

Let's get something straight lest we suffer hard feelings all around: Keep It In The Family is more exclusive than Augusta National, Skull and Crossbones and the Autobahn Society all rolled into one. We're all white by coincidence, however. There are no discriminatory bylaws as they pertain to creed, class or color, despite what might be the wishes of one senior league member whose racial rants made headlines last month. No, we don't pass judgment based on socioeconomic status, as evidenced by this being the first year in league history that each member is gainfully employed. Where we do draw the line - where the league office has taken an impermeable stance - is with regards to matters concerning collegiate affiliation. The chalky, limestone bedrock of this league is the University of Kansas. Pay Heed All Who Enter. Family, my brothers, was a title chosen carefully, outsiders be damned.

Which brings us to the matter at hand: The nomination of one Trevor Schmidt for league admittance. In the interest of full disclosure, it should be noted that Mr. Schmidt's nomination has been roundly rejected twice prior to this year, both times on the grounds of treason. Mr. Schmidt's University of Oregon diploma draws very little water 'round these parts. Nor has the league been impressed with the accounts of character witnesses claiming Mr. Schmidt to be a "good guy." To that claim, the league's response has steadfastly remained, "impermissible evidence." In short, we don't care what kind of guy he is. That's got no bearing.

Look at Likens. We still let him in. Our concerns are bloodlines, specific ties to the institution we covet. As such, Mr. Schmidt's admittance has been twice denied.

However, new sh*t has come to light. Thanks to the Kansas Open Records Act, the league was able to confirm that Mr. Schmidt, hereby upgraded to Trevor, does in fact have one semester of KU credits to his name. This revelation led to the reopening - still with great suspicion and scrutiny - of Trevor's case. Further investigation revealed Trevor's plans to wed a KU graduate, with the requisite rock piece as tangible proof. Clearly, Trevor is passionate about gaining admittance. But there was one hurdle left to clear - a qualified nominating party. Ryan Dardis, Trevor's two-time sponsor, suffers a shortage of clout in this case. For one, and most importantly, he's yet to hang a banner and has more often than not finished in the bottom half of the annual standings. Secondly, there was the matter of nepotism, an ironic charge considering our Keep It In The Family crest. All the same, sponsoring your to-be brother-in-law did not pass the sniff test. Enter Jon Heinz, the deciding factor. As the league's inaugural champion, Heinz was qualified and his nomination of Trevor allowed for serious, fair consideration.

Without further ado, let's hereby extend a formal invitation to Trevor to join the family as our eleventh member. May his money spend well.

A quick note of recognition to our two-time defending champion, Dan Dan-O McClure. We've never had a three-peat, so the watch will be on. Also, minor accolades go to Jimbo, who has finished in the top three for three consecutive years.

The rules will remain the same - that being a \$20 ante with a winner-take-all \$220 payout and the same unconventional scoring system of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 points per win for each successive round. You can review all rules and bylaws at the league website.

And now let's pause to recognize our past champions:

2003 Jon Heinz
2004 Matthew Cullen
2005 Matthew Cullen
2006 Daniel McClure
2007 Daniel McClure
2008 ?