
The year 1987 is significant in the history of Pi Kappa Delta because it marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization. From its beginnings at Ottawa (Kansas) University in 1913 with about fifteen Charters/Chapters to a current 210 active Chapters with 36,000 enrolled members, Pi Kappa Delta is the nation's largest forensic honorary.

*The History of Pi Kappa Delta*, however, is much more than a compendium of dates and names. Under the editorship of Larry Norton, Professor Emeritus of Bradley University, the volume goes beyond the usual "stuff" of historical chronicling; it is also a manual, guidebook, handbook, and archival reference. Norton has divided the volume into four parts. Part One covers the general history of the organization; Part Two focuses on the structure of Pi Kappa Delta and how the provinces and local chapters relate to the national organization; Part Three concentrates on tournament activities; and Part Four concentrates on convention activities and concludes with an Appendix which includes the national constitution, rituals, officers, conventions, contest subjects, a complete Chapter list, and all names of superior contest winners during the seventy-five year history of the organization.

Part One is probably the most interesting reading in the volume because the founders were quite thorough and meticulous in recording the events that surrounded the genesis of the organization. Egbert R. Nichols was Pi Kappa Delta's first National President as well as Editor of *The Forensic*, the organization's quarterly journal. He later became National Historian. The second National President, John R. Macarthur, also served in the offices of Secretary and Editor. These two gentlemen were ideally suited to record the early history of Pi Kappa Delta. It is through their recollections and writings that much of Part One is based. Unfortunately, from 1936 to 1965, the office of Historian was vacant and as a result,
some information is not available. Nevertheless, the first twenty-five years are well documented and provide some most interesting reading about an infant organization with an uncertain future.

Part Two details the structure of the organization based on the first constitution. Following that there is a convention-by-convention record of constitutional amendments. Subsequent chapters deal with the National Organization, The Provinces, Local Chapters, Publications, and Alumni.

Part Three focuses on debate and speaking as Pi Kappa Delta tournament events. It is interesting to note that for the first two National Tournaments, oratory was the only competitive event. In 1924 extempore speaking was added, but oratory and extempore speaking were divided into men's and women's categories. Two years later, men's and women's debate were offered for the first time at a National Tournament. The full range of individual speaking events was not offered until the mid-1980s.

Part Four of The History of Pi Kappa Delta records the evolution of the Convention. Dinners, banquets, and luncheons used to be prominent features of conventions along with prominent speakers. Convention speakers of the past included Congressmen Karl Mundt and Francis Case; A. Craig Baird; Waldo Braden; and Senators Ralph Yarborough and Henry Jackson. More recently, however, conventions have gone from 6-7 day events to 4-day events, and tournament competition occupies more convention time than business/social meetings. Featured speakers have not been part of the convention format since 1977. It is somewhat ironic that an organization given to recognizing oral communication, whether in individual events or debate, would discontinue the practice of having a prominent and featured speaker as part of its biennial tradition.

It is to be hoped that the motto of Pi Kappa Delta, "the art of persuasion—beautiful and just" does not become "—forgotten and lost." To guard against such a possibility, Larry Norton has done a tremendous job of preserving the seventy-five year history of a vital organization that has served students and faculty for many years. Contemporary forensic concerns such as budgets, travel, ethics, and death of debate, and an over-emphasis on awards instead of educational gain are topics that have confronted the forensic community for over fifty years, and are not likely to be resolved in the near future. Whether one is interested in the history of Pi Kappa
Delta, a record of all tournament winners over the years, or a list of convention sites and dates, *The History of Pi Kappa Delta* will provide enjoyable and useful reading, especially to those who like a bit of nostalgia.

The book may be obtained by writing to:

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