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Dear Members and Advisors of Pennsylvania DeMolay:

As we are approaching the second half of the Convention year, I wanted to announce some policy changes that will take effect for next year. Please make sure to share this information at your next Chapter meeting!

1. Reduction in state-level weekends at Patton Campus

Last year, we tried an Advisor Retreat for the first time, and that was an overwhelming success. The Advisors asked for that to be a yearly activity, but also asked for it to be held at another time because July is already jam-packed. Since advanced Advisor training, brainstorming, and planning is critical to the growth of our Chapters, I've decided to convert the January state weekend to an Advisor Retreat.

The March weekend also falls during a very busy DeMolay Month, where we ask Chapters to have extra activities; and that weekend is near Rose Croix and Patriots Class. I feel that we are asking our State Officers, DeMolays, and Advisors, to overcommit their time, which is unfair to these volunteers.

We have decided to make the following changes, starting in 2020:

January 2020 state weekend: Advisor Retreat weekend
March 2020 state weekend: No longer held, so Chapters can focus on DeMolay Month
July 2020 state weekend: Just a State Officer Retreat, no longer including the Advisor Retreat

2. Sunset the office of Deputy State Master Councilor

For most of our history, Pennsylvania DeMolay did not have this office; it was only in the 1980s that it was created. That State-level office doesn't exist at the Chapter level, and gives the impression that the holder of that office will automatically become State Master Councilor, which is not always the case. Because of these reasons, to encourage growth at the Region level, and because we are reducing the number of state weekends, we feel that this office should be removed from the line. That change will take effect at the upcoming election at Convention 2019, where we will elect 4 State Officers.

3. Sunset the office of State Sweetheart

As a Senior DeMolay, I know how important the Chapter Sweetheart program was in my Chapter. We have been blessed with many excellent State Sweethearts over the years, including our current State Sweetheart, who have all championed the cause of charity!

I still believe there is great value in a Chapter-level program. Recently, however, there has been minimal interest from Chapter-level Sweethearts wanting to run for the office of State Sweetheart. I feel we should put more focus on the Chapter-level program, for the Chapters that wish to exercise it, and not burden the Chapter Sweethearts and Advisors with an expectation of attending many state-level activities. Consequently, we will not offer a State Sweetheart program starting in the 2019-2020 Convention year. Again, this is not a reflection of the quality of our recent State Sweethearts; it is a reflection of the reality that most of our Chapters don't offer this program today.

4. State Officer Application Process

The State Master Councilor process is the same as in 2018.

Those DeMolays who wish to seek another elective office (State Senior Councilor, State Junior Councilor, State Scribe) will need to have their application forms in no later than May 15th as before. However, since we are reducing the state weekends for next year, all of these candidates will prepare a detailed plan for the May state weekend.

Please visit www.pademolay.org, Resources – How to Become a State Officer, for forms and more information.

5. Campaigning for State Officer Elections

I received some concerns about how last year's election campaigns were handled. Based on that feedback, these policy changes will take effect at this year's Convention:

Given his position of authority, the State Master Councilor must remain impartial, and not actively campaign for or against any candidate.

Advisors must also remain impartial, and not actively campaign for or against any candidate. In particular, Advisors must not wear any campaign buttons or other paraphernalia. As adults, we don't want to unfairly bias the DeMolays, who have the responsibility for electing their own representatives.

6. In conclusion

Thanks to all of you for everything you do for DeMolay! If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please reach out to your Region Representative or me.

Fraternally,



Greg Schaeffer
Executive Officer