

Mortar Board
National College Senior Honor Society



MORTAR BOARD 101



What is Mortar Board?

Mortar Board, Inc. is a national honor society that recognizes seniors for their achievement in scholarship, leadership and service, provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community.



Important Mortar Board Dates

- **1915** – Members from all-women honor societies at Ohio State and Swarthmore meet by chance.
- **February 15, 1918** – Founding meeting at Syracuse University. Cornell University, The Ohio State University, The University of Michigan and Swarthmore College attended.
- **1919** –Mortar Board became the official name at the second national convention, held at the University of Michigan.
- **1923** – The national convention voted to establish districts to help facilitate the growing size of the organization, which consisted of 18 chapters.



Important Mortar Board Dates

- **1937** – Mortar Board was invited to become a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) as the only organization composed entirely of women.
- **1955** – Delegates voted to establish the Mortar Board Foundation Fund as a means for contributions to advance the purpose.
- **1970** – Delegates voted to open National Office in Columbus, Ohio.
- **1973** – Delegates instituted the National Citation as a means of honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to the status of women.

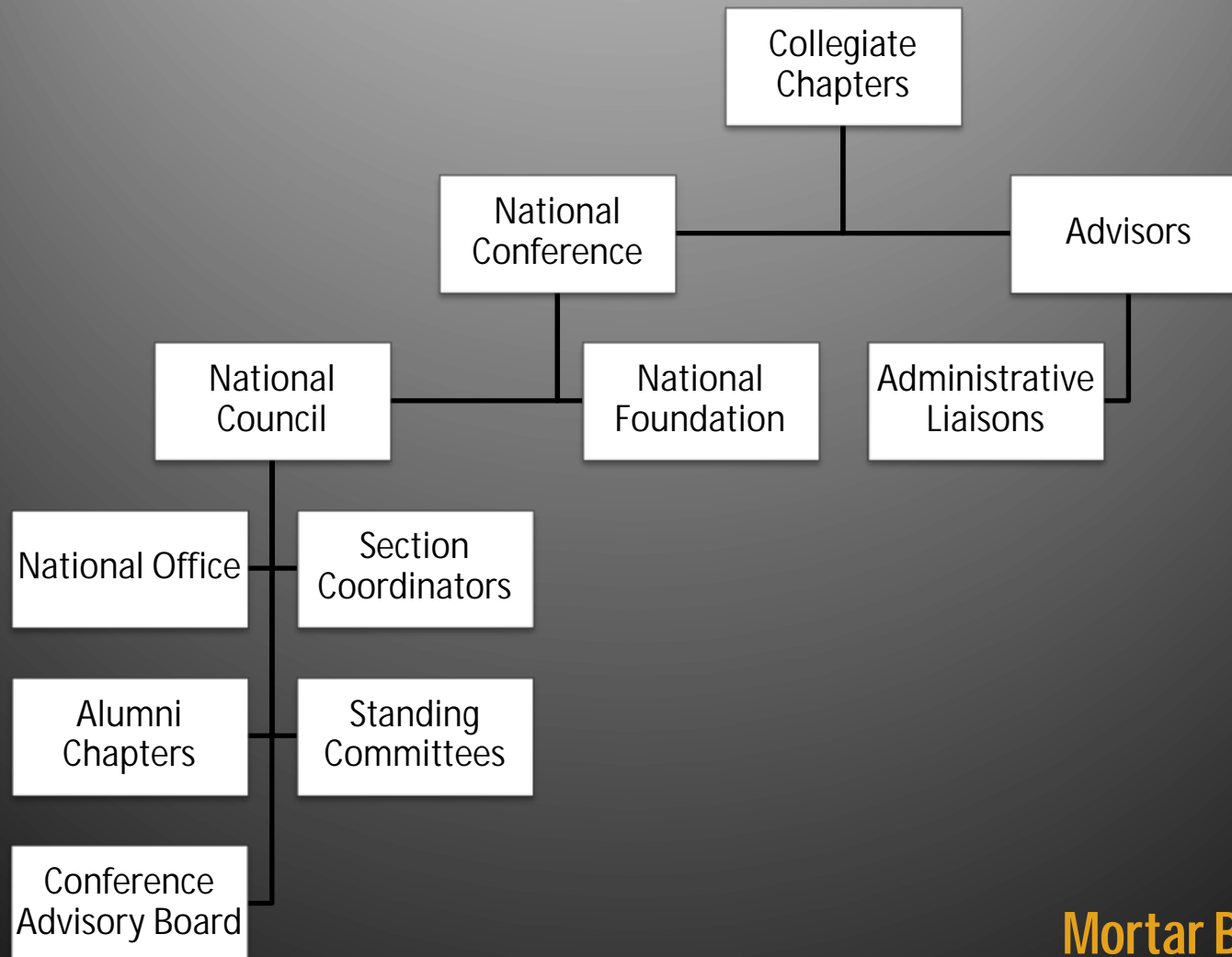


Important Mortar Board Dates

- **1975** – Mortar Board voted to include men.
- **1976** – The purpose was revisited “to emphasize the advancement of the status of women” as well as “to promote equal opportunities among all peoples.”
- **1985** – Delegates initiated a national project to be selected biennially. The first was organ donor awareness.
- **2002** – Delegates voted to make “Reading is Leading” the permanent national project.
- **2014** – Mortar Board held its 50th National Conference in Atlanta.



Mortar Board Structure





National Council

- Elected by collegiate members
- Plan long-term future of the organization
- Serve two-year terms
- Includes:
 - President
 - President-elect
 - Vice president
 - Secretary-treasurer
 - Two alumni representatives
 - Two student representatives
 - Immediate past president



National Office

- 1970 – National Conference delegates vote to open the National Office
- Located in Columbus, Ohio, as an affiliate of The Ohio State University
- Professional staff includes:
 - Executive Director
 - Manager of Data and Member Services
 - Manager of Development, Events, and Alumni
 - Coordinator of Collegiate Programs and Communications
 - Expansion Specialist
 - Operations Specialist



National Foundation

- Oversees fundraising for Mortar Board
- Serves the educational aims of Mortar Board, Inc.
- Provides fellowships to Mortar Board alumni pursuing graduate or professional degrees
- Governed by a Board of Trustees, including:
 - President
 - Vice president
 - Secretary-treasurer
 - Four trustees



Mortar Board Fast Facts

- What date was Mortar Board founded?
 - February 15, 1918
- Who were the founding chapters?
 - Cornell University
 - The University of Michigan
 - The Ohio State University
 - Swarthmore College
- What is the Mortar Board motto?
 - Pi Sigma Alpha (Scholarship, Leadership, Service)



Mortar Board Fast Facts

- What does the official pin look like?
 - Shaped like a black mortarboard with the Greek letters representing our motto engraved in gold
- What are the official colors?
 - Gold and silver, representing achievement and opportunity
- Number of chartered collegiate and alumni chapters?
 - 231 collegiate chapters
 - 16 active alumni chapters
- What is our national project?
 - Reading is Leading



Chapter Minimum Standards

- Select new members on the basis of distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership and service in accordance with established procedures.
- Submit required reports :
 - Chapter Action Plan (CAP)
 - Official Membership Report (OMR)
 - Chapter Annual Report
 - Chapter Finance Report
 - New Officer Report Form



Chapter Minimum Standards

- Prior to tapping, send the names and qualifications of candidate to the National Office on the Official Membership Report (OMR) for verification
- Tap new members before the end of the school year
- Hold an orientation program prior to initiation for those tapped
- Hold and initiation ceremony for new members
- Collect the national fees associated with membership prior to initiation
- Submit all fees together with the Official Membership Report (OMR) to the National Office



Chapter Minimum Standards

- Elect new chapter officers before the end of the school year
 - The outgoing officers and advisor(s) must orient the new officers before the end of the school year
 - All officers are to receive, maintain and pass on a manual of pertinent information for that office
- Hold regular and frequent meetings
 - A minimum of once a month during the school year
- Establish a participation policy



Chapter Minimum Standards

- Have at least one advisor
- If a chapter's income exceeds \$25,000 the chapter must submit a 990 to the Internal Revenue Service
- Send a delegate to the national conference
- Develop and implement programs related to scholarship, leadership and service that encourage collaborations between the chapter and other student organizations, alumni, other Mortar Board chapters or the community at-large
- Development and implement programs related to the National Project, Reading is Leading



What do I need to do this year?

- Find and review last year's records – especially financial statements
- Set chapter goals
- Become familiar with all chapter minimum standards, bylaws and policies
- Stay in contact with the National Office and your Section Coordinator throughout the year
- Complete all reports on or before their deadlines
- Train future leadership



Who should I know?

- National Leadership
 - National Council
 - National Foundation
 - Section coordinators
 - National Office staff
- Chapter leaders in your section

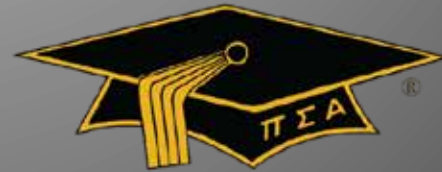


Resources

- Publications
 - Mortar Board *Forum*
 - LeadingLeaders e-newsletter
 - Mbits e-newsletter
 - Officer & Advisor Handbook
 - Membership Selection Handbook
 - Initiation Ceremony Handbook
 - Member Guide
 - General brochure
 - *Bylaws of Mortar Board, Inc.*

www.mortarboard.org

Mortar Board
National College Senior Honor Society



MORTAR BOARD 101