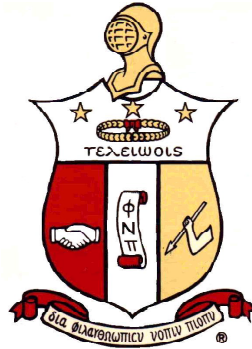


History of the
NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
1930 - 2008

78th Northeastern Province Council Edition



NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE

CONNECTICUT

DELAWARE

GERMANY

MAINE

MASSACHUSETTS

NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW JERSEY

NEW YORK

PENNSYLVANIA

RHODE ISLAND

VERMONT

UNITED KINGDOM

by

WILLIAM H. TIBBS, IV

Province Historian

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*Author of the
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Second Edition*



William H. Tibbs, IV

New Rochelle - White Plains Alumni Chapter

Fifty Year Member

Grand Chapter Life Member # 11265-93

Northeastern Province Life Member # 126-94

Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation MILLION DOLLAR CLUB # 1446

Kappa Alpha Psi Federal Credit Union # 284

William H. Tibbs, IV

William Henry Tibbs, IV was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Brother Tibbs is the oldest of three boys; all Kappas, raised by a Kappa Brother; W. H. Tibbs, III of Tulsa Alumni and Delta/Link Troy Tibbs. Both of William's parents were teachers in the Tulsa School System. William experienced Greekdom by helping his parents prepare for Kappa, Delta or Links meeting, listening to the Kappas calling each other Brother and helping his parents clean up after those meetings during his childhood. Tibbs' father hosted Kappa meeting in February 1935 the same month and year that Tibbs was born.

Growing up in Tulsa, in college and in his adult life William was always referred to as Tibbs. He is called Tibbs even today, by his wife of 50 years.

Tibbs left Tulsa after graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in 1952 with Elder Watson Diggs Awardee, Dr. Charles Otis Stout for Maryland State College, now called The University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Tibbs was encouraged to audition for the Maryland State Concert and Marching Band where he was awarded a music scholarship.

Tibbs was initiated into the bond in 1955 at Maryland State College. He met his wife through a blind date set up by a Kappa Brother Louis Stevens. He married Marie in 1957. Tibbs graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Building Construction in 1958. Since his wife Marie lived in Mount Vernon, New York they decide to move to Westchester County, New York in 1958. They have only one son and two grandchildren.

Tibbs likes to describe himself as a jack of all trades. After arriving in New York Tibbs became a Carpenter and joined Port Chester, New York Carpenters' Local Union # 77. He eventually started a construction business called Armstrong and Tibbs Construction Company, Inc., doing residential and commercial alterations and construction. He built two single family houses and one two family house for himself and family. After Armstrong and Tibbs Construction Company, Inc., William taught at Alexander Hamilton High School in Elmsford, New York for twenty years. During that time he received a Masters of Science Degree in Secondary Education in 1977 from Western Connecticut College.

Brother Tibbs was involved in community service. He was a Westchester County Democratic District leader for the 28th district for many years. He served as Assessor of the Village of Elmsford, New York for two years. Was elected Trustee for the Village of Elmsford and served in that position for six years. He served as Vice President of the Westchester County Elected Village Officials Association. He also served six years as Deputy Fire Commissioner of the Village of Elmsford.

After retiring from the construction business, political involvement and education, Brother Tibbs became an Assistant Building Inspector for the Town of Greenburgh, New York.

Tibbs' son Kappa Brother William H. Tibbs, V was awarded a Basketball Scholarship to Johnson C. Smith College in North Carolina by Kappa Brother Robert Moore. He is married to Gloria and they have twins, William Henry Tibbs, VI and Celia Marie Tibbs.

Brother Tibbs was a charter member of New Rochelle – White Plains Alumni Chapter. Tibbs is a past Polemarch of the New Rochelle – White Plains Alumni Chapter. He has held many other positions in the Chapter and has received both the Kappa of the Year and Service Awards. Tibbs is presently a member of the Board of Directors. He is a Grand Chapter and Northeastern Province life member of the Fraternity.

Tibbs final thought. "To me; there will be no other like Kappa Alpha Psi."

*Author of the
History of the Northeastern Province
First Edition*



McKinley Wardlaw, Jr., Ed.D

*Tuskegee University – B.S. Chemistry
Pennsylvania State University – B.S. Meteorology
Westfield State College – M.Ed. Counseling
University Of Delaware – M.S. Administration
Temple University – Ed.D. Education*

DEDICATED TO
PAST NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE HISTORRIAN
DR. MCKINLEY WARDLAW, JR.

*One of the best-known members of the Northeastern Province is a 78-year-old citizen of Dover, DE, Past Northeastern Province Historian and Kidd Awardee **McKinley Wardlaw, Jr.** He is a Grand Chapter life member and a Northeastern Province life member.*

*Initiated in Gamma Epsilon Chapter at Tuskegee and a charter member of Delta Theta Chapter at Penn State, **Brother Wardlaw** served Dover Alumni Chapter as Chairman of Guide Right, Intake Chairman, Member of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Keeper of Records, Keeper of Exchequer and Polemarch.*

*A Meteorologist and a Navigator in the United States Air Force, **Brother Wardlaw** retired as a Major after twenty years of service. He became State Supervisor of Vocational Education for the State of Delaware, retiring after nineteen years in 1989. **Brother Wardlaw** served in part-time positions as a Grant Writer for Delaware Technical and Community College, an Instructor of Meteorology in the Airway Science Program at Delaware State University and as a professor in the doctoral program at the University of Delaware.*

***Brother Wardlaw** served as Vice President on the Capital District School Board and in 1999 was appointed by the Governor of Delaware to serve as a commissioner on the Delaware Nursing Home Residents Quality Assurance Commission. He is currently serving in that capacity.*

His hobbies are flying, boating, golfing and computers. He is a commercial pilot, a pilot instructor and a master navigator.

*by **Lawrence E. Hampton***

*Co-Author of the
History of the Northeastern Province
Second Edition*



Lawrence E. Hampton

*North Carolina Central University - BA
Trenton State College - MA*

About Brother

Lawrence E. Hampton

INVICTUS

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeoning of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul.*

—William Ernest Henley
1849 - 1903

Chapter 1

The Beginning of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

In the school years of 1910-11, a small group of Negro students attended Indiana University. Most of them were working their way through school. The number of places where they might assemble was limited. Realizing that they had no part in the social life of the university and drawn together by common interests, they decided that a Greek-letter fraternity would do much to fill the missing link in their college existence.

Two of these men, Elder Watson Diggs and Byron K. Armstrong, had previously attended Howard University and had come into contact with men belonging to the only national Greek-letter fraternity in existence among Negroes. Their experiences at Howard caused them to be the chief motivating spirits in the sowing of the seed for a fraternity at Indiana University and crystallized the idea of establishing an independent Greek-letter organization.

Consequently, on January 5, 1911, ten men met for the purpose of organizing such a fraternity. The charter members were Elder Watson Diggs, Byron K. Armstrong, John M. Lee, Henry Asher, Marcus P. Blakemore, Guy L. Grant, Paul Caine, George W. Edmonds, Ezra D. Alexander and Edward G. Irvin. These men of vision decided Kappa Alpha Nu would be more than another social organization. It would be the only Greek-letter organization founded with the concept of ACHIEVEMENT. Here, under the leadership of the calm, methodical, philosophical Diggs, the critical, scholarly Armstrong, and the dreamer Lee, was born the Kappa Alpha Nu Fraternity, which became the first incorporated Negro fraternity in the United States on the granting of a charter by the Secretary of State of Indiana on April 15, 1911.

The Founders of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

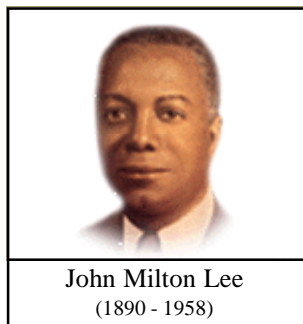
Elder Watson Diggs, born in Christian County, Kentucky, was a graduate of Indiana State Normal (now Indiana State Teachers College) and Indiana University, the birthplace of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity**. He served as Grand Polemarch for the first six consecutive years of the Fraternity's existence. For this and other outstanding contributions to the Fraternity, he was awarded the Fraternity's first Laurel Wreath in December, 1924. An educator by profession, he taught in the public schools of Indianapolis, Indiana, where he rose to the position of school principal. Upon America's entrance into World War I, Diggs resigned his position to enter the nation's first Officers' Training Camp at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and he was commissioned a lieutenant. After European service with the 368th Infantry, Diggs became a captain in the Reserve Officers Training Corps.



Elder Watson Diggs
(Circa 1883 - 1947)

Diggs was instrumental in having the Indiana Constitution amended to permit Negro enlistment in the Indiana National Guard. After his death on November 8, 1947, the name of the school where he had taught was changed to the Elder Diggs School as a tribute to his memory.

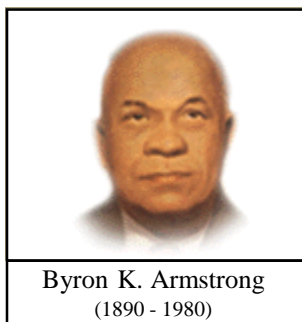
John Milton Lee, born in Danville, Indiana, on September 7, 1890, was graduated from the Danville



High School in 1910 and entered the University of Indiana where he completed three years of pre-medical work. He later became a student at Temple University (1915) but was compelled to leave school because of a death in the family. He enlisted in the 349th Field Artillery in March of 1918 and served overseas as a First Class Sergeant and Gunner. His battery enjoys the unique distinction of having been the first battery of Negro Artillery men ever to open fire upon an enemy. John Milton Lee fired the first shot. He helped organize and for several years was president of the Fairview Gold Club, the first Negro Golf Club in Pennsylvania. In 1931, he married Mary Walker Robinson. Vocationally, he was engaged in several

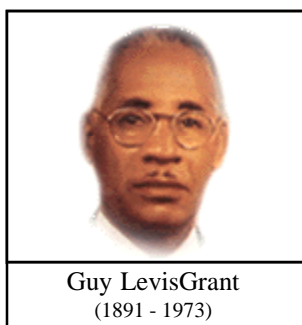
enterprises. For eight years, he conducted a successful catering business in Philadelphia. He also organized and served as Vice President and Secretary of the Mutual Emergency Union, a mutual aid company in Philadelphia. He was also a member of the Board of Managers of the Columbia Community Branch of the YMCA.

Byron K. Armstrong, born in Westfield, Indiana, entered Indiana University where he studied philosophy,



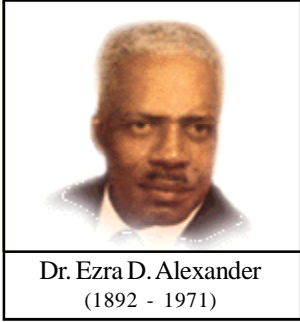
mathematics, and sociology. After finishing Indiana University, he earned his Master's Degree at Columbia University in 1913, and subsequently, the Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the University of Michigan. He held teaching positions in Florida, Indiana, Kansas, and Oklahoma. During World War I, he served as an investigator for the Department of Labor. He was awarded the Laurel Wreath in 1935.

Guy Levis Grant, born in New Albany, Indiana, attended public schools in that city, was graduated from



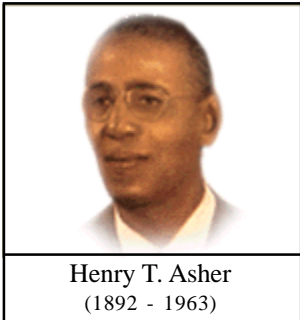
Scribner High School in 1909, and later entered Indiana University. While there, he majored in chemistry, graduating with the A.B. Degree in 1915. In 1920, he received the D.D.S Degree from Indiana Dental School, then a part of the University of Indiana. He practiced dentistry in Indianapolis. In 1929, he married Laura Hammons. He served as a member of the Grand Board of Directors and was the fraternity's Historian. In addition to his activities with **Kappa Alpha Psi**, Brother Grant held memberships in several civic, professional, and business organizations. He was a member of the Second Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

Ezra D. Alexander was born in 1892 in Bloomington, Indiana, the site of Indiana University. He was graduated from Bloomington High School in 1910. He matriculated at Indiana University in the fall of 1910 and was graduated from Indiana University in 1917 with the A.B. Degree. He received his M.D. Degree from the Medical School of Indiana University in 1919. He practiced medicine in Indianapolis. In 1920 he married Mary Hunter, a teacher in the Indianapolis public school system. Brother Alexander served several terms as a member of the Grand Board of Directors.



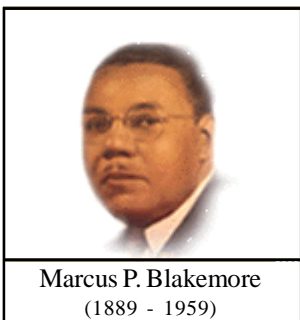
Dr. Ezra D. Alexander
(1892 - 1971)

Henry T. Asher, born in Woodburn, Kentucky in 1892, was graduated from the Bloomington High School in 1910. He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University in 1914 and the next year was an instructor at Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City, Missouri. He was a graduate student at the University of Minnesota in 1917. He received the LL.B. Degree at the Detroit College of Law in 1928.



Henry T. Asher
(1892 - 1963)

Marcus Peter Blakemore, born in Franklin, Indiana, attended common and high schools in Anderson, Indiana. He was graduated from high school in 1909 and entered the University of Indiana the following year. After leaving the university, he organized the Electrical Engineering Company which he operated until he enlisted in World War I. He later entered the Dental School of the University of Pittsburgh, from which he graduated in 1923. At the time of his death in October 1959, he was residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he maintained his practice of dentistry.



Marcus P. Blakemore
(1889 - 1959)

Edward Giles Irvin, born in Spencer, Indiana, on August 13, 1893, was graduated from Kokomo High School in 1910 and entered the University of Indiana that same year. After leaving school, he pursued a career in journalism in various cities throughout the country until World War I. Aside from his success as a journalist, Brother Irvin was a pioneer in promoting basketball and track athletics in the small-town schools of Indiana. He was an active member of the Methodist Church of Chicago and a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows Lodges. He organized and operated the Afro-American Manufacturing Company in Chicago, which produced novelties, candles, and specialties.



Edward Giles Irvin
(1893 - 1983)

Paul Waymond Caine was born in Charleston, Indiana, in 1891 and attended grade school and high school in Greencastle, Indiana. He enrolled at Indiana University in 1909 and helped the other Founders in organizing Kappa Alpha Nu. Because of a disastrous fire in the fraternity house in which he was employed, he never finished his sophomore year. Brother Caine went into the catering business in his hometown, later attended Columbia University, set up a catering business in Gary, Indiana, and published a book on catering, which was copyrighted in 1919 by the Hurst Publishing Company. Brother Caine was instrumental in setting up the Gamma, Delta, and Zeta Chapters. He later went into business in Peoria, Illinois, and was fatally burned during an explosion of gaseous materials in his business in 1922.



Paul Waymond Cain
(1891 - 1922)

George W. Edmonds was born in Vandenburg County, Knight Township, Indiana, on August 13, 1890. He entered Carver Elementary School and Clark High School in Evansville, graduating in 1910. In the fall of 1910, Edmonds entered Indiana University at Bloomington where he joined nine other students in founding **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity**. After Brother Edmonds returned home for the summer of 1911, his father became ill with pneumonia and died. Being the eldest son, Brother Edmonds became head of the family, thus preventing his return to school. He married the former Willa Mae Forte and settled in Stevenson, Indiana. They were the parents of one son, Noel. With the new responsibility of supporting the family, Edmonds took a job with the area mining companies and worked with the coal mines and the railroad until he died of pneumonia on June 13, 1962.



George W. Edmonds
(1890 - 1962)

The Chapters of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

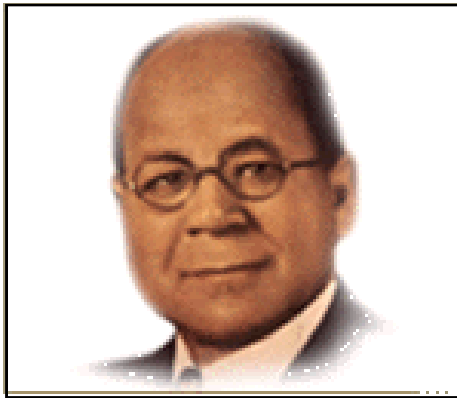
The Grand Chapter was composed of Diggs, Armstrong, and Lee with Diggs serving as both the national head and the head of the local chapter.

There was no attempt to expand during the first year. All efforts were directed toward the establishment of the organization upon a firm foundation before any expansion should be attempted. The movement for expansion began in 1913 in the Middle West, which was the natural setting for such a movement. Beta Chapter was set up at the University of Illinois, February 8, 1913, followed by Gamma Chapter at Indianapolis in December, 1913. On March 7, 1914, Elder Watson Diggs, the first Grand Polemarch, Paul Caine from Alpha, and William J. Prince from Beta, represented the Grand Chapter in establishing a chapter at the University of Iowa, naming it Delta of Kappa Alpha Nu. Since the Gamma Chapter of Indianapolis was defunct, the Grand Chapter decided that in the future only active undergraduate chapters would be designated by the Greek alphabet and alumni chapters would be named for the city in which they were located. The name of the University of Iowa chapter was changed to Gamma and the name Delta awaited the establishment of the fourth college chapter. The expansion of the fraternity was Central West and West from 1913 to 1915. The year 1915 saw the expansion to the East and the establishment of the first Eastern chapter, Epsilon, at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania on December 4, 1915.

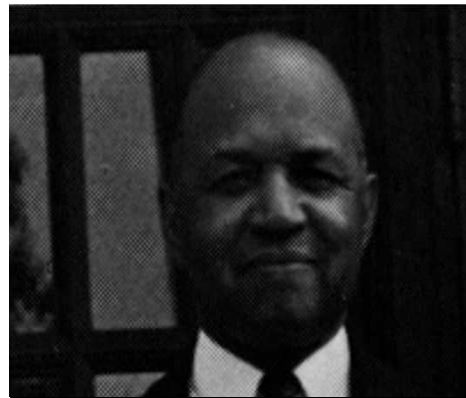
The expansion of the Fraternity was temporarily retarded by the World War. For at this crisis of our Fatherland, the loyal sons of Kappa willingly offered themselves up as living sacrifices upon the altar of patriotism in order that this democracy, about which we have talked and read, might be saved. Consequently, there was no Grand Chapter meeting in 1918. On November 11, 1918, the Armistice was signed putting an end to the world conflict. Slowly the country began to return to normalcy and Kappa began that wonderful march of conquest that was to stretch from the sun-kissed shores of California in the West to the rippling waters of the Atlantic in the East, and extending from His English Majesty's Dominion of Canada in the North to the semi-tropical waters of the Gulf of Mexico in the South. During this period, alumni chapters came into existence. The first alumni chapter was established in Chicago, Illinois, in April 1919. Such a chapter was the product of a small group of the "old reliable" and was conceived in the fertile brain of Brother B. K. Armstrong. Other cities took the cue and established alumni chapters.

The first and second Grand Chapter meetings were held in Bloomington, Indiana, the third at Indianapolis, and the fourth at Beta, University of Illinois. It was at this fourth Grand Chapter session in December 1914 that a resolution was proposed and passed unanimously changing the name of the Fraternity to **Kappa Alpha Psi**. This resolution went into effect by a proclamation of the Grand Polemarch, Elder Watson Diggs on April 15, 1915.

The first Grand Polemarch of **Kappa Alpha Psi** was Elder Watson Diggs of Alpha Chapter who held the office for six years. Upon Brother Diggs was conferred the degree of Past Grand Polemarch and as a reward for his valuable services to the Fraternity he was awarded the first Laurel Wreath, the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Fraternity. The second Grand Polemarch was Byron K. Armstrong. He modified the Constitution and served until 1920.



Elder W. Diggs
First Grand Polemarch



Irvin Armstrong
Second Grand Polemarch

In 1921, the Fraternity celebrated its 10th anniversary. In addition to the Indiana University Chapter, the Alpha of **Kappa Alpha Psi**, undergraduate chapters were established at the University of Illinois, University of Iowa, Wilberforce University, Lincoln University, Ohio State University, University of Nebraska, Northwestern University, University of Chicago, Meharry Medical College, Temple University, University of Kansas, Perdue University, and Howard University. The Fraternity also chartered alumni chapters in Chicago, IL, Cleveland, OH, Detroit, MI, Indianapolis, IN, and Louisville, KY. These 19 chapters were **Kappa Alpha Psi** when it came to Philadelphia on December 30, 1920 for its 10th Grand Chapter meeting.

The Regions

George F. David II was elected the third Grand Polemarch at the 10th Grand Chapter meeting. Before his election as Grand Polemarch, he served as Grand Lieutenant Strategus and Grand Keeper of Records under Byron K. Armstrong, the second Grand Polemarch. Grand Polemarch David proposed dividing the Fraternity into districts. His father, the Presiding Elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for Kentucky, had suggested the idea to the Grand Polemarch. The regional format he suggested improved the operating efficiency of the AME Church. At that time, the Fraternity did not have a national headquarters or an executive secretary. This new approach enabled the Grand Polemarch to keep the membership aware of Fraternity programs and their direction.

The delegates to the 10th Grand Chapter meeting adopted legislation that established the districts proposed by Grand Polemarch David. Initially, there were three regions. Past Grand Polemarch Irvin Armstrong, Harrison R. Duke and Harold M. Tyler were appointed the first Regional Administrators.

Guide Right - A National Movement

The Guide Right Movement originated in 1922 in St. Louis, Missouri. It was the creation of the St. Louis Alumni Chapter. Leon W. Steward, Polemarch of the Chapter at that time and Boy's Work Secretary of the Pine Street Y.M.C.A., gave impetus to the idea. He was assisted by Ben H. Mosby, Chairman of the Educational Committee of the Chapter, who developed the first Guide Right program, and by J. Jerome Peters, who presented the idea of a Guide Right program with necessary data to the Grand Chapter meeting in Louisville, Kentucky in 1923. The Grand Chapter at Louisville adopted the Guide Right Movement as a national project and a commission was established.

Dr. J. Jerome Peters served as Chairman of the first Guide Right Commission. Other Chairmen were Byron K. Armstrong, Ben H. Mosby, W. J. Holland and Leon Steward in that order.

The Guide Right idea grew out of the observation that Negro boys rarely are able to get at home the proper guidance necessary for the planning of productive lives. They seldom come in contact with men of training and experience who, as role models, might be able to give them positive direction. This movement was primarily designed to expose those boys to the training and experience of the men in their respective communities at the very time in the boys' lives when the need for this service is most critical. The purpose of the movement is a vocational one designed to help the young man find his place in the world of work and to assist him to enter some sphere of usefulness as a member of his community and the nation. Its aim is to "Guide Right" the future men of the race so that they might think seriously and constructively about their rightful position in life.

For several years the Commission has suggested a program known to have yielded much success in the past. Prior to "Guide Right Week" the local committee compiles the names and addresses of high school upperclassmen and ascertains their numbers. It also conducts a survey of the men of the community who might be of value as interviewers and speakers. The committee members make contact with the various churches and pastors relative to church cooperation on Guide Right Sunday, and they secure the proper places for meetings. "Guide Right Week" opens with a public meeting at which members of the chapter, the high school upperclassmen, and selected men of the community are in attendance. Representatives of six or eight different vocations tell the young men (in three minutes each) about the requirements for and the rewards of their respective vocations.

At some point during "Guide Right Week", the young participants are asked to complete self-discovery survey forms as a part of their package. The boys are interviewed by the community representative during the course of which the interviewer is expected to provide the lad with any advice that he requests or appears to need if his life's preparation is to be successful. Individual boys sometimes require or request several meetings with the representatives and these contacts are arranged by the committee. At the conclusion of the program the self-discovery surveys are returned to the committee where they are evaluated and filed for future reference in the event that the young men should subsequently apply for assistance of any kind (which they should be encouraged to do). Members of the committee provide the young men with assistance as they select their courses and make arrangements to attend college or to seek placement in various trades or business firms as the initial step to entering the world of work.

According to an article entitled “*What is Guide Right?*” by Leon W. Steward which was published in the February 1936 edition of the ***Kappa Alpha Psi Journal***, “*the public meeting makes at least four contributions to a Guide Right Week Program:*

1. *It advertises the Fraternity in a very favorable way.*
2. *It gives play to chapter members who are particularly interested in outside demonstrations.*
3. *It helps to create the proper atmosphere for the most important work of the week.*
4. *And, if special efforts are made to secure the attendance of parents, teachers, and the more or less successful men and women of the community, it might be of a special follow-up value.”*

The Twelfth Grand Chapter

In 1922, over 200 delegates from most of the major cities in the United States gathered in Chicago on December, 27, 28 and 29 for the Grand Chapter meeting. The St. Louis Alumni Chapter presented its Guide Right Program and it was accepted as a National Movement.

W. Ellis Stewart, the fourth Grand Polemarch, increased the number of regions from three to seven. The directors of the seven regions were Allen C. Bean (Region I), Ira J. K. Wells (Region II), C. O. Pearson (Region III), R. L. Bailey (Region IV), B. F. Tinsley (Region V), J. Snowden (Region VI), and H. W. Hollie (Region VII).