

Alpha Alumni

Alpha of Ohio, Regional Alumni Association of Phi Theta Kappa

What Have Alumni Been Up To?

By: Connie Myers-Kerr

Alpha of Ohio, the Ohio Region's Alumni Association, has been off to a great start this year! All of us in Alpha of Ohio are thrilled at the support we received from the region at regional convention this past March. We inducted one of the largest alumni classes in recent years; a total of fourteen! Plus we have a new and full officer team serving a two-year term adopted this year. We raised over \$100 in our basket raffle going towards regional scholarships and well as awarded our first Leaders of Promise Scholarship.

We had four active alumni in attendance at International Convention back in April. Two of the alumni, Heather Clippinger, secretary, and Sondra Holbert, member, took charge of the academic marketplace table allowing the region to sell merchandise and raise money for our general funds. Many chapters in attendance at International Convention also assisted with the table helping us to be able to keep it running the whole time marketplace was open. David Kerr, member-at-

large, was busy with his four year institution, Franklin University, as they sponsored the fourth general session and had a recruitment table going during marketplace. I was busy working backstage for Headquarters in addition to recruiting for my four-year institution, Texas A&M University-Commerce, and sign-song performing the Phi Theta Kappa Song during the Hallmarks Gala.

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Alumni Invited to Attend H.I.A.

By: Sondra Holbert

Make plans to attend Honors in Action to be held October 23-24 at North Central State in Mansfield. Registration forms, agenda, hotel information, map, and directions can be found on the Ohio Region website at www.ohioptk.org. All alumni members are asked to wear a green

shirt to coincide with our theme "Go Green". Kevin Freitag is in charge of creating an eco-friendly basket for the scholarship fund raffle. Each Alpha member is encouraged to bring one item to add to the basket. Please email Kevin at thinker5000@hotmail.com what item you will be donating by Sept 7th so a list

can be put up on the Ohio Region website. Alpha is also looking for volunteers to work the table in marketplace and to sell raffle tickets. Contact Connie at saxvet99@yahoo.com to sign up.

Hope to see you there!

Update (cont. pg. 1)

We raised a total on \$703 for the region while we were in Texas. As you can tell, our alumni kept extremely busy this year in multiple ways!

In July, the region held its Leadership in Action Academy at Columbus State Community College in Columbus, Ohio. This was a combination of two past regional events; Chapter Officer Academy and Leadership Conference. Due to the economy, Headquarters has asked all regions to schedule one less regional event per year which led to combining these two events into one. At the event, Alpha raffled off a basket with a summer theme and between the basket raffle and selling merchandise we raised over \$300 for the region and scholarships. We also hit another record with over twenty alumni in attendance for the event! The alumni were very active with this event with not only being in charge of regional fundraising but ran a breakout session and held a meeting.

At the meeting many topics were discussed and voted on.

Two proposals were brought forward and will be continued to be discussed at the next regional event. A fundraiser committee was formed to determine what the next major item will be that the region sells at regional events and International Convention. We are also working on making alumni stand out more at events as well as having more available for alumni to participate in. We had such a great, productive meeting that we ran out of time and will continue to discuss some of the topics at the next event. Some of the newest changes approved are to have an alumni newsletter and submit an entry for the Alumni Award of Merit.

The alumni are going strong and are planning many exciting things for the year. As we kicked off at regional convention, we will continue to raffle a basket at each regional event this year to help raise funds for the region's Leaders of Promise Scholarship. The basket theme for the Honors in Action Academy will be "Go Green" and each alumni member is asked to bring



*Alpha of Ohio members in attendance
at the 2009 Ohio Region Convention
held at Clark State*

something associated with the green theme to put in the basket as well as contact Kevin Freitag, thinker5000@hotmail.com, by September 7th letting him know what you are providing. Please help us in getting even more alumni active in Alpha of Ohio by spreading the word to recent graduates or soon-to-be grads that their Phi Theta Kappa experience can continue after graduation. If anyone would like more information on joining the regional alumni association, please contact any one of the alumni officers or our advisor, Chuck Bohleke. See you all October 23 - 24, 2009 at North Central State College in Mansfield, OH for Honors in Action Academy!!

Why I Became the Advisor for Alpha of Ohio

By: Dr. Chuck Bohleke

I never even gave it a second thought when the call went out for an advisor at the second regional convention that I attended in Ohio. The lesson I learned as a member of Phi Theta Kappa was that you did what was needed and helped where you could. I also saw how valuable the alumni can be to a chapter at my previous college. The alumni helped with officer training, helped fundraise, and assisted with the reception after the

induction ceremony. I knew that there were many chapters in Ohio that could benefit from that sort of assistance. Having become a member in Texas with their strong alumni association, I also saw the impact that the group has had on that region and knew that we could do the same here in Ohio.

We have accomplished much, but we have only scratched the surface of what is possible. When we took over the

fundraising for the region and freed up the regional officers to spend more time with the chapters, I knew that we were starting to live up to our potential. Although winning the Alumni Award of Merit would be a great achievement for Alpha I feel that the most significant accomplishment that we can achieve is to build a stronger Ohio Region with stronger chapters. That is why I became the Advisor for Alpha of Ohio.

Leadership in Action Academy Minutes

By: Heather Clippinger

July 11, 2009

- The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM

OLD BUSINESS:

- Connie announced that a committee is being formed on how to use the new emblem.
- Cindy did give us approval to use the emblem for shirts.
- Connie asked Cindy on the proper way to order the shirts. Cindy said that if it's just for the region, we are asked to keep the cost down and reasonable
- It was suggested by Kevin Freitag to form a fund raiser committee. It was second by Terri Williamson and it was approved. The committee is: David Kerr as chairperson, Kevin Freitag, Terri Williamson, Angelyna Westrich & Julie Sproul
- Connie ask David to let her, Chuck & Cindy know what the committee comes up with. Also asked them to type up a proposal with all of the details. The ideas will be presented at Mini Honors (in October) so that we can order them and have them by Regional and International.
- Basket raffle: This is turning out to be a good idea. We will have a different theme at each regional event.
- "Go green" will be the basket theme in October. Kevin Freitag will get the donations from his work. Chuck also suggested that we bring one item to add in with Kevin's donations.
- It was asked for everyone to e-mail Kevin with his/her item so that Kevin can type up a list and a flyer so that he can e-mail it to Rick Clever so that Rick can put it on the website so that people can see it before Mini Honors. September 7th is

the deadline for the email to Kevin.

- Uniforms for alumni: At the last mini honors Cindy had suggested that alumni wear special shirts or shirts of the same color so that others would know that we are alumni. Connie suggested maybe a polo shirt for the officers. Chuck suggested that we get shirts for everyone and then the officers could have "officers" embroidered on their shirts. Rick Clever made a motion and Kevin Freitag seconded, that everyone get shirts and name tags.
- Tiffany McEldowney made a motion and Tonya Strahler seconded. It was passed for "ribbons" for the alumni as the uniform. The officers will be the committee. An e-mail will be sent out with 3 suggestions for people to vote on.
- Kevin Freitag mentioned that we should pick a color for Mini Honors. It was suggested that we wear green, to go with the basket. It was seconded by Tonya Strahler. The pins will be done by regional

NEW BUSINESS:

- Connie announced upcoming events and there will be applications at our table at different events for membership
- Terri Williamson talked about the Alumni Recognition proposal. She knows where to the pins and cost if it's approved. She announced that this program is to get alumni active again. It was suggested that everyone looks over the proposal, because it is a good idea. Kevin Freitag made a motion and seconded by Julie Sproul for this to be tabled until Mini Honors.

- Marcia Romoser talked about a regional endowment proposal that she learned about at International. She explained that Texas and New York has established their endowments. Connie asked Marcia on how New York started theirs and the time it took and how to continue the endowment. Nick Gesell made a motion to table this until Mini Honors and Tiffany McEldowney seconded it.
- Alumni Award of Merit Hallmark – Connie has talked to Chuck about doing this. This is an International Hallmark. Connie would type this and then ask us for input. Rick Clever made the motion and seconded by Julie Sproul. It was voted for us to do this.
- Alumni officer meeting – the officers will get together later to set a date for a meeting
- Increasing Participation – we don't have the e-mail to all alumni. Tonya Strahler has a list of alumni.
- Connie & Chuck will work with the officers for a newsletter for information about upcoming events and to "recruit" future members. Nick Gesell made a motion and it was second by Tiffany McEldowney for the newsletter
- Sondra Holbert was asked to make a proposal about something to work with alumni and bring it to Mini Honors. Julie Sproul made the motion and seconded by Angelyna Westrich.
- We made \$332 this weekend between the raffle and items at our table.
- David Kerr made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM

Alpha of Ohio

**Regional Alumni
Association**

**Phi Theta Kappa
Honor Society**

Mission Statement:

We, the members of Alpha of Ohio Regional Alumni Association of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of the Two-Year College, do hereby associate ourselves to continue to uphold the purpose of Phi Theta Kappa; provide a continuing fellowship of Phi Theta Kappa members; and support the people, programs, and priorities of Phi Theta Kappa.

(Preamble to the Alpha of Ohio By-Laws)



*Continue your Phi Theta Kappa
experience with Alpha of Ohio!*

*“Your alumni officer team has
scheduled an officer meeting for Oct.
23rd at 4:00pm in Mansfield, OH. If
you would like details, please contact
Connie Myers-Kerr.”*

We're on the Web!

www.ohioptk.org/alumni

2009 -2011 Alpha of Ohio Officers

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*Alpha of Ohio Officer Team (left to
right): Connie Myers-Kerr, Tiffany
McEldowney, Nicholas Gesell, David
Kerr, Tonya Strahler, & Heather
Clippinger*

