 needs to go to a new level. What's next?

1. Increase awareness
2. New banners
3. Engage faculty/staff
4. Sit with College Presidents, faculty, administrators, and students about why completion matters
5. Sign a commitment letter
6. Request materials from Headquarters

Next, plan 1 week of activities to complete this fall. Invite Senior Colleges, Business leaders, and Industry leaders. Have a one- day even, sort of a One Stop Shop with Admissions, Financial Aid, Advisors, and records. This will bring everything to the student and make it easier for them to get the assistance needed at one time. At the end of the week call a press conference to talk about why completion matters and what college students are doing.

Dr. Risley reminded us how transferring to a four- year University before earning an Associate's Degree increases the likelihood of not completing. Dr. Risley also said he would send a copy of the presentation to Kari for her to share with the Region.

This concludes the regional business meeting. Following the business meeting the Regional Board held their hospitality dance.

Saturday, September 7th

The General Session, Leadership Development was led by Kari Kahler and Joe Shaw. Utilizing the "100 Acre Woods" characters members looked at their personality qualities and how each brought a special aspect to a team. Members grouped themselves in the categories of Pooh, Tigger, Rabbit, and Owl. For those who attended last year and went through the Hundred Acre Woods activity they had a chance to attend the session with Bill Lethig and Michael Owens- *Lakota Sioux Medicine Wheel*.

Due to the weather and possibility of rain, there was a shift in the agenda and after Leadership Development members participated in team Leadership Survival Workshops:

1. Competitive Edge- Alan May/ Bill Lethig/ Matthew Ramey
2. College Fish – Denea Venoy/ Katrina Soper
3. C4- Josh Trader/ Michael Owens
4. Steps to a better Honors in Action Project- Martha Petry

When the first round of workshops were completed, members participated in a hike to Pyramid Point, visited the beach and had Chapter Meetings.

After workshops and lunch, members were divided into teams based on the colored wrist bands they received and participated in the LOC Initiative Course where they learned several Team Building activities. One new activity, Human Foosball, was very well received and the Culture of Competition was demonstrated to be alive and well in Michigan. Later everyone participated in Captain on Deck and other LOC games with the LOC staff.

After dinner were more surprises. “Surviving the Culture of Competition” was the focus, members were teamed up to complete Michigan Region Challenges before heading to the Fire Building Competition and Bon Fire planned by the LOC staff. Once the competition was complete, we attended a debriefing session reflecting upon the last two days while sitting around the campfire, this was a perfect introduction to the MRAA Beach Bonfire and activities.

Sunday, September 8th

Started with breakfast and then we went into general session with our keynote speaker Mia Ramos; Associate Director, Regional and Chapter Development – Division III

Headquarters Updates

Mia Ramos; Dean of Leadership Studies and Service Learning, gave us an update from headquarters. She talked about some of the things that headquarters is doing and how great of a job the Michigan Region is doing. She also spoke briefly about the upcoming annual events; Annual convention was held this year in San Jose and Honors Institute was held at Villanova University. Mia reminded the Region to contact Headquarters if they have questions or need help because they are there for the Region.

Mia started by reminding us that we are a part of something so BIG; we have over 1200 Chapters in 9 Countries, and that Phi Theta Kappa is the largest Honor Society. This year Phi Theta Kappa is re-affirming their commitment to its mission as it pertains to College Completion. She told the Region we have “un-matched opportunities” accessible to us:

1. Scholarships for 2 and 4 year institutions
2. The ultimate Honors program experience- Honors Institute
3. Ability to network Internationally
4. Prepares you for Leadership Roles
5. Access to Leader Development studies via Facebook
6. 24/7 Transfer help through College Fish
7. Awards and Recognition
8. Exclusive Professional Development plan- Competitive Edge
9. A Global Network of fellow Scholars

The 2014 Convention will be held April 24-26, 2014 at Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort, registration will open this fall.

Mia went over several topics to help Michigan soar this year and for years to come.

5 Star Chapter Development Plan: Chapters are encouraged to start here. We are reminded this is our blueprint for 5 Star Chapter success and to set goals for 2013. There are a few new changes to be aware of. Report deadline has been extended to January 29, 2014, Headquarters has streamlined the 1 star level and will default everyone to a 1 star level, reporting and goal setting will now fall in the 2 star level.

Multi Media Resources: Headquarters now offers Membership recruitment videos, orientation slides, and member testimonials.

H.I.A: Gives you deep Investigation skills, and Leadership Development skills. Members should use the H.I.A Guide as your primary source when dealing with the H.I.A topic. The 2014-2016 Guide will be mailed to chapters in January 2014. Our new topic for 2014-2016 is *Frontiers and The Spirit of Exploration*.

H.I.A Project: Will satisfy levels 2-5 of the 5 star plan, be sure to follow the 5 Star plan. The plan gives you deep academic research, develops your soft skills, and develops Leadership abilities.

College Project: Will satisfy level 3 of the 5 star plan. With your project, you need to gain support from your College Administration, and become partners with your College.

C4: Visit cccompletioncorps.org to order tool kits for success.

College Fish: This is the number 1 source for Transfer opportunities and Scholarships. Mia and others referred to C4 being similar to "Match.com". College Fish is sponsoring a transfer challenge for the month of October divided into four sections.

Week 1 Search- Hold a career open house, have librarians create and display scholarship / transfer books

Week 2 Select- Host a transfer fair or sponsor a trip to a nearby four-year University

Week 3 Secure- Plan a Financial Aid 101 workshop, invite Alumni at 4 year Institutions to come and share experiences

Week 4 Succeed- Promote Graduation and Graduation deadlines, host a forum with professors or Librarians on writing and doing research, bring in someone from 4 year Institutions to speak to students

Scholarships: A common application is available this fall starting October 1, 2013 and due December 2, 2013.

Professional Development Plan: 5 Star Competitive Edge will help members with skills and help develop them professionally. Be sure to log into PTK.org with your username and password.

Hallmark Awards: Are an opportunity for reflection for all of the work completed over the past year. Start reading and using the rubric now as an aid in your planning. The deadline to nominate Administrators is December 4, 2013 and January 29, 2014 for Chapter nominations. To view the rubric visit ptk.org/benefits/awards/hallmarks

Stay Connected: Remember to report Officers, new Advisors and update contact information with Headquarters. Share your stories and images at ptk.photos@sendtodropbox.com be sure to provide information in the subject and body of email like Chapter name, who, what, when and where.

Mia shared that Michigan has a staff dedicated to them at Headquarters. Mia Ramos, Paige Still, & Division III Vice President; Rachael Reeck. After the Headquarters update Mia gave special recognition to our wonderful Advisors.

5 years of service

Angela Heiden, St. Clair Community College
Cathy Hicks, Glen Oaks Community College
Todd Stowell, Schoolcraft Community College
Steve Walman, Kalamazoo Valley Community College

10 years of service

Michelle Cassanova, Oakland Community College
Brenda Ziacha, Mott Community College

15 years of service

Earlene Williams, Wayne County Community District
Kari Kahler, Northwestern Community College

23 years of service

Liz Washington, Wayne County Community College District

Next Bill Lethig made several announcements and Jenn McCabe; Advisor, Macomb Community College gave out Mini-Honors packets filled with information and a tentative schedule.

Kari Kahler reminded everyone to complete the post-conference survey and turn them in before leaving. She also gave a reminder to update chapter information with Headquarters and that Denea Venoy would take updates now. Chapters are encouraged to provide emails to be added to the Region's listserve to receive the most updated information and be informed at all times. An announcement about final sales Region Pin and that the MRAA will pull backpack winner during lunch was made before turning the mic back over to Bill.

Bill and the Region sung Happy Birthday to Clara Cherry and then disbursed for lunch outside. After lunch Bill addressed everyone and thanked them for coming, then gaveled the conference adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by
Denea Venoy (2013-2014)
Secretary/Treasurer, Michigan Region