

Phi Delta Kappa Chapter 15
Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, August, 5, 2009
NWU Conestoga Room

PDK Chapter 15 President Mike McDonald welcomed our guest Steve Joekel and executive board members Harriet Gould, Loretta Sheets, Jessica Rivera, Anastasia McNulty, Ron Joekel, John Neal, YJ Moses, and Carrie Campbell. Jo Theis, Jody Isernhagen, and Marilyn Grady were unable to attend the August 5 board meeting. After introductions and a brief overview of the agenda, a buffet dinner was served by Sodexo, Inc & Affiliates. Ron Joekel provided a historical perspective on international Phi Delta Kappa and the local University of Nebraska chapter of Phi Delta Kappa.

Steve Joekel then provided a newsletter for everyone from the UNO chapter of PDK and discussed UNO programming and recruitment. UNO had about 46 new members join last year. Advisors as the university recommend joining PDK as a way to network, as UNL historically did. Steve observed that almost 60% of Nebraska schools are within a 60 mile radius of Lincoln and so we have a large potential for recruitment and service. Teachers we might recruit have some stereotypical characteristics. Often, they are not “joiners,” they are in their 20s and 30s, have children and spouses and little time. Steve recommended having several smaller officer and leadership positions, with each position requiring less time than current distributions. Steve thought it was fine to have 1 PDK activity per month; UNO has a core group that attends almost all the meetings and maybe 10-20 more that join the core group each time. At each meeting, there is a sponsor (generally a school building) that brings door prizes for a raffle; donations for the raffle go to foundation and scholarship funds. UNO has an option to donate \$20 at the beginning of the year for 10 raffle tickets and be done for the year.

Activities at the UNO chapter of PDK begin with a social cash bar drinking option. At the end of the meeting, wine is a popular door prize chosen. Each school district sponsors a meeting. For example, in September, Ralston sponsors a Fish (or chicken) Fry. In October, Metro Community College puts together a gourmet meal prepared by their chef students for \$10-12 and introduce the chefs at the meeting. Board meetings are held 4-5 times per year and held at the UNO Alumni Center; this helps to provide an anchor at UNO which is nice. At one meeting, recent PhD and EDD students present their research in education; these students are critical to membership. At another meeting, school superintendents and board of education members are invited to attend. In March, community and PDK members are recognized at the joint meeting with the UNL chapter. Scholarship presentations are given in May.

Steve's suggestions were to meet regularly at some different places, and pick a consistent location that is used more than once. Encourage, ask, invite schools to sponsor a PDK event by providing the door prizes and sometimes the location. UNO sets a social time at 5:30-6:30 and program from 6:30-8:00, with some members staying until 9:00pm. They also ask members to make reservations online and charge members for the dinner that they request whether they actually attend or not.

The amount of \$18-20 for dinner was considered pricy for young, beginning teachers with families. John's southwestern Iowa chapter focused programs on instruction, tried to have

schools sponsor activities, and did some recruiting at these events. Some ideas for programs include assessment and a new leadership book. One focus idea was to start a FEA chapter in each school, highlighting PDK in the FEA chapter, and including FEA in PDK activities, fostering a relationship with administrators and current teachers. UNO's showcase of teaching drew 150-200 high school students.

A PDK event wish list included:

- 1) A partnership/sponsorship with Southeast Community College's new education program and culinary program.
- 2) A presentation of dissertations in education and/or educational administration portfolio presentations and/or action research
- 3) Sharing/PLC providing opportunities for new teachers and administrators to meet experienced teachers and administrators that could act as mentor and connect with a support network, someone to go to for help or advice. This might be connected to an FEA showcase of teaching.
- 4) Including Concordia at Fallbrook, perhaps for the June meeting. Although May was considered for the meeting, it was passed over due to schools in session.
- 5) In September, Doug Reeves will be discussing assessment and we might try to cosponsor or work with Lincoln Public Schools. Perhaps he would autograph his new book for those who attend a coffee or social afterward...
- 6) We would like to work with LPS to sponsor an event again this year.
- 7) Including Norris public schools with a staff appraisal or school improvement program
- 8) An Eurasia activity very similar to last year in October. Some grant money is available to assist in this endeavor.

Tentative dates for PDK events are:

September 30	Social with Doug Reeves, Assessment
October 7	Eurasia activity
Nov./Dec. ??	Norris
February 1	Showcase of Teaching
March 31	Joint meeting
April ??	LPS – possibly staff evaluation/appraisal
June 7	Social, Recognition, Initiation, Installation

Events were assigned to board members to help develop. Mike will work on the September 30 potential PDK event. Anastasia and YJ will work together for the Eurasia event October 7 (and possible informal initiation of Joe McNulty). Mike and John will work with Norris schools to develop an appropriate program. Loretta will work with Mahoney and UNO to set up the March 31 joint meeting. Jessica and Carrie will work on the February 1 Showcase of Teaching and including FEA students and new teachers. John will work with LPS to host a meeting in April.

Executive board meetings were scheduled for 5:00-6:30pm on Wednesdays: September 9, November 4, January 20, and April 7.