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PROVINCE POLEMARCH

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc

TRAINING FOR LEADERSHIP SINCE 1911

SOUTHWESTERN PROVINCE

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State of the Province 2025

Good Morning!

To the 35th Grand Polemarch Jimmy McMikle thank you for your confidence and support of me to carry on your vision for Kappa within the Southwestern Province. Thank you for being here with us today and thank your for your powerful speech last night. Recognize the Grand Polemarch.

We recognize that Protocol has been established however.... Please recognize the 31st Grand Polemarch and 76 Laurel Wreath Laureate Dwayne M Murray Esq., and also the 32nd Grand Polemarch William Randy Bates Esq. even in his absence, who has asked for a copy of this State of the Province report.

Since 1930 there have been 27 men to serve as Polemarch of the Southwestern Province.

Help me recognize:

the 20th Province Polemarch and 81st Elder Watson Diggs Awardee, Emerson A. Lattimore the

the 21st, Dwayne Murray (already mentioned)

the 22nd, Randy Bates

the 23rd and 89th Elder Watson Diggs Awardee, Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

the 24th and Past Grand Board member, Ron V. Julun

the 25th Timothy F. Albert,

the 26th Theron A. Hightower, and

the 27th William A. Puder.

Brothers recognize these men.

My colleagues on the Council of Province Polemarshs, to the Eastern Province Polemarch Richard Mattox, the Southern Province Polemarch Jason Jones, and the Middle Eastern Province Polemarch Dr. Lascel Webley Jr. thank you for your support and being here. Thank you to Eastern Province Sr. Vice Polemarch Paul Robinson for being here as well.

To all other grand chapter officers, grand chapter committee chairmen, and all awardees. Province officers, Chapter Polemarshs, and Brothers ALL!

I'm here to report that the **State of the Southwestern Province is Strong.**

Brother Senior Province Vice Polemarch Brother Gilner.... thank you for that introduction.

I give this 2025 State of the Province in memory of Charles J. Brown, my father, my Brother, my hero!

I am sure you recall last year's State of the Province... if you don't remember, didn't hear it or are a new initiate.

What I did was reminded you of the Prayer of Jabez and that Change is inevitable. The prayer of Jabez is about 1st Chronicles 4:10...Jabez cries "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let Your hand be with me and keep me from the evil one".

Brothers I asked you last year to imagine with me that Jabez was the Southwestern Province and we have an ask of God.

- That God would bless the Southwestern Province
- That God would enlarge the Southwestern Province
- That God's hand might be with the Southwestern Province
- That God would keep the Southwestern Province from evil internally and externally

Brothers that was our prayer!

I also reminded you that changes and challenges were not new to the Southwestern Province.

If you recall I was a brand-new Province Polemarch attempting to unite us under a mantra of "We are ONE".

That was 2024's State of the Province.

Brothers I am here to report *Prayers were Requested and Prayers were Answered!*

Brothers I am here to share that the State of the Southwestern Province is Strong.

In the spirit under the prayer of Jabez and the mantra of "we are one" enabled us to create an administrative focus called FUND.

Finances, Undergraduates, Networking, and Development

FUND is what embodies this Province to focus on being Informed, Involved and Invested in a Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

The Finances of the Southwestern Province is strongest it has ever been. The Province is a business, a million dollar corporation that is owned and operated by a board of directors and the shareholders are expecting a return on their investment. We are entrusted to manage our financial operations and be good stewards. This administration has developed financial policies and procedures that has reduced our expenses and increased our income. The polices will shape this Province for years to come.

As an example of this management style:

The 46th C. Rodger Wilson Leadership Conference's (held on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge Louisiana) **income exceeded our expense.** *It's been a long time since that has been accomplished.*

This 89th Southwestern Province Council's (in Biloxi, Mississippi) **income will exceed our expense.** *It's been a long time since that has been accomplished.*

A part of our income has been from corporate sponsors totaling a little over \$60,000 to the Southwestern Province in cash. *It's been a long time since that has been accomplished.*

This administration has delivered a clean unmodified audit opinion (the highest opinion at that) from our CPA firm of the previous fiscal year. *It's been a long time since that has been accomplished.*

We are continuing to refine these financial policies to be consistent with business practices of a corporation. The Southwestern Province is strongest as it has ever been. **Brothers I tell you that the State of the Province is Strong.**

U is for our Undergraduates.

Our fraternity was founded by undergraduates. The Southwestern Province has a goal for all our Undergraduate Chapters to be active and on the Yard. This administration has brought back three of our Undergraduate chapters. Beta Iota, Iota Alpha and Zeta Upsilon. Welcome Back. Now if you want to stay... let's focus on Achievement.

This year 15 of our Undergraduates attended the Undergraduate Leadership Institute in Charlotte, NC. If you are from the Lambda Class please stand up to be recognized. One of our own Jaden Watt was recognized as the most outstanding participant selected by his peers. Thank you, Brother Barrington, and all Brothers that support this program. The Southwestern Province has several attending LEAD Kappa.

Brothers we elevated the Achievement Academy, with sessions on Education, Medicine, Science and Law.... The Law Achievement Academy featured Sr, Grand Vice Polemarch Jenkins.

Greeks Learning to Avoid Debt (GLAD) program provided an incentive. If an undergraduate chapter held and reported a GLAD program we gave the chapter an incentive.

The Monthly Brother of the month recognition and Chapter of the month recognition comes with monetary support. We want that recognition to help motivate other Undergraduates to share and reach for honorable achievements.

This administration also realizes that our undergraduates have hardships, we will be instituting a hardship clause to assist your chapter with certification requirements. Undergraduates you have to do your part. That means remain in Good Standing, jump on the webinars, attend the C. Rodger Wilson Leadership Conference and the Province Council.

For every undergraduate award offered in the fraternity, we will have petitions from the Mighty Southwestern Province at the 87th Grand Conclave. **Brothers I tell you the State of the Province is Strong!**

N is for Networking with a purpose. Our days at the State Capitols have been an intentional effort to discuss with our elected officials that we are your constituents too. We have gathered to advocate for specific policy changes or to raise awareness about particular issues. The main goal is to directly connect with legislators, share information, and influence the legislative process. Our next steps will have to include **voter education, registration and mobilization** in preparation for midterm and local elections. WE will bring back the ribbons that identify you and your business so Brothers can recognize your chosen field of human endeavor. This will enable us to directly network with each other. Our reclamation efforts will become mini networking sessions to bring Brothers back in the Bond with a regional approach to Brotherhood.

Brothers I tell you that the State of the Province is Strong.

The D is for Development. Development and achievement are closely linked. Personal and professional development, through learning, skill enhancement, and experience, is crucial for achieving goals and making progress in various areas of life. Achievement, in turn, reinforces motivation, improves confidence, and provides opportunities for further development. Our goal in the Southwestern Province is for you to see ACHIEVEMENT. Our C. Rodger Wilson Leadership Conference has been reimagined to include C-Suite executives, entrepreneurs and top leaders in a panel setting. There is school of leadership training and the curriculum would be planned to demonstrate the techniques of leadership and to stimulate the desire to become leaders and to aid them to become better Fraternity men.

The Southwestern Province Informer is Back. We have a team of Brothers that have raised the bar for this publication. This quarterly publication will highlight noteworthy achievements by individuals and chapters. Thank you for getting your articles in. It looks really good too yall!

Our **Website** <https://southwesternprovince1911.org/> has relaunched with more content. We will alert you to resubscribe and ultimately in a more secure effort. We will also allow you to pay your province dues online. We will have meeting information at your fingertips.

Our Life Membership Program has surpassed 1100 members with our newest cohort of 56 new life members. This program was designed to generate \$90,000 to date we are a little over \$400,000 in an investments account.

The Southwest Education Leadership Training Foundation is coming back stronger than ever. We are reworking its bylaws and will be seeking a staff to serve the foundation administratively, write grants and just hunt for opportunities.

Brothers I tell you that the ***State of the Province is Mighty Strong and getting Stronger.*** My pledge is that we will continue to get Stronger by the Day with your help!

Finally, my thanks to the Brothers that reached out during the passing of my father. I so appreciate you taking the time to call, text, email and even come to Hattiesburg to celebrate his home going to the Chapter Invisible. Kappa was truly indeed the pride of his heart and he gave full honor and reverence to all the noble Brothers dear and he longed for thee and toiled until he reached that Golden Shore. Thank you dad!

The State of the Mighty Southwest Province is STRONG.

God bless you all and God Bless Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.