

Happy New Year! This promises to be a great year for Phi Beta Delta, and on a number of fronts:

Conference 2005

The 2005 Conference (February 18-19) has shaped up to be a stellar event. Our plenary speaker is none other than His Excellency Ambassador **Levitte**, the current ambassador to France. Our efforts to be a good neighbor have paid off as the ambassadors from the surrounding embassies have agreed to take part in a roundtable discussion that contemplates a post-September 11, twenty-first century world. Thanks to the Order of Cincinnati, you will be treated to a piano recital, reflections on the arts and on George Washington in a global perspective. And these are the events solely on Friday! Two of our chapters will provide us with a glimpse of their inner workings as they host their induction ceremonies on Thursday. Saturday you will be treated to an array of thought-provoking papers, the Chapter workshop, and a host of other activities. The Presidents, **India Dennis** and **Mike Smithee** have done a splendid job, and I am sure that you will join me in congratulating them.

There is still time for you to take advantage of early registration as well as low airfares. But hurry, time is winding down. You can access all of the information online.

Abi Pereira, Director of Awards, is wondering why she has not heard from all of the chapters with their submissions in all categories of awards. Again, you can access all of that information online.

New Business

As approved by the board, the spiffy membership cards that you may have seen are now a part of the membership package—along with the medallion and the certificate. This spring, we are beginning the process of sending out these membership cards, but it will take us two semesters to get on track. We are starting with those chapters who hold induction ceremonies in the spring semester and are including in the mailings enough membership cards for the continuing members as well (as reported on the Membership Roster Form). Only those chapters that are considered “active” in this office will receive the membership cards. Rather than request them separately for your continuing members, please wait until your next induction ceremony so that we can be thorough and methodical in our approach. It is estimated that it will take us at least two semesters to have everyone on board. The membership cards will, of course, only go to members, therefore you will not be able to purchase extras and keep them for rainy days. However, if for whatever reason, some are misprinted, destroyed, etc, you will be able to replace them at the cost of \$1.00 (as is also the case with the certificates.)

Issue #3, 2004 of the *Medallion* Newsletter should be in your mailboxes by now. **David Merchant**, our Director of Publications, and **George Nguyen**, who assisted him ably, have done a fine job—once again. By Jan 2, if you haven’t received your copies (along with a couple of other mailings); please notify me so that we can send them to you. If you received only two copies of the newsletter, that is because this office considers your chapter to be “inactive”. While this is not an official designation (that is being determined by the board), for practical purposes, headquarters is only sending out the medallions to those chapters who have held induction ceremonies in the last one and a half years or who have at least reported continuing members during that time. The number of copies of the *Medallion* that you received corresponds directly

to your Membership Roster Form for both new inductees and continuing members. It is extremely important to fill out the Membership Roster Form each year.

In mailing out your *Medallions* to your chapter members, it would be a good idea to place a return-address label over the place where the Executive Office label appears. That way, if there are any returned copies, you will know which members are no longer at their old addresses. Unfortunately, headquarters won't be able to report back to you on any returned copies.

For a number of reasons, it is important for us to know who your members are. **Ahmed Mohamed** is doing a fantastic job with the database, and he is working to put it in presentable form for the entire membership. If you haven't submitted your Membership Roster Form, for continuing members as well as new inductees, please do so soon.

Headquarters Follow-Up

For those who held induction ceremonies in the fall, thank you for understanding the new policy of payment that accompanies the orders. Equally important has been the three-week notice in advance of your induction ceremonies. It has made a huge difference in our efforts to professionalize the office. Both concurrent payments and three-week notices have helped us to streamline the process. (For example, whether you request one medallion and certificate or one hundred medallions and certificates the process is the same in the way that it goes out from this office—the same amount of time and effort.). Planning early and well insures a more joyous induction ceremony for us all. In addition, it eliminates the need to send revised updated orders for the same induction ceremony.

May the New Year bring you all peace and prosperity. In the meantime, I do look forward to shaking your hand at the 2005 Conference.

Most cordially,

Yvonne

Yvonne Captain, Ph.D., M.I.P.P.

Executive Director, Phi Beta Delta

1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW

Washington DC 20036-1206

(202) 483 2512 x 107

captainy@phibetadelta.org

<http://phibetadelta.org/>