



Mortar Board

Scholars...Chosen for Leadership...United to Serve

INK: Important news for chapter officers and advisors

Revised national fees are announced

At the 2009 Mortar Board National Conference, delegates from each active Mortar Board chapter voted to raise the national membership fee from \$60 to \$75 per member. Membership dues had not previously been increased since 2003. Had Mortar Board been gradually raising membership fees over the past six years, dues would now be at \$75. Mortar Board will now have the flexibility to build new programs and increase support with this increase.

Mortar Board operates very conservatively, and more than 82 percent of the budget is directed toward programs, like the National Conference, chapter support, and membership benefits. Approximately 18 percent is allocated to general overhead – such as staffing, occupancy, postage, supplies, audit or telephone.

We understand that this dues increase may make it more difficult for some members to pay dues in their full amount. Some chapters have already expressed interest in fundraising to help subsidize members' payments. To pay the difference (\$15) for 20 members, this means a chapter would need to raise \$300.

Fundraising ideas to help your chapter underwrite the dues increase:

- Sell graduation flowers with Blossom Express and your chapter can earn up to \$2,000 in just one day of work! The first five new chapters to sign up to sell flowers will receive a special introductory grant of \$250. For more information, please call Lori Taylor at Blossom Express at 1-800-332-7421.
- Host a karaoke night on campus.
- Sell products at efundraising.com - simply share the link with friends and family and watch your proceeds grow.
- Earn between \$.50 and \$1 for each accepted book collected during a Better World Books book drive. For more information, please e-mail Campus@BetterWorldBooks.com or see the article later in this e-newsletter.
- Partner with a local restaurant to have a "Mortar Board night" where the restaurant pays Mortar Board a portion of proceeds for guests directed to the restaurant by Mortar Board.
- See more ideas on the Mortar Board fundraising help page.

Outline of applicable fees

Membership dues make it possible for Mortar Board to provide valuable support and services as well as the honor of lifetime membership in one of the most prestigious national senior honor societies. All chapters are required to monitor payment of individual members and submit their chapter conference fee to the Mortar Board National Office:

Fee	Amount	Paid by
National new member fee	\$75*	Member to chapter
Continuing senior fee	\$25	Member to chapter
Local new member fee	Varies	Member to chapter
Conference fee	\$200	Chapter from funds

**Based on financial need, each chapter is permitted to waive one new member fee annually. The Coral V. Stevens Gift Membership is selected confidentially, and may be awarded to one new member or a few, up to a maximum of \$75.*

What do fees cover?

The \$75 individual membership fee includes:

- Subscription to the Mortar Board Forum magazine
- National membership certificate
- Official pin

Deadlines and Reminders

All report forms are available online and should be submitted to reports@mortarboard.org!

December 15

- Membership Recruitment and Selection Plan (MRSP) due
- Mortar Board Week Visibility Grant application due

January 31

- Applications for Mortar Board postgraduate fellowships due

March 15

- Excellence in Advising nominations due
- Alumni award nominations due
- Conference assistant applications due
- *Forum* submissions due
- Conference registration opens

May 15

- Chapter Annual Report due
- Chapter Finance Report due
- Final Official Membership Report (OMR) due
- Officer Address Information Form due
- Chapter Project Grant application due
- Conference registration due
- Historian Annual Report due
- Annual chapter award nominations due
- All fees due

Give the gift of
Mortar Board merchandise



Each purchase comes with the
option of a complimentary gift
message.

- Benefits and discounts from Mortar Board partners
- Access to the Mortar Board Career and Graduate School Network
- Access to a scholarship search engine
- Exclusive graduate fellowship opportunities available only to Mortar Board members
- The honor and prestige of Mortar Board membership

The chapter \$200 conference fee:

- Helps defray a portion of the annual Mortar Board National Conference expenses
- Provides for chapter operations information shared at the conference
- Supports a vehicle for chapters to come together annually to learn and share about scholarship, leadership and service
- Allows for one official chapter delegate from each chapter to travel to the annual national conference, to participate in governance of the organization, enjoy meals, hotel stay and all materials at no additional cost - valued at more than \$500

How does my chapter pay fees?

Each member will pay his or her \$75 membership fee directly to the chapter prior to initiation. It is the responsibility of the chapter treasurer and membership chair to work with the National Office to ensure that all candidates have paid their fees prior to initiation. The conference fee of \$200 should be paid by check or credit card along with membership dues within one week following initiation.

Fund your publicity efforts with a Mortar Board Week Visibility Grant

Mortar Board is offering a special grant to chapters who hope to enhance their visibility during Mortar Board Week (February 14 - 20, 2010). This grant can be used to cover any visibility costs, from printing T-shirts to buying advertising.

The deadline is quickly approaching - December 15 - so be sure to complete the grant application online now! Recipients will be notified on or before Monday, January 12.

Furthering your education?

Apply for a Mortar Board fellowship.

Each year, the Mortar Board National Foundation awards fellowships to members to assist in financing their postgraduate education. Thousands of dollars will be available for Mortar Board fellowships for the 2010-2011 academic year, with applications due on January 31, 2010.

Recipients are chosen for academic excellence, recommendation, promise, financial need and Mortar Board involvement. Since the establishment of the Mortar Board fellowship program in 1941, more than \$500,000 has been awarded to members pursuing further study in graduate or professional school.

- **Apply now** at www.mortarboard.org/forms/fellowship.php
- **Learn more** at <http://www.mortarboard.org/opp/fellowships.html>

Better World Books: the service project in a box

A book drive with Better World Books is a great way to raise money for your chapter and support the "Reading is Leading" national project. With these projects, chapters can earn \$.50 to \$1 for each accepted book.

"We are all really busy...but Better World Books makes it easy on us. The book drive has become really important to our chapter – a tradition we pass on from year to year!" Hsiao-lin Wang, past president of Mortar Board at University of Missouri – Kansas City, raved about the program.

Better World Books has raised more than \$7 million in support of its mission to help break the cycle of poverty through literacy and education. Additionally, the program has diverted 12,000 tons of books from landfills since its first book drive in May of 2002.

Connect with Mortar Board



Icebreaker of the month New Year Pennies

Supplies:

- Pennies (enough for each chapter member and advisor to have one) with recent years, none before 1994
- A small sheet of paper with the text below and attached penny.

Happy New Year! Here is your Mortar Board penny for 2010. Whether you keep it in your pocket, purse, wallet, or at home, it will always bring you strength and courage. Each of your fellow Mortar Board members has a penny too – combined we all make 25 cents (or the equivalent amount for your chapter) – It is important to remember during this year that each of us is only a penny, but together we are always more valuable!

Procedure: Have members and advisors introduce themselves (name, major, any Mortar Board offices or committees) and tell a brief story from the year on their penny.

Recruitment tip of the month

Use your time away from classes during winter break to ensure that you are organized and prepared for recruitment. The chapter's membership chair and president should select a membership committee to help with the planning process.

Complete your chapter's application or nomination form and have it reviewed by officers and advisors.

Don't forget! The Membership Recruitment and Selection Plan (MRSP) is due to the National Office on December 15.

Start your Mortar Board Week preparations

Mortar Board Week is the perfect time for chapters to hold events and celebrate the founding of Mortar Board.

Detailed assistance with both planning and publicity for the week is available at www.mortarboard.org/mbweek.

How it works

1. Each chapter is assigned a personal account representative to guide you throughout the book drive.
2. All boxes and materials are provided by Better World Books and shipped to your campus. There is no cost to your chapter!
3. The chapter chooses one of five nonprofit literacy partners to benefit from the campus book drive: Books for Africa, Room to Read, Worldfund, the National Center for Family Literacy or Invisible Children
4. Chapters earn \$.50 per accepted book or \$1 per accepted, prescreened book. If you collect 1,000 accepted books and you prescreened the books, your chapter would earn \$1,000!
5. Checks are mailed bi-annually to your chapter.
6. Chapters are given access to an online, environmental report that calculates the environmental impact of the book drive on your campus!

To get started, e-mail Campus@BetterWorldBooks.com.

Chapter spotlight: Kansas State University

The XIX chapter, chartered in 1928, has a tradition of excellence. Members are committed to Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service and continually select new members with that same commitment to continue their legacy.

This year, chapter members have enjoyed supporting the national project, "Reading is Leading," with multiple projects. The group hosted two "candy stands" in the K-State Student Union where passersby could vote for their favorite book by putting money into the cup in front of it and receive candy for their donation. Proceeds from the "candy stands" were donated to the First Book Virtual Book Drive. Members also read to students at a local elementary school. Chapter President Veronica Baus explained, "I'm really excited to be able to make a difference for children in the classroom setting. I'm not getting my degree in education, so this hands-on opportunity is a way I can give back and support the local reading and literacy initiative."

One of the factors that undoubtedly makes this chapter so outstanding is the exceptional bond members have with each other. This relationship was strengthened by an overnight retreat held in early September to kick off the year and maintained with regular social outings such as theatre nights, restaurant gatherings, a holiday party and group barbecues.

The chapter's sturdy support system allows members to build lasting friendships and pride for each other. During each meeting, the group has an "Outstanding News" portion where members can share their successes (being accepted into a graduate program, receiving academic recognition, being hired for an internship, etc.). Students can also choose to highlight another member's accomplishments by recognizing him or her with the with the "Mortar Board Spotlight."

Another great characteristic of the chapter is exceptional preparation. The chapter has already solidified plans to celebrate Mortar Board's 92nd anniversary during Mortar Board Week, February 14 - 20. In addition to sharing information about the Society with a Mortar Board table in the K-State Student Union, the group will host a campuswide Leadership Forum. Numerous influential faculty and staff (including the university president, dean of student life, and athletics director) will participate in the forum. The chapter's efforts will conclude with membership applications being due at the end of the week, combining visibility and recruitment, to continue their legacy.

Your chapter can be in the spotlight too! Nominate your chapter by sending your chapter name, university, e-mail address and what makes your chapter unique to enews@mortarboard.org.



INK: Important monthly news for chapter officers and advisors

The Mortar Board INK, distributed September through May from enews@mortarboard.org, serves as a resource for officers and advisors of Mortar Board. This important newsletter includes:

- National deadlines
- Important reminders
- Chapter highlights
- Important announcements
- Ideas for projects, fundraisers and more

Officers and advisors reported in the Officer Address Information Form receive this newsletter. Please forward this to others who you believe would benefit or ask them to subscribe.