



MORTAR BOARD

NATIONAL COLLEGE SENIOR HONOR SOCIETY

2023 SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

January 22, 2023

Guide to Governance

ABOUT THE SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Special National Conference (SNC) is a **virtual** conference that is held entirely by zoom.

Your chapter must have at least one collegiate delegate present at the SNC. All other collegiate members and advisors are encouraged to attend. [Advance registration is encouraged](#), however, so the Zoom link can be sent to attending members and advisors.

During the SNC, chapter delegates meet virtually and share information with one another. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn from other chapters and members, as well as national leaders.

As a student governed society, YOU (the collegiate members) also conduct the business of the Society. Each chapter (in good standing) will have one voting delegate at the SNC. Voting will take place around issues of governance (the bylaws). In addition, collegiate members will elect members of the National Council.

The SNC has been held every January since 2013, and the 2023 SNC will be the twelfth virtual Special National conference. Come prepared to share and listen!

Timeline

Sunday, January 22, 2023: Special National Conference is held

Sunday, January 22: Voting opens at end of SNC

Wednesday, January 25: Voting Closes at 11:59 p.m. Pacific

How to attend

The Special National Conference will be held via Zoom meeting on Sunday, January 22 at:

- 7 – 8:30 p.m. Eastern
- 6 – 7:30 p.m. Central
- 5 – 6:30 p.m. Mountain
- 4 – 5:30 p.m. Pacific
- 2 – 3:30 p.m. Hawaiian

The SNC will be hosted by the National Council, and the meeting will be conducted by National President Katie Chick.



How to prepare

1. Put the SNC on your calendar and gather officers and advisor(s) to attend and confirm your attendance [here](#).
2. Read this *Guide to Governance* completely.
3. Review the National *Bylaws*.
4. Review the candidates for election.
5. Prepare for questions you might like to ask, or issues to raise.
6. Prepare some thoughts about how your chapter will flourish in the upcoming term.

7. Prepare to hear follow-up from this past summer's National Conference and the resolutions presented by the delegates in August, as well as updates from the Standing Committees:
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Standing Committee
 - Standing Nominations Committee
 - Governance Committee
8. Make sure the chapter has no unpaid invoices so that your chapter will be eligible to vote.
9. The room will open 15 minutes prior to the start for networking and connecting.
10. A benefit of the Society is our national presence. Please prepare to leave your camera on.

Casting your chapter's ballot

After the SNC, your chapter will have two days to cast its one ballot candidates presented. Each chapter eligible to vote may cast one vote. The highest officer registered from your chapter will be considered the official delegate. Voting will be conducted by electronic ballot using an online survey tool.

Voting opens on Sunday, January 22, 2023 during the SNC and closes on Wednesday, January 25, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific.

If your chapter fails to cast its ballot, the chapter's vote will be cast automatically in the affirmative. See the *Bylaws*, Article XIII.

Eligibility to vote

To be eligible to vote on the issues raised at the SNC, a chapter must be in good standing. This includes having cleared accounts for any amount due in 2022. The deadline to clear accounts is January 24, 2023, leaving you time to cast your chapter's ballot before the polls close on January 25. The National Office has/will reach out to you if your chapter's account is not cleared.

Every chapter must attend the SNC.

Election guide

Electing the National Council

The Society's board of directors is called the National Council. It is composed of ten elected officers whose terms run for two years. Each year, Mortar Board's voting delegates are charged with the task of electing members to fill offices that will be vacated due to term expiration. At this SNC, three of the nine offices are up for election.

Responsibilities of national officers

Generally, a member of the National Council should:

- Affirm the mission and Purpose of Mortar Board
- Establish and maintain a comprehensive set of policies and procedures that reflect the Society's governance
- Select the Mortar Board chief executive and review annually
- Accept fiduciary responsibility, approve and monitor the budget
- Promote the organization nationally, regionally and locally
- Contribute to the development of programs

Characteristics of qualified candidates

- Commitment to higher education and to the values of Mortar Board
- Computer literacy and skills to receive electronic communication
- Good communication skills--both verbal and written--and the ability to listen carefully
- Ability to evaluate, research, propose solutions and make decisions with a group
- Demonstrated leadership skills and the ability to work with and attract others to the cause
- Past or current service to Mortar Board, experience with fundraising, donors or volunteer service programs
- Service on other community or national boards

Duties of offices up for election this year (from the Bylaws)

President-Elect - shall perform the duties of the president in the absence or disability of the president and coordinate the work of the standing and other committees. The president- elect shall become National President immediately following their term or upon resignation of the president and, immediately following that term, serve a term on the National Council as immediate past National President.

Treasurer – shall be responsible for reviewing the annual budget prepared by the executive director, reviewing all financial statements and transactions, ensuring the completion of required financial reporting forms, and ensuring that all gift and investment policies are followed. In addition, the treasurer shall sit as an ex-officio member on the Mortar Board National Foundation Board of Trustees with voice and vote.

Alumni representative at-large - serves as a liaison to alumni members and chapters.

MORTAR BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision: To be scholars ... chosen for leadership ... committed to service ... united for equity

Transformational Imperatives

Emphasize the equity themes of Mortar Board's Purpose

Develop and advance the professional and personal skills of members

Engage members for life

Goals

Brand Mortar Board to promote Transformational Imperatives
.....

Achieve and maintain financial stability at all levels
.....

Incorporate values of diversity, equity and inclusion into every aspect of Mortar Board
.....

Ensure Mortar Board's Impact

Strategies

Create & celebrate our history

Increase collegiate membership

Use diversity, equity and inclusion as a foundation for programming

Implement effective advising models at every chapter

2022-2023 Focus



August 2022

SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS

Proposed amendments to the *Bylaws of Mortar Board, Inc.*

No proposed changes.

Current National Council

National President: Katie Chick (Hood College, 2006)
President-elect: Cassandra Lucas (Purdue University, 1994)
Vice President: Patience Whitworth (The Ohio State University, 2003)
Secretary: Aimee Abernathy (Queens University of Charlotte, 1996)
Treasurer: Bre'una Keeton (Washington State University, 2013)
Student Representative at-large: Margaret Meierhenry (University of South Dakota, 2021)
Student Representative at-large: Makayla Johnson (North Dakota State University, 2019)
Alumni Representative at-large: Mohammed Hill (University of California, Berkeley, 1992)
Alumni Representative at-large: Jenni Birch Szolwinski (Purdue University, 1993)
Immediate Past President: Gail Harrison Corvette (The Ohio State University, 1980)
Foundation Representative: Barbara J. Arnold (The Pennsylvania State University, 1981)
Executive Director: Kirsten F. Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)

Candidates for National Council

The candidates for National Council slated by the Standing Nominations Committee follow.

President-Elect

Nathan R. Cordle, Esq.
The University of Alabama, 2011

Degree(s):
BS, Business Administration and Real Estate
JD, The University of Alabama School of Law

Employment:
Attorney at Law, Hand Arendall Harrison Sale
Vice President, Emerald Coast Title Services

Service to Mortar Board:

- Alumni Representative At-Large, 2020-2021
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee, 2020-2021
- Section Coordinator, 2015-2020
- Governance Committee, 2013-2015
- Conference Assistant, 2012-2013
- Chapter Treasurer, Hypatia Chapter at The University of Alabama, 2011-2012



Treasurer

Bre'una L. Keeton, MS
Washington State University, 2013

Degree(s):
AAS, Integrative Health Professions/Holistic Health
BS, Movement Studies/Kinesiology
MS, Exercise Science

Employment:
Director of Fitness & Wellness | The Country Club of Louisiana

Service to Mortar Board:

- National Council Treasure, 2022 - Present
- MBNF Trustee Ex Officio, 2021 - Present
- Charter Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Standing Committee, 2020 - Present
- National Council Secretary-Treasurer, 2021 - 2022
- Section 4 Coordinator, 2015-2018
- Tapping Society Member
- Mortar Board Alumni Association Member



Alumni Representative at-large

Wilson Chan
Pallas Chapter, University of Louisville, 1989

Degree(s):
B.S. Information Science and Data Processing, 1990 - University of Louisville

Employment:
Account Executive, Healthcare; Veritas Technologies, LLC.

Service to Mortar Board:

- Student Advisor to National Council Summer Meeting, 1990
- Alumni Student Advisor to Pallas Chapter, 1990 - 1994
- Section Coordinator, Summer 2020 - Present
- Mortar Board Alumni Association Lifetime Member



Standing committee updates

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Candi Hironaka Pitts, Chair (Oregon State University, 1971)
Gabby Going (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)
Bre'una Keeton (Washington State University, 2013)
Vedant Kulkarni (Kansas State University, 2021)
Tamika Lovelace (San Diego State University, 2021)
Chaela Minor (Purdue University, 2020)

STANDING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Gail Harrison Corvette, Chair (The Ohio State University, 1980)

Abigail Diehl (The Pennsylvania State University, 1995)

McCaleb Hart (Texas Tech University, 2021)

Lynn M. Hendrickson (The Pennsylvania State University, 2000)

Anne Mascia (University of South Alabama, 2021)

STANDING GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Kirsten Hawley, Chair (Miami University, 1996)

Myra Lynn Hanson (The University of Northern Colorado, 2011)

Brendan Wall (Illinois State University, 2018)

Other business

Conference Advisory Board (CAB) call for interns

Mortar Board National Office is *now accepting applications* for current students (and recent graduates) to serve as Conference Advisory Board (CAB) Interns for the 2023 Virtual National Conference July 14 – 16, 2023. CABS assist in the planning and execution of programming for the annual national conference. A CAB's term runs from the time of appointment through the completion of the conference. [Learn more and apply by February 17.](#)

Applications for Section Coordinators and other volunteer opportunities

Interested in serving as a Section Coordinator or in a national volunteer role? [Let us know.](#)

Upcoming events

February 13 – 17: Mortar Board Week

Monday 2/13: Tenets of Leadership: Diversity and Equity as more than a Trend

Tuesday 2/14: Student Networking Event: Connect with Mortar Boards from across the country!

Wednesday 2/15: Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event

Thursday 2/16: TBD

Friday 2/17: Advisor Appreciation and Advisor Chit Chat

March 15: Deadline for Fellowship Applications

April 15: Deadline for Award Submissions

Sunday, April 16: Virtual National Initiation

Sunday, June 4: Collegiate Awards Ceremony

July 14 – July 16: Mortar Board National Conference 2023 (Virtual)

Plus, Chapter Operations Sessions, FUSION, and Region Meetings!

Graduation regalia

Beat the Rush! Order your official honor cord, medallion, or store from the [Mortar Board Store.](#)

Thank you!