TAU BETA SIGMA

NATIONAL HONORARY BAND SORORITY

FALL MAILER

2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

FOR GREATER BANDS





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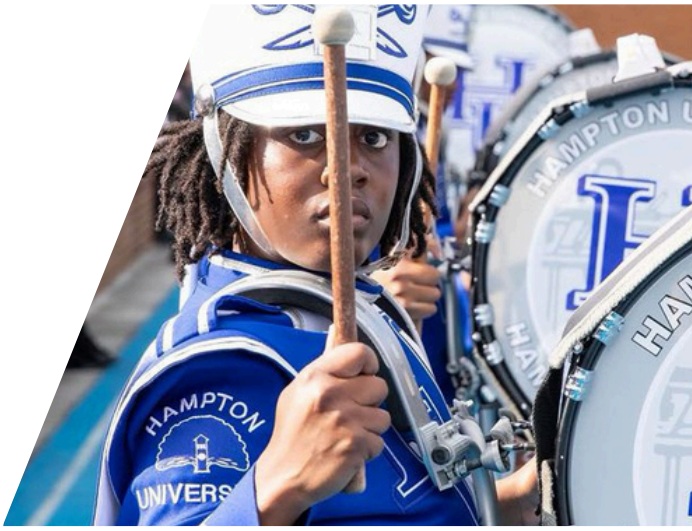



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CELEBRATE A NEW YEAR

A message from the National President

Welcome to the 2026-2027 academic year!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Welcome to a new academic year! Whether your Chapter is returning to campus, preparing for your first performance of the season, welcoming new members of your band program, or already well into the semester, I hope you are excited for all that the year ahead can hold.

Across Tau Beta Sigma, our Chapters enter this year from many different places. Some are growing, some are rebuilding, and others are thinking about how to build upon years of strong traditions. Wherever your Chapter finds itself, this is an opportunity to be intentional about what comes next - how you serve your bands, strengthen your Sisterhood, develop your members, and continue building a Chapter that will thrive beyond this year.

As we begin the second year of our biennium, we also have much to look forward to together. Over the coming months, we will continue creating opportunities to connect and learn across the Sorority, celebrating the work happening within our Chapters and band programs, and preparing to come together in Bethesda for our 2027 National Convention.

This Fall Mailer is designed to help you get started. Inside, you will find the most important information your Chapter needs for the year ahead: key deadlines and reporting requirements, updates on work that requires your Chapter's attention, resources to support your operations and membership, and opportunities to engage with Tau Beta Sigma beyond your campus.

My hope is that you will use it not simply as something to read, but as a resource to return to as you plan your year.

There is so much ahead of us, and I am excited to see what our Chapters will accomplish together. Thank you for the time, energy, creativity, and care you continue to give to Tau Beta Sigma and, most importantly, to the bands we serve.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

For Greater Bands, always.



Allison Leemann
42nd National President of Tau Beta Sigma

STAY IN CONTACT WITH THE COUNCIL

council@tbsigma.org
tbs@tbsigma.org

www.tbsigma.org

GET READY FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

As we begin another academic year together, there are a few things we encourage every Chapter to prioritize early. Taking time now to connect, plan, and complete these important responsibilities will help set your Chapter up for a successful 2026–2027 academic and membership year.



Connect Leaders & Advisors

Make sure your Officers, Sponsor, and Director of Bands are connected and ready for the year ahead. Know your District Council, District Counselors, and assigned Chapter Visitation Associate and how they can support your Chapter throughout the year.



Complete Fall Reporting

Submit your Chapter Personnel Report, complete the required approvals, pay National dues and fees, and make sure your Chapter and officer information is current.



Review & Update Constitution

Every Chapter will have work to complete this year to ensure its local Constitution aligns with the National Constitution and current Sorority requirements. Review the guidance in this mailer and begin that process early to submit by September 30, 2026..



Plan for the Year Financially

Develop and approve your Chapter budget, submit it by the National deadline on September 30, 2026, and think ahead about the expenses your Chapter expects throughout the year - including preparing for National Convention in July.



Look Ahead at Membership

Consider not only how many members you have today, but who will continue into next year. Make plans for recruitment and Membership Education that will help your Chapter remain strong and sustainable.



Map Out the Year

Put your important Chapter, District, and National dates on the calendar and begin planning for your service, programs, membership activities, band responsibilities, and other goals for the year.



Find tools, templates, and step-by-step guides in the resources throughout this Mailer and online on the National website.

CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Each year brings important responsibilities that help our Chapters remain strong and operate successfully. As we begin 2026–2027, there are several areas that will require action from every Chapter.

EIN & 990 Status

Earlier this year, Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi shared an important update regarding the EIN and federal tax-exempt status of many of our Chapters and Local Alumni Associations. The National Organizations, Headquarters staff, and OmegaFi are now beginning a multi-year process to reinstate affected accounts and strengthen our systems for maintaining compliance moving forward.

What does my Chapter need to do?

There is no action your Chapter needs to take to initiate the reinstatement process. This work is being coordinated centrally, and affected Chapters will be contacted as their accounts move through the process.

There are, however, a few things we need from every Chapter:

- Continue completing all required National and university reporting and compliance responsibilities on time.
- Provide complete and accurate financial information when requested through Fall and Spring Activity Reports or other National reporting.
- Respond promptly if National Headquarters or a member of the Project 990 team contacts your Chapter for additional information or documentation.
- Keep your Chapter's financial records organized and accessible so that current and future officers can provide information when needed.

Chapters installed after September 1, 2023 are not expected to be affected by the reinstatement process.

Have questions about Project 990?

Contact National Executive Director Dollie O'Neill (oneill@kkytbs.org) or National President Allison Leemann at (allison@tbsigma.org).

Chapter Operations Guidebook

Example Budget & Ledger

CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Each year brings important responsibilities that help our Chapters remain strong and operate successfully. As we begin 2026–2027, there are several areas that will require action from every Chapter.

Chapter Constitution Updates

As part of our ongoing work to strengthen Chapter operations and support the long-term compliance of Tau Beta Sigma, all Chapters will be required to update their local Chapter Constitution for the 2026–2027 academic year.

These updates will ensure that every Chapter Constitution clearly reflects the charitable and educational purposes of Tau Beta Sigma and includes the provisions necessary for Chapters to operate as tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The National Council has provided templated language for Chapters to incorporate into their local Constitution. This language addresses affiliation with the National Organization, our charitable and educational purposes and public benefit, non-profit operation, applicable limitations on activities, and the appropriate distribution of Chapter assets should a Chapter close.

What does my Chapter need to do?

1. **Review the provided Constitution language**. Chapter officers should review the required updates with your Sponsor and Director of Bands and identify where the new language should be incorporated into your current Constitution.
2. **Incorporate the required language into your Chapter Constitution.** Use the language provided by the National Council. Chapters should not independently rewrite or substantially modify the required 501(c)(3) provisions.
3. **Complete your Chapter's approval process.** Follow the amendment procedures established in your current Chapter Constitution, as well as any review or approval requirements of your college or university.
4. **Submit your updated Constitution to the National Organization.** Once approved locally, submit your updated Chapter Constitution by September 30, 2026.

Required Language & Constitution Guidance: Constitution Template with Required Updates
Submission Deadline: September 30, 2026
Submit Your Updated Constitution: Constitution Submission Link

Ensuring that these purposes are clearly reflected in our governing documents is an important step in strengthening our Chapters and Tau Beta Sigma for the future.

Chapter Operations Guidebook | **Example Constitution**

CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Each year brings important responsibilities that help our Chapters remain strong and operate successfully. As we begin 2026–2027, there are several areas that will require action from every Chapter.

Chapter Budgets & Financial Records

Strong financial practices help Chapters plan for the year ahead, make informed decisions, and ensure that future officers inherit clear and accurate financial records.

Each Chapter should begin the academic year with an approved budget and maintain an accurate record of its income and expenses throughout the year. To support this work, Tau Beta Sigma has created a new Chapter Budget & Ledger Template that provides one place to plan, track, and understand your Chapter's finances.

The template is designed to be your Chapter's ongoing financial resource - not another form to complete once and forget.

What does my Chapter need to do?

1. **Develop and approve your 2026–2027 Chapter budget.** Work with your Chapter officers and members to identify your expected income and expenses for the year. Be sure to account for National and District obligations, Chapter activities and service, Membership Education, and other anticipated expenses - including planning ahead for National Convention in July 2027.
2. **Submit your Chapter budget by September 30, 2026.**
3. **Keep your financial records up to date throughout the year.** Use the ledger within the template to record Chapter income and expenses as they occur.

Chapter Budget & Ledger Template: View Only Link | Create Your Chapter Budget Link
Budget Submission Deadline: September 30, 2026
Submit Your Budget: Budget Submission Link

Make It a Chapter Resource

Your Chapter's finances should never live with only one person. The President and Treasurer should both understand the Chapter's financial position, and records should be maintained in a location that can be transferred easily to future officers.

A few minutes spent keeping your ledger current throughout the year will make financial reporting, officer transitions, and planning for future activities significantly easier.

Chapter Operations Guidebook

Example Budget & Ledger

NATIONAL REPORT DEADLINES

Accurate and on-time reporting keeps your Chapter's membership records current, supports the work of National Headquarters, and helps your Chapter remain in good standing throughout the year.

Chapter Reporting

Report	Due	What You Need to Know
Chapter Personnel Report (CPR)	September 30 – Semester Schools October 15 – Quarter Schools	Available in OPUS beginning August 15. Confirms your Active membership for the academic year and establishes National dues and fees.
Officer & Chapter Update	As changes occur	Maintain current Chapter Officers and contact information throughout the year.
Fall Activity Report (FAR)	December 1	Reports Chapter activities and operations for the fall semester, including required financial information.
Spring Activity Report (SAR)	June 1	Reports Chapter activities and operations for the spring semester and completes annual Chapter reporting.
Graduating Senior Report	Within 30 days of a university graduation	Ensures graduating members are appropriately reflected in National membership records.

On Time Means Complete

A report is considered on time when all required components have been completed by the deadline. Submitting the initial form does not necessarily complete the reporting process. Depending on the report, this may include required information, signatures or acknowledgements, Sponsor and/or Director of Bands approval, and payment.

OPUS FAQs Chapter Assistance Request

NATIONAL REPORT DEADLINES

Accurate and on-time reporting keeps your Chapter's membership records current, supports the work of National Headquarters, and helps your Chapter remain in good standing throughout the year.

Membership Education Report

Report	Due
Membership Education Plan	Submission by August 1 for Fall membership activities and December 1 for Spring membership activities
Membership Candidate Registration	Due within 7 days of completing First Degree. Requires acknowledgement signatures to be complete.
Initiate Registration	Due within 30 days of completing Third Degree. Requires payment of Initiate Fees to be complete.

Membership Education Resources: www.tbsigma.org/overture

New This Fall: Online Payments in OPUS

Beginning this fall, a new online payment system will be fully integrated into OPUS, allowing Chapters to submit and manage payments directly alongside their National forms.

There are also important changes to how payment processing fees will be handled.

Debit/Credit Card
Payments made by debit or credit card will include a 2% processing fee plus a $0.15 payment platform fee.

E-Check (ACH)
Chapters may pay directly from a bank account by e-check with no processing fee.

Check or Money Order
Payments may also be mailed to National Headquarters with no processing fee. If mailing payment, plan ahead to ensure it is received by the applicable reporting deadline. We recommend using a mailing method that provides tracking.

For Chapters wishing to avoid processing fees, e-check will generally be the most direct no-fee option within the new online payment system.

OPUS FAQs Chapter Assistance Request

MEMBERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Strong Chapters are intentional about membership. As you begin the year, take time to look beyond your current roster and think about what your Chapter will need not only this semester, but next year and beyond.

Know Your Membership Outlook

Membership growth does not look the same for every Chapter or band program. The goal isn't simply to recruit the largest possible class - it is to consistently identify band members who connect with the Mission and Values of Tau Beta Sigma and who can help your Chapter continue its work For Greater Bands.

Start by looking at where your Chapter is today and where it is headed. Consider:

- How many Active members are beginning the year with your Chapter?
- How many members do you expect to graduate this year?
- Who will be returning for the 2027–2028 academic year?
- Are your members engaged and participating in the work of the Chapter?
- Does your Chapter have enough continuing members to support leadership transitions and ongoing operations?
- When does recruitment and Membership Education make the most sense within the rhythm of your band program?

If your Chapter anticipates a significant decrease in membership, don't wait until the end of the year to begin planning. Your Counselor, Chapter Visitation Associate, and National Council can help you think through recruitment, Membership Education, leadership transitions, and other strategies for building a sustainable path forward.

Recruitment is a Chapter Responsibility

Recruitment works best when it is part of your Chapter's year—not simply an activity that begins a few weeks before Membership Education.

Talk together about the members of your band program who demonstrate service, musicianship, leadership, and a commitment to supporting others. Create opportunities for prospective members to learn about Tau Beta Sigma, experience the work your Chapter does, and build genuine relationships with your members.

And remember: recruitment belongs to the whole Chapter. While an officer or committee may coordinate your efforts, every member can help identify, welcome, and connect with potential members.

MEMBERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Strong Chapters are intentional about membership. As you begin the year, take time to look beyond your current roster and think about what your Chapter will need not only this semester, but next year and beyond.

Membership Education

Once your Chapter is ready to begin Membership Education, the Overture Curriculum and your Chapter Membership Education Program document provide the framework for creating a consistent and meaningful Candidate experience.

Before beginning the process, make sure your Chapter:

- has an approved Membership Education Plan;
- understands the current National Membership Education requirements and timeline;
- has identified the members responsible for facilitating the process; and
- is prepared to complete Membership Candidate and Initiate reporting on time.

Membership Education Resources: www.tbsigma.org/overture
Passwords to Access MEP & Overture Information: Join the Discord

Start Early: OPUS & Membership Fees

A little preparation at the beginning of Membership Education can prevent delays as your Chapter approaches initiation.

During Module 1, consider facilitating a brief OPUS overview with your Candidates. Make sure each Candidate can access their account, knows where to find required forms and information, and has reviewed and completed their portion of the Membership Candidate Registration (MCR).

This is also the time to begin conversations about membership fees and payment plans. If your Chapter offers payment plans, establish them early in the Membership Education Process so Candidates have time to prepare for the cost of membership before initiation. Waiting until the initiation deadline can create unnecessary financial pressure and increase the risk of late fees

Best Practice: By the end of Module 1, every Candidate should be able to access OPUS, have completed their required portion of the MCR, and understand the Chapter's expectations and timeline for membership fees.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR YEAR

Tau Beta Sigma has resources and opportunities designed to help you strengthen your Chapter, grow as a member and leader, and make the most of your experience throughout the year.

Explore Our Updated Resources

Two of our core resources have been fully updated for the year ahead. Bookmark them now and return to them whenever your Chapter needs guidance or inspiration.

Chapter Operations Guidebook
Your go-to resource for the day-to-day work of running a Tau Beta Sigma Chapter. Find guidance on Chapter leadership and operations, National requirements, finances, membership, reporting, and more. Throughout this Fall Mailer, we'll point you back to the Guidebook when more detailed information is available.

National Programs Guide
Turn our Mission into action with updated information, ideas, and resources for Tau Beta Sigma's National Programs. Use the Guide as you set goals, build your Chapter calendar, and explore opportunities for service, musicianship, recognition, and engagement.

Explore the Chapter Operations Guidebook: Chapter Operations Guidebook 2026
Explore the National Programs Guide: National Programs Guide 2026

Grow & Develop

Cadence Leadership Development Pilot

Beginning this fall, Tau Beta Sigma will pilot Cadence, a new leadership development experience for Active members. From October 2026 through June 2027, a cohort of up to 30 members will participate in leadership masterclasses, mentoring, and skill-building experiences designed to support their growth within Tau Beta Sigma and beyond. The pilot will also help shape the future of leadership development opportunities across the Sorority.

What will Cadence explore?

- Leadership Theory in Action
- Inclusive & Empathetic Leadership
- Organizational Operations
- Learning from Failure & Disappointment
- Relationship Building & Networking
- Ritual and the 5 & 8 as Leadership Lessons
- Collaboration & Goal Setting

Learn More About Cadence: Watch the Info Session Recording | Pilot Cohort Application Link

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR YEAR

Throughout 2026–2027, there are opportunities to put our Mission into action, grow as members and leaders, connect across the Sorority, and celebrate the work happening throughout our Chapters and bands.

Grow & Develop

Music Education & Musicianship Mentorship Program

Connect, learn, and grow through the new mentorship program from the Music Education and Musicianship Committee. This opportunity will connect members with mentors and peers around shared interests in music education and musicianship, creating space for development, conversation, and connection beyond the Chapter level.

Explore the Mentorship Program: Participation Submission Link

Celebrate Great Work

The work of our members and Chapters deserves to be celebrated. Throughout the year, Tau Beta Sigma offers scholarships, awards, and recognition opportunities celebrating achievement in academics, musicianship, leadership, service, Chapter operations, and contributions to the college band movement.

Don't wait until applications open to start thinking about recognition. Keep track of your Chapter's accomplishments, celebrate great work locally, and encourage members to apply for opportunities that recognize their individual achievements.

Awards & Recognition: www.tbsigma.org/awards
Scholarships: www.tbsigma.org/scholarships

Take on Focus on Five

The Focus on Five Campaign has been refreshed for 2026–2027 with updated opportunities to engage with the Mission and Values of Tau Beta Sigma throughout the year. Focus on Five is designed to recognize the work your Chapter is already doing - not create another checklist of activities to complete. Review the campaign early as you set goals and build your Chapter calendar, and look for ways your service, musicianship, National Programs, leadership, and engagement can work together.

Explore the 2026–2027 Focus on Five Campaign

E PLURIBUS, UNISON: NatCon 2027

National Convention is our opportunity to experience the full breadth of Tau Beta Sigma - to make music together, learn from new voices, celebrate our accomplishments, conduct the business of our Sorority, build new relationships, and help shape our future.

Looking Ahead: National Convention 2027

From July 13–16, 2027, Tau Beta Sigma will come together in Bethesda, Maryland, for our next National Convention and the culmination of the 2025–2027 biennium.

Guided by our Convention theme, E Pluribus, Unison - Out of Many, One Sound, we will bring together the many voices, experiences, and perspectives of our Sisterhood as we celebrate where we have been and look toward what comes next. We hope every Chapter will begin thinking now about how they will be represented in Bethesda next summer.

Learn more about NatCon: www.natcon.kkytbsonline.com

Start Your Road to Bethesda

Attending National Convention takes planning, particularly when it comes to your Chapter's finances. Starting early gives your Chapter more time to budget, fundraise, and think creatively about how you can support members attending next summer.

Our Road to Bethesda resource is designed to help Chapters plan for the costs of National Convention and build those expenses into your 2026–2027 financial plans.

This fall, include National Convention in your Chapter budget, explore the Road to Bethesda resource together, and begin conversations about who may be interested in representing your Chapter next summer.

Start Your Road to Bethesda: www.tbsigma.org/bethesda

2027 National Convention Site

Road to Bethesda Planning Resource

E PLURIBUS, UNISON: NatCon 2027

National Convention is our opportunity to experience the full breadth of Tau Beta Sigma - to make music together, learn from new voices, celebrate our accomplishments, conduct the business of our Sorority, build new relationships, and help shape our future.

What Can You Look Forward To?

There is a lot in store for us when we come together in Bethesda. The 2027 National Convention will create opportunities to make music, learn and grow, exchange ideas, celebrate our Sisterhood, and help shape the future of Tau Beta Sigma.

Make Music & Grow as Musicians

Music will be at the heart of our time together. Members will have opportunities to perform through the National Intercollegiate Band and Intercollegiate Jazz Band, bringing together outstanding collegiate musicians from across the country. A dedicated Music Hour will also create space to engage in musicianship and performance, connect with music professionals, and explore new ideas and experiences centered on the Art that brings us together.

Learn & Be Inspired

The President's Speaker Series will bring new voices and perspectives to our Convention experience, while a themed workshop series will invite members to explore Growth & Resilience, Fortitude & Courage, Sisterhood & Belonging, and Service & Purpose through practical learning, reflection, and conversation.

Share Ideas & Learn from One Another

Some of our greatest resources are each other. Through the Ideas Exchange, members and Chapters will have opportunities to share successful programs and practices, learn from one another's experiences, and bring new ideas home to their Chapters and bands.

Experience Our Ritual & Sisterhood

Experience our National Ritual through the Ritual of Excellence, where we will welcome new Honorary Members into Tau Beta Sigma, and celebrate the traditions that connect our Sisterhood across generations. Throughout Convention, reconnect with old friends, build new relationships, and share in the moments—both planned and unexpected—that make coming together as a Sisterhood so meaningful.

Shape What Comes Next

Every Chapter has a voice in the future of Tau Beta Sigma. Through Convention business, committee work, discussion, and decision-making, our members will help determine the direction of our Sorority as we prepare to begin a new biennium.

Watch throughout the year as we share more about the speakers, musicians, workshops, performances, programs, and experiences coming to Bethesda.

2027 National Convention Site

Road to Bethesda Planning Resource

MAKE MUSIC AT NATCON 2027

The National Intercollegiate Band brings together outstanding college and university musicians from across the country to rehearse and perform during National Convention.

What Can You Look Forward To?

For 2027, the NIB will be conducted by Dr. Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin of Penn State and will feature a new work by composer Viet Cuong of UNLV.



COMMISSIONED CONDUCTOR
Dr. Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin



COMMISSIONED COMPOSER
Viet Cuong

PERFORMANCE VENUE
The Music Center at Strathmore



Selected musicians will come together in Bethesda for rehearsals and an unforgettable performance experience as part of the 2027 National Convention.

AUDITIONS OPEN	AUDITIONS CLOSE	REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCE
December 1, 2026	March 1, 2027	July 11-13, 2027

Who Can Audition?

The National Intercollegiate Band is open to any undergraduate or graduate college musician. Membership in Tau Beta Sigma or Kappa Kappa Psi is not required.

That means this opportunity extends beyond your Chapter. Share it with the musicians in your band program and encourage someone whose musicianship you admire to audition.

National Intercollegiate Band Information: www.nib.kkytbsonline.com

NIB Website

Host an NIB Audition Event

RESOURCES & QUICK LINKS

Keep Tau Beta Sigma close throughout the year. Whether you're looking for a Chapter resource, have a question, want to stay connected with what's happening across the Sorority, or simply need some support, there are plenty of ways to find what you need and stay connected with us.

Find What You Need

EMAIL | WEBSITES | DISCORD

tbs@tbsigma.org
council@tbsigma.org
kkytbs@kkytbs.org

www.tbsigma.org
www.kkytbs.org
www.opus.kkytbs.org

Click here to join the Tau Beta Sigma Discord.

Stay Connected

INSTAGRAM | FACEBOOK | LINKTREE | LINKEDIN

@tau_beta_sigma

/TauBetaSigma

/TauBetaSigma

/Tau-Beta-Sigma

Take Over Our Instagram!
Show the Sorority what Tau Beta Sigma looks like on your campus! Chapter Instagram Takeovers give your Chapter the opportunity to take over the National account for a day and share your members, band program, service, traditions, and Chapter experience with Sisters and Brothers across the country.

Sign Up for a Takeover: Sign-Up Form

Help Us Tell Our Story - Your Chapter's photos are part of Tau Beta Sigma's history. Help us continue building our digital archives by submitting photos from Chapter activities, service, performances, events, and other moments that capture your Tau Beta Sigma experience.

Submit Photos to the Archives:
www.tbsigma.org/upload-your-photos

Listen & Watch

YOUTUBE | SPOTIFY | PODCAST

Tau Beta Sigma

/Tau_Beta_Sigma

Please note the updated YouTube account! Give us a follow and stay up to date with news, features, and videos!

Listen to TAU Talks
Catch up on TAU Talks, the official podcast of Tau Beta Sigma! Explore conversations with members, leaders, and guests from across our Sisterhood and the greater band community - and revisit past episodes anytime on Spotify.

TAU Talks Teach. Aspire. Unite.

Listen on Spotify: TAU Talks Show Page