

Jacob Coughlin
Epsilon Omega Chapter
University of Nebraska, Lincoln



Candidate for District President
Midwest District Convention
University of Colorado, Boulder
April 5th – 7th, 2019

JACOB COUGHLIN

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EDUCATION

University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Major: Music Education
Minor: Leadership and Communications

Lincoln, Nebraska
May 2021

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

District Vice President for Membership

Midwest District

April 2018 – Present

- Assist in the planning and execution of district events and District Convention
- Communicate with the chapter VPs to ensure their success
- Visit with brothers at district events and personal chapter visits to improve the relationship between chapters and the District Council, provide effective presentations for the benefit of our district, and to provide advice to individual chapters to ensure their success
- Provide assistance to the District President and Governors

Chapter Parliamentarian

Epsilon Omega

April 2018 – Present

- Work with Chapter President to ensure parliamentary procedure in meetings
- Edit the chapter's Constitution to reflect the District and National Constitutions
- Edit the chapter's Constitution to reflect the chapter's current practices including adding three appointed positions and removing an inactive committee
- Reconstruct the officer layout of the chapter to include two new elected officers and six new appointed officers

Drum Major

Cornhusker Marching Band

April 2017 – Present

- Communicate instructions both written and verbally to a 300-member ensemble
- Act as a liaison between members and staff
- Lead the student leadership team by creating goals and plans to accomplish them, executing the goals with the teamwork of the leadership team, and discussing the success of our team with the team as a whole

Chapter Vice President for Membership

Epsilon Omega

April 2017 – April 2018

- Implemented the Road to Wisdom into my chapter with 17 Membership Candidates
- Led 12 active brothers in the Recruitment, Education, and Ritual Committees
- Assisted the Chapter President with filling out national paperwork, planning chapter meetings, and led committees as needed

WORK EXPERIENCE

Westbrook Music Building Monitor

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

November 2018 – Present

- Provide security to the building
- Answer questions and give directions to visitors
- Assist in the running of school of music audition days
- Assist the Director of the school of music whenever necessary

Summer Band Camp Counselor

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

June 2017 – July 2018

- Led trumpet sectionals for the middle schoolers
- Facilitated the process of middle schoolers arranging a popular folk tune for them to perform
- Provided feedback to high school drum majors on their conducting and teaching abilities
- Led seminars on leadership and communication to high school drum majors

Marching Band Tech / Caption Head

Fremont High School Marching Band

May 2016 – Present

- Teach the visual program
- Write body movement for the competitive marching show
- Instruct the drum majors in conducting, leadership skills, and communication skills
- Help facilitate compromise with students who have disagreements
- Teach the brass sections basics and show music

NOTEABLE EXPERIENCES

Member of the Kappa Kappa Psi Student Advisory Committee

Guest Conductor for small orchestra on recital

Glenn Korff School of Music Student Advocacy Forum

Tyler Butterfield Memorial Frisbee Event

The Pride of all Nebraska Leadership Award

Teachers Assistant for ALEC 102: Interpersonal Skills for Leadership

Member of Midwest District 2018 Jurisdiction Committee

Kappa Kappa Psi Alpha Delta Class President of the Epsilon Omega Chapter

Introduction

Dear Brothers, Officers, and Governors of the Midwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi,

My name is Jacob Coughlin. I am a junior music education major at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. I am a euphonium player for the Symphonic band and Tuba-Euphonium ensemble, and I am a drum major for the University's marching band. I am a member of the Epsilon Omega chapter, and I am currently serving as the Parliamentarian of our chapter. I also serve the district as the Vice President for Membership. While I am running for District President, I would be willing to accept the positions of District Vice President or Member at Large.

Qualifications

The Midwest District officer guide refers to many qualities a District President should have, and I believe they are all important. However, the most important trait a District President should have, in my opinion, is being committed to the ideals and purposes of Kappa Kappa Psi. It has been shown in many studies that authentic leaders who have strong values and lead in ways in which consistently uphold those values are very effective and have high follower satisfaction. I think a president who has the ideals and purposes of Kappa Kappa Psi firmly instilled in their beliefs and actions will be a very effective and proactive leader for our district. I have shown this trait within our chapter by being very active within each aspect of Kappa's values and, in particular, the five purposes stated in our preamble. I have worked to promote university bands by offering refreshment receptions to ensembles on campus. As Vice President of my chapter, I worked to find the outstanding band members in all bands on campus to offer them the privilege of being a member and worked to recruit a very talented and dedicated class to the chapter. As a member of Epsilon Omega's Executive Council, I have had the opportunity to assist other members of our chapter in their leadership roles and have encouraged others to try to take on new challenges while supporting them along the way. As a member of many ensembles, I have pushed to achieve a high level of attainment in music. Finally, as a drum major for the Cornhusker Marching Band, I have worked to make every member of our ensemble feel welcomed and valued by learning the name of each member and strive to have meaningful interactions with them as often as possible.

Another important trait for a District President to have is the ability to be an effective communicator and be comfortable speaking in front of large groups. I believe it is important to the position because as the president, you are responsible for sharing your experiences and knowledge of Kappa to others in the district through written and verbal communication. I believe this is especially true for district events and CLC when it is the President's job to help arrange, advertise, and execute these functions. I especially take interest in leading discussions during these events to help brothers get a deeper understanding of the topic. In order for those types of discussions to be productive, you need a District President who can communicate and relate to members of the district while creating an environment suitable for open dialogue. The president must find ways to convey their thoughts in an effective and creative way in order to engage members at these events. I believe I have showed these characteristics as Vice President of my chapter through the National Membership Education Process (MEP). I was

given the opportunity to teach the new Road to Wisdom MEP while finding many fun and education ways to engage the membership candidates. Through a variety of learning strategies, I was able to create an environment where everyone was invited to construct and share their own thoughts.

Having a vision and mission to advance the fraternity and college bands is a crucial role of the District President. I believe this is important because it is the president's job to guide the district and its chapters through their growth to best fulfill the fraternity's purposes and goals. A leader with a vivid mental picture of the path ahead while acquiring the support of brothers is crucial to implementing positive change. I have shown this idea through my position as chapter Parliamentarian. In my time in the Epsilon Omega chapter, I noticed a weakness with our inability to pass down knowledge as we graduated seniors. Knowing that by closing the gap of knowledge between generations, newly elected officers will have the awareness of history of the position. I read many chapter constitutions from across the district and started to brainstorm ways for my chapter to address this issue. I saw an opportunity to create an elected officer position meant to close the gap. The Vice President for Internal Affairs position was created to collect reports from each officer in order to write a summary of the semester. This report helps our band staff and brothers understand what was accomplished while creating a living document to better help future officers with their position.

As an Officer

This past year for the Midwest District has been incredibly successful. The work our chapters do and their ability for our district to feed off of each other's success continues to push the district in a positive direction. If I am elected president, I hope to continue this trend and lead us to even greater heights. I would do this by focusing on each chapter as an individual, increasing the productivity of the District Council in-between district events, and by improving the content of our district events so our members learn more and are able to bring more back to their chapters.

My idea for focusing on each chapter as an individual comes from the idea that there is no cookie cutter outline for what a chapter should look like. Each chapter is made up of different people and that makes them unique. With this in mind, each chapter will have different strengths and weaknesses, and by being able to focus on a chapter one-on-one, I can provide a more productive way for chapters to receive assistance from the district. I would like to create this one-on-one connection with chapters through multiple avenues. I will communicate with each chapter president individually throughout the year to help them create goals while answering any questions that may arise. I will be accessible to skype into chapter and exec board meetings to become more visible to the active membership. I will travel to chapters when necessary and plausible to create personal interactions with members of the Midwest District. I want to be a face, not a figure.

The District Councils have always been extremely hard working, but I believe the productivity of the councils would be greatly improved if there was more focus on what we did

in-between events. The councils typically find the busiest times directly before district events, and I would like to see that change to make us more productive year-round. By doing so, we would increase the amount of impact we have on the district manifold. Strategies I would like to see the future council take advantage of would be preparing and presenting video presentations at chapter meetings, working with officers from the other districts to bring in ideas from outside our district, and spending time with individual chapters to see how we could help them more as a council.

District events are one of the largest tasks district councils are faced with. I think that the current district council did a great job this year making events much more interesting and educational, but there is always room for improvement. As a leadership and communication minor, I have become acquainted with many leader attributes and have done research on the effectiveness of leaders in relation to teaching leadership. I have learned multiple teaching strategies to develop leadership. These strategies bring a new view to leadership and service that will challenge but intrigue the mind. This could increase effectiveness of presentations resulting in higher participation of future district events.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to state my overall excitement for what our District is currently doing and for the potential we have and what we will do in the future. I truly believe that this fraternity embodies some of the best ideals and purposes a group can strive for and I am very passionate about helping our district pursue them on a district level and I would like to help every chapter pursue that on a personal level as well. My most defining characteristics of any leader is being personable and dedicated and these are what I want to bring to the office of district president.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

AEA,

Jacob Coughlin

Kappa Kappa Psi- Epsilon Omega

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

March 20, 2019

Brothers of the Midwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi:

Jacob Coughlin has requested that I write a letter of recommendation in support of his candidacy for President of the Midwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi, and I do so with great enthusiasm. Jacob is my student in Cornhusker Marching Band, the Symphonic Band and the Epsilon Omega Chapter of KKPsi. He has also served as a Counselor and Clinic Assistant in our Summer Middle School and High School Marching Band Camp. His skills and motivation are quite strong, and I give him a high recommendation.

Jacob has distinguished himself by earning some of the top leadership positions in our program, both in Band and the Fraternity. For the past two seasons he has served as Drum Major for the Cornhusker Marching Band, and has served as Vice President of the Epsilon Omega Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi along with several committee chairmanships. Currently, he serves as Vice President of the Midwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi and does so with distinction. He's very active musically participating in our Big Red Express Athletic Pep Band and Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble in addition to the above-mentioned ensembles. He has served as Counselor and Clinic Assistant for our two Summer Camps and works as a "tech" for two area high schools as well. Brother Coughlin has amassed an impressive collection of accomplishments and leadership positions and he's ready to continue to put this energy to work for the District.

Jacob Coughlin is an outstanding young man. He has proven himself to serve well in both Chapter and District Office, and I urge you to consider him strongly for President. If you would like to talk to me personally about Jacob, I invite you to call me at 402/472-1643 or e-mail at AFALCONE2@unl.edu. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anthony M. Falcone
Associate Director of Bands

March 11, 2019

To the members of the Midwest District Council, Governors, and Nominations Committee of Kappa Kappa Psi -

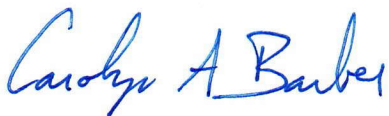
I am pleased to recommend Jacob Coughlin to you once again as an eager and energetic candidate for the office of Midwest District President of Kappa Kappa Psi. He has my full support in his bid. He embodies many of the ideals of the fraternity and has worked steadily to learn the ins and outs of the organization. In a sense, he has been 'working his way up from the mailroom'.

Thanks in large part to the creativity and enthusiasm of its leaders, Epsilon Omega chapter is experiencing unprecedented growth and engagement. Jacob sought opportunities to serve very early in his experience with the group and became Alpha Delta class president. He quickly pursued additional opportunities, not for a desire for status or personal gain, but out of a deeply seated drive to help people, to be of service, and to improve that which surrounds him. Youthful exuberance, an unfailingly positive outlook, and a powerful desire to communicate are three of his chief character traits.

As vice president of the chapter he chaired the recruitment, ritual, and education committees. He has also served effectively as chapter parliamentarian with special duties chairing the jurisdiction committee. On a broader stage he was selected to serve as district vice president for membership, and this opportunity has reinforced his desire to continue to be of service at the district level. He embraces opportunities to travel and learn, attending CLC at Northern Iowa University, District Day at Colorado School of Mines, and District Convention at Missouri State University in addition to District Days and CLC closer to home.

He participates eagerly in the full spectrum of chapter activities, including Kappa popcorn sales, the rural school visit project (an important recruiting initiative for the Band Program), Cornhusker Marching Band Alumni Reunion activities, assistance with graduate student conducting recitals, and leading the special Tyler Butterfield Memorial events this past year. He also seeks out an array of opportunities to connect and contribute musically. He is a member of the symphonic band, tuba/euphonium ensemble, Big Red Express pep bands and a drum major with the Cornhusker Marching Band. He has also served as a counselor for both the UNL summer middle school concert band camp and the high school marching band camp.

Jacob is GKSOM's version of the Energizer Bunny and given the chance he could energize the Midwest District as well. I am eager to see what the next chapter of his story will be!



Carolyn A. Barber
Ron & Carol Cope Professor of Music,
Director of Bands

Brothers of the Midwest District,

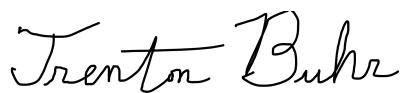
It is with great pleasure that I recommend Jacob Coughlin for the office of District President on behalf of the Epsilon Omega Chapter. We have seen firsthand how his passion for Kappa Kappa Psi can emanate around our own chapter and throughout the district. The office of District President is one which requires high energy and skills of connection. I have not only seen Jacob's energy in our own chapter but also throughout the Midwest District in the last year. He has grown tremendously and proven himself to be a leader in our organization.

I first want to talk about his enthusiasm for Kappa Kappa Psi. Jacob joined our chapter during his freshman year and was immediately engaged. Only one week into his active membership he was elected Vice President of our chapter. Over the course of his sophomore year he led the charge for recruiting and educating a new class. Our chapter has changed tremendously during his time as an active brother. It has grown in membership, service, and brotherhood. Jacob's efforts have helped push us to new heights. He has run numerous projects, including those which need to be done quickly. For example, this January he organized a memorial frisbee event for our late brother, Tyler Butterfield. It was originally a different event, but he made all the necessary changes in only a few weeks to commemorate him.

This same zeal is shown in his actions as District Vice President. He has attended every District event since being elected in 2018. His path to that position was not guided in any way. No person from our chapter has been a District officer while any of our active brothers have been in college. Not to mention he applied as a sophomore and was elected. Since that time, Jacob has been one of the most engaging District officers I have seen during my time as an active brother. His ability to connect with brothers from around the region and compel us to talk about serious things with one another is unparalleled.

Perhaps the most speaking is that Jacob has completely overcome the reservations I gave in his recommendation last year. Jacob is heavily involved in our marching band as a drum major and highly involved in our chapter, not to mention being a music student and all the other things he does. Many of us expressed concerns that he might not have the time and energy to devote to a District officer position. Since that time, we have seen him bring an immense amount of energy and fulfill his duties with ease. He has continued to be an excellent drum major and leader within our chapter at the same time. I no longer have any doubt that he can be an excellent Midwest District President.

There is nothing more compelling than overcoming doubt. Jacob has not only fulfilled his duties as a District officer but has exceeded the basic demands of the position. I wholeheartedly recommend him for the office of District President. His desire to grow our organization through collaboration will go a long way. As a person who is always seeking to learn about new ways of doing things, he will certainly continue engaging the entire District in conversation and help share the resources and knowledge we have. Should you have any questions I urge you to reach out to me at trentonbuhr@gmail.com.



Trenton Buhr, President
On Behalf of the Epsilon Omega Chapter