

History of Blue Key Honor Society 1924 – 2024



This History document was prepared for the 100th Anniversary celebration of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity known today as the Blue Key Honor Society.

Blue Key was founded on November 27, 1924, at the University of Florida.

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1924

The Founding of Blue Key at the University of Florida

November 27, 1924, is the founding date when Blue Key National Honor Fraternity became officially recognized. It was Homecoming Weekend at the University of Florida when Dad's Day was the signature event aside from the Homecoming Football game.

Planning for this day by a group of male students began in Fall 1924. The Birthplace of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity as well as Florida Blue Key was in Language Hall on the University of Florida campus.

“Until 1950 Language Hall was the main administration building with the offices of the President, the Registrar, and the Graduate School. The building also housed humanities programs such as History, Languages, and Mathematics. In 1949 the building was renamed Anderson Hall to honor James Nesbitt Anderson, who was the first Dean of Arts and Sciences and the first Dean of the Graduate School.” (Source: <https://ufsasc.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/language-hall-leads-the-way-a-history-of-uf-buildings-101-ufspecialcollections/>).

The buildings were designed by architect William Edwards, in the Gothic Architecture style found on many campuses of southern universities in 1913.



West and South Facades of Language Hall, circa 1924
(Renamed Anderson Hall in 1949)



Re-dedication of Anderson Hall (Formerly Language Hall) on April 5, 2002 following an extensive renovation (Source: <https://ufsasc.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/language-hall-leads-the-way-a-history-of-uf-buildings-101-ufspecialcollections/>).



Major Bert Clair Riley, Founder of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity
1924-1934

Major Riley “stated the Blue Key ideals, designed the key, and wrote the pledge and first constitution of the Fraternity. He considered the cluster of Blue Key chapters a confederation of chapters. His vision was to build a network of Blue Key chapters at colleges and universities with a special outreach to land-grant colleges and universities throughout the nation.

1934

The National Administrative Council met in St. Louis on February 17-18, 1934. This meeting ten years after the founding revealed the strong interest in sponsoring a Blue Key National Conference later in the year. A core of advisors became the first officers of Blue Key (Source: Blue Key Journal, May 1934, Volume 1, Number 1, Page 25).

- Major Bert Clair Riley, Blue Key Founder and National Director, Blue Key Advisor at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- Dr. John Clark Jordan, National President, Blue Key Advisor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Dr. Joseph Roemer, National Vice-President, Blue Key Advisor at Peabody College for Teachers (Affiliated with Vanderbilt University), Nashville, Tennessee.
- Dr. Ralph W. Noyer, National Secretary, Blue Key Advisor at Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.
- Mr. Robert L. Hill, National Comptroller, Blue Key Advisor, University of Missouri Rolla, Rolla, Missouri.

Sixty-six Blue Key chapters ratified the Constitution with 71-chapter delegates present at the first convention (Source: Blue Key Journal, May 1934, Volume 1, Number 1, Pages 4-5).

Call to Convention

“It becomes by duty and my privilege as president of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity to issue the call for a national convention of delegates duly chosen to represent the majority of the chapters and authorized to transact such business as may arise.” These are the opening remarks made by Blue Key National President, John Clark Jordan in Fayetteville, Ark., October 15, 1934 (Source: Blue Key: The Official Journal of the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, October 1934, Page 3). The plan called for the first convention to be held in Chicago on December 28 and 29, 1934.

1934 – The First Blue Key Convention

The first Blue Key National Honor Fraternity National Convention took place on December 28-29, 1934, at the LaSalle Hotel (aka, Stevens Hotel, the “World’s Largest Indoor City, in Chicago, Illinois. Major Bert Clair Riley, the Blue Key National Director, later given the title, National Executive Secretary hosted the conference. Ralph Noyes presided over the three-day business meeting where the purpose was to form a national honor society. The meeting consisted of seventy-one representatives from colleges all across the nation who sought to set the stage for the formation of an official all-male honor fraternity.

The host chapters in Chicago were Loyola and DePaul. Delegates arrived via bus, trains, and automobile. The hosts provided opportunities for attending shows, recreation, and sightseeing.

Initially Dean Riley held the title National President at the founding of Blue Key at the University of Florida. Blue Key was essentially an assembly of emerging Blue Key chapters at colleges and universities throughout the nation. Riley carried the title from 1924 to the opening of the first Blue Key Convention in 1934 (Source: Blue Key Journal, May 1934, Volume 1, Number 1, Pages 3-5).

This journal entry says the conference was held at the Stevens Hotel “the World’s Largest Indoor City.” The hosts for the convention were Loyola University and DePaul University. The roll call revealed that seventy-four chapters were represented. The growth of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity during its

first ten years was truly phenomenal (Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1934, Volume 1, Number 2, Pages 3-5). This is a description of the setting for the 1934 Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Convention. Blue Key held its conventions at the most expensive and most extravagant hotels in the nation. The convention represented the 10th anniversary celebration of Blue Key growth and significance!

With Major Riley's one-on-one, low-profile invitation to charter chapters by corresponding with college and university presidents, he continued to provide personalized encouragement and leadership by Major B. C. Riley for the ten years since the founding of Blue Key in November 1924. One could say that he was relentless in his pursuit to honor outstanding male student leaders and scholars through the nation's prosperous and economically stressful times. Many of the nation's strong and enduring Blue Key chapters emerged during the years of the Great Depression. He made proposals to charter Blue Key chapters at all state land-grant universities and select private colleges and universities. Throughout the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, he elevated the stature of Blue Key to become a significant academic and leadership dimension of campus life. For years national leaders in government, academia and industry dotted the Blue Key convention agenda as keynote speakers and headliners. Blue Key had a strong national profile.

THE PURPOSE OF BLUE KEY

The Blue Key National Honor Fraternity was established in order that through organized effort among student leaders in American colleges and universities:

- (1) The belief in God will be perpetuated and intensified, the government of the United States will be supported and defended, and the established institutions of society and the principles of good citizenship will be preserved.*
- (2) An ambition for intellectual attainment and a desire to serve college and fellows will be fostered among students in institutions of higher learning.*
- (3) Student problems may be studied, student life may be enriched, and the progress and best interests of the institutions in which the organization is found may be stimulated and promoted.*

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During the early years of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, the Biennial Conferences beginning in 1934 were held at major cities' most historical and splendid hotels in the downtown high-profile area. The following pages will trace the movement of the National Conference from Chicago (Hotel LaSalle), New Orleans (Roosevelt Hotel), Kansas City (Muehlebach Hotel), St. Louis (Statler Hotel) and back to Chicago (The Stevens Hotel/Hilton Chicago). These were each city's finest, most famous, most state-of-the-art hotels. Each had an established reputation for quality and luxury.

Major B. C. Riley led the charge to make Blue Key a truly respected, major national honor society. The strength of the organization was the quality of advising at the chapter level, the engagement of the Blue Key Administrative Council (Board of Directors) and the vision and action of B.C. Riley.

Keep in mind that the country was still experiencing the economic woes of the Great Depression in the early thirties. Hotels were glad to host conventions with greater than one hundred attendees. Room rates were \$6.50 to \$10.00 per night depending on amenities such as toilet and bath facilities.

In the early and mid-1930s, it was commonplace for a hotel to provide a common area with toilet and bathing to be shared on the same hall near a set of rooms. Private toilet facilities were uncommon and expensive. It was a special luxury feature associated with a room.

### **“Hilton Chicago and its Stevens Hotel Scandalous History” by Ric Garrido**

Hilton Chicago has the reputation for hosting every President of the United States as a guest from the time the Stevens Hotel opened in 1927. There is a fascinating early hotel history from 1927 with the Stevens family of Chicago who built the immense hotel only to lose it in bankruptcy with the Great Depression. Stevens Hotel was the largest hotel in the world when it opened its doors to guests. Six years later, Ernest Stevens was on trial for embezzlement, his brother committed suicide after the family’s insurance business went bankrupt and the U.S. Army purchased the Stevens Hotel in World War II to house soldiers. In 1945, the property was acquired by Conrad Hilton and the immense hotel property has carried the Hilton name for more than sixty years.

Stevens Hotel was conceived in the roaring 20s and designed to be the largest and one of the most opulent hotels in the world. Within six years of its grand opening, the Stevens family name was rocked by embezzlement scandals and suicide that brought down their Chicago family business empire.

The Stevens Hotel opened in 1927 on South Michigan Avenue across from Grant Park in Chicago. The 28-story hotel had 3,000 rooms, fine shops, cavernous ballrooms and even mini-golf on the roof.

The landmark Chicago hotel, constructed by the Stevens family with family wealth gained from ownership of the Illinois Life Insurance Company. J.W. Stevens had already built and owned La Salle Hotel that opened in 1909 with 1,000 rooms as one of Chicago’s finest hotels in the loop. The La Salle Hotel was demolished in July 1976 because of its aging infrastructure.

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens was son of Ernest Stevens, the hotelier who was convicted of embezzling millions from the family’s insurance company to financially prop up their family-owned Chicago hotels. Ernest Stevens’ conviction was overturned on appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court. However, the family was bankrupted and two of Chicago’s finest hotels went into receivership (Source: <http://loyaltytraveler.boardingarea.com/2014/04/16/hilton-chicago-and-its-stevens-hotel-scandalous-history/>, 2014).

### **The Founding of Cardinal Key**

Often overlooked, Major Riley founded Cardinal Key, the “sister” organization to Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Cardinal Key National Honor Sorority on May 6, 1932. His wife, Ruth L. Riley, served as the first National Director from 1939 to 1962. To this day, Cardinal Key National Honor Society is active on several campuses that also hosts Blue Key Honor Society. The key design is the same as the Blue Key design. For more details about Cardinal Key, see the box below.

### **History of Cardinal Key**

Cardinal Key National Honor Sorority was organized on May 6, 1932, as a result of requests for a nationwide honor sorority for college or university women of at least junior standing. The founder and sponsor for a number of years was the late Bert Clair Riley who founded the men’s honorary fraternity, Blue Key. The first chapter (32A) was chartered at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont,

Nebraska. In 1939, Mrs. Ruth Lemon Riley, the wife of founder B.C. Riley was elected as the First National Director under a new *Constitution and Bylaws* adopted by all chapters. She served until her retirement in 1962 due to ill health. Cardinal Key was incorporated by Arizona State laws in Phoenix on November 8, 1967, as a nonprofit organization.

On July 1, 1976, the Sorority complied with the Title 9 legislation and opened its membership to both men and women. For historical purposes, "Sorority" was retained as part of the organization's name until October 25, 1991, when it was changed to Cardinal Key National Honor Society, Inc.

#### Cardinal Key National Directors

|                 |                                                                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1939-1962       | Mrs. Ruth Lemon Riley                                                   |
| 1962-1972       | Dr. Byrd Burton of Northern Arizona University                          |
| 1972, 1973-1981 | Dr. Roy Morgan of Eastern New Mexico University                         |
| 1981-1985       | Ms. Jaqueline Williams; prior National Advisor                          |
| 1985-1989       | Ms. Edith Borg; prior Assistant National Director                       |
| 1989-1993       | Ms. Mary Tiffin                                                         |
| 1994-2001       | Ms. Rayna Diers of Baker University; prior National Advisor             |
| 2001-2009       | Mrs. Kathleen Hecox (neé Kisicki); prior National Advisor               |
| 2010-current    | Mrs. Devin Lammy & Mrs. Amanda Bennett Lothrop; prior National Advisors |

#### Founders Day

To commemorate the founding of Cardinal Key National Honor Society, Inc. and honor its pioneers, Ruth L. Riley, Bernice Ashburn, and Edith McBride Cameron, May 6th has been designated as Founder's Day. The second Saturday in May has been set aside for chapter observance to strengthen the feeling of National unity.

#### Our Motto

Faith, Trust, Fortitude, and Wisdom; I shall observe them faithfully, that my service may be genuine, my life complete. (Source: <http://cardinalkey.org/>, 2016).

1934

The first Blue Key Administrative Board (Board of Directors) was formed in early 1934 and became officially recognized at the first convention in accordance with the Blue Key Constitution and Rules of Procedure. The first Biennial Meeting of Blue Key was called to order at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago, Illinois on Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:40 pm with President John Clark Jordan presiding. He reported that the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity had 74 chapters on the National Registration Roll. Seventy-one Blue Key chapters ratified the Blue Key Constitution. One article stated that the Blue Key National Administrative Council shall ensure that the Fraternity hold a biennial convention on even years beginning in 1934 (Source: 1<sup>st</sup> Blue Key Fraternity Biennial Convention Proceedings Transcript, Chicago, Illinois, December 28-29, 1934, Pages 1-2).

The Blue Key National Administrative Council Charter Members:

- Major Bert Clair Riley, Blue Key Founder and National Director, Blue Key Advisor at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

- Dr. John Clark Jordan, National President, Blue Key Advisor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Dr. Joseph Roemer, National Vice-President, Blue Key Advisor at Peabody College for Teachers (Affiliated with Vanderbilt University), Nashville, Tennessee.
- Dr. Ralph W. Noyer, National Secretary, Blue Key Advisor at Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.
- Mr. Robert L. Hill, National Comptroller, Blue Key Advisor, University of Missouri Rolla, Rolla, Missouri.

The agenda of the rest of the convention deals with the level autonomy that chapters have in setting standards for membership in Blue Key. The approved resolution is that the National Administrative Council has set the standard in the constitution and that chapters should follow or even exceed those guidelines. Other business dealt with appointment of committees, governance and management, membership, programs, ceremonies, public relations, delinquent chapters, and reports from the standing committees regarding the election of officers, resolutions and the time and place of the next convention in 1936.

The current officers up for election were re-elected. Dean Riley's title was changed in February 1934 from National Director to National Executive Officer. He would retain this title until his death in 1962 (Source: Blue Key Journal, May 1934, Volume 1, Number 1, Page 25) (Source: 1<sup>st</sup> Blue Key Fraternity Biennial Convention Proceedings Transcript, Chicago, Illinois, December 28-29, 1934, Pages 1-8, 127).

It was at the convention that the representative from the "Mother Chapter" of Blue Key, the original Blue Key Chapter founded by Major B.C. Riley, took the position that the Florida Blue Key Chapter would separate from the organization known as Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. The Florida Chapter chose not to be affiliated with the original organization. Their plan was to attend the Blue Key Convention and observe the convention business and potential flexibility given to chapters in terms of membership criteria. The chapter at the University of Florida sought more autonomy than was allowed by the desire for standardization inherent in the Blue Key Constitution and Statutes of Procedure. As a result, the Florida chapter became incorporated as a separate organization known as Florida Blue Key. Florida Blue Key has its own selection and membership criteria. The chapter drew heavily on its Blue Key alumni base and continued to do so throughout the years. Blue Key National Honor Fraternity remained an undergraduate member/chapter-based model with at least junior standing plus a commitment to service and a noteworthy scholastic standard (grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale).

The term, honor, in the title of the organization speaks to the point addressing leadership, scholarship and service. These three criteria continue to be hallmarks of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. Founder, Dean Riley was very protective of Blue Key's reputation on the Florida campus as well as nationally. At the convention, at least one other chapter declined to be affiliated with the Honor Fraternity (Source: 1<sup>st</sup> Blue Key Fraternity Biennial Convention Proceedings Transcript, Chicago, Illinois, December 28-29, 1934, Pages 128-142).

1935

The Blue Key National Council staged a meeting and re-elected all five officers (Source: Blue Key Journal, February 1935, Volume 1, Number 3). The officers include Riley, Jordan, Roemer, Noyer and Hill. They also engaged in planning the future of Blue Key since it was now officially a legally constituted organization with an approved Constitution and Rules of Procedure. Today we would call the latter rules, bylaws. The primary interest of the charter group of executive officers was to reach consensus regarding the direction of the organization, its purpose, its procedures, and its sustainability.



Prior to 1934 Blue Key was considered a confederation of autonomous Blue Key chapters scattered throughout the nation. Blue Key expanded significantly by the initiative and authority of its founder, Major B. C. Riley, a Dean at the University of Florida. Those first ten years of Blue Key growth would never have happened if it had not been for the vision and leadership of Dean Riley. After ten years the confederation of chapters grew so large, it was time to codify and ratify the collection into an organized credentialing organization.

The officers of the first National Administrative Council realized that it is one thing to create a constitution, but it is another thing to implement its articles. As the saying goes “the devil is in the details.” And easy and swift communication was not something one could take for granted. The mail system and the highway system were not well developed, especially when trying to reach the more isolated, rural colleges and universities. Rural electrification was still an ambitious goal for many residents in America.

The affluent cities, colleges and families benefitted from the enhanced infrastructure that they could afford. Blue Key and much of its membership appeared to reflect the more affluent part of society. Most members came from families that could afford to obtain a college education. Furthermore, the members could also afford to fund their travel to one of the four primary urban centers noted above where the Blue Key Conventions were held on a regular basis during the 1930s and later. World War II did result in a six-year span when no conventions were scheduled. Chapter populations dwindled during the war years. Many members left school to engage in the war effort (Source: 1<sup>st</sup> Biennial National Convention of Blue Key Fraternity Transcribed Proceedings, 1934, Pages 1-15).

1936

Two years after the 1934 convention, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Convention was held on December 29-31, 1936, at the famous Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. This marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Blue Key. The host chapter was Loyola College of New Orleans, today known as Loyola University. Major Bert Riley was given the title, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Executive Secretary, the National Executive Officer. Dr. John Clark Jordan had been elected the first Blue Key President. The conference registration fee was \$16.00. This fee will entitle the attendee “all necessary expenses” except breakfast on Wednesday and Thursday mornings (Source: 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Key Biennial Convention Program Brochure, New Orleans, Louisiana, Page 4).

The May 1936 Blue Key Journal provided a summary history of the beginnings of Blue Key and subsequent policy formation. The list of Blue Key chapters does not include the chapter at the University of Florida. The roll of Blue Key chapters had climbed to seventy-three active chapters nationwide (Source: Blue Key Journal, May 1936, Volume 2, Number 3, Pages 5-7, 14).

The 1936 Blue Key Biennial Convention Program Brochure with the convention agenda outline states that the visitor will receive three nights’ lodging at the Roosevelt Hotel, his two luncheon and three dinner tickets, and his ticket for the New Year’s Eve Ball” (Source: 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Key Biennial Convention Program Brochure, New Orleans, Louisiana, Page 4).

Dean Riley provided the budget report showing revenue and expenses for the past year. The budget report showed a September 1, 1935, balance of \$23.67. Receipts balance on August 31, 1936, totaled \$4,937.30. Disbursements on the same date totaled \$4,156.62 leaving a net of \$804.35 (Source: 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Key Biennial Convention Proceedings Transcript, 1936, Pages 32-34).

President John Clark Jordan called the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention to order. The first order of business was the “credential” all delegates present so affirm who was qualified to vote on meeting business. Twenty-seven delegates registered for the roll call. The committees were formed to address Blue Key governance, local and national programs, and membership/standards of admission (Source: 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Key Biennial Convention Proceedings Transcript, 1936, Page 1-3).

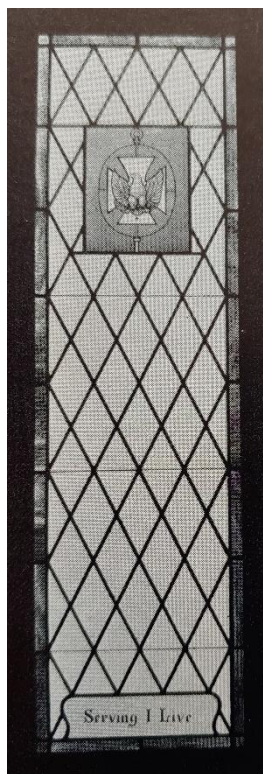
The three standing committees that were referred to as “minor” were tasked to address nominations, location of the next biennial conference and resolutions that come before the body at the convention in New Orleans. Major B.C. Riley gave a national report regarding the status of Blue Key (Source: 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Key Biennial Convention Proceedings Transcript, 1936, Pages 2, 4-27. 30-33).

The new brochure identified national officers:

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Dean John Clark Jordan, Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Vice-President: Dr. Joseph Roemer, Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Secretary: Dean Ralph W. Noyer, Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Robert L. Hill, University of Missouri, Rolla, Missouri

1937

A stained-glass window at the landing of the Grand Staircase in the Main Building on the campus of the Loyola University-New Orleans commemorates the presence of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Loyola chapter. It is where Blue Key members held meetings with their advisor, Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr., Ph.D. (Source: Blue Key Journal, February 1937, Volume 3, Number 2, Page 2).



**Blue Key Occupies a Place of Distinguished Importance on the Loyola University Campus.**

A stained-glass window at the landing of the Grand Staircase in the Main Building on the campus of the Loyola University-New Orleans commemorates the presence of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Loyola chapter.

It is where Blue Key members held meetings with their advisor, Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr., Ph.D.

(Source: Blue Key Journal, February 1937, Volume 3, Number 2, page 2).

1938

On December 28-30, 1938, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial National Convention of Blue Key National Honor Society convened in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Lincoln Hotel. The host chapters were Butler University, Indiana University and Ball State College. This Convention marks the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blue Key Honor Society. The primary orders of business were the appointment of a Nominating Committees, a Convention Site Selection Committee for the 1940 convention location and a Merchandise Committee. The Nominating Committee prepared a slate for the election.

The Council slots held by incumbents, Deans Jordan and Noyer. They were nominated and elected for four-year terms as was the case in 1934. Other meeting business dealt with ways of improving the performance of Blue Key and showing care how policies have been interpreted at the local chapter level. For instance, "what constitutes junior standing? Years on campus or the cumulative number of credits achieved according to the campus academic records office. Use of the Blue Key symbols and keys and other financial and nuts and bolts matters (Source: 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial National Convention of Blue Key National Honor Society Transcribed Proceedings, 1938, Pages 98-100, 122-208).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Dean John Clark Jordan, Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Vice-President: Dr. Joseph Roemer, Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Secretary: Dean Ralph W. Noyer, Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Robert L. Hill, University of Missouri, Rolla, Missouri.

1940

The fourth biennial Blue Key National Convention was held in Kansas City, Missouri at the Muehlebach Hotel on December 27-28, 1940. Dean Riley, in his leadership role continued to expand the number of Blue Key chapters and have a significant presence in more states. The number of chapters had grown to 76 nationwide.

Blue Key National Honor Fraternity continued as an all-male organization prior to World War II. The officers, Dean Riley, Dr. Jordan, Dr. Roemer and Dr. Noyer were are unchanged for four more years which turned out to be the time of World War II (Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1940, Volume 7, Number 1) The new Treasurer (aka Comptroller) replacing Bob Hill was Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, a Hollywood Publicist and Press Agent (Source: Blue Key Journal, February 1941, Volume 7, Number 2, Pages 2-4.8-9).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Dean John Clark Jordan, Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Vice-President: Dr. Joseph Roemer, Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Secretary: Dean Ralph W. Noyer, Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

1942

No national convention was held during the wartime years of 1942 and 1944. The membership rolls of chapter were depleted during the war effort. Men aged eighteen and above were serving in the military. Blue Key chapter suspended activities at the time due to military commitments.

1946

After skipping two biennial meetings due to World War II, the fifth Biennial National Convention was scheduled for December 27-28, 1946, at the Hotel Statler in St. Louis, Missouri. Blue Key Administrative Council membership was unchanged with officers, Dean Riley, Dr. Jordan, Dr. Roemer, Dr. Noyer and Robert Hill for the past six years of relative inactivity in terms of conventions and meetings due to WWII 1946 (Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1946, Volume 10, Number 1).

According to the 5<sup>th</sup> Convention transcribed proceedings the only change of officers was the retirement Dr. Ralph Noyer as Vice-President the selection of Mr. John J. McCann, a graduate of the University of Loyola of the South in New Orleans. He became an attorney with a law firm in New Orleans. The changes were made by vote of the Blue Key Administrative Council (Source: Transcribed Business Meeting, 1946 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial (sic) Blue Key National Convention, Pages 103-104) and (Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1946, Volume 10, Number 1). Dr. Jordan completed his term as President the next year, 1947. The following officers served from 1940 to 1946 (Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1946, Volume 10, Number 1).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Dean John Clark Jordan, Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Vice-President: Dr. Joseph Roemer, Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Secretary: Dean Ralph W. Noyer, Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The Blue Key Administrative Council considered several issues that were rapidly emerging during the post-war years. Items discussed included the size of the organization and the number of chapters created, language tied to qualifications of membership (for example: completion of two years of college at a nationally or regionally accredited college or university in good standing, grade point average above the scholastic average of the student body, male gender, racial integration and honorary and alumni memberships (Source: The 1946 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Convention Proceedings Transcript, St. Louis, Pages 105-112).

1948

The big picture issue in 1948 was how much did and should Blue Key National Honor Fraternity reflect American society in terms of racial and ethnic integration. Impetus for greater openness in Blue Key to ethnic minorities came from Blue Key chapters in the far west that involved opposition to discrimination against Asian people since WWII. The Blue Key chapter delegates were very opposed to discrimination based on ethnicity.

Resistance to this change was mostly south of the Mason-Dixon Line in 1948. The top administration of Blue Key had to resolve the membership restriction on the books. The Council held that prejudice and discrimination were not just a geographic or sectional issue in the United States; it was a national issue. Hence Blue Key decided to deal with the issue head on. The composition of the Blue Key Administrative Council was also a consideration as Blue Key asked the question: "Who are we? In other words, was Blue Key at the time a reflection of society? In what way should it be manifested (Source: The 1946 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Annual Blue Key National Convention Proceedings Transcript, St. Louis, Pages 103-105)?

For starters, the National Administrative Council supported the viewpoint by looking at itself. It contended the following regarding the Council:

“A balanced Administrative Council should be established and preserved between those men of academic position and established prestige and those who have more liberal ideas” (Source: The 1946 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Convention Proceedings Transcript, St. Louis, Page 103).

Early in 1948 the National Administrative Council met. At the previous convention in 1946 the National Administrative Council reached a consensus that the meeting would include forty-five delegates, 78 active Blue Key chapters at the time. This early 1948 convention was essentially a specialized Blue Key Convention that focused on a mandate to consider updating the policy and constitution regarding minority group candidacy and membership in Blue Key. The National Council appointed a three-member committee from its membership. The Committee’s composition was:

“Dr. John Clark Jordan, the National President, Dean B. C. Riley, the National Executive Officer and Founder of the Fraternity, and your speaker, John J. McCann, the National Secretary, to study the problem thoroughly and make a report of its findings and recommendations to the National Chapter at its biennial convention in Chicago, December 28 and 29, 1948” (Source: 6<sup>th</sup> National Administrative Council Meeting Transcript/National Blue Key Convention Meeting Proceedings Transcript, 1948, Page 2).

Most delegates (N=27) voted for the amendment eliminating discrimination based on race. Eighteen delegates voted against the amendment. The vote in favor of the amendment was seven votes short of a 3/4s majority, but the recommendation was favorable to a change in the Blue Key Constitution. The National Administrative Council upheld the Committee’s recommendation to eliminate language in the Blue Key Constitution that restricted the organization to Caucasian males. Instead, Blue Key took the position that it would abide by the principles of stated in the United States Constitution regarding equality and equal opportunity (Source: National Administrative Council Meeting Transcript, 1948, Pages 2-3). Blue Key National Honor Fraternity promoted equal treatment for all human beings.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Blue Key National Convention was held on December 28-29, 1948, in Chicago, Illinois at the Del Prado Hotel. The Blue Key Administrative Council spent considerable time dealing with racism in America. The Council removed language in the constitution that restricted membership to Caucasian males. This issue was raised when a Black professor was being nominated for honorary membership in Blue Key. Dr. Riley continued as Executive Secretary and Dr. John Clark Jordan served as president. Clair M. Donovan who continued his strong affiliation with the Michigan Technological University as an alum and engaged supporter of chapter service was selected to be the next Vice-President and a member of the Blue Key Administrative Council. Most of the topics were the same as those discussed and deliberated at earlier biennial conventions.

Agenda items were the proposed Blue Key Song, reaffirmation of the principles of Blue Key, creation of a Blue Key Directory, appointment of a committee to study expansion of Blue Key chapters to more schools and the ongoing subject addressing chapter size in relation to the host college or university (Source: Blue Key National Honor Fraternity 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention Proceedings Transcript, December 29-30, 1950, Pages 27-28, 45-50, 86-90, 95-96).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Dean John Clark Jordan, Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Vice-President: Clair M Donovan, Michigan College of M&T (Michigan Technological University)
- Secretary: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, Hollywood Publicist and Press Agent.

(Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1948, Volume 12, Number 1; February 1949, Volume 12, Number 2, Page 3).

President Jordan opened the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key Convention in Chicago and noted the upcoming Blue Key Silver Anniversary celebration as part of this biennial meeting. The growth of Blue Key has been spectacular in its 25-year history. Jordan also reported on approval of the amendment to the constitution banning discriminatory language regarding qualification for membership in Blue Key by the Blue Key Administrative Council. The Convention saw the ratification of that constitutional change. Other topics on the agenda was standardizing and formalizing financial reporting procedures and forms for chapters to report highlights and news items to the Blue Key Journal (Source: 6<sup>th</sup> Blue Key National Honor Fraternity 1948 Biennial Convention Transcribed Proceedings, Chicago, IL, December 28-29, Pages 11-23, 105-108).

1950

The 8<sup>th</sup> Blue Key National Honor Fraternity biennial convention was held in San Antonio, Texas at the Hotel Gunter. This biennial convention was held on December 28-30, 1950. The host was Trinity University. The date of this meeting marked the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Blue Key. Dr. Bert Clair Riley continued as the Executive Officer.

The significant outcome of this convention was language included in the constitution about nondiscrimination legislation tied to the selection criteria based on race of potential members. The constitution update did not allow discrimination based on race. Other items of business included a recommendation for an official Blue Key song, expansion of Blue Key chapters, discussion of size of school and size of chapter and Blue Key regions (Source: 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Transcribed Proceedings, 1950, Pages 1-14).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
  - President: Dr. Ralph W. Noyer, Dean and Blue Key Advisor, Ball State College, Muncie, Indiana.
  - Vice-President: Clair M. Donovan, Michigan College of M&T (Michigan Technological University)
  - Secretary: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
  - Treasurer/Comptroller: Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, Hollywood Publicist and Press Agent.
- (Source: Blue Key Journal, February 1951, Volume 14, Number 2).

1952

The 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Convention was held in Denver, Colorado on December 29-31, 1952, at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Dr. Bert Clair Riley, the founder of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity continued to serve as the Executive Officer. The newly elected National President was Dr. Ralph Noyer. The convention hosts were the Colorado School of Mines and Colorado State College of Education. The participants celebrated the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blue Key.

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
  - President: Dr. Ralph Noyer, Dean and Blue Key Advisor, Ball State College, Muncie, Indiana.
  - Vice-President: Clair M. Donovan, Michigan College of M&T (Michigan Technological University)
  - Secretary: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
  - Treasurer/Comptroller: Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, Hollywood Publicist and Press Agent.
- (Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1952, Volume 16, Number 1).

1953

By 1953, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity has 92 active chapters. (Source: Blue Key Journal, May 1953, Volume 16, Number 3).

1954

The 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key Convention occurred on December 28-30, 1954, in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Hotel Lincoln. The conference was hosted by Butler University. President Dr. Ralph W. Noyer of Ball State Teachers College delivered an interesting speech, "7 Deadly Sins of Honor Societies." Dr. Riley reported that Blue Key has 95 chapters in 36 states (Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1954, Volume 18, Number 1, Pages 5-7) and (Source: Blue Key Journal, February 1955, Volume 18, Number 2).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Dr. Ralph Noyer, Dean and Blue Key Advisor, Ball State College, Muncie, Indiana.
- Vice-President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Secretary: Carter Short, Blue Key Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, Hollywood Publicist and Press Agent.

1956

The 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key Convention occurred on December 28-30, 1956, in New Orleans, Louisiana at the historical Jung Hotel in the French Quarter. It was the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Blue Key. President Dr. Ralph Noyer completed his term at the convention. He was replaced by Clair M. Donovan who had been long affiliated with the Blue Key Chapter at Michigan Technological University found in the Upper Peninsula of that state. Loyola University of the South in New Orleans served as the host chapter (Source: Blue Key Journal, October 1956, Volume 20, Number 1, Pages 1-5). Many considered New Orleans the Paris of America. The welcome to the city was indeed elegant. The hotel was the finest venue known. The host chapter, Loyola University of the South, was an elite university along with Tulane University next door in Audubon Park apart from downtown. The two universities shared dining and library facilities (Source: Convention Call. Blue Key: The Official Journal of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Fall, 1956, Volume 20, Number 1, Page 5).

The theme of the convention according to B.C. Riley was "How to Strengthen the Fraternity Nationally and Locally," This was accomplished through a series of panels. The convention also addresses the use of regional groupings of chapters so that face-to-face meetings could be scheduled to supply continuity of chapter operations. The challenges of good record keeping at the chapter and state level were addressed. As was the case at each convention, the standing committees supplied reports on resolutions, place of the next convention, the constitution and bylaws and nominations. Blue Key has one hundred active chapters in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

There was also a spirited discussion about the pros and cons of expanding to other countries such as Canada and the Philippines. It was ruled out as not practical. Blue Key included the Pledge of Allegiance as part of its ceremony and convention agenda. At one point in the discussion of international chapters of Blue Key, Dr. Riley retorted "How in the hell can a good Canadian swear Allegiance to the United States?" (Source: 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Transcribed Proceedings, 1956, Pages 1-18).

In a discussion about service project sponsored by Blue Key chapters, such service was considered good public relations. Selling programs at football games, sponsoring carnivals, illuminating displays that herald the school whether it is on a mountain side or part of a homecoming parade, it was seen very favorably by all (Source: 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity

Transcribed Proceedings, 1956, Pages 36-37). Other public relations opportunities were articles about Blue Key in the student newspaper, photographs in the yearbook and publishing a college directory (Source: 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Transcribed Proceedings, 1956, Pages 38-39).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Clair M. Donovan, Alumnus Michigan Technological University.
- Vice-President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Secretary: Carter Short, Blue Key Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, Hollywood Publicist and Press Agent.

The Blue Key Executive Officer, Dean Riley, reported in the Winter 1956-57 issue of the Blue Key Journal that a total of one hundred Blue Key chapters in 35 states and the District of Columbia are now on the national roll. Since its formation in 1924 Blue Key has had 40,983 members. Dr. Riley went on to point out that Blue Key is unique, and its policies and functions are completely transparent. Blue Key displays no Greek letters and has no secret proceedings. The Blue Key Code and the Constitution and Bylaws seek members who are well-rounded in terms of leadership, scholarship, and service. Blue Key looks to include within its membership the “best of the best.” (Source: Blue Key Journal, Winter 1956-57, Volume 20, Number 2, Pages 3,15-17). By Fall 1957, the number of chapters increased to 101 according to Dr. Riley (Source: Blue Key Journal, Fall 1957, Volume 21, Number 1, Pages 25-27).

1958

The 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Convention took place in Detroit, Michigan at the Statler-Hilton Hotel on December 29-30, 1958. The 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference host was the University of Detroit. Continuing to serve as the Executive Officer was Dr. Bert Clair Riley. The convention agenda followed the regular business meeting format of earlier conventions. The Program and Projects Committee reported on chapter activities and fund raisers, themes in the magazine, the need for regional meetings and the need for a Traveling Secretary. Fund raising ideas were a book exchange, student directory, school calendar, concessions at campus and sports events, senior rings, and auctions. Talent shows included variety shows, carnivals, rodeos, and satire shows of campus dignitaries (Source: 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Convention Meeting Notes, 1958, Pages 1-13).

The National Administrative Council was unchanged.

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Clair M. Donovan, Alumnus Michigan Technological University.
- Vice-President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Secretary: Carter Short, Blue Key Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Mr. Beverly G. Barnett, Hollywood Publicist and Press Agent.

1960

Blue Key National Honor Fraternity celebrated its 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key Convention held on December 27-29, 1960, in Kansas City, Missouri at the familiar Muehlebach Hotel (Source: 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Convention Program Brochure, 1960, Pages 1-4).

Dr. Riley, serving as the National Executive Officer, gave a speech that was summarized in the Blue Key Journal. He discussed “What is a Fraternity? It Is a Laboratory for Understanding and Cooperation.” Much of the focus was on leadership, team building, trust, integrity, and credibility. At key



points in his speech, he used military concepts to discuss leadership, courage, effective planning and bonds of friendship and service that develop over time to improve human performance in teams. Leadership, intelligence, service, and strong character among members produce high performance and success in small groups. He also reported that Blue Key chapter total reached 103 chapters (Source: Blue Key Journal, Fall 1958, Volume 22, Number 1, Pages 5, 7, 34-36).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Clair M. Donovan, Alumnus Michigan Technological University, and had a career in industry.
- Vice-President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Secretary: Carter Short, Blue Key Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Charles Bushong, Blue Key Advisor, New York University, New York, New York.

(Source: Blue Key Journal, Fall 1960, Volume 24, Number 1, Pages 5,7, 34-35).

1962

The year 1962 saw a notable change of Blue Key national leadership. The 14th Blue Key Biennial Convention was held at the usual time at the end of the year, December 27-29, 1962, at a familiar location, Kansas City, Missouri at the Muehlebach Hotel. Dean Riley had received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Franklin College.

Claire Donovan functioned as the presiding officer at the convention. It was also reported in the Blue Key Journal that Comptroller, Beverly G. Barnett had died. Born on September 12, 1911, he died on February 14, 1960 (Source: Blue Key Journal, Spring 1960, Volume 23, Number 3, Pages 2-4).

The board had to grapple with the issue of the location of the National Headquarters. Does it follow the National Executive Officer, or does it remain in one fixed location, thus essentially giving Blue Key two central offices? The decision was reached to stay with the language in the Blue Key Constitution that “upon the appointment of the Executive Officer, it shall be at the residence of the Executive Officer (Source: Transcript, Minutes of Proceedings, 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Kansas City, MO, 1962, Page 41).

- Executive Officer: Dean Bert Clair Riley, Advisor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- President: Clair M. Donovan, Alumnus Michigan Technological University.
- Vice-President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Secretary: Carter Short, Blue Key Advisor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Treasurer/Comptroller: Charles Bushong, Blue Key Advisor, New York University, New York, New York.

Dr. Riley reported that Blue Key has 113 chapters (Source: Blue Key Journal, Fall 1960, Volume 24, Number 1, Pages 3-5, 8-10, 33-35).

1962

Blue Key National Honor Fraternity founder and National Executive Officer, Major Bert Clair Riley, age 70, died on the evening of June 28, 1962 in Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Riley was born on November 12, 1891, in Rockford, Illinois. The sitting National Secretary, Carter Short, served as the Interim Executive Officer from June 29, 1962, to March 2, 1963. He served until a permanent Executive Officer was appointed. As part of the reorganization plan, the new National Executive Officer was named. Blue Key appointed Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr., Ph.D., the Blue Key Advisor and Dean at Loyola University-New

Orleans. He was selected on March 2, 1963 (Source: Blue Key Journal, Spring 1960, Volume 23, Number 3, Pages 5,7,9,34-35).

A Bert C. Riley Memorial Issue of the Fall 1962 Blue Key Journal was a tribute to the personal and professional record of Dr. Riley's contribution to Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. From November 27, 1924, to June 28, 1962, he founded, chartered, and led 118 chapters making Blue Key the largest honor society in the nation (Source: Blue Key Journal, Fall 1962, Volume 26, Number 1, Pages 2-11).

Subsequently the Blue Key National Headquarters located in Gainesville, Florida during Dean Riley's tenure as National Executive Officer since 1924, was moved from the Florida address to New Orleans following at residence of Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr., the new National Executive Officer as stipulated in the Blue Key Constitution. Dr. Engler was a member of the faculty and dean at the University of Loyola of the South in downtown New Orleans. The new location address was P.O. Box 4010, Carrollton Station, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Blue Key Archives were retained in Gainesville under the control of Mrs. Ruth Lemon Riley. She served as Blue Key Archivist (Source: Blue Key Journal, Fall 1962, Volume 26, Number 1, Pages 2-11).

Shown below, this was the statement from the administration of the University of Florida describing the tremendous impact that Dean Riley had during his tenure at that institution. He was indeed revered on campus and throughout the nation. His contribution as the founder and leader of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity was but one of his many achievements to the greater academic world.

Source: Office of Informational Services  
University of Florida, Gainesville, June 29, 1962  
W. H. (Hoke) Kerns, Director

Dr. Bert Claire Riley, with a record of 43 years of service as dean of the General Extension Division of the University of Florida, died late last night at the J. Hillis Miller Health Center of a heart attack. He was 70.

Dean Riles was scheduled to retire tomorrow (6/30). Just this month the Florida State Board of Control in an official resolution recognized him as "a man of vision, determined action and integrity who served the state with distinction."

The resolution officially names him "Dean Emeritus."

President J. Wayne Reitz paid Dean Riley tribute as "one of Florida's great men. Through his imagination and leadership, the General Extension Division was built into one of the finest adult educational programs in the nation."

"In the 43 years that he served as its director he was loved and admired by all who had the privilege of working with him. We shall miss him greatly."

Throughout his years of service Dean Riley guided the people of Florida and their universities as partners through the General Extension Division in a cooperative effort to build a better state and a better life for its people.

Within the past few months Dean Riley was cited by a variety of other organizations for his service to the state. These included The Florida Council of Churches, the Florida City Managers' Association, and the Florida Municipal Finance Officers Association. During his years at the University of Florida Dean Riley attended 41 consecutive June commencement programs. He was unable to attend the 1962 exercises because of illness.

Dean Riley was born in Rockford, Illinois on November 12, 1891.

He became interested in university extension work in 1914. His first efforts in this field resulted in his organizing the Indiana University Extension Division in that year.

He joined the staff of the University of Arkansas in 1916 as editor and specialist for the College of Agriculture in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1917 he again turned his attention to the extension field and organized the General Extension Division at the University of Arkansas, where he served as director for two years.

Coming to Florida in 1919 he organized the General Extension Division and was named its dean.

Dean Riley was among the first in America to recognize the importance of using the radio in education. He was the founder and first director of the State and University of Florida Radio Station WRUF in 1928. He relinquished the post in 1930.

He also founded the Florida School of Adult Education at Camp Roosevelt near Ocala and served as its dean in 1936-37.

As a distinguished educator, Dean Riley was an officer and served on committees in numerous educational organizations, including the Florida Educational Program Committee, Florida Bankers Association Educational Committee, Florida Teachers Education Advisory Committee, and the State Department of Education.

He was president of the National Extension Association and the Southern Colleges and Universities Extension Association becoming the first, and to date, the only person selected to serve as president of both groups.

Dean Riley has served his country well through its military. As a member of the Florida State Defense Council, he was state coordinator for training in Civilian Defense Corps from 1941 to 1943, and for two years was an advisor to the National Office of Civilian Defense. He was Civilian Aid to the Secretary of War from 1923 to 1954.

In 1924, Dean Riley founded the national honor fraternity, Blue Key. He was president emeritus and National Executive Officer of this group which has honored more than forty thousand student leaders in over 100 college and university chapters in all sections of the country. He was a long-standing member of Phi Delta Theta social fraternity and faculty advisor to the Florida chapter. He was listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in American Education among other notable publications.

Dean Riley held undergraduate degrees from the University of Iowa, the University of Missouri, and LL.D. from Franklin College in Indiana.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth; two sons, Patrick of Jacksonville, and Donald of Gainesville; a daughter, Nancy, of Gainesville; one brother, Thomas E. Riley of Keosauqua, Iowa; and a sister, Mrs. I. J. Torrance of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon (Saturday) at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. The family has requested that flowers be omitted.

1964

Clair M. Donovan, National President, concluded his term and was replaced by John J. McCann, Esq. after several years of service on the Blue Key Administrative Council. McCann reinforced the National Administrative Council's role concerning the affairs of Blue Key. He also strengthened the regional structure that identified groupings of states by region of the country. Under the direction of Dean Engler, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity became incorporated in New Orleans, Louisiana in September 1963 (Source: [Blue Key Journal](#), Fall 1963, Volume 27, Number 1, Pages 4-9). It is not known if Blue Key attained the nonprofit organization status as a 501c4 organization. It was reported that Blue Key has 121 chapters (Source: [Blue Key Journal](#), Fall 1964, Volume 27, Number 3, Pages 2-3).

- Executive Officer: Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr., Ph.D., the Blue Key Advisor and Dean at Loyola University-New Orleans.
- President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Vice-President: Clair M. Donovan, Alumnus Michigan Technological University.

- Secretary: Dr. Dan W. Poling, Blue Key Advisor, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.
  - Treasurer/Comptroller: Charles Bushong, Blue Key Advisor, New York University, New York, New York.
  - Archivist – Historian: Ruth Lemon Riley (Mrs. B.C. Riley), Gainesville, Florida.
- (Source: Blue Key Journal, Fall 1963, Volume 27, Number 1, Pages 28-31).

This citation regarding the Clair M. Donovan Award was taken from the Michigan Tech Blue Key website.

#### Clair M. Donovan Award at Michigan Tech

The Clair M. Donovan Award is awarded to a Michigan Tech faculty or staff member, a student, or an exceptional community member who has contributed the most outstanding service during the preceding year.

The award is made in honor of Clair M. Donovan, who through his many years of service as national president of Blue Key Honor Society, as an alum, and as a civic leader, has made immeasurable contributions to the public image and prosperity of Michigan Tech.

The 15th Blue Key 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention occurred on December 27-29, 1964. The site again was the Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. The number of delegates attending the convention numbered 130 (Source: Blue Key Journal, September-October 1966, Volume 24, Number 1).

A typographical error was made regarding the volume number in 1966. It should have been identified as Volume 29, Number 1. The numbering system was inaccurate for several years. The National Administrative Council experienced some change with the passing of two major Blue Key leaders: Dean B. C. Riley and Clair M. Donovan.

Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr., Ph.D., the Blue Key Advisor and Dean at Loyola University-New Orleans became the second Blue Key National Executive Officer filling the shoes of the late Bert C. Riley. Dr. Dan W. Poling as Vice-President replaced Clair Donovan. Richard F. Reicherter made his first appearance as a member of the council as Secretary.

- Executive Officer: Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr., Ph.D., the Blue Key Advisor and Dean at Loyola University-New Orleans.
  - President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
  - Vice-President: Dr. Dan W. Poling, Blue Key Advisor, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.
  - Secretary: Richard F. Reicherter, Blue Key Advisor, Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia (today, Emporia State University)
  - Treasurer/Comptroller: Charles Bushong, Blue Key Advisor, New York University, New York, New York.
  - Archivist – Historian: Ruth Lemon Riley (Mrs. B.C. Riley), Gainesville, Florida.
- (Source: Blue Key Journal, February-March 1965, Volume 27, Number 2, Pages 1-15) (Should be Volume 29, Number 2) and (Source: Blue Key Journal, September-October 1966, Volume 24, Number 1) (Should be Volume 29, Number 1).

1966

The National Administrative Council met on June 17-19, 1966, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The members were Engler, McCann, Poling and Reicherter. Mrs. Ethel Margot kept a record of the Council's deliberations. The agenda dealt with budget and financial matters. The estimated income at the time was \$38,000. Discussion revolved around employee retirements benefits, which were rather small. Another agenda item had to do with identifying nine men who could assist and advise the Council and meet with the Council during odd-numbered years when no biennial convention was scheduled. Half of the nine-man liaison panel would be drawn from the administrative officers at various colleges and universities. The remainder would come from the ranks of science, business, and political leaders. The motion carried (Source: National Administrative Council Meeting Minutes, June 17-19, 1966, Pages 1-8).

The 16<sup>th</sup> Blue Key Convention was held on December 26-29, 1966, at the same hotel, Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Certain documents say this is the 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention. Dec 27-29, 1966, but that does not seem to be the case. Note: It was the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention. Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr. of Loyola University was the Blue Key Executive Officer and John J. McCann was the National President.

- Executive Officer: Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr., Ph.D., the Blue Key Advisor and Dean at Loyola University-New Orleans.
  - President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
  - Vice-President: Dr. Dan W. Poling, Blue Key Advisor, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.
  - Secretary: Richard F. Reicherter, Blue Key Advisor, Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia (today, Emporia State University)
  - Treasurer/Comptroller: C. Don Spiegel, Blue Key Advisor, New York University, New York, New York.
  - Archivist – Historian: Ruth Lemon Riley (Mrs. B.C. Riley), Gainesville, Florida.
- (Source: Blue Key Journal, Winter 1967-68, Volume 26, Number 1) (Should be Volume 29, No. 1).

1967

The Blue Key National Executive Officer, Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr. asked the Blue Key National Administrative Council to vote via mailed survey to approximately 108 chapters regarding Blue Key Constitutional and Statutes of Procedure matters on March 27, 1967: (1) All Blue Key Chapters obtain a mandatory "mailing address at a campus mailbox or a Federal Post Office box or any other address which will remain on record as a permanent mailing address for that chapter" and (2) amendments related to a change of membership by an individual from "active to inactive or inactive to active." Completed ballots on the constitutional amendments were to be mailed by April 30, 1967 to Dean Henry J. Engler, National Executive Officer, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, P.O. Box 4010, Carrollton Station, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 (Source: Letter to All Chapters of Blue Key from Henry J. Engler, Jr., National Executive Officer, September 20, 1967, Pages 1-3).

1968

On August 15, 1968, the address of the Blue Key Headquarters (National Office) was changed from P.O. Box 4010, Carrollton Station, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 to an address a few blocks away within the city. According to the Blue Key Constitution, the National Office follows the National Executive Officer. The transition from Gainesville and the University of Florida to New Orleans was complete. The new address of Blue Key Headquarters (National Office) is 4435 Lafayette Street, New

Orleans, LA 70122. Louise Held was appointed Executive Secretary and engaged in the day-to-day management of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity.

Once again, the Blue Key 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention was held at the historical Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City on December 26-28, 1968. This was the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Convention since 1934. The Executive Officer was Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr, Ph.D. of Loyola University, and was now firmly in-place. John J. McCann served as National President in 1968 and presided over the Convention. Present were sixty-two delegates and sixteen alternate delegates (Source: 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Convention Meeting Minutes, 1968, Pages 1-28).

- Executive Officer: Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr., Ph.D., the Blue Key Advisor and Dean at Loyola University-New Orleans.
  - President: John J. McCann, Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.
  - Vice-President: Dr. Dan W. Poling, Blue Key Advisor, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.
  - Secretary: Richard F. Reicherter, Blue Key Advisor, Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia (today, Emporia State University)
  - Treasurer/Comptroller: C. Don Spiegel, Blue Key Advisor, New York University, New York, New York.
  - Archivist – Historian: Ruth Lemon Riley (Mrs. B.C. Riley), Gainesville, Florida.
  - Executive Secretary: Mrs. Louise Held, New Orleans, Louisiana
- (Source: 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Convention Meeting Minutes, 1968, Pages 1-28).

Dr. Engler reported that the total number of Blue Key chapters reached 137 (Source: Blue Key Journal, Winter 1968-69, Volume 27, Number 1, Pages 4-7). The numbering system of volumes is off by two. Volume 29, Number 1 should have been the correct number.

This is the obituary written by Richard F. Reicherter. The details given, notwithstanding, show that he was engaged in many business, nonprofit, civic and social organizations.

He eventually became the third National Executive Director of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. He was the Chief Executive Officer when the acceptance of females into Blue Key was a significant issue.

Richard F. Reicherter, a Blue Key Advisor and Founder of the chapter at a college that is known today as Emporia State University. The following is a newspaper article about Reicherter.

**Named To Blue Key Council – Richard F. Reicherter**

Professor Reicherter at Kansas State Teachers College was re-elected to a four-year term of the National Administrative Council at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> biennial convention of the Blue Key National Honor Leadership Fraternity at the Hotel Muehlebach Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1968. He just completed one four-year term. In addition to holding a national office, Mr. Reicherter was editor of all national publications, including the official magazine, Blue Key Journal.

Attending the convention in 1968 from Emporia State Chapter of Blue Key were:

Steve Hungerford, W. M. Stalcut, Ross Stadalman, Lynn Cress, Brace Cooper, Marc Johnson, Bob Guerrant and Chuck Sulzen. The Emporia State Chapter oversaw all arrangements and the coordination of the convention. At the closing session the delegates complimented the Emporia State Chapter for its work. Other members on the National Administrative Council in addition to Reicherter are John McCann, New Orleans; Dr. Dan Poling, Corvallis, Ore; D. Don Spiegel, New York, and Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr., New Orleans.

Source: The Gazette, 517 Merchant St., Emporia, Kansas

1970

The 20<sup>th</sup> Blue Key Convention was held on December 27-29, 1970, in Kansas City at the Muehlebach Hotel. The Blue Key Administrative Council was unchanged as the key officers were Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr., Executive Officer and John J. McCann, President.

The order of business included election of members to the Blue Key Administrative Council, amendments to the constitution to include criteria for membership (upper 35% GPA), triennial conventions and a change of terms of officers from four to six years. The National Headquarters was located at 4435 Lafaye Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122. The proposed changes to the constitution would be voted on by mail ballot to all chapters.

1972

There exists a lack of clarity about Reicherter's terms of service with Blue Key. The official record is missing and is somewhat sketchy. One source has it that Reicherter became Blue Key Secretary in December 1964 and continued in that capacity. In Spring 1972, He was the Blue Key Advisor at Emporia State Teachers College. His obituary claims he was National President in 1967 to 1986. The national records are missing regarding convention activity and the business meeting in 1972. It is not clear when and where the 21<sup>st</sup> Blue Key Convention was held, but it is implied that the 21<sup>st</sup> Blue Key Convention was the last of the biennial meetings. Future conventions were triennial beginning in 1975.

The Board of Directors that was formed in June 2000 knows different. Reicherter was asked to resign in May or June under peculiar financial circumstances. All evidence pointed to misappropriation of funds and dereliction of duty. The new Blue Key administration decided not to pursue legal action, but to simply pay the money owed to the Ronald Harrington Printing Company in Marion, Massachusetts and move forward. Harrington Printing was the vendor that printed all embossed Blue Key Membership Certificates for each member chapter of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity.

Key administrative records such as registration with the Kansas Secretary of State as a 501c4 nonprofit organization were kept unavailable to the new Blue Key Board members.

No record existed in the National Office files and archive file of the IRS designation of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity as a 501c4 nonprofit organization. The only clue regarding EIN numbers and key documents was discovered through a bank in Topeka. The IRS documents and Secretary of State websites provided limited information.

The new Executive Director, Dr. Christopher M. Sieverdes, long-time Blue Key Advisor at Clemson University, discovered that Reicherter had not filed required annual reports with the Kansas Secretary

of State during much of the 1990s. No past IRS Form 990 federal tax records were found among all the National Office records obtained by Dr. Sieverdes.

During the research in the preparation of this History of Blue Key document, in 2016 Dr. Sieverdes in preparation of this History of Blue Key document researched Richard Reicherter on-line to determine what business or businesses he was engaged in while serving as the CEO of Blue Key both concurrently and thereafter. Reicherter died in 2009 at age 80 according to his obituary. He had no children. It is not clear if he was ever married.

1973

During the historical investigation of Blue Key and the actions of Richard Reicherter, Dr. Sieverdes determined that the 21<sup>st</sup> Blue Key Biennial Convention was held in December 1973. This was the 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention. The location was not documented and remains unknown.

A constitutional change was approved by the National Administrative Council in 1973 to admit females for membership in Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. This was a significant departure from tradition. Chapters began to process female memberships from this point on. Dr. David Turner, Blue Key Advisor at Benedictine College was an ardent supporter of female membership. The first female inducted was Louise Held in the Loyola University of the South in New Orleans.

1975

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Blue Key 53<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention was held at the Pick-Congress Hotel in Chicago, Illinois on December 26-29, 1975. Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr., Executive Officer, Loyola College, New Orleans, Louisiana. The National Secretary was Richard F. Reicherter, faculty member at Emporia State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas (Source: Blue Key Journal 1975). He had agreed earlier to become the editor of the Blue Key Journal. The journal was printed in booklet form and contained National Office news, chapter highlights and reports and informative or motivational articles on leadership and service. The National Office address was P.O. Box 8487, Metairie, Louisiana 70011 as of November 15, 1976.

A new group of officers had seats on the Blue Key National Administrative Council. They were as follows:

- Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr. National Executive Officer, Blue Key Advisor, Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Dr. Richard F. Reicherter, National President, Blue Key Advisor, Emporia Kansas State College, Emporia, Kansas.
- Dr. O. J. Byrnside, National Vice President, National Business Education Association, Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Dan W. Poling, National Secretary, Blue Key Advisor, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.
- Dr. Albert E. Bolon, National Treasurer, University of Missouri at Rolla, Rolla, Missouri.
- Mrs. Louise Held, Secretary in the National Executive Office, P.O. Box 8005, Metairie, Louisiana.
- Dr. (Father) David Turner, OSB, National Editor, Benedictine College, Lisle, Illinois.
- Mrs. Ruth Lemon Riley, National Archivist Emeritus, Gainesville, Florida (Source: Blue Key National Honor Fraternity 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention Program Agenda, Chicago, Illinois, 1975, Pages 1-8). No meeting minutes were available.



1978

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Blue Key National Honor Fraternity the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Biennial Convention was held at the usual time on December 26-29, 1978, at the Hilton Plaza Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. The National Officers are Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr., Executive Officer, and member of the faculty at Loyola University in New Orleans and Dr. Richard F. Reicherter, National President who served on the faculty at Emporia State College in Emporia, Kansas. The National Office address continued to be P.O. Box 8487, Metairie, Louisiana 70011. Note that 148 delegates were listed on the convention agenda.

- Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr., Executive Officer, Advisor, Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Dr. Richard F. Reicherter, President, Advisor, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas.
- Dr. Jorgen Thompson, Vice-President, Advisor, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- Dean James Culp, Secretary, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Treasurer: O. J. Byrnside. Affiliation and state are unknown.
- Dr. David Turner, Chaplain, Advisor, St. Martin's College, Benedictine College, Lisle, Illinois.

It was during the 1978 national conference that the constitution under the guidance of Dr. Henry Engler, Executive Officer, was changed to prohibit discrimination for membership in Blue Key based on race, creed, color, ethnic origin, sex, or age. The language was specific.

1981

No information was available to the author regarding a 1981 triennial convention or at a subsequent date. Henry J. Engler, Jr. National Executive Officer sent a letter to all members of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity on September 9, 1981, regarding "Tentative policy change on Physical Communications" that represented a notable change in the way Blue Key was to do business soon.

Chapters were organized into nine regions nationwide. A member of the Blue Key Administrative Council member accepted responsibility for a region of the country (Source: Letter and attachment to "All Members of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity" from Henry J. Engler, Jr. National Executive Officer, dated September 9, 1981, Page 1).

The 1981 National Administrative Council consisted of

- Dr. Henry J. Engler, Jr., National Executive Officer, Loyola University.
- Dr. Richard F. Reicherter, National President, Emporia State University.
- Dr. Jorgen S. Thompson, National Vice President, Augustana College.
- Dean James L. Culp, National Treasurer, Georgia State University.
- Mr. David Wisch, National Secretary, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Mr. Kim Penner, National Sergeant at Arms, Wellington, Kansas.
- Mrs. Louise Held, Executive Secretary, 3504 Cleary Ave, Metairie, Louisiana.

(Source: Letter and attachment to "All Members of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity" from Henry J. Engler, Jr. National Executive Officer, dated September 9, 1981, Page 2).

#### A Bold Re-organization of Blue Key

The states or portions of states were divided into these nine regions with the number of chapters noted:

- Northeastern Region (N=13): Massachusetts (N=1), New Jersey (N=1), New York (N=3), Pennsylvania (N=3), Virginia (N=3), District of Columbia (N=1), West Virginia (N=1)
- The Mid-West Region (N=30): Illinois (N=6), Indiana (N=9), Iowa (N=1), Kentucky (N=1), Ohio (N=7), Michigan (N=5), Wisconsin (N=1).

- Central Plains Region (N=18): Iowa (N=1), Kansas (N=3), Minnesota (N=1), Missouri (N=4), Nebraska (N=3), North Dakota (N=2), South Dakota (N=3), Wisconsin (N=1)
  - Southeastern Region (N=19): Florida (N=2), Georgia (N=5), North Carolina (N=1), South Carolina (N=7), Tennessee (N=4)
  - South Central Region (N=23): Alabama (N=1), Arkansas (N=4), Louisiana (N=5), Mississippi (N=1), Oklahoma (N=5), Texas (N=7)
  - Rocky Mountain Region (N=8): Colorado (N=4), Nebraska (N=1), Utah (N=3)
  - Southwest Region (N=7): Arizona (N=3), New Mexico (N=4)
  - Western Region (N=9): California (N=8), Nevada (N=1)
  - Pacific Northwest Region (N=8): Idaho (N=1), Oregon (N=6), Washington (N=1)
- (Source: Letter and attachment to “All Members of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity” from Henry J. Engler, Jr. National Executive Officer, dated September 9, 1981).

The total number of active Blue Key chapters was 110 in September 1981 (Source: Letter and attachment to “All Members of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity” from Henry J. Engler, Jr. National Executive Officer, dated September 9, 1981).

1984

Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc. became registered as a 501c4 nonprofit organization in the State of Kansas on December 3, 1984. The Articles of Incorporation state that the address was 1022 Scott Street, P.O. Box 1847, Emporia, Kansas 66801.

Article Six contains these officials: Richard F. Reicherter, National Executive Officer, Emporia, KS; Jorgen S. Thompson, President, Sioux Falls, SD; Mark C. Kendall, Merriam, KS; Robert D. McNutt, Northridge, CA; Kim R. Penner, Wichita, KS; Martin A. Lippert, Emporia, KS. The Business Entity ID Number is 0888883. The organization filed a Certificate of Reinstatement, Restoration or Renewal on April 27, 1988. It failed to file annual reports with the Secretary of State in Kansas routinely in the 1990s.

1992

In 1992 the following were the officers of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity:

- Dr. Richard F. Reicherter, President, and Chief Executive Officer.
- Mark C. Kendall, Chair, employed in the insurance industry.
- John A. Stibal, Vice-Chairman, employed in the insurance industry.
- Thomas D. Buckalew, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Livingston University, Livingston, Alabama.
- Mr. Kim Penner, Treasurer, employed in the energy industry.
- LaVergne M. Bales, Executive Secretary, sister of Reicherter.
- Jeffery Wassenberg, Student Executive Officer (Student Intern).

The Blue Key National Headquarters’ address was Box 1847, Emporia, Kansas 66801 (Source: [Blue Key Journal](#), Winter 1992). In 1994, the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity letterhead indicated that the address was:

P. O. Box 4527  
Gage Center Station  
Topeka, Kansas 66604-0527  
Telephone: (913) 234-4601.

(Source: Letter from Jeffrey M Wassenberg, Director of Chapter Development to Frederick Bosarge, Blue Key Advisor at Lander University, December 1, 1994).

The last Blue Key National meeting of the Blue Key National Administrative Council was held in New Orleans according to the Blue Key National Secretary, Danny Buckalew. No paperwork exists regarding that session held in the 1990's. It was a relatively short "convention."

In 1992 Reicherter was named Blue Key National President and Chief Executive Officer. It was from this time on that control of Blue Key's national affairs transitioned from control by the National Administrative Council to the CEO office. No record exists of biennial or triennial Blue Key National Honor Fraternity conventions. Blue Key had become more regionalized with 8-10 geographic clusters.

One reason for suspension of conventions in the 1980s and 1990s was the prohibitive cost of hotel space in the former convention cities' hotel such as those in New Orleans, Kansas City, Chicago, Indianapolis, and St. Louis. Blue Key had been holding its biennial conference from 1934 to the 1950s at the finest and most luxurious hotels in the Southern and Midwestern portions of the country. Blue Key provided a travel and lodging stipend, modest as it was by today's standards.

Blue Key has continued the practice of conference attendee support with free lodging, meals and travel grants while holding these events on college campuses. Annual Blue Key National Leadership Conferences hosted by a local chapter has been the norm since 2000 when the new administration and Board of Directors took over Blue Key. (Source: Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director, 2016).

It is unclear if Blue Key biennial National Conventions were held in the 1980s. Richard F. Reicherter was President in Fall 1983. Documentation during the 1980s at the end of the Engler regime is limited. Dean Henry J. Engler, Jr. ended his term of service as Blue Key Executive Officer. Mr. Reicherter was selected as President in 1983.

In 1992 Richard F. Reicherter defined himself as Blue Key National President and CEO. He continued to serve as Blue Key Advisor at Emporia State University even though he lived in Topeka.

Reicherter moved from Emporia to Topeka in 1986 upon retiring from Emporia State University. His new address was 1320 SW 27th Street, Topeka, KS 66611. He eventually became a part-time teacher at Washburn University and Baker University.

#### Obituary

Richard F. Reicherter

September 24, 1920 - December 28, 2009

Dr. Richard (Dick) F. Reicherter passed away on December 28, 2009, at Plaza West Regional Health Center. He was born September 24, 1920, in Lillis, Kansas, the son of Henry Reicherter and Theresa (Tessie) Noud Reicherter. He grew up on the family farm and attended a one room schoolhouse in Lillis, later graduating from Marysville High School. He was a dear friend, a distinguished education professional and a devoted community member in several Kansas communities over the years. Dick was an avid cook, traveler, and volunteer. His travels included the fifty states, Europe, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. He enjoyed dancing and socializing. His education career spanned more than sixty years. His motto was, "Serving, I live." He credited his favorite grade schoolteacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Kilduff Donahay, with

inspiring him to pursue teaching as a career. Dick attended Kansas State Teacher's College of Pittsburg, KS in 1938 and received a teaching certificate.

He served as the National President of Blue Key from 1967 to 1986 and as the local advisor for 30 years in Emporia. One of the projects Blue Key completed was raising over \$180,000 to establish and staff the first Emporia Senior Citizen Center in 1984. In 1983, Blue Key established the Richard F. Reicherter Blue Key National Honor Society Scholarship which is a permanently endowed scholarship at ESU. He retired from ESU in 1986.

After his retirement from ESU, he relocated to the Topeka area and served as an Adjunct Professor at Washburn University, Baker University, Avila College in Kansas City, and the Topeka Center of Friends University. He was also a substitute teacher at Hayden High and Shawnee Heights High Schools. He was a life-long member of the Catholic Church and active in the Emporia Sertoma Club, Knights of Columbus, Optimist Club, American Legion, Rotary Club, and the International Society of Topeka. Dick was a member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. He was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus of Lillis in St. Joseph Parish, and he was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus of Emporia in Sacred Heart Parish.

Dick was preceded in death by his sister Laverne and his brother Leo (Jack). Survivors include a nephew, John Bales of Golden, CO. and three nieces: Martha (Marty) Fletcher of Topeka, Susan Gampper of Lenexa, KS, and Nancy Lee Craft of Virginia Beach, VA.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 31, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3601 SW 17th St., Topeka, KS 66604. Memorial contributions may be sent to the funeral home or made to: Vocations Program at the Archdiocese of Kansas City 12615 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS 66109, to support seminarians; or to Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church and sent in care of

Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, 800 SW 6th Topeka, KS 66603. Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website, [www.brennanmathenafh.com](http://www.brennanmathenafh.com).

1992

According to The Blue Key Journal, Winter 1992, Page 13, Jeffrey Wassenberg was identified as a Student Executive Officer at the National Headquarters in Emporia, Kansas. He was an undergraduate in 1990-1994 in accounting and a graduate student from 1994 to 1998 presumably in the MBA program. He was a student intern assigned to the Blue Key office. While in graduate school, he held the title, Student Executive Officer in the Blue Key National Headquarters with Reicherter at the helm. In 1994 Wassenberg signed a letter to the Lander University chapter with the job title, Director of Chapter Development. The letterhead stated that Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, National Headquarters' mailing address was P.O. Box 4527, Gage Center Station, Topeka, Kansas 66604-4601 (Source: Letter from Jeffrey M. Wassenberg, dated December 1, 1994).

The National Headquarters was located at Reicherter's home, presumably in Emporia where the Executive Secretary and mailing address were located. Reicherter's residence is shown in one photograph with a large wooden sign identifying the headquarters site as the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity complete with three flag poles in 1992. The mailing address in 1992 was National

Headquarters, Mrs. LaVergne M. Bales (Reicherter's sister), Box 1847, Emporia, KS 66801 (Source: Blue Key Journal, Winter, 1992, Pages 24-25).

A photograph of the headquarters and individual staff members appeared in a photo spread titled the "Your National Headquarters Staff." The photos on Pages 4, 24 and 25 in the Winter 1992 issue of the Blue Key Journal included Richard Reicherter, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Administrative Board officers: Mark C. Kendall, Chairman; John Stibal, Vice-Chairman; Thomas D. Buckalew, Secretary and Jeffery Wassenberg, Student Executive Officer while enrolled as a graduate assistant (intern) in the National Office and LaVergne M. Males, National Executive Secretary.

It is unclear where and when Reicherter lived in Emporia and when he moved to Topeka. His obituary says he lived in Topeka from 1986 to his death in 2009. He was the Blue Key Advisor at Emporia State University in 1992.

1997

On February 19, 1997, the Washburn University of Topeka Board of Regents voted to appoint Richard Reicherter a part-time (FTE .27) instructor in the School of Business for a salary of \$4,644 (Source: Washburn University Board of Regents' meeting minutes, February 19, 1997).

Blue Key at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas was chartered on October 1, 1990. After registering 156 members in eight years, the last class to register its members was in Spring 1998. It was at Washburn University with Reicherter as Blue Key advisor where the Blue Key Chapter was engaged in a fund-raising scheme involving bingo that resulted in the sudden de-activation of the Blue Key chapter by the University. The process constituted gambling according to university regulations and was declared illegal behavior by a campus organization. To this day, there continues to be no active Blue Key presence at Washburn University. Reicherter was subsequently released from his role at the University (Source: Blue Key National Office Archives, 1988).

1999

During Spring 1999, Wassenberg left the National Headquarters to engage in a study-abroad program in Scotland. The result was that Blue Key registrations were piling up in the National Office and not processed. The best estimate was that sixteen chapters did not have their members registered with the National Office. The owner of the printing company, Ronald E. Herrington, had routinely provided Blue Key with certificate and registration card printing services over the years. Herrington was a mathematics professor at MIT and operating the printing business as a side venture.

The failure to register new members and mail certificates to chapters came to a head by June 1999. Dr. Sieverdes, then a Professor at Clemson University and Blue Key Chapter Advisor investigated the situation with other Blue Key Advisor and chapter President and Ronald E. Herrington, owner of the printing company that prepared the embossed Blue Key certificates and Blue Key membership cards located in Marion, Massachusetts. Herrington indicated that his company was owed over \$2,342.30 for printing services regarding Blue Key's certificate and registration card print orders. Blue Key registrations of new members were at a standstill while he demanded payment from Reicherter.

Two issues had to be addressed with absolute diligence. (1) Ensure that orders for certificates by Blue Key Chapter be fulfilled with accurate Blue Key Registration Numbers. Each chapter has a unique registration number for each member in alphabetical order for the appropriate semester of induction. The backlog of unassigned registration numbers required reconstruction of the semester and number sequence based on the last known number and date.

(2) Ensure that the financial liability in arrears faced by Blue Key be addressed by paying the printing company as quickly as possible. Over \$2,000 was owed to Ronald Herrington Printing Company in Massachusetts. On top of being owed money, there were no requests for new printing forthcoming from Blue Key National in Spring 2000.

Issue 1: Dr. Sieverdes and Mr. Herrington began to engage in a coordinated effort to reconstruct the record for each chapter for the past couple of years. The process called for the identification of appropriate registration numbers for new members in at least sixteen chapters. Working together, Herrington and Sieverdes discovered that there was a gap in the registration sequence regarding individually assigned numbers for each chapter's registration roster. Sieverdes created a digital record based on previous semesters. The greatest difficulty was to capture the legal names of nominees who had already graduated before the end of the Spring 2000 semester. Sieverdes worked with chapter advisors and chapter presidents in Spring 2000 chapter to fill in the gaps.

A whole series of telephone calls and email messages among several Blue Key Advisors and Chapter Presidents at nine schools including Kansas State, Colorado School of Mines, Clemson University, Truman State University, Oklahoma State University, North Dakota State University and Michigan Technological University, University of Portland, and the University of Georgia.

Issue 2: Blue Key owed Herrington \$3,861.32 on December 31, 1999. Reicherter paid Herrington \$1,000 during the Spring 2000. The bank account was empty in Spring 2000. The balance due to Herrington was \$2,342.30 in November 2000. Blue Key National had to "start from scratch." Sieverdes assured Herrington that Blue Key would pay the debt "in full." In time, Blue Key's National Office accumulated sufficient funds from new Blue Key Chapter certificate orders to pay Herrington Printing. Sieverdes restored trust with Ron Herrington.

2000

#### Reorganization of Blue Key in the Year 2000 with a New Administration

Dr. Sieverdes drove to Topeka, Kansas in his 1997 Thunderbird to obtain Dr. Reicherter's immediate resignation as Executive Officer. The other purpose of the trip was to retrieve the Blue Key National Office records and all the chapter archives that he could fit into his car and re-start Blue Key with a new administration.

Late in the summer of 2006, Blue Key received a tip from a relative about Blue Key National Office files stored in a garage next to a parish church in Lillis, Kansas. This was a rural area not too far from Topeka. Dr. Sieverdes made a one-way airline flight to Manhattan, Kansas on October 26, 2006, during his fall semester break, spent that night in Manhattan, rented a twenty-foot U-Haul truck the next day and proceeded to the "shed" in a rural area of Lillis.

He met a relative of the family and a son of another relative who provided access to the storage structure. Inside he discovered at least fifteen file cabinets and some 25 plus storage boxes of Blue Key files and materials under a heavy layer of dust, grime, and debris. It was fortunate to obtain these files in a timely manner, because they were abandoned in a dirty, unheated building. Sieverdes drove the truck load of Blue Key files on October 27-28 to his property in Millersburg, Ohio. After unloading the truck on October 29 and placing the cargo in his safe and secure residence, a clean building, he dropped off the rental truck and took a one-way flight back to Clemson the next day.

Blue Key National Honor Fraternity gained new life with the new assembly of concerned advisors. They met at the Marriott Hotel in Kansas City on June 9-11, 2000. Kansas State University Blue Key Chapter acted as host for the meeting. Jackie McClaskey, the Kansas State University Blue Key Advisor spearheaded the host role and set up the meeting.

As a result of this re-organization of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity in 2000, the new Blue Key Administrative group identified roles and duties at what is now referred to as the Blue Key National Leadership Conference. These individuals were the new Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Board of Directors.

The members and positions on the new Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., President and Blue Key Advisor, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., Chair of the Board and Blue Key Advisor, the University of Portland.
- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, the University of Georgia.
- Jackie McClaskey, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Kansas State University.
- Jeffrey Romine Ph.D., Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Truman State University.
- Shane Stephens, Blue Key Chapter President, Oklahoma State University.
- Jenny Thompson, Blue Key Chapter President, Colorado School of Mines.

It took months to identify gaps in service affecting individual chapters, reconstructing reality, and making sure that the proper registration numbers were accurate. Blue Key had to rely on the owner of the printing company, Ronald E. Herington, to be sure about the accuracy of registration numbers assigned on the unfilled orders. Students had already graduated by May 2000 and December 1999.

The concern was that individuals from previous semesters could be overlooked. It took multiple inquiries at the chapter level and the printing company to re-construct reality, identify petitions and steady communication with Herington to fill in all the gaps in membership registration assigned numbers. Unopened mail had piled up in the National Office. Staff were absent. The new administration did not have access to the office to ensure all petitions for membership and registrations were processed. Finally, it is believed that all gaps in registrations were finally addressed successfully by the new administration.

2001

#### Formalizing Policies with a New Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Constitution

On June 29-July 1, 2001, the new Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Board of Directors, and all interested Blue Key chapter advisors, presidents and members met once again at the Marriott Hotel in Kansas City hosted by Jackie McClaskey, Blue Key Advisor at Kansas State University.

After a year of re-organization and putting all the pieces together during the past year, the new board formalized procedures with a new Blue Key National Constitution and Bylaws. Much was adopted from the last known copy of the Constitution, but the new constitution reflected contemporary thinking and facilitated a higher level of engagement by the Board of Directors and Blue Key chapters and members.

Annual National Leadership Conferences were planned and dominated with leadership sessions and presentations by a variety of speakers. No longer was the conference focused on business meetings. The business meeting featured the Blue Key National Council where each chapter was represented by two people from a chapter. Advisors were encouraged to attend the conference with multiple numbers of chapter members. Networking, leadership learning sessions, experienced and inspirational keynote speakers, engagement in service activities, presentations by chapter members about chapter service

highlights and uniqueness in something called the Blue Key Big Show, awards recognitions and a closing banquet became the mainstay of the new annual Blue Key Leadership Conference.

The conference was held on the campus of a host chapter and not at neutral site hotels as had been expensive custom from 1934. The National Office used member registration income to aid with conference costs along with a conference registration fee so that the attendees had free lodging, meals, and conference speakers' presentations. The host chapter must raise funds to help with conference expenses.

Conferences were scheduled for June instead of the end of December so that accessibility and convenience were improved. It was the consensus of the board that a conference scheduled between the winter season holidays was not practical. The new constitution also simplified membership with two categories: student and honorary. Language about qualifications and dis-qualifications were simplified.

The Blue Key Awards and other recognitions were re-written and placed on the Blue Key website for all to see. The nomination process for awards was digitized so that all Blue Key members had easy access and open opportunity to complete the nomination process. The board created an awards committee to recognize chapter and member achievements. The Awards Committee included students and advisors.

The [www.bluekey.org](http://www.bluekey.org) website became a functional reality and proved to be a major means of corresponding with members and interested parties. A Blue Key Master Roster of Blue Key Advisors, Presidents and other Chapter contact persons were identified by the National Office. Digitized records of chapter registrations by semester and year began in 2000. Later, the National Office digitized all active chapters' registered membership records based on available paper records. It was a most tedious process indeed! There were numerous gaps in the paper files from the early years for a few chapters. These digitized records were posted on the Blue Key website upon completion of the two-year process.

The National Council, to include up to two representatives from each chapter in attendance at the June 2001 national conference, selected the new seven-member Blue Key National Honor Fraternity Board of Directors. Chapter Advisors were designated to be national Blue Key officers to serve staggered four-year terms: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each year, one officer slot had to be filled by election or re-election by the Blue Key National Council at the annual leadership conference. The officer could be newly elected, or the incumbent could be re-elected for a second term according to the new constitution.

Term limits were written in the Blue Key Constitution and Bylaws, dated 2003. The Board of Directors also included three student or alumni members who served two-year terms for one term. The concept was for the board to experience turnover with round-robin advisor elections and with two students elected in one year and one student elected in the next year. In 2001 the Board of Directors selected Sieverdes as the President of Blue Key. In 2002 the Board created a new position for Sieverdes as the Executive Director. The responsibilities included duties as the chief operating officer and chief financial officer as part of the Blue Key National Office.

The new seven-member Board of Directors was formed in accordance with the proposed new Blue Key Constitution. The year 2001 members of the Board of Directors were:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., President and Blue Key Advisor, Clemson University (ex officio member).
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., Chair of the Board and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.



- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Jackie McClaskey, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Kansas State University.
- Jeffrey Romine Ph.D., Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Truman State University.
- Shane Stephens, Blue Key Chapter President, Oklahoma State University.
- Jenny Thompson, Blue Key Chapter President, Colorado School of Mines.
- Jarod Meehan, Blue Key Chapter President, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Meehan and Thompson each served a two-year term. Elections for Advisors' terms were staggered over a four-year span.

## 2002

The Blue Key National Leadership Conference was held at the Marriott Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri on June 21-23, 2002. The Blue Key chapter at Kansas State University served as hosts. The primary order of business at this conference was re-organizing Blue Key with an updated and modernized constitution. A seven-member Board of Directors was created in accordance with the new policies and procedures. Four board members who served as officers, namely President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, are all Blue Key Chapter Advisors. They serve 4-year terms and are eligible for re-election for one additional term.

Each year one officer slot is open for election. Three Blue Key student members serve two-year terms on the Board. Each year 1 or 2 student slots are open for election. The Executive Director is an ex-officio member of the board and is a part-time employee of Blue Key located in the National Office. He or She serves at the will of the Board. According to the Blue Key Constitution, the honor organization was titled Blue Key International Honor Society. The name was changed again the next year.

### The 2002 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Blue Key Advisor, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Jackie McClaskey, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Kansas State University.
- Jeffrey Romine Ph.D., Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Truman State University.
- Ed Verhamme, Blue Key Chapter President, Michigan Technological University.
- Jenny Thompson, Blue Key Chapter President, Colorado School of Mines.
- Jarod Meehan, Blue Key Chapter President, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

## 2003

The Blue Key National Leadership Conference was hosted by the Colorado School of Mines Blue Key Chapter on campus in Golden, Colorado on June 13-15, 2003. The most significant outcome at this gathering of Blue Key chapters was the re-naming of the honor society as Blue Key Honor Society. The concept of national or international status was made more general with the shorter less limiting name.

The original name at its founding in 1924 was Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. The organization carried that name until 2001 when the word, Fraternity, was changed to Society to reflect the fact that women have been members since 1973 in several chapters. The number of women on the national registration rolls increased each year to the point that several chapters have more female than male members.

The new Blue Key executive group consisting of the Executive Director and the Board of Directors fostered chapter openness in terms of membership. It also encouraged on-campus collaboration

between Blue Key and Cardinal Key chapters. Only a handful of active chapters are exclusively all-male membership organizations, but these chapters have a good partnership with Cardinal Key on their campuses.

The 2003 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Blue Key Advisor, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Jackie McClaskey, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Kansas State University.
- Michelle M. Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Ed Verhamme, Blue Key Chapter President, Michigan Technological University.
- Adam Nebel, Blue Key Chapter President, Northern Arizona University.
- Dan Bailey, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Missouri-Rolla.

2004

The University of Georgia Blue Key Chapter served as host for the Blue Key National Leadership Conference on campus in Athens, Georgia on June 11-13, 2004. This conference was dotted with outstanding speakers from the governmental and private sector. This strong and historical chapter of Blue Key has a distinguished record of partnerships with the state legislature and key leaders in the business and industrial sector. Athens is within easy reach of Atlanta, the state capital. Numerous Blue Key chapter alumni have been elected to state and national offices as well as high positions in the non-governmental world. It was a real benefit to the participants attending the 2004 Blue Key conference to have these accomplished and experienced speakers share their views on leadership, visioning, and team building.

The 2004 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Blue Key Advisor, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Corey Hammel, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.
- Michelle M. Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Ed Verhamme, Blue Key Chapter President, Michigan Technological University.
- Adam Nebel, Blue Key Chapter President, Northern Arizona University.
- Dan Bailey, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Missouri-Rolla.

The University of Toledo Blue Key Chapter sponsored the June 10-12, 2005, Blue Key National Leadership Conference on campus in Toledo, Ohio hosted by the chapter's thirteen members.

The 2005 Board of Directors were:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Blue Key Advisor, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Corey Hammel, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.
- Michelle M. Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Kristen Daniels, Blue Key Chapter President, Kansas State University.
- Jon Hassel, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Dan Bailey, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Missouri-Rolla.

The Blue Key National Leadership Conference was scheduled for the first time on Friday-Sunday on January 20-22, 2006, Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. The conference was held on the campus of Clemson University in Clemson South Carolina. The switch to January on MLK Weekend instead of June was made to accommodate student schedules.

It was by vote of the Blue Key Council that the conference be moved from the summer. Students graduated in May and have busy summer schedules with new jobs, travel plans, weddings, and other summer activities. It appeared to be a little anti-climactic to ask students to attend conferences in the summer months. The MLK weekend provides students with an extra day with no classes following the annual conference.

The 2006 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Blue Key Advisor, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Corey Hammel, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.
- Michelle M. Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Kristen Daniels, Blue Key Chapter President, Kansas State University.
- Jon Hassel, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Jay Peltier, Blue Key Chapter President, North Dakota State University.

In 2007 the Kansas State University chapter of Blue Key once again hosted the Blue Key National Leadership Conference. This conference was held on the Kansas State campus in Manhattan on January 19-21. It was a snowy but fun-filled conference with lots of learning experiences. The Leadership Center at Kansas State is an excellent resource with excellent speakers, presenters, and session facilitators.

The 2007 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Corey Hammel, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.
- Michelle M. Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Jason Rismiller, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Dawn Walker, Blue Key Chapter President, Missouri University of Science and Technology.
- Jay Peltier, Blue Key Chapter President, North Dakota State University.

Blue Key experienced blowing snow conditions near blizzard conditions in Manhattan, Kansas at last year's Blue Key National Leadership Conference. On January 18-20, 2008, in Fargo, North Dakota where the outstanding and enthusiastic Blue Key Chapter at North Dakota State University the winter weather map changed significantly. Clear skies, a little bit of wind and a chill factor of -20 degrees embraced the conference attendees. One had to learn to walk backward if you were going against the wind. There was no humidity. The conference once again featured exceptional, motivational speakers and presenters.

The 2008 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.

- Thomas Landrum, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- John Roper, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Emory and Henry College.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Jason Rismiller, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Dawn Walker, Blue Key Chapter President, Missouri University of Science and Technology.
- David Sperl, Blue Key Chapter President, North Dakota State University.

The Blue Key National Leadership Conference returned to be hosted by the Colorado School of Mines Blue Key Chapter on the Golden campus on January 16-18, 2009, Mines with its reputation for engineering, especially in the petroleum, energy and minerals industry has a special link with the private sector. The chapter can tap superb speakers in industry who can address “real world” experiences and teaching points regarding the importance of leadership skills. The work ethic among students on this campus is like no other. It is a source of pride campus wide.

The 2009 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- John Roper, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Emory and Henry College.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Bre Demoko, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Steve Richmond, Blue Key Chapter President, Truman State University.
- David Sperl, Blue Key Chapter President, North Dakota State University.

February 5-7, 2010, Houghton, MI, Michigan Technological University

The 2010 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- John Roper, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Emory and Henry College.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Bre Demoko, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Steve Richmond, Blue Key Chapter President, Truman State University.
- David Sperl, Blue Key Chapter President, North Dakota State University.

January 14-16, 2011, Clemson, SC, Clemson University

The 2011 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- John Roper, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Emory and Henry College.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Dan Ferguson Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Brian Park, Blue Key Chapter President, Clemson University.
- Patrick Casey, Blue Key Chapter President, Truman State University.

January 13-15, 2012, Naperville, IL, North Central College

The 2012 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- John Roper, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, Emory and Henry College.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Richard Hester, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of West Alabama.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Dan Ferguson Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Brian Park, Blue Key Chapter President, Clemson University.
- Michael Ellis. Blue Key Chapter President, Kansas State University.

January 18-20, 2013, Toledo, OH, University of Toledo

The 2013 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Richard Hester, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of West Alabama.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Erika Cone, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Rachel Marshall, Blue Key Chapter President, Emporia State University.
- Michael Ellis. Blue Key Chapter President, Kansas State University.

January 17-19, 2014, Fargo, ND, North Dakota State University

The 2014 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Richard Hester, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of West Alabama.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Erika Cone, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Rachel Marshall, Blue Key Chapter President, Emporia State University.
- Matt Cheek, Blue Key Chapter President, Clemson University.

During the year 2014, Dr. Sieverdes decided to address the non-profit status of Blue Key with the state and federal authorities. The idea was to re-establish formal recognition of Blue Key as a nonprofit organization status of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc. that does business as Blue Key Honor Society in the state of Kansas. Communication took place with the office of the Kansas Secretary of State. The National Office files did not contain any hint of paperwork regarding Blue Key's status as a 501c4 organization or its associated nonprofit organization registration. Only old copies of the constitution were in the files, but there was no means of determining if these documents were the same as those officially on file at the state level in Kansas.

The conundrum was that the files were unavailable at the Kansas Secretary of State office and website and Blue Key had to be activated to learn anything about its original registration that had been allowed to lapse by the Reicherter administration. Sieverdes and his staff completed the necessary paperwork and Blue Key paid the annual nonprofit organization registration fees for Blue Key to become officially registered and a recognized nonprofit organization by the Kansas Secretary of State.

After numerous calls to the Kansas Secretary of State's Business Entity Office, Blue Key's National Office filed all documents including annual reports going back three years as was required, specifically December 2011, December 2012, and December 2013. On December 20, 2013, Blue Key paid the penalty for the previous years since 1995 when no annual reports were filed, and no registration fees were paid. Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc (dba Blue Key Honor Society) was fully reinstated as an active and officially registered 501c4 organization.

Dr. Sieverdes sent a letter to the Kansas Office of the Secretary of State dated July 28, 2014, requesting reinstatement of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc. The letter included the following:

- ✓ NP KSOS Annual Report Forms for years 2011, 2012 and 2013,
- ✓ Reinstatement Form and a
- ✓ Check for owed fees in the amount of \$640 for 18 years of non-registration with the KSOS.

A letter of reinstatement from Kris W. Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, dated August 18, 2014, officially recognized Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc. with the registration number 88-888-3 once again.

It was then discovered that Blue Key had been reinstated in April 1988. The Articles of Incorporation were dated December 7, 1984, and filed with the Kansas Secretary of State. The Kansas Identification number for Blue Key was 088-888-3. The date for formation of Blue Key in Kansas as a Business Entity Type "Kansas Not for Profit Corporation" was December 3, 1984 (Source: Kansas Secretary of State, Kansas.gov website, May 5, 2015).

The National Office discovered after numerous internet-based searches that the 1984 The Blue Key National Advisory Council members, titles and addresses listed in the Articles of Incorporation with the Kansas Secretary of State were:

- Richard F. Reicherter, National Executive Officer, P.O. Box 1847, 1022 Scott Street, Emporia, Kansas 66801.
- Jorgen S. Thompson, President (Council), Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD 57197
- Mark C. Kendall, Vice-President, 10270 Kings Cove Drive, Apt 03, Merriam, KS 66203
- Robert D. McNutt, Secretary, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330
- Kim R. Penner, Treasurer, 6435 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Port North, Wichita, KS 67226
- Martin A. Lippert, Sargent of Arms, 1315 West Street, Emporia, KS 66801

(Source: Articles of Incorporation, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc., Kansas Secretary of State, non-certified copy, May 16. 2016, Article Six, Page 1, found on [http://www.kssos.org/business/business\\_entity.html](http://www.kssos.org/business/business_entity.html)).

"Article Three: This corporation is a Not-for-Profit Organization and the nature of its business and purposes to be conducted or promoted is: a general honor society which basis its eligibility on all-around leadership in student affairs and in high scholastic achievement. To serve the various needs of the institution in which located as well as the community. Specific objectives are given on Page 3 and 4 of the Constitution Statues of Procedures." (Source: Articles of Incorporation, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc., Kansas Secretary of State, non-certified copy, May 16. 2016, Article Three, Page 1

found on [http://www.kssos.org/business/business\\_entity.html](http://www.kssos.org/business/business_entity.html)). The document was signed by all Blue Key Advisory Council members on August 7, 1984.

All this information about the presence and registration and lapsed registration of Blue Key was acquired in 2014. Blue Key Honor Society was never a charitable nonprofit organization. It is instead a business association nonprofit organization in the same vein as a professional membership or business entity like a Chamber of Commerce organization that furthered its own membership interests.

Another lapse in Blue Key's registration with the Kansas Secretary of State occurred in 1986 with no annual fees being paid and no annual reports submitted. LaVergne M. Bales, sister of Reicherter, and Jorgen S. Thompson requested reinstatement of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc. on April 14, 1988. Blue Key had been reinstated on April 27, 1988. Blue Key submitted annual reports and paid registration renewal fees to the Secretary of State for the next seven years. This was followed by another inactive period until July 10, 2015.

2015

January 16-18, 2015, Athens, GA, University of Georgia

The 2015 Blue Key Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Richard Hester, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of West Alabama.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Raelyn Majias Santoro, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Thomas Peterson, Blue Key Chapter President, North Dakota State University.
- Matt Cheek, Blue Key Chapter President, Clemson University.

On May 12, 2015, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity filed paperwork with the State of Kansas Secretary of State, Kansas Business Center to continue as an active, registered not for profit organization. This entailed making payment to the Kansas Secretary of State for the annual fee for the decade plus of inactive years when no annual reports and fees were filed.

Executive Director, Christopher M. Sieverdes, completed the filing on behalf of Blue Key Honor Society. The National Office address was 7501 Whitehill Lane, Millersburg, Ohio 44654-9270. Sieverdes had served as Blue Key Advisor at Clemson University from 1987 to his retirement from Clemson University in January 2007 (Source: Kansas Secretary of State, Certificate of Domestication to Foreign State or Country, DMO 53-47, December 28, 2015).

On December 23, 2015, the Blue Key National Office initiated a transfer of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Inc. registration from Kansas to Ohio. This transfer was activated in the Kansas Secretary of State's office on December 28, 2015. Registration of Blue Key in the state of Ohio with the Secretary of State was completed with an effective date of January 25, 2016. The registration number is 3855163. The document number is 2016022603452 on the State of Ohio Certificate. The registered name is Blue Key Honor Society under the document category, Domestic Nonprofit Corporation – Articles (Source: Initial Articles of Incorporation, Ohio Secretary of State, January 27, 2016).

2016

January 15-17, 2016, Manhattan, KS, Kansas State University

The 2016 Board of Directors:

- Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor Emeritus, Clemson University.
- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President, and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Richard Hester, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of West Alabama.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Raelyn Majias-Santoro, Blue Key Chapter President, University of Toledo.
- Thomas Peterson, Blue Key Chapter President, North Dakota State University.
- Roger Ntawukulityayo, Blue Key Chapter Member, St. Olaf College.

The year 2016 was spent preparing for Blue Key National Office's transition from Dr. Sieverdes' office at 7501 Whitehill Lane, Millersburg, Ohio 44654-9270 to Danny Buckalew in Livingston, Alabama at The University of West Alabama. The Memorandum of Understanding between The University of West Alabama and The Blue Key Honor Society was signed by UWA President, Dr. Ken Tucker on February 22, 2016, and Blue Key President, Dr. Thompson M. Faller, on March 4, 2016.

The agreement calls for the University of West Alabama to provide office and storage space for Blue Key records, telephone, and internet service, maintain and archive all Blue Key records and merchandise, provide support staff, and evaluate the relationship everyone five years. An ex-officio member from UWA shall serve on the Board of Directors of Blue key. Blue Key shall provide continued financial support for Blue Key staff in as much as it is an independent 501c (6) nonprofit organization.

As a part of the transition, it was necessary to obtain IRS verification of Blue Key Honor National Fraternity's standing as a nonprofit organization. An affirmation letter was received from the IRS dated October 11, 2016, and stated that the original determination letter was dated June 1987. The letter also stated the requirement that IRS Form 990 must be filed by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth month after the fiscal year (Source: Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201, October 11, 2016).

2017

Dr. Christopher M. Sieverdes, Executive Director, retired on January 1, 2017, at 12:01 am. The new Executive Director is Danny Buckalew who served as Blue Key Advisor at the University of West Alabama. He also served on the Blue Key National Administrative Council (aka Board of Directors) in the 1990s.

The Clemson University Blue Key chapter hosted the 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary Blue Key National Leadership Conference on the campus on January 13-15, 2017. A record number, N=170, of participants, 21 of 40 active chapters attended the annual conference. It was a very celebratory event!

The new National Office officially opened at The University of West Alabama on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Danny Buckalew became the Executive Director. Jeremy Sheffield became the Director of Operations and staffed the office.

2018

In 2018 the National Conference was held at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI. Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions the entire Board of Directors and National



Office, along with four chapters, were unable to attend the conference. However, student board member Aaron Weber (North Dakota State University) was able to attend the conference.

The board mid-year meeting took place in May in Santa Fe, NM. At this meeting, the board voted on a new expansion plan. Mr. Byron Thetford joined the staff as Director of Chapter Expansion (Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

#### National Office

- Danny Buckalew, Executive Director
- Jeremy Sheffield, Director of Operations, hosted at the University of West Alabama
- Byron Thetford, Director of Chapter Expansion, hosted at the University of West Alabama.

#### Board of Directors

- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Richard Hester, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of West Alabama.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Andrew Taylor, Student Board Member, University of Toledo.
- Sarah Prosia, Student Board Member, North Central College.
- Aaron Weber, Student Board Member, North Dakota State University.

(Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

#### 2019

Annual leadership conference at the University of Nevada Reno was held on January 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the society's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over 130 students and advisors attended. Michelle Kozel retired from the board after 16 years of service. Dr. Abby VanHorn of North Central College replaced her. Board of Directors charged Executive Director Buckalew with developing a five-year strategic plan for the society's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for presentation at the mid-year meeting.

#### National Office

- Danny Buckalew, Executive Director, University of West Alabama.
- Jeremy Sheffield, Director of Operations, University of West Alabama.
- Byron Thetford, Director of Chapter Expansion, University of West Alabama.

#### Board of Directors

- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Richard Hester, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of West Alabama.
- Michelle M Kozel, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, Colorado School of Mines.
- Andrew Taylor, Student Board Member, University of Toledo.
- Sarah Jo Martens, Student Board Member, Michigan Tech University.
- Isaac Gottman, Student Board Member, Truman State University.

The mid-year Board of Directors meeting was held at the University of West Alabama in Livingston, Alabama at the National Office. Executive Director Buckalew's 5-Year strategic plan focused on increased chapter communication and growth. University of Toledo was selected as the 2020 conference host. Michelle Kozel and Chris Sieverdes were selected as the first Board Member Emeritus (Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

2020

Annual leadership conference held at The University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio January 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. More than 100 students and advisors were in attendance. Richard Hester retired from the Board after eight years of service. He stayed on as the ex-officio representative for the University of West Alabama.

Jeremy Sheffield, D.Ed., National Office Director of Operations, left the University of West Alabama for a new position at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY. He remained with the National Office. Byron Thetford and Danny Buckalew continued to work in the National Office in Livingston, Alabama.

The Toledo chapter hosted a fantastic conference. Highlight of the conference was the showcase of University of Toledo's new alumni center building. The slate of speakers on leadership included published leadership author Dr. Chris Longneckker. Dr. Sammy Spann, University of Toledo was elected to the Board.

#### National Office

- Danny Buckalew, Executive Director, University of West Alabama (retired)
- Jeremy T. Sheffield, D.Ed., Director of Operations, Transylvania University.
- Byron Thetford, Director of Chapter Expansion, University of West Alabama.

#### Board of Directors:

- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Bob Izlar, Vice-President and Blue Key Advisor, University of Georgia.
- Dr. Sammy Spann, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of West Alabama.
- Abigail VanHorn, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, North Central College.
- Al Schwalbe, Student Board Member, North Dakota State University.
- Sarah Jo Martens, Student Board Member, North Dakota State University.
- Isaac Gottman, Student Board Member, Truman State University.
- Richard Hester; University of West Alabama (ex-officio).

Mid-year Board of Directors and National Office meeting at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY in July 2020 by Director of Operations, Dr. Jeremy Sheffield. Thom Faller, Sammy Spann, and Danny Buckalew were unable to attend. Northern Arizona University selected to host the 2021 national conference (Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

2021

Due to the COVID global pandemic, travel restrictions, and health concerns the University of Northern Arizona hosted a virtual online conference. The virtual online conference consisted of breakout sessions, online socials, and an online business meeting. Votes were cast electronically.

Effective at the conclusion of the conference, Executive Director Danny Buckalew retired from his position. The Board of Directors selected Dr. Jeremy Sheffield to fill the Executive Director role. Byron Thetford became the new Director of Operations. The Director of Expansion role remained unfilled. Bob Izlar, University of Georgia retired from the Board and was granted Emeritus honors. Blue Key advisor Glenn Hansen, representing Northern Arizona, was elected to the vacant seat. Student members elected to the Board included Cacie Clifford from Michigan Tech, and Jesse Wrenn from Truman State.

#### National Office

- Jeremy T. Sheffield, D.Ed., Executive Director, hosted at Transylvania University
- Byron Thetford, Director of Operations, hosted at the University of West Alabama

#### Board of Directors

- Thompson M. Faller, Ph.D., President and Blue Key Advisor, University of Portland.
- Glenn Hansen, Vice-President and Blue Key Advisor, Northern Arizona University.
- Dr. Sammy Spann, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of Toledo.
- Abigail VanHorn, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, North Central College.
- Al Schwalbe, Student Board Member, North Dakota State University.
- Jesse Wrenn, Student Board Member, Truman State University.
- Cacie Clifford, Student Board Member, Michigan Tech.
- Richard Hester; University of West Alabama (ex-officio).

The mid-year Board of Directors and National Office meeting occurred in Flagstaff, AZ on the campus of Northern Arizona University the weekend of July 9<sup>th</sup>. Topics of discussion included the upcoming retirement of long-time board president Thom Faller and the future of the board. Discussion occurred about the Blue Key National Constitution. The Board voted to review the constitution and recommend changes. Discussion also included Board executive positions and how best to fill those positions. During the last two years incoming board members assumed the executive position of their predecessor by default. Motion approved to re-elect board positions at the next meeting (Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

#### 2022

The Blue Key annual leadership conference was held in-person in Manhattan, KS at Kansas State University January 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. More than one hundred attendees registered for the conference but due to weather issues and COVID precautions approximately seventy attendees fully participated. Dr. Thom Faller, unable to attend the conference due to travel issues, retired from the Board and was granted Emeritus honors.

Minor constitutional changes were proposed and accepted by the Blue Key Council. The constitutional changes allowed for any Blue Key alumni (non-undergraduate) to run for a vacant Board of Directors seat. Dr. Jeremy Sheffield accepted a new professional position at

the University of South Alabama. Jackie McClusky, former board member representing Kansas State, was able to attend. Board of Directors held internal elections and elected new executive officers.

#### National Office

- Jeremy T. Sheffield, D.Ed., Executive Director, hosted at the University of South Alabama
- Byron Thetford, Director of Operations, hosted at the University of West Alabama

#### Board of Directors:

- Abigaile VanHorn, Ph.D., President and Blue Key Advisor, North Central College.
- Glenn Hansen, Vice-President and Blue Key Advisor, Northern Arizona University.
- Dr. Sammy Spann, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, University of Toledo.
- Al Schwalbe, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, North Dakota State University.
- Cherie Crisp, Student Board Member, Emporia State University.
- Jesse Wrenn, Student Board Member, Truman State University.
- Cacie Clifford, Student Board Member, Michigan Tech.
- Richard Hester; University of West Alabama (ex-officio).

Due to board members' schedules an in-person summer meeting was not possible. Summer board meeting was held virtually. Discussion included continued review of the constitution. No chapter has shown interest in hosting the next conference. Board is considering alternate site options. Board asked that Executive Director begin the process of converting to a 501c3 organization for tax-deductible donations (Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

#### 2023

The 2023 Blue Key leadership conference was held at North Dakota State University with approximately 80 attendees. A new constitution was adopted to allow for new rules governing board elections and restrictions of service. Further, the new constitution allowed for the formation of the organization in the state of Alabama and for a move to a 501c3 organization. Dr. Abigaile VanHorn was reelected. The Blue Key counsel also adopted a proposed change to the new member registration fee. The new member registration fee increased from \$65 to \$75 (Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

#### Board of Directors:

- Abigaile VanHorn, Ph.D., President and Blue Key Advisor, North Central College.
- Glenn Hansen, Vice-President and Blue Key Advisor, Northern Arizona University.
- Dr. Sammy Spann, Treasurer and Blue Key Advisor, University of Toledo.
- Al Schwalbe, Secretary and Blue Key Advisor, North Dakota State University.
- Cherie Crisp, Student Board Member, Emporia State University.
- Caleb Brown, Student Board Member, Clemson University.
- Alli Bushaw, Student Board Member, North Dakota State University.
- Richard Hester; University of West Alabama (ex-officio).

Mid-year meeting held in Naperville; IL hosted by Abby VanHorn. Continued discussion on 501c3 conversion, chapter outreach, and reactivation of dormant chapters (Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

2024

The 2024 Blue Key National Office Staff and Board of Directors

The current Blue Board members serving as staff of the national Blue Key Honor Society are as follows:

- Jeremy T. Sheffield, D.Ed., Executive Director, Blue Key Honor Society
- Byron Thetford Director of Operations, Blue Key Honor Society

The current members serving on the Board of Directors:

- Abigaile VanHorn, Ph.D., Board President, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Sigma Chi Fraternity.
- Glenn Hansen, Board Vice-President, Assistant Director, Northern Arizona University Honors College.
- Sammy Spann, Ph.D., Board Treasurer, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students, The University of Toledo.
- Alfred Schwalbe, Board Secretary, Director of Program, St. Teresa of Calcutta Newman Center.
- Cherie Crisp, Board of Directors Student Member, Emporia State University.
- Caleb Brown, Board of Directors Student Member, Clemson University.
- Alli Bushaw, Board of Directors Student Member, North Dakota State University.
- Richard Hester, Blue Key Board of Directors, Ex-Officio. Vice President of Student Affairs Emeritus, The University of West Alabama.

(Source: Jeremy Sheffield, January 2024).

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The Blue Key Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy,
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love,
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life

Saint Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis of Assisi was born in 1181 or 1182 in Assisi, Italy and died on October 3, 1226. He founded the Franciscan Order in the Catholic Church with a focus on humility, faithfulness, people in poverty, and a love of animals in nature (Source: Wikipedia).

The End



BLUE KEY
HONOR SOCIETY
— *Serving I Live* —

Serving, I Live

Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D.,
Emeritus Executive Director
Manuscript Researcher and Editor
History of Blue Key Honor Society
1924-2024
January 9, 2024

A Personal Note

This Blue Key Honor Society History was researched, compiled, and written by Christopher Michael Sieverdes; Ph.D. Chris was a history major at the University of Richmond. He found it a joy to research the history of Blue Key. The Blue Key Journal served as a source of reliable information in compiling this history document. As a former Executive Director, Chris had access to the certificate registration data for all chapters going back to a chapter's formation. This included data for current active and inactive chapters in 2017. These two sources cover a span of years from 1924 when Blue Key was founded by B.C. Riley at the University of Florida to the final day of Dr. Sieverdes' term as Executive Director. He thanks the current Executive Director, Dr. Jeremy Sheffield, for supplying the historical information from 2017 to the present day.

Chris retired from Clemson University on December 31, 2006. He served as the Blue Key Advisor at Clemson University for twenty years. He attended all meetings of the Clemson Blue Key Chapter with rare exception. So as not to conflict with other meetings on campus, the highly involved Blue Key members who carried leadership positions throughout Clemson's student organizations, met regularly on Sunday night at 10:00 PM. Fortunately Chris is a night-owl.

Chris retired as Executive Director of Blue Key Honor Society on January 1, 2017. It was announced at the Blue Key Conference sponsored by Clemson Blue Key held in Clemson, South Carolina. He noted during his recognition that "he started with Blue Key in Clemson, and he retired from Blue Key in Clemson" after twenty years of fulfilling the pledge of the Blue Key motto, "Serving, I Live."

One day, he will be home at the Woodland Cemetery on the Clemson University campus where he served as professor, advisor, and leader for 31 years. His three children all graduated from Clemson with honors. Two were members of Blue Key. Ann Carol earned a master's degree in Speech Therapy at the University of Georgia. John earned a master's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M and a Ph.D. in Exercise Science from the University of South Carolina. A granddaughter is keeping the legacy alive at Clemson University with a wonderful record of scholarship, leadership, and service.

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CMS



The Blue Key National Office in Millersburg, Ohio, 2007-2017