

# PHI THETA KAPPA KANSAS REGION

Volume 2, Issue 2

please send future submissions to [cbush3@butlercc.edu](mailto:cbush3@butlercc.edu)

August 2007

Hey Everyone!

This is Jami Van Brocklin. Some or none of you may know that my husband and his brother, along with one of my cousins, have all been serving in Iraq with the US Army since Oct. 20, 2006. They all 3 left the same day....2 from Ft. Hood and my husband from Ft. Riley. My husband recently found out that his unit is not being extended due to certain circumstances that cleared their unit of the extension.

However, we, the wives and family members, were all originally told they were being extended till January 2008. The wives of the unit are the ones who prepare the barracks for the returning "single" soldiers who live in the barracks. The wives get together and supply the barracks with the necessities that the soldiers will need once they arrive home. The wives do this for the soldiers because once the soldiers arrive home, they will not be afforded the time to gather their necessities before coming home or once they come home.

More than likely, they will return home close to bedtime, so they will need to be all ready to go the next day. Well, since they didn't get extended, we are now doing this on shorter notice. Normally, we'd have a fundraiser to raise the money for the stuff, but because of the short notice, we will not have enough funds or time to raise the funds to do this. I spoke with Susan Forrest about this, and she is interested in us doing this as a Phi Theta Kappa project, or possibly a Regional Project. We need to supply 80 soldiers with the following items:

- Bath towels and wash cloths, any color
- Twin-sized bed sheets, any color (and possibly pillows!)

- Personal hygiene products (shaving cream, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpastes, etc.)
- Bath products (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap bars, etc.)
- Target or Wal-mart gift cards for the wives to purchase this stuff for them!

We have to have all this stuff to the base, Ft. Riley in Junction City, by September...probably early to mid, seeing how they could actually come home towards the end of September, if their unit is ready to go by then. However, they are DUE to be home in October. Again we are supplying for 80 MALE soldiers! When you take both of those into consideration, we really don't have that much time to get this done!

I am asking each one of you, if at all possible, if you could help to contribute to this project! Let's call this project "OPERATION RETURNING THE FAVOR" they have been at war for 1 year and now we can return the favor to help them out!!! I'd greatly appreciate any and all help given to us! When these guys come home, they should have nothing to worry about. They need a break! We can help!!!

Please email me back and let me know if you can help....whether it's just helping out 1 soldier or many...every little bit counts!!!

Thank You.

\*\*For additional information please contact Katie Roach at:  
[croach@butlercc.edu](mailto:croach@butlercc.edu) or

In case you missed all of the fun from Summer Planning here is a copy of the minutes taken at the Regional Meeting that day:

**Summer Planning  
July 22, 2007  
Minutes**

**Chase Rhodes -**

- Opening and welcome
- Special thank you to Susan Forrest and Butler Community College
- He also spent some time encouraging everyone to think about running for Regional Officer Positions in the spring.

**Christy Bush -**

- Roll Call
  - In Attendance
    - see attached

**Chase Rhodes -  
Regional Goals**

- Regional Meeting Attendance
  - Leadership
  - Honors
  - Regional Meeting
- Newsletter submissions
- Increase of candidates for Regional Officer Positions

**Old Business -**

- Regional Pins -
  - no info
- Joey's Bill
  - Update in Newsletter
  - Possible new meeting to be announced

**New Business -**

- Floods
  - Michael Steen - Coffeyville
    - Victims affected:
      - Tori Lomas - former officer
      - Several other Phi Theta Kappa members
  - Pam Howe in charge of a Flood Victims Relief Fund
    - Send donations (checks payable to :)
      - Flood Victims TLC  
PO Box 964  
Coffeyville, KS 67337
    - Possible fund raisers
  - Key chains \$5.00 or Regional Pins \$3.00
  - Regional Fundraiser
    - Raise \$1000.00 by years end to help flood victims

- Each chapter to raise \$\_\_\_\_\_ / chapter to aide the victims in the Region effected by natural disasters
- Possible incentives:
  - Free registrations at Regional events for the top raising chapters (1 - 2 registrations for the top chapter)
  - Suggestion made to start a Kansas Relief Fund; each chapter to raise their dues by \$1.00 - \$2.00/member and those dollars be kept in a fund managed by the Regional Coordinator

- Operation Return the Favor
  - Volunteers needed
  - Care packages for the troops over seas
  - Details to follow from Katie Roach, project chairperson, Butler Community College, Alpha Phi Alpha Chapter
- Welcoming of the new Pratt advisor

**Regional planning meeting and adjournment to follow.**

Minutes recorded according to:

- Christy Bush
- Kansas Regional Vice President of Correspondence

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Kansas Regional Coordinator Ruth Randall is taking a one-year sabbatical from the Coordinator position, effective immediately. The sabbatical is to allow Ruth to fill a temporary leadership position at her college. Susan Forrest will serve as Acting Coordinator for the Kansas Region for the next 12 months.

Susan serves as advisor to the Alpha Phi Alpha Chapter at Butler Community College, a position she has held since 2001. The chapter has consistently achieved the five star level in the Society's Five Star Chapter Development Program, and was also honored with a Leadership Hallmark Award at the 2007 International Convention in Nashville.

Susan is a certified instructor in Phi Theta Kappa's Leadership Development Studies and received the Paragon Award for New Advisors in 2004 and also received the Distinguished Advisor award in 2007. We are very grateful to Susan for her willingness to devote her time and talents to ensure a prosperous year for the Kansas Region. Her contact information is as follows:

Susan Forrest, Acting Coordinator  
Phi Theta Kappa Kansas Region  
Butler Community College  
901 South Haverhill Road  
El Dorado, KS 67042  
Phone: 316-322-3251  
Fax: 316-322-3109  
sforrest@butlercc.edu

Sincerely,

Rod A. Risley  
Executive Director

Congratulations to Susan Forrest and we all wish both Ruth and Susan much success and happiness with their new positions.

The Alpha Gamma Upsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Cowley College sponsored its first ever blood drive at the Southside Center in Wichita on May 3. After donating blood, Phi Theta Kappa member, Zach Helms, signs a poster to be sent to Virginia Tech as a show of concern and support for their students and staff. In the future, the chapter will be sponsoring a blood drive every semester at the North Campuses.



From left to right:  
Lisa Burns, Ellen Herdler, Vi Nguyen and Jennifer Holley, members of the Alpha Gamma Upsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Cowley College, as they man a bake sale table at the Cowley College annual Spring Bash held on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Southside Center in Wichita. Donation jars were also located in Ark City and at the Mulvane Bloomenshine Center. A grand total of \$850.00 was collected from students and staff and sent to the Cannonball Trail Chapter Red Cross in Pratt, KS. All the proceeds will go to the Greensburg tornado victims.

Tau Theta has been working with the area schools to spread the word about Operation Green. One of the activities we completed was cleaning the local park with the Parsons High School National Honor Society. The two groups met on a Thursday afternoon and spent two hours picking up trash. It was a great time of service, fellowship, and leadership between the two groups.

