

SECTION 10

The Regional Level of Sigma Tau Delta

In order to serve the student members of Sigma Tau Delta more effectively and to promote better communication among chapters, the board of directors has defined six geographic regions. At international conventions, as terms expire, the student delegates in each region elect two people to represent their region: a student representative and a regent. The student representative serves a one-year term (and may run for a second term), works closely with the regent and the student advisors, and through, them provides a student voice to the board of directors. The regent, an active sponsor of a chapter, serves a four-year term, directs the activities for his or her region, and is a voting member of the board of directors. For a list of the regents and student representatives, and their addresses and phone numbers, see <www.english.org/contacts.shtml>.

1. The Role of the Student Representative

Student representatives are elected by the students of a particular region to represent student concerns to the board of directors. They work closely with the regents, helping with chapter recruitment and development. Whereas regents work mainly with chapter sponsors, student representatives work to establish and maintain as much direct contact with chapter officers and members as is possible.

To help promote better communication within the region, student representatives produce and distribute regional newsletters. These newsletters include local chapter activities as well as information about regional and international conferences and conventions. Student representatives are also closely involved in planning and presenting regional and state conferences, and they serve on the Chapter Development Committee, representing the important student voice to the board of directors.

2. The Role of the Regent

The responsibility for the development and promotion of Sigma Tau Delta within each specific region lies with the regents. It is the responsibility of the regents to make sure that chapters have up-to-date information about Sigma Tau Delta activities, both on the international level and on the regional level. The regents provide the best link for communication among chapters in each region as well as between chapters and the board of directors or the Central Office. Serving on the board of directors, regents are in a key position to promote the goals of the society.

Regents also promote and help plan regional conferences and other gatherings of chapters within the region. Working directly with chapter sponsors, the regents ensure the ongoing growth of chapters and serve as valuable spokespersons for recruiting chapters within the geographic area. Regents also encourage and support attendance at international conventions.

For more specific job requirements and information on elections, see the *Constitution*, Article IV, Sections III-VI. For addresses and phone numbers of current Sigma Tau Delta regents, see <www.english.org/contacts.shtml>.

3. List of Regions by State

For a complete list of chapters, see the spring issue of *The Rectangle* or www.english.org/directory.shtml.

EASTERN *

Connecticut
Delaware
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont
West Virginia

FAR WESTERN

Alaska
California
Idaho
Hawaii
Nevada
Oregon
Utah
Washington

HIGH PLAINS

Colorado
Kansas
Montana
Nebraska
North Dakota

South Dakota
Wyoming

MIDWESTERN

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Wisconsin

SOUTHERN **

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia

SOUTHWESTERN

Arizona
Arkansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

* Includes European and Canadian Chapters and the District of Columbia

** Includes Caribbean Chapters

4. Regional Activities and Conferences

Since international conventions are held every year in the spring, regional conferences are held in the fall. Regional conferences help foster communication among members and chapters, allow students to present original critical and creative work, provide opportunities for members to network and share ideas, and to promote the educational and service-related goals of the society. The board of directors provides limited financial support for officially recognized regional conferences. Also, regents and student representatives often help plan and organize events.

State and area conferences are also highly encouraged. These conferences can be smaller, one-day events. Shared activities among chapters within regions encourage growth and provide much-needed links between members. Regents' funds may be available to support such events.

5. Hosting a Regional Conference

Any chapter, with the approval of the regent, may host a regional, state, or area conference. If your chapter wishes to sponsor such an event, please contact your regent and student representative. The Central Office can supply further materials to help with planning and organizing a conference. Chapters hosting regional conferences should be aware of the great time and financial commitment involved. Regional, state, and area conferences, however, are stimulating and exciting events both for chapters attending and for those hosting the event. Your chapter will find these events well worth the time and energy involved.

For specific information on hosting a conference, see appendix 2 of this *Handbook* or contact the Central Office.