

HANDBOOK  
for  
CHAPTER SPONSORS

Delta Sigma Rho- Tau Kappa Alpha

The Honor Society in Forensics

DELTA SIGMA **RHO**-TAU KAPPA ALPHA

CHAPTER SPONSOR'S HANDBOOK

Part I General Information

Part **II**: History

Part III: Constitutions

Part IV: Rituals

Part V: Chapters and Sponsors

Part VI: Miscellany

This 1991 edition of the DSF-TKA Chapter Sponsor's Handbook is designed to be kept in a loose-leaf notebook or file folder for future reference. Additions and revisions will be sent to you from time to time for incorporation into the Handbook.

## **PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE A DSR TKA CHAPTER SPONSOR**

As the sponsor of your institution's chapter of Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha, you have the central role in assuring that students who have excelled in forensics will gain permanent recognition through election to membership and through other local and national activities of the society.

You should find it an honored position as well as an important responsibility.

The DSR-TKA Sponsor's Handbook is designed to provide you with most of the information you will need to be an effective sponsor. This first section outlines, for ready reference, the principal things to keep in mind. Later sections reprint useful documents such as history, the DSR-TKA Constitution, chapters and sponsors, initiation ritual, and the like.

### **SELECTION AND INITIATION OF MEMBERS**

Obviously, your most important task will be to make sure that your students who are eligible are notified and urged to respond.

Students are eligible who have completed two years of forensic activity at a high level of excellence and who are in the upper third of their class. They may be elected as early as the second semester of their sophomore year. Seniors who have had only one year of participation are also eligible. See the Constitution and Bylaws later on in this Handbook for other categories of membership. Election to membership is established by a majority vote of the campus chapter upon your recommendation as Sponsor.

Members who have been elected should be notified immediately. After they have filled out the simple membership form (you will be sent a supply of these each year), you will forward it with the individual membership fee (at present \$15.00) to the National Secretary. Eventually you will receive an authorization to initiate the students as well as engaged membership certificates for them.

A formal initiation service (described later in this Handbook) is desirable, but approved students are regarded as members even in the absence of this ceremony. Don't feel that you have to wait for the authorization to initiate the members you have elected.

The annual chapter dues of \$30.00 are waived for chapters which initiate new members regularly.

### **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

You and the student members of your chapter may decide for yourselves the extent and nature of the activities you will have on your own campus. Because of a small chapter size or the preferences of the members, some chapters do little beyond honoring their new initiates each year. Others engage in much fuller programs.

The range of possible activities is as broad as your imagination. The initiation, for instance, may be augmented with a banquet, a guest speaker, invited alumni, and the like. Sometimes this augmentation becomes less formal and more jocular. A number of chapters serve as sponsors of tournaments, contests, and public programs. Furthermore, with regular meetings you can conduct programs, hold discussions, and invite speakers. And you can have all the parties and picnics you want.

If your institution has an honors convocation, be sure that Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha members are recognized at it.

Each chapter should try to keep track of their alumni members. Alumni often are quite supportive of the chapter and the forensics program generally.

## THE NATIONAL OFFICES

At the national level, various services are designed to hold the organization together, make membership more meaningful, and promote DSR-TKA objectives on a broader scale. You can play a part in all of these.

For instance, you will be provided with a form on which to make out an annual report about your chapter and send it to the National Secretary. Looking at the form is one way of finding out who the National Secretary is.

From time to time your chapter will receive communications concerning the following projects, to which you may respond appropriately.

\* Election of national officers At the times indicated in the bylaws you will be called upon for any nominations you wish to make for national officers. Then you will be sent a ballot upon which your chapter may indicate its choices. (Each chapter gets one vote).

Speaker of the Year. You may suggest candidates for the DSR-TKA Speaker of the Year award, which is given to a public figure whose discourse has exemplified the ideals of the society'.

Distinguished Alumni Award and Distinguished Service Award You may nominate persons from your chapter or other chapters for these annual awards.

Student Speaker of the Year. You will receive a call for nominations of outstanding current participants in forensics.

Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha is a member in good standing of the Association of College Honor Societies.

## THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Your chapter is part of one of ten regions in Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha. Look at the chapter list in this Handbook to see which one you are in.

Local chapters nominate and vote for a Regional Governor, who becomes a member of the national Council, and a Lieutenant Governor.

Some of the regions conduct sponsor meetings, hold tournaments, and recognize achievements of persons in the region. Regional activities provide valuable additional opportunities for participation.

## THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A National Student Council, consisting of one delegate from each chapter attending the National Conference, elects officers and conducts other business of relevance to student participation.

The Student President sits on the National Council, and the other student officers have specific responsibilities within the society. The Student Bylaws appear in the Handbook

## SPEAKER AND GAVEL

The major publication of the DSR-TKA Society is the quarterly journal, Speaker and Gavel. Each newly elected member receives Speaker and Gavel for two years and may thereafter subscribe at a yearly rate.

Copies of Speaker and Gavel are also sent free to you as Sponsor and to the library at your institution. You and your student members are encouraged to submit articles and other materials for the journal.

## PART II HISTORY

### DELTA SIGMA RHO-TAU KAPPA ALPHA HISTORY 1973 - 1983

Jack Lynch, Historian

As is the case with other institutions, Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha in 1983, adjusting to inflation, has continued to carry on most of its traditional programs. This has been a decade in which the society adopted a new constitution that not only changed the manner in which it elected its national officers, but also integrated students into its committee structures. For those engaged in forensics it is apparent that pressures are emerging that suggest changes in some of our traditional debate formats, and DSR-TKA has instituted changes where these seem appropriate.

Those engaged in forensics these past ten years have lived through "the battle of the budget." James McBath, third president of DSR TKA, pointed out in 1970 that entire collegiate expenditure for forensics amounted to about \$8 million per year. The 198<sup>3</sup> dollar is worth less than half of a 1970 dollar, but it is doubtful that the 1983 national budget had doubled. Forensic programs have tightened their belts. Perhaps declining attendance at the large international debate tournaments is one indication of this pressure. Like the energy surplus, the youth air fare was a casualty of the 1970's, and the recent special fares have hardly offset the high cost of air travel. Today forensics must do with fewer dollars. Like the rest of forensic activity, Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha has found that it must draw on its financial reserves to meet obligations. The decline in resources is largely due to a sharp decline in membership. For instance, Secretary Bert Gross pointed out in November 1979 that new membership declined to half of what it had been the previous year. Unlike other professional associations, which limited publications and found other ways to reduce overhead, DSR-TKA has continued traditional programs with minor changes. An annual chapter membership fee of \$30 was established to reduce the drain on financial reserves. Generally this appears to have worked: the last treasurer's reports as of November 8, 1981 showed DSR-TKA's assets of \$70,000 and \$65,000.

**Nicholas Cripe** served as president in 1973-75. The 1973 National Conference was held at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Representative Shirley Chisholm was selected as Speaker of the Year. Distinguished Alumni awards went to Thomas Ludlum, James Noone, and John Koskinen, while the Student Speaker was John Bertolotti of the University of Alabama. The 1974 National Conference was hosted by the University of Massachusetts. Senator Sam Ervin Jr. was the Speaker of the Year. Distinguished alumni were Helen Wise, George Ziegelmueller, Harilee Branch, and J. Garber Drushal. Lillian Wagner received a Distinguished Service award, but no Student Speaker was selected. On December 27, 1974, the revised constitution of Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha was adopted.

**George Ziegelmueller** was elected president for 1976-1977. In 1975 the National Student Council adopted by-laws which were to become effective at the 1976 National Conference. Kenneth Andersen, editor of Speaker and Gavel, observed that the journal had moved away from an emphasis upon a function as "house" organ toward a greater emphasis upon substantive articles on argumentation, forensics and criticism. Indeed the journal clearly became more relevant to a wider audience than society members. This was reflected in a greater number of library subscriptions and the publication of Current Criticism, a volume which reprinted articles originally published in Speaker and Gavel. The 1975 National Conference was held at the University of Kentucky and the organization selected Reverend Theodore Hesburg as Speaker of the Year. Distinguished Alumni were Gifford Blyton, Nicholas Cripe, and Victor Powell. Melvin Moorhouse was the recipient of the Distinguished Service award, while Cole Campbell of the University of North Carolina was selected Student Speaker. The 1976 National Conference at the University of Tennessee selected Senator Daniel Moynihan as Speaker of the Year. Distinguished Alumni awards went to Marvin Esch, Annabel Dumham Hagoard Raymond Haves, and Jayne Ann Woods.

Joseph Wetherby received the Distinguished Service award, and the Student Speaker was Jim Prentice of the University of Kansas.

**Thomas Kane** was elected president for 1977-1979. Representative Barbara Jordan was honored as the Speaker of the year in the 1977 National Conference, which was held at the University of Utah. Genevieve Glatt, Charles Clark, Jeanne Arudrey Powers, and Franklin Zimring were recipients of the Distinguished Alumni awards. Thomas Porter of John Carroll University was the Student Speaker. The 1978 National Conference was held once again at the University of Illinois. Senator Hubert Humphrey was the Speaker of the Year while Charles Allen, Joseph Cook, David Kendall, and Malcom Sillars received Distinguished Alumni awards. Nicholas Cripe received a Distinguished Service award and Rene Lestreto of the University of Utah was selected as the Student Speaker of the Year.

**Jack Howe** served as president in 1980-1981. Speaker and Gavel editor Bill Balthrop devoted two special issues to the state of forensics. The 1979 Fall Issue "Forensics in the Seventies: A Retrospective" enabled a wide range of active debate coaches to look at intercollegiate debate in the decade of the 1970's. Several of the articles revealed a growing discontent with many of the practices which have emerged in contemporary debate. The Winter 1980 issue provided an opportunity for coaches to forecast where debate was likely to go in the future; several suggested reform. Emory University served as host for the 1979 National Conference. Vice President Walter Mondale was selected Speaker of the Year and Frankon Shirley received the Distinguished Alumni award. The 1980 National Conference was held at the University of Denver. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was selected posthumously as the Speaker of the Year while Distinguished Alumni awards went to Jerry Anderson, J. Jeffery Auer, Donald McConkey, and Glen Mills. Robert Weiss and Jack Lynch were the recipients of Distinguished Service awards.

**Jack Rhodes** was elected president for 1982-1983. The 1981 National Conference was hosted by Mankato's State University and President Ronald Reagan was selected as Speaker of the Year. Distinguished Alumni awards went to Waldo Braden, Herman Cohen, Bonita Perrv and Senator Larry Pressler. Jack Howe, David Shepard, and David Thomas received Distinguished Service Awards. The 1982 National Conference was held at Texas Tech University. Vernon Jordan was Speaker of the Year, while Charles Browson, David Cornell, and Thomas Sorenson were recipients of the Distinguished Alumni awards. Distinguished Service awards went to W. Scott Nobles, Vernon McGuire, and James Benson, while Zac Grant of the University of Kansas was Student Speaker. At Texas Tech the CEDA debate topic was employed in what had been the off topic contemporary issues division. The CEDA division also had more teams entered than the *enopic* division, and this reflects a trend in the growth of CEDA debate which now appears to be developing nationwide. The Texas Tech conference was attended by approximately fifty schools, which indicates that the DSR-TKA National Conference are alive and well. The 1983 conference was to be hosted by John Carroll University March 1-12.

## THE STORY OF THE MERGER

by  
Harold T. Ross

Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha was formed by the merging of Delta Sigma Rho and Tau Kappa Alpha on the 18th of August, 1968, in Denver, Colorado. Each of the merging societies was more than fifty years old and had long enjoyed recognition as an honor society in the field of forensics. While in a sense they had been competitive they had always been friendly and cooperative, pursuing parallel courses which were almost identical in that each stressed the highest ideals in forensic and oratorical activities and each sought to strengthen speech programs in high schools, colleges and universities. They WERE both honor SOCIETIES requiring a high level of general academic excellence for membership as well as skill in public speaking. Each society had members who belonged to both organizations since students initiated in one college often became coaches and directors in institutions having a different affiliation. Recognizing the similarity of the societies, the question was naturally raised as the desirability of joining into one organization which would be strong in every section of the United States and whose key would be widely recognized in the academic world as a mark of distinction for achievement in intercollegiate public speaking. Realizing, also that rapidly changing times, rapidly expanding forensic programs in newly established institutions of higher learning, and increasing costs of maintaining two national offices and publishing two national journals made consolidation highly desirable if not imperative. President Annabel Hagood of Tau Kappa Alpha and President Herold T. Ross of Delta Sigma Rho in 1960 appointed a joint coordinating committee which developed plans for a merger and drew up a constitution which was approved first by the national Councils and finally by a Substantial majority of the chapters of each society. As a consequence, the merger was accomplished in 1963.

The new society under the leadership of its first president, Wayne Eubank, moved rapidly and efficiently into a consolidation of the offices and assets of the two organizations. The Allen Company of Lawrence, Kansas undertook the task of preparing the new membership file to be used in mailing out the first issue of Speaker and Gavel. Records were brought together in the office of the National Secretary, Henry Ewbanks, Jr. at Purdue University. In the meantime Treasurer Kenneth Hance and Trustee E. C. Buehler had pooled the financial assets which included substantial investments held by Delta Sigma Rho and the royalty right of Tau Kappa Alpha in the text Argumentation and Debate The governors of the ten regions into which the one hundred eightyfive chapters had been allocated began to develop regional programs. Charles Groetzing the editor of the Speaker and Gavel, brought forth his first issue which was distributed to the 20,000 alumni of the two organizations. This issue of the Speaker and Gavel not only detailed the events of the merger but included new historical accounts of the merger societies.

On March 29, 1964, the first national forensic conference was held at Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana. The 1963 Speaker of the Year Award was given to LeRoy Collins, a former Governor of Florida, and the then President of the National Association of Broadcasters. Distinguished Alumni Awards were given to Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Clarence J. Myers and to Professors E. C. Buehler, Brooks Quinby and Kenneth G. Hance.

An outstanding event of the conference was the dedication of a Memorial Room in Jordan Hall of Butler University. Such a room, located in the founding institution of Tau Kappa Alpha, had for several years been a project of the society. Here it was hoped that a complete archives could be assembled and preserved for scholars interested in the history of college forensics. With the merger, provision was made for Delta Sigma Rho records to also be included. Oswald Ryan, the Founder of Tau Kappa Alpha and President Alexander Jones of Butler were the principal speakers.

## DELTA SIGMA RHO 1906-1963

Delta Sigma Rho was founded the 13th of April in 1906 by a happy coincidence, and some time earlier, Professor McDermott of Minnesota and Professor Gordon of Iowa had each written to the other on the same day suggesting the formation of a society to honor the achievement of college orators and debaters. Professor McDermott and eight others, Thomas C. Trueblood, Michigan; Burt E. Baker, Chicago; J. Ray Files, Iowa; John Q. Adams, Illinois; Ferdinand C. French, Nebraska; Horace G. Smith, Northwestern; Francis R. Wiley, Illinois\*, and Max Loeb, Wisconsin met in Chicago and founded the society, which they hoped would bring recognition to students in forensics equal to that of a varsity football letter. They hoped that the Delta Sigma Rho key would be accorded the same prestige as the Phi Beta Kappa key enjoyed in the college world. The major objective of the society, formulated in that first meeting and unchanged through the years was "to encourage effective and sincere public speaking."

Another principal enunciated at the first meeting was that no one would be elected to membership unless that person had earned that right by having completed in an intercollegiate contest, either as an orator or a debater. By the adoption of this rule two of the founders excluded themselves from membership. Professor McDermott and Professor John G. Adams who later became a member of Tau Kappa Alpha and was elected its national president.

Applying the most rigid requirements to schools applying for chapters, the society grew very slowly but it developed increasing strength and prestige. In 1922 The Gavel, a debate magazine published at the University of Missouri, was adopted as the official publication of Delta Sigma Rho. In 1922, a revision of the constitution excluded Negroes from membership; in '1931, at the Silver Anniversary convention, this exclusion was struck from the Constitution by a four-fifths Vote.

At this convention, 56 of the 64 chapters met and recommended the establishment of biennial Student congresses, the first of which was held in Washington, D.C. in 1939 with more than 150 in attendance.

The next eighteen years showed continued growth and the student Congress became popular with students and faculty alike. Elaborate plans were made for the Golden Anniversary and congress held in Chicago in 1956. Two hundred fifty delegates were in attendance. At the final banquet 19 members were given Jubilee Citations for their single contributions to American life through the continued study and practice of public speaking.

Through these first fifty years, Delta Sigma Rho has exercised much influence in encouraging the development of courses in public speaking, in argumentation and persuasion at the collegiate level; it **assisted** in the formation of departments of speech; and it did much to win administrative responsibility both for the supervision and the financial support of debate and orator as extracurricular activities. It promoted the highest standards for tournaments and congresses. It sought always to be true to its initial goal of encouraging effective public speaking.

## TAU KAPPA ALPHA 1908-1963

by  
Charles R. Layton

Tau Kappa Alpha, dedicated to the cultivation of effective, intelligent, and responsible speaking, was born in the State House in Indiana, May 13, 1908. The idea that culminated in the founding of Tau Kappa Alpha came to Oswald Ryan, a student at Butler College, in the fall of 1907. Recalling those days, Mr. Ryan declared, "In the field of scholarship, Phi Beta Kappa made a lasting impression on my mind. Why, I asked myself, shouldn't there also be a national honor fraternity dedicated to excellence to public speech, a Phi Beta Kappa for orators as well as for scholars? I decided there should be one."

Having made the decision, he turned to a former distinguished professor of Greek at Butler, the Honorable Hugh T. Miller, then Lieutenant Governor of Indiana. Governor Miller received the young collegian and his idea enthusiastically. Together they decided upon May 13 as the organization date, the meeting to be held in Governor Miller's office in the Indiana State House.

Oswald Ryan picked from college forensic men he had known, the eleven charter members whose names may be noted today in the minutes of the founding meeting kept by Oswald, secretary. They were: The Honorable Hugh T. Miller; Walter H. Linn and Lawrence DeVore, of the Wabash College debating teams; Chester A. Jewett, of DePauw University; Walter R. Miles, of Earlham College; Joseph T. Boyle of Notre Dame<sup>e</sup> three outstanding college orators; and Carl Barnett, Roger W. Wallace, Herbert R. Hyman, George Claris Adams, and Oswald Ryan five Butler College debaters.

Over the years Tau Kappa Alpha has undertaken many programs and projects. The official society journal, The Speaker, is noteworthy. Begun on March 1, 1914, with a few hundred readers, it has continued almost fifty years until, at its peak, 10,000 copies were published.

In 1936 Tau Kappa Alpha began the practice of presenting a Grand trophy Award to the top winner of the National Forensic League's yearly tournament for high-school students.

During the 1930's there arose a desire for a national forensic conference for student members of Tau Kappa Alpha. As a result, the annual meeting of the National Council of TKA, December, 1939 included for the first time competition among student members in a National Conference.

The Speaker-of-the-Year Awards were created by Tau Kappa Alpha in 1949. A National Board of Award, composed of fifteen members of the society, each year select a superior public speaker, "distinguished for effective, intelligent, and responsible speaking on significant public questions." Through these awards, TKA endeavors to raise the status, quality, and ethics of public speaking throughout the country. Another accomplishment of TKA was the publication of a textbook, Argumentation and Debate in 1954. A revised edition, published in the spring of 1963, is receiving wide acclaim.

In 1958 Tau Kappa Alpha celebrated its Golden Anniversary at the University of Kentucky. Four hundred students, representing more than one half of TKA chapters were present. Ten alumni were given Golden Anniversary Awards honoring their exemplification of the highest ideals and traditions of TKA.

The two societies officially merged in August, 1963, to form the largest and most distinguished

Tau Kappa Alpha has been blessed with five and one half decades of steady growth, and always the society has maintained its traditional objective, "Honor of Merit."

---