

## PHI SIGMA KAPPA GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Alumni:** a group of initiated brothers who have graduated from their respective schools or universities. This is the plural form of alumnus.

**Alumnus:** an initiated brother who has graduated from his respective school or university. This should only be used to identify a single alumnus.

**Associate member:** a new member of a local chapter who has not yet completed the Ritual for the Initiation of New Members.

**Alumni Advisory Board:** a group of alumni who are appointed to assist a local chapter and led by the International Headquarters-appointed Chapter Adviser.

**Cardinal Journey:** the brotherhood development program for undergraduate members, launched at the 67<sup>th</sup> General Convention in Dallas, TX. This program includes the *Brotherhood in Phi Sigma Kappa* associate member education program.

**Cardinal Principles:** the three ideals of the Grand Chapter - To Promote Brotherhood, To Stimulate Scholarship and To Develop Character.

**Chapter Adviser:** an alumnus brother who assists with a local chapter and mentors the local chapter officers in their roles. He is also the leader of the Alumni Advisory Board.

**Chapter Consultant:** International Headquarters professional staff member who travels to local chapters to provide support and feedback. The Chapter Consultant is the local chapter's main contact for questions, comments, and concerns.

**Chapter Eternal:** the chapter that all initiated brothers become a member of upon passing away.

**Constitution and Bylaws:** the governing document of the Grand Chapter that all local chapters must abide by.

**Court of Honor:** a board made up of previous Grand Presidents that provides guidance and historical context to the Grand Council.

**Crest:** an emblem of the Fraternity that was approved by the 51st General Convention on August 15, 1987. Its meaning is known only to the initiated members of the Grand Chapter.

**Day of Giving:** an event held annually in conjunction with Phi Sigma Kappa's Founders' Day on March 15, that provides an opportunity for members, alumni, parents and friends to show their support through a donation to the Phi Sigma Kappa Foundation. Gifts made during Day of Giving provide academic scholarships, educational programming, and support for leadership development initiatives for members of Phi Sigma Kappa.

**Dormant status:** a semester-to-semester membership status option for undergraduate members who are studying abroad or are otherwise unable to participate in local chapter activities. All requests for dormant status must be made with the local chapter's Executive Board and approved by International Headquarters professional staff.

**Executive Board:** the group of six symbolic officers who lead a local chapter, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Inductor, and Sentinel.

**Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer:** the individual hired by the Grand Council and supervised by the Grand President who oversees the International Headquarters professional staff and the day-to-day operations of Phi Sigma Kappa.

**Expansion:** an un-chartered local chapter consisting of initiated and associate brothers who are enrolled at a specific campus or university that is recognized by the Grand Chapter. This group may also be referred to as a colony.

**Expulsion:** the process that removes a member from a local chapter's membership roster, and therefore the chapter, whether that be the member's choice, the chapter's choice, or the Executive Board's choice

**Founders' Day:** this day is a celebration of Phi Sigma Kappa's founding at the University of Massachusetts (formerly known as Massachusetts Agricultural College) in 1873 and is observed annually on March 15.

**General convention:** an event held every two years to conduct the business of the Grand Chapter, provide undergraduate and alumni brothers engaging educational programming, observe the ritual of Phi Sigma Kappa, and celebrate accomplishments of the biennium. The general convention voting delegates have the ability to change legislation for the Grand Chapter.

**Grand Chapter:** the entire entity that makes up Phi Sigma Kappa and can be used interchangeably with Fraternity. All members of Phi Sigma Kappa are considered members of the Grand Chapter.

**Grand Council:** the board of alumni volunteers, led by the Grand President, who act as Phi Sigma Kappa's governing board and provide vision for the Grand Chapter and direction to the International Headquarters staff and Fraternity committees and volunteers.

**Grand Council Director:** the six additional alumni members of the Grand Council who are not serving as the Grand President. There are also two undergraduate representatives elected to the Grand Council each year.

**Grand President:** the volunteer alumnus who is elected each biennium to serve as the leader of the Grand Council and ultimately of the Grand Chapter.

**GreekLifeEdu:** an online learning module and assessment that focuses on risk-related challenges commonly seen in fraternities such as alcohol use, sexual assault, and hazing. This program is required for all associate members to complete prior to being initiated into Phi Sigma Kappa.

***"Hills and a Star"*:** the book given to all members upon associating with the Grand Chapter, which includes history and facts about Phi Sigma Kappa.

**Interfraternity Council (IFC):** a council led by undergraduate fraternity members that exists where there are two or more North American Interfraternity Conference member (or non-member) fraternities on a campus. The Council's purpose is to advance fraternity on campus and provide interfraternal leadership to the entire community.

**International Headquarters:** the office located in Indianapolis, Indiana where the professional staff employed by Phi Sigma Kappa works on a day-to-day basis. This building also holds the Albert D. Shonk, Jr., Archives & Educational Center.

**International Headquarters professional staff:** the paid staff members who oversee the day-to-day operations of the Grand Chapter, Phi Sigma Kappa Foundation, and Phi Sigma Kappa Properties board.

**Local chapter:** a chartered group of initiated and associate members, who are enrolled at a specific campus or university that is recognized by the Grand Chapter. May also be referred to as an undergraduate chapter.

**myPhiSig:** an online platform to engage undergraduate and alumni members. Associate members must create a myPhiSig account in order to complete requirements for initiation.

**North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC):** the trade association that represents 66 inter/national men's fraternities, of which Phi Sigma Kappa is a member. The NIC provides resources and educational opportunities for member organizations.

**Officer Portal:** the online platform that hosts resources and required reports and forms for local chapter officers and Chapter Advisers to be submitted to International Headquarters.

**Officer Academy:** the annual officer training event that is held annually for select local chapter officers and/or Chapter Advisers and provides position-specific training for officers to succeed in their roles.

**Official Motto of Phi Sigma Kappa:** "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You," is our guide to the realization of the true spirit of brotherhood. The official Motto of Phi Sigma Kappa is also known as The Golden Rule and was adopted in 1985 during the Merger of Phi Sigma Kappa and Phi Sigma Epsilon.

**Phi Sig Forward:** the strategic plan that consists of the future initiatives for the Grand Chapter and was launched at the 67<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

**Phi Sigma Kappa Foundation:** the entity that provides scholarships, grants, educational programming, and leadership development initiatives for the Fraternity. It is categorized as a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational tax-exempt organization, separate and independent from the Grand Chapter, whose express purpose is to promote academic excellence and serve as an educational funding resource for the members of Phi Sigma Kappa.

**Policy Manual:** the document that consists of specific policies the Grand Chapter operates under and all local chapters must abide by.

**Phi Sigma Kappa Properties:** the board who exists to help ensure local chapters' housing empowers and does not hinder their success. Properties provides consulting and secured loans to alumni clubs and housing corporations to ensure the continued success of local chapter houses.

**Ritual of Association:** the ritual held at the beginning of the associate member experience. This is the first ritual that an associate member participates in and should be held as soon as possible after accepting his invitation for membership.

**Ritual for the Initiation of New Members:** the ritual held to initiate associate members into the Grand Chapter. All associate members should have completed the requirements of the *Brotherhood in Phi Sigma Kappa* program, should have a zero balance with the local chapter, and have the required GPA before being initiated.

**Robert M. Zillgitt Leadership Institute:** a program funded by the Phi Sigma Kappa Foundation that is an annual selective leadership development experience for future leaders of a local chapter; also known as Zillgitt or the Zillgitt Institute.

**The Signet:** the official magazine publication of Phi Sigma Kappa. It is an educational publication with historical and instructive content about Grand Chapter operations, goals, values and objectives. It is also a source of news about local chapter activities, alumni, and the Chapter Eternal.

**The Phi Sigma Kappa Creed:** the Creed displays Phi Sigma Kappa's belief and purpose, is known by all brothers, and was written by Stewart H. Herman, Sr.

**The Phi Sig Insider:** a monthly e-publication that is sent to all local chapter Executive Board officers throughout the academic year. The publication contains important information from International Headquarters including action items, deadlines, and upcoming Fraternity events.

**Shonk Undergraduate Leadership School:** the annual event held with the goal to train local chapter members and officers to be effective leaders of their chapters and beyond. Historically, this event has been held every summer, and in conjunction with general convention every other year.

**The Merger of Phi Sigma Kappa and Phi Sigma Epsilon:** the event when Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity and Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity merged together in 1985 at the 50<sup>th</sup> General Convention in Washington, D.C.

**Triple T's:** the symbol located on the crest and the associate member pin; its meaning is only known to initiated brothers of the Grand Chapter.

**Unassociated member:** an associate member who decided to resign his potential membership in Phi Sigma Kappa prior to being initiated.

**1873 Society:** the Phi Sigma Kappa Foundation's annual giving program exclusively for undergraduate members. The Society is a unique way for undergraduates to learn about the Foundation and provide charitable gifts that fund leadership programs and educational initiatives.