

National Council Announces Program Assistance Fund

Over the past several years, and largely as a result of the generous support of the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation, Pi Kappa Delta has had the opportunity to offer travel assistance to enable programs that are competing in Public Forum Debate to attend the National Comprehensive Tournament or the National Tournament and Convention. To be sure — these funds have been modest — rarely providing more than a fraction of the actual costs necessary to attend the tournament. Nonetheless, the relative success of these initiatives in enabling small, under-funded teams to attend the tournament has persuaded the National Council to expand the program and to regularize its funding. The National Council has authorized the creation of an \$8,000.00 “Program Assistance Fund,” to be exclusively dedicated to providing funding assistance to teams that wish to attend the NCT or the National Tournament and Convention.

How much total funding is available? \$8,000 is available for use at the National Tournament and Convention. Following the tournament, the National Council will evaluate the program and make a determination about the appropriate level of funding going forward.

If the funding is not coming from the Rupe foundation, where do the funds come from? As mentioned, previous funding has been provided by grants received from the Arthur N. Rupe

Foundation. PKD and will continue to pursue grant-related funding from that source and others. Funds for the current program, however, are almost entirely derived from the proceeds of

Pi Kappa Delta’s fledgling endowment with the Minnesota Community Foundation, and therefore do not require any increased membership fees, tournament entry fees or chapter dues. In effect, they enable the Council to use our investment income in a way that directly benefits membership and that supports the tournament.

Who are the expected beneficiaries? Any Pi Kappa Delta chapter in good standing may apply for program assistance funding. However, the grants were intended primarily for student-led programs, or for programs that experienced sudden losses in institutional budget support.

How can the funds be used? The funds may be applied toward tournament entry fees, tournament participation fees and hired judging fees. Total grants may be awarded of **up to half of the cost per school in each of these areas.** In other words, successful applicants will

reduce the costs associated with the tournament entry by up to 50%.

Can the funds be used for hotel, airfare, food or other costs? No, these other costs proved too difficult for PKD to administer, and the size of the funds available was thought to be too modest to equitably distribute for general travel expenses. The National Council's chief priority was providing funding that would help teams attend nationals without risking the loss of the funds. Because travel plans often change at the last minute and on short notice and because PKD would have no way to properly administrate travel arrangements, the risks of funds being wasted because plane tickets were not used or hotel rooms were not cancelled in time to get refunds was judged to be too high. Moreover, even if the funds were recoverable in these circumstances, it would be difficult to get them to teams that needed them on such short notice.

To apply for funding, please submit an application no later than 5:00 pm, February 1st, 2019

Program Assistance Fund Application

Please submit electronically no later than 5:00 pm, February 1st, 2019

Send completed application to: pvoight@gustavus.edu

School: _____

Chapter Sponsor: _____

Contact Information:

Phone: () _____ **E-Mail Address:** _____

School Physical Address:

Total number of participants entered _____

Is this program student-directed? (In other words, is a faculty member assigned to travel with and/or coach the team on a regular basis?) Y N

Has this program attended a previous PKD National Tournament? Y N

Is there anything else that the National Council should consider when evaluating this grant request? (attach separate sheet if necessary)

This chapter is applying for a grant in the amount of \$_____, a figure that represents up to half of the entire costs associated with tournament entry fees, hired judging fees and/or tournament participation fees.

Please attach a copy of the tournament entry form to support the grant funding request. In the event of changes to the entry, such as drops, the size of the grant may be reduced accordingly.

GRANT FUNDS MAY NOT BE USED TO PAY FOR DROP FEES. Drop fees will be assessed according to the schedule outlined in the tournament entry.

PKD Grant Information:

PKD is currently pursuing several additional grant opportunities. Please check the website during December for the latest information about grant fund availability. In addition, plan on attending the PKD Professional Development Conference (held each year in conjunction with NCA the DAY BEFORE the official NCA conference begins) and the PKD Social at NCA for further information about PKD Grants, support for local chapter Civic Engagement activities, Summer Leadership Workshop opportunities, and support for student-run chapters to attend the PKD National Tournament and Convention at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York.