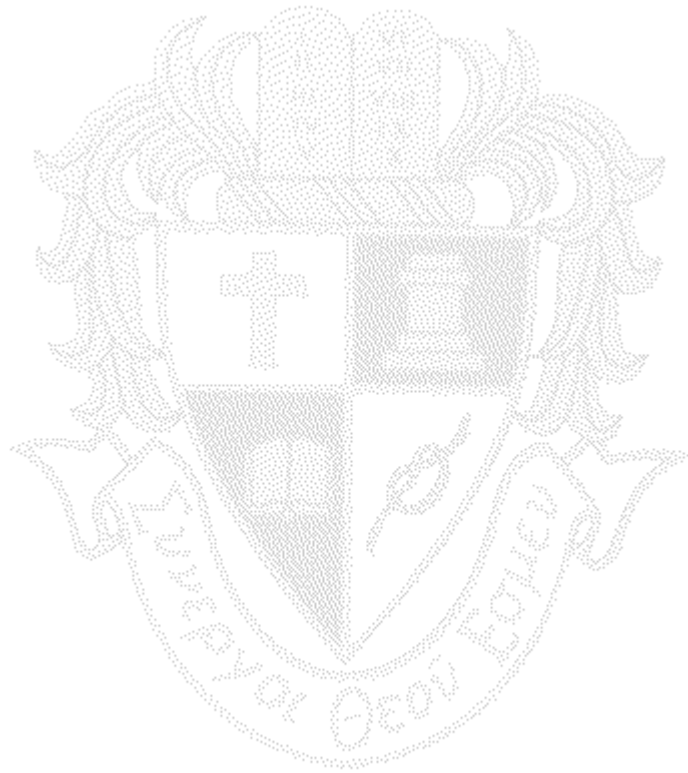


# **Sigma Theta Epsilon 2004 Pre-Conclave Journal**



*April 2-4<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
St. Louis, Missouri*

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## **Introduction**

As the national organization of Sigma Theta Epsilon continues to grow, the amount of business that is being generated each calendar year also increases. Over the past five years, it has become increasingly more difficult to deal with all that is brought to the table in the amount of time the Fraternity has available. The foreseeable future indicates that future Conclaves will not be any less busy. As a result, one of several things will happen. At Conclave 2003, some important pieces of business were disregarded due to time limitations. If nothing were done differently this year, Conclave 2004 would experience similar results. The National Officers felt that not dealing with the problem would be the worst possible option.

Several brothers from STE began to evaluate the pros and cons of moving Conclave to the summer to allow for a longer Conclave, thus spreading the meetings over a two or three day process. This would not be the first time that Conclave has met over the summer. Several decades ago, Conclave took place over the summer when the national organization was much larger than it is today. While there would certainly be many obstacles to overcome with such a move, it was decided that for the short term, Conclaves 2004-2006 should remain during the early spring as they are currently held. The possibility of extending Conclave during April is still not feasible either, and the extra cost of adding another day to the national gathering of chapters would cripple STE's economic situation.

With Conclave limited to its current format, the National Officers have been obligated to help the chapters accomplish as much as possible in its one day of business. Since the national organization as a whole seeks to a) provide services to local chapters and b) extend the role of the fraternity beyond the borders of each local chapter, the obvious way to improve Conclave is to better prepare each chapter before they come, thus making better use of our time at Conclave. This was partially attempted at Conclave 2003, but the absence of ½ of the chapters from participating on the national website left many people confused on the day of business. This year that will change. This document, also available on the national website, <http://www.sigmatheta.org>, has been sent to each chapter of the Fraternity. In it is every piece of business that has been properly submitted for Conclave, every chapter update that has been properly submitted to nationals, a biographical sketch of each national officer candidate nominated before March 8<sup>th</sup> that has been properly submitted, as well as a detailed outline of the Agenda for the weekend and much more.

It is imperative that each chapter carefully and thoroughly review the material contained within this journal to make good use of time at Conclave. Please take time to pray over the business items we will be voting on at Conclave. The option that each piece of business in this journal be brought before local chapters and voted on to judge partial or full acceptance/rejection for informing delegates in addition to the local chapter president's vote is highly encouraged. That right rests with each local brotherhood, but exercising that right gives all brothers a voice in Conclave 2004.

## **Chapter Updates**

### ***Alpha Gamma***

Box 1677  
59 College Avenue  
Buckhannon, WV 26201  
President: Devin Higgins

Well, the year has gone well. The Chapter of Alpha Gamma has had some changes. The first big change is that we have decided to be more philanthropic with our service projects. We have focused our efforts on donating our tie and money to the local humane society. Another very worthy service project that we are doing is raising money for the heifer project. We also hosted Magic: The Gathering tournament as a social fundraiser. It went very well and we plan to reproduce as a regular fundraiser. Our Chaplin is doing very well in taking care of the religious needs of our brothers. In April, we are having an Easter camping trip getaway with our alumni. We have also increased parts of our chapter's constitution to expound upon the guidelines of the Alpha Gamma chapter. We think that it really helped us in defining our best interests.

I believe that the biggest change in our chapter has been the swing of increase in pledging. In the fall we brought only three pledges in and brought one into the brotherhood. This semester we plan on bringing ten brothers in and one sister as an honorary measure. This is so very important to raising the spirits of our chapter, as well as the less important financial status. Spring semester looks very good. With luck and guidance from God, we continue on our path of excellence. Officers initiated- December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003

Fall: 1 pledge initiated, 1 sister initiated

Spring: 10 pledges to be initiated, 1 sister to be initiated

Chapter breaks 04-03-04 through 08-30-04  
12 Actives, 10 Pledges

-- Devin

## ***Delta***

MUC Box 715  
1972 Clark Ave.  
Alliance, OH 44601  
President: Michael Wesley Gossett

It has been a good year for Delta so far. In the fall we held a barn dance in President Emeritus Ben Parker's barn. We also made our after-meeting Bible Study a bigger part of our group. Our Chaplain led discussion on the book, *Wild at Heart*. Our service activities included helping with Thanksgiving activities at an area nursing home and working at a "Dodgeball Tournament" outreach project. We also helped lead a Sunday morning service in Mount Union's Chapel. At the end of the semester we DKR'ed Ben Parker and initiated new officers (Officers initiated the first week of December, 2003).

This semester started off well with the chapter discussing our goals for the spring and making a commitment to STE. We held our annual SuperBowl party with a halftime devotional. The party was packed with most of the brothers and many other people. We also donated \$50 to another bible study on campus to rent a big screen TV as part of an outreach. At the beginning of the year we installed Bryce Werntz as alumni director. He created a newsletter that we sent to all of our alumni. The response has been very encouraging. We plan on holding an event with the alumni towards the end of the semester. Finally, we started the "tradition" of eating dinner as a group every Thursday.

Chapter breaks: 06-04-04 through 08-26-04  
11 Actives, 2 pledges, 5 Inactives

Philo,  
Mike Gossett

---

## ***Epsilon***

615 S. Johnson  
Ada, OH 45810  
President: Zach Evans

This has been a year of struggles and triumphs for Epsilon Chapter. We have been plagued by a number of brothers going to associate status and a campus without Christian unity. Through this, the Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon has grown close together. We have been able to succeed in many projects in all three focus areas of the brotherhood.

In Service, we held our annual hog roast to benefit Cystic Fibrosis research. Though it poured down rain the day of the hog roast, God poured his blessing down upon us, giving us a large turnout, and a good donation for the Cystic Fibrosis foundation. In addition, this year we were able to have a live band play at the Hog Roast, as Epsilon Chapter's own Seth

Campbell and his band “No Time To Lose” played their rocking tunes for the guests in attendance. We were also able to start a monthly canned food drive to benefit the Ada food pantry, with the help of the ONU chapter of Kappa Phi. We are currently in the planning stages of a Spring trip to Camp Otterbein, to help them do some small maintenance projects to get them ready for the start of their camping season.

On the Social side of things, we hosted a large inter-chapter social event this year, STE Bowl III. In January, several members of the Beta Gamma chapter came up and took on the Epsilon Chapter in a thrilling defensive football game. After the game, both chapters and many friends stayed to watch the game in stadium seating on the big screen, while enjoying 25 large pizzas. We also had our annual Spring formal last year, bringing in our first sweetheart from a Pan-Hellenic Sorority (Caryn Stratton!). Epsilon has also enjoyed a year of dance parties, biff ball, and intramural teams.

For religious, our outgoing Chaplain, JT Horsfall, has spent the year challenging us through unique devotions like “When God asks for a milkshake, don’t give Him a Frosty”. Recently, we were challenged to be men of greater integrity, to rise above the world, and in the words of our sweetheart, “Be the fraternity we deserve to be”. Currently we are working on bringing Midnight Prayer back into our daily routine, as well as a few book and bible studies popping up in small groups around the chapter.

Our biggest strive in the past year has been our Alumni relations and Alumni events. Our outgoing Alumni Director, Jeff Minshall, was the first Alumni Director in my tenure as an active brother to send out three alumni newsletter mailings. In addition, we held our annual steak fry with numbers higher than I have seen in my active tenure. This event, however, was topped by our first annual potluck, which gather over thirty people in house (counting actives, alumni, wives, fiancées and close friends) for food, fellowship and a Love Feast.

With a renewing focus on Him, Epsilon seeks greater service, more fellowship, and to help ease campus harmony in the coming year. Having just elected officers and seeing their vision, the future looks bright for us.

Fall: Beta Lambda Pledge Class: Nine pledged, six went through and were activated (and have dubbed themselves the “fab six”). Activation occurred on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Spring: Beta Mu Pledge Class: Six men pledged themselves and the process has just begun. Activation is expected to come in late April or in May.

Chapter breaks: 5-10-04 through 09-07-04  
24 Actives, 5 Associates, 6 Pledges

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler A. Betts  
Outgoing President, Epsilon Chapter

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## ***Beta Alpha***

All contact with active members of Beta Alpha has ceased. Emails sent to the last known chapter president are no longer being received. It is unknown whether any brothers are still at the chapter.

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## ***Beta Beta***

1104 Oxford Commons  
Oxford, OH 45056  
President: Joshua Lance

This year has been a start of an amazing renewal for the Beta Beta Chapter. After having only three pledges in the previous three rushes, this year has seen pledge classes of four and six. With the arrival of so many new faces, Beta Beta has set forth on new ground this year. Due to our current housing situation, we have had to become creative with how we go about doing rush and other events that a house normally accommodates.

One of the mainstays that we are not able to do living in apartments is to have parties, especially our big party of the year, Paradise Bound. What could be looked at as a negative, we have been able to turn around as a positive. We retooled Paradise Bound this year and it is now a concert/festival featuring The Elms, Paul Wright and others with Bart Campolo speaking.

In other social news, we had our annual Holy Roller Derby with Kappa Phi. This year we added a twist and instead of roller skating, we did ice skating. We also did trick or treating for canned goods with Kappa Phi and made valentines for them for Valentines Day.

Our service projects included helping first-year students' move-in, working on renovating a church building in the Over-The-Rhine area of Cincinnati, giving away brownies with bible verses on Green Beer Day, and continued support to our World Vision child, Nat Anim Ofasu from Ghana. We have had two retreats this year that have made us grow spiritual and more united as a brotherhood. We have also started Praise and Prayer night for a time of worship for our Lord.

As we move into planning for next semester, we are looking to build into Miami University and help bring about change for the kingdom of Christ. May the Lord bless all of the brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon. Officers initiated first week of Spring Semester (Mid-January).

Fall Pledge Class- Phi class- 4 pledges activated  
Spring Pledge Class- Chi class- 6 pledges awaiting activation

Chapter breaks: 05-07-04 through 08-24-04  
12 actives, 6 pledges

Philo,  
Joshua Lance

## ***Beta Gamma***

3035 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45220  
President: JP Leong

In 2003, Beta-Gamma experienced the following:

1. The activation of twelve new brothers:
  - 1.1. Naye Brookes
  - 1.2. Bryan Clem
  - 1.3. Dan Divelbiss
  - 1.4. Kyle Fischbach
  - 1.5. TJ Hughes
  - 1.6. Paul Karklins
  - 1.7. Eric Lawshe
  - 1.8. Ben Ledgerwood
  - 1.9. Nate McEnaney
  - 1.10. Mark Ogg
  - 1.11. DJ Peak
  - 1.12. Tyler Woebkenberg
2. An extension of the DKR to:
  - 2.1. Daniel Armstrong
  - 2.2. Dwight Doig
  - 2.3. Joey Elam
  - 2.4. Justin Evilsizor
  - 2.5. Evan Hammersmith
  - 2.6. Ben Ickes
  - 2.7. Paul Karklins
  - 2.8. Jeremy Lotze
  - 2.9. Bryan Murray
  - 2.10. Vincent Parker
  - 2.11. Isaac Woodby
3. Clarifications of our Chapter Constitution.
4. Began the Rituals and Traditions Manual.
5. The Fifth-Year Anniversary Celebration at Calvary Episcopal Church
6. The Annual Spring Formal
7. A large-group/small-group Bible study format led by adult men.
8. Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner which we were able to provide 100% of the proceeds to our intended charity (and twice the donation as last year).
9. We did not have a fall pledge class.

Chapter breaks: 06-12-04 through 09-22-04  
20 Active, 1 Associate, 5 Pledges, 13 Inactive

JP Leong

## ***Beta Delta***

411 S.W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
San Antonio, TX 78207  
President: David Martinez Jr.

I have seen many improvements in the brotherhood this year. We are becoming more organized and our numbers are increasing each semester and along with quantity we also have top quality men. We have recruited a great group of guys who were excited and ready to get their feet wet right away. Even better the fraternity is growing spiritually with the help of our new sponsor who is a campus minister and a member of a religious community. He has helped our chaplain think of some great ideas for devotionals during our weekly meetings. They have been very impacting on all of the guys.

We have also grown a great relationship with our Campus Activities office. We have participated in many campus wide events such as our annual festival and the inauguration of our new president. We have also been recognized through our University Presidents office. One of our brothers won a contest to raise the most money for school signage and he was able to shadow the President for the day. We started with a Prayer Breakfast that was sponsored by her office. It was a very memorable and enjoyable experience for all of the men. The fraternity also received \$100 for winning the contest. The same brother is participating in the same contest this semester and the chances of him winning are very good. We are looking forward to the occasion.

We have also grown in our faith. Our chaplain has teamed up with the Women's Fellowship of our Campus Ministry and they are beginning campus wide bible studies. We will also hold our campus wide Love Feast Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> the day after Palm Sunday. Our chaplain is working hard to incorporate some sort of passion play as part of the event.

One of our brothers applied for a grant through the Lilly Endowment on campus called "La Llamda" which means "The Call." There are about 25 applications submitted each semester and only five are selected to receive this grant of \$500. We were fortunate enough to be one of the lucky ones. Our brothers organized a one day event for Hispanic high school students from the surrounding community. The event was titled "Answering the Call in the New Millennium." The event brought together about 20 students and the brothers shared their stories with the students as they also shared their life goals with us. The group was very energetic and they really enjoyed spending a whole Saturday with us. They listened to two guest speakers one of which was one of our alumni. There were ice breakers and activities where we sat and talked about what these students wanted to do with their futures and where they saw God in their lives. It was a very touching day and the brothers along with the students enjoyed it very much.

In service, we have completed over 300 hours as a group. We have worked in projects such as Habitat for Humanity and the RAMP program. We now have set up to long-term projects. One is with Hispanic Religious Partnership for Community Health, Inc. The brothers have signed up to help with different projects such as bible studies with children, a youth restitution program, after school program for youth, working in a food pantry, health

fairs, and with a community newsletter. This partnership works with Christian churches on the west side of San Antonio. The guys are very excited to be involved in a wonderful program. The other long-term service project is working with a local Catholic parish called Our Lady of Good Concul. At the parish, we work with the youth minister in planning different events for all ages and we also help with their fundraisers. We also help do some of the work around the grounds of the parish. We will soon be painting some classrooms where the parish community holds their Sunday school program. Both of these projects have been very rewarding for the brothers and have helped in the development of their faith and spirituality.

Over all I have seen many great things come from this great group of men this semester. We have worked together to bring in five pledges over the past year and are currently working on bringing in another five energetic guys. The future for the Beta Delta Chapter looks promising and with Gods grace I am confident that we will be able to do all things. Officers are initiated first week of December.

Fall Pledge class – Iota Class – 3 pledges activated.

Spring Pledge class – Kappa Class – 5 pledges expecting initiation late April.

Chapter breaks 05-08-04 through 08-16-04  
15 Active, 5 pledges

Your brother in Christ Jesus,  
David Martinez Jr.

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### ***Beta Epsilon***

1019 N. University St.

Peoria, Il 61606

President: Jacob R. Hopping

We thank God for the Blessings He has laid upon our Chapter. Initiation of sixteen new members in the fall nearly doubled our membership. They are an enthusiastic group, with a lot of future leadership potential. Our Fall Semester included the usual service at SHARE FOODS in downtown Peoria, a Campus-wide dodge-ball tournament philanthropy to raise money for Great Oaks Camp, and a mentorship program for local youth on Thursday afternoons. We had a Kingdom Retreat at Great Oaks Camp that included a guest speaker and outdoor challenges. Just about all of the brothers except maybe two were in attendance. We participated in a Service of Prayer in our quad with Campus Crusade for Christ. We held three parties, including a “Light’s Out/Black Light” party. The spring is proving to be just as eventful, with an upcoming “2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coffee-House” sponsoring a local artist named Dawn Wilson where she will share her testimony. Our Religious Chair, Tim Allen was called into Active Duty for the Army Reserves and recommended Chris Zobac to take over for him. We installed Chris at the First Spring Meeting. Chris and Mike Sowa (Chaplain), are planning another retreat to Great Oaks

Camp, for praise, worship and a ropes course. Seventeen of the brothers are reading the Daily Bible In Chronological Order 365 Daily Readings (published by Harvest House Publishings) together. In order to help encourage each other in the daily readings, we are having monthly dinners together to discuss the Bible passages we have read as well as enjoy fellowship. We have four Bible Studies this semester each led by Active brothers or Alumni. Tuesday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> we held the Secret Meeting of Saints ritual. March 6<sup>th</sup> was our Second Annual Hawaiian Party. Other social events include our Semi-formal and the Second Annual Iron-Man competition. We look forward to initiating five new members this spring, along with voting for new officers in April. Initiation of officers is the beginning of Fall Semester.

The project for our Exec team this semester is reviewing and updating our chapters Constitution. The constitution given to Nationals is the original Beta Epsilon Chapter constitution. We believe that to effectively enhance the constitution, is to make it work with our tradition, rather than be confused about why we do not comply with it. We believe that after three years, a structure has developed that did not fully match the original ideas. This is the “evolution” of government, and is natural. By the end of the semester, we hope to have it completed, so that there will be no confusion in the future pertaining to our policy or practice.

There are many reasons for the diversity in membership status of our chapter. Two members are inactive due to Army Reserve duty. Two members could not comply with our mandatory requirements due to obligations. As of Tuesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> I, Jacob Hopping, will be requesting a temporary leave of absence from my duties as President of Beta Epsilon. I believe that God is calling me to stricter study habits, to prepare for the April MCAT. We have a very strong leadership team who is going to be taking over the duties and tasks that I cannot perform. I pray that God will bless this conclave, and this Fraternity, and it truly is hard to have to miss the gathering of our national brotherhood. Thank you for your support of Beta Epsilon.

Chapter breaks: 05-13-04 through 08-25-04  
30 Active, 1 Associate , 5 Pledges, 4 Inactive

---Jake Hopping  
President, Beta Epsilon

## ***Beta Zeta***

P.O. Box 961

Tahlequah, OK 74465

President: Aaron Michael Havens

We have had a very blessed year since last conclave. Our Fall semester we were very excited to start off by working with the Wesley Foundation at their Annual Welcome BBQ. This has proven to be a great recruitment opportunity. It easily allows us to get our name out on campus with the average attendance being about 200 people. Our Fall pledge class, Gamma class, started with 7 members, 6 of whom completed the pledge process. The new pledges were very excited about the possibilities that presented themselves to our chapter over the next few months. Jill Havens was elected as the pledge class Sweetheart. Many of our activities during the fall semester were organized by and revolved around our pledge class. They proved to be an important part of our semester. We participated with Kappa Phi in many activities such as their Fall Semi-formal, Halloween food drive, and a children's carnival at a Methodist Mission. Only the sweetheart and president were able to attend fall gathering in San Antonio with Beta Delta. We enjoyed our time there and the hospitality they showed was second to none.

We held a semester end Bonfire and Devotional service on the Barren Fork River. This also has proven to be a great tool in bringing in new potential pledges for the next semester. At the end of the semester we held elections and elected new officers. For the first time in our chapter's history we have almost all of the cabinet positions filled.

This semester quickly got off to a great start. Our new officers were installed in their new positions the second week of January. With almost all our cabinet positions filled we are now able to spread more of the responsibilities of running the chapter over more people. This has been a great blessing to those of us that have been in offices over the past semesters. Starting this semester we have begun to establish a relationship with the United Methodist Children's home located here in Tahlequah. We feel that establishing a relationship with them is a beneficial to both them and us. As we work to help the youth of today we hope to be perpetuating our organization and those like it. In February we helped the children's home with some maintenance on their property by cutting down trees to ready an area for a hiking trail and chapel.

This semester has seen birth to Beta Zeta chapter's first standalone Bible study. Beginning a few weeks into the semester our religious director began holding a bible Study off campus for pledges and actives. While attendance has not been large, the studies have been good and have helped the brothers grow.

Our chapter this semester has adopted our largest service project yet. We have decided to raise \$2000 to purchase New Testament/Psalms/Proverbs for distribution at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The National Association of United Methodist Scouters has already started this project. However they are normally able to only provide 8 – 10 thousand bibles. During a typical year Philmont Scout Ranch will see 20,000 scouters of all ages come

through its backpacking base. The difference between the number of bibles and scouters requires chaplains to ration how many Bibles they hand out and to whom they hand them out to. We feel that this should not be the situation. The \$2000 that we aim to raise would purchase 1000 more bibles that could be distributed to scouters of all ages and denominations. Other projects we are working on this semester are building a cabinet for the local chapter of Kappa Phi. They came to use at the end of the fall semester and said they needed a cabinet to secure their records and materials at their meeting location. Many of the brothers eagerly agreed and work will begin soon as they give us some plans. Through the local Wesley Foundation we have many opportunities throughout the semester to work with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Men.

This semester we are also blessed to have another excited and active pledge class. The Delta class has 7 pledges and is already off to a good start. They have actively been planning their semester's activities and growing as a group. For the first time in our chapter's history we have been able to institute the Big Brother program. This has proven to be a great thing for both the brothers and pledges. Both groups are seeing growth in their personal lives and new friendships being formed. We are also actively seeking for a man to step in as a second Advisor for our chapter. We currently have one advisor, Jon Farris, the director of the NSU Wesley Foundation. We have one potential faculty member that has shown much interest from the ROTC department on campus. Both he and the chapter are actively seeking God for his role in our chapter.

After an incident last fall over our Canned Food drive we have experienced a few problems operating on our campus. The director of student affairs for NSU has begun to restrict our ability to advertise activities on campus. Since our chartering we have operated under the direction and umbrella of the United Methodist Wesley Foundation located at NSU. In that time we have participated in many campus activities with and for the Wesley foundation. This has proven to be a mutually beneficial arrangement. However with the new attitude being taken by Student Affairs it has complicated things. Please pray for us as we sort out the problems we are experiencing and that God's will be done.

Our chapter is continually trying to follow God's guidance as we go through each semester. As a young chapter we are working on establishing ourselves as a true Christian brotherhood. We have determined that we are not an evangelistic ministry but more of a supportive one. We desire to encourage and help Christian men be better Christian men on the campus of Northeastern State University. This is our desire our focus and our goal.

Fall Pledge Class – Gamma Class – 6 Pledges activated.

Spring Pledge Class – Delta Class – 7 Pledges expecting initiation in April.

Chapter breaks: 05-08-04 through 08-15-04

10 Actives, 7 pledges, 1 Inactive

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aaron Havens

## ***Beta Eta***

344 Maple Ave  
Morgantown, WV 26501  
President: T. Zane Long II

A large focus on the year has been getting new pledges and initiating them. Our chapter has attempted recruiting among a variety of different mediums, however we have discovered that the best potentials for a pledge are those who are personally invited. In the end we have been blessed with five great men over the year who are already significantly affecting our chapter. Along with the pledges we have been working on establishing chapter traditions somewhat unique to Beta Eta, somewhat borrowed. Chad has continued, faithfully, in the role of our pledgemaster and for that we are greatly appreciative. Numbers, however, continue to be a challenge for our chapter. The silver lining to this cloud is that most of our membership is made up of sophomores and freshmen, so retention is not a problem and we are able to build upon what we already have.

A second large project we have taken on this semester is the formation of a budget. This proved to bit harder than what might have originally have been speculated. It is easy to think of the money we deal with in terms of today, however a goal in the set up was to establish something that will last 10 and 20 years down the road with minimal alterations.

Finally, throughout the year we have been searching for an organization we can partner with in a lasting relationship of service. Among the groups we have considered are *Habitat for Humanity* and the *Ronald McDonald House*. As of the time of this report we are planning a project with the local *Christian Help* in an effort to establish such an affiliation.

The important thing to keep in mind when thinking about Beta Eta is that we are still writing history. We are among the newest chapters nationally and we are still creating our foundation. Looking to the future the pledge processes should continue to run smoother and things such as the budget will be a “well oiled machine.” Getting these things out of the way ideally we will be able to place a stronger focus on service and worship programs.

Fall Pledge Class – Beta Class – 3 pledges activated.

Spring Pledge Class - Gamma Class – 2 pledges expecting initiation in April

Chapter breaks: 05-08-04 through 08-23-04  
7 Actives, 2 pledges, 3 Inactives

Philo,  
Zane

---

## ***Beta Theta***

Cady Hall Room 246  
Athens, OH 45701  
President: Marcelo Lima

The academic year of 2003-2004 Beta Theta became nationally activated. The majority of our work and actions Fall Quarter went to getting requirements met for the activation. These requirements included service, social, and religious projects, six weekly meetings, passing the national test, and obtaining the activation fee.

Winter Quarter was our first quarter as an active chapter. We have started off the quarter planning and accomplishing our social and service projects. In addition, we worked and discussed how we shall arrange the meetings according to our by-laws and constitution. We worked to create our constitution and are now finishing up some last details on it. Our chapter also went to Ohio University to get recognized by the university as an organization. After discussing the issue with the university, our last step that remains is turning in a copy of our finished constitution and by-laws (which the last details were recently voted on and passed) to the university in order for us to become a recognized organization.

Currently Beta Theta has been working on ideas to get our name out to campus and recruit more members in our upcoming rush which will take place this Spring Quarter. We have discussed ideas about flyers, business cards, and t-shirts, all to bring us to the attention of the campus. Some of our members are also working on creating a webpage for our chapter.

In addition to that, we have voted and passed our local dues of thirty (30) dollars which will be paid on March 7<sup>th</sup> of this year. Lastly we are planning a religious project by the end of this quarter (winter) to fulfill our last project requirements.

Chapter breaks 06-11-04 through 09-07-04  
8 Actives

Beta Theta President,

Marcelo Lima

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## ***Housing Corporation***

The Sigma Theta Epsilon Housing Corporation, while not meeting all of the goals we set for ourselves in the past year, has accomplished much since the last Conclave. The year has not been without complications, however. Shortly after the 2003 Conclave Rob Lombardo, CEO of the Housing Corporation, resigned for personal reasons. Mark Light, an alumni of Epsilon, was selected to fill the remainder of Rob's term, which expires at this Conclave. I was selected to serve as CEO of the corporation.

We have taken several steps since last Conclave to improve communications both within the Housing Corporation and between the corporation and the fraternity. We are now holding monthly electronic meetings on the second Thursday of each month. We also held a special meeting in Cincinnati in November. In addition, we have maintained an active presence in the Housing Corporation forum in the fraternity bulletin boards, and the minutes of the monthly meetings are posted there.

We have continued the process of setting up the Housing Corporation, and the last two steps to the process have been completed. The corporation now has a checking account set up with U.S. Bank, and we have been approved by the I.R.S. as a tax-exempt organization. With those two tasks completed, we are now ready to begin active operations. To that end, we are currently in negotiations with U.S. Bank to secure a loan to allow us to purchase the Epsilon chapter house. I hope to have an update on that situation by the time of Conclave.

Finally, and most importantly, we have adopted a method to manage chapter houses, whether owned or leased by the Housing Corporation, through a process we have termed "House Management Teams." These teams, or HMT's as we have been calling them, will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the houses and will be comprised of the chapter house manager and two alumni. More information on HMT's will be presented at Conclave, and it is hoped that we will have a HMT in place for at least Epsilon, and possibly Beta Gamma, by the start of the 2004-05 school year. Attached to this report is a copy of the guidelines governing the HMT's.

So far, it has been a very productive year for the Housing Corporation, and we look forward to the date later this year when we can officially say that we own a chapter house.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aaron Aldridge  
CEO

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## **National Elections**

### ***Vote of Confidence***

Four of the eight national officer positions need a vote-of-confidence in order to stay in office. These are the national vice president, the national expansion director, the national alumni director, and the national historian.

### **National Vice President**



SHANNON WAGERS

Shannon's key platform when running for election was *accountability*, and his focus will remain this key issue if retained in office. He will always strive for the maximum effort in communication between nationals and its chapters. This is a two-way street: Nationals to Chapters and Chapters to Nationals. With this model, he has always ensured that his communication lines were open as he assisted with efforts of Chapters and Nationals as needed. Shannon accomplished this by serving as moderator for National Bulletin Boards and participating in it almost daily. He authored and compiled the National Devotional Threads monthly as well as a National Pledge Bible study for the National Expansion Director and other chapters use. Shannon also actively participated in the authoring of the National Statement of Faith and as well as authoring a featured article/biography for National Alumni Newsletter

In the realm of leadership, he assisted in planning National Officer Advance as well as attending and helping lead the fifteen hours of business discussion. Shannon was an active participant in planning Fall Gathering East03 and lead the business meetings. He has been very active in planning Conclave04 as well as drafting and researching potential legislation for it.

In direct contact with local chapters and alumni associations, Shannon assisted in planning Beta Beta Chapter's Fall Rush program; attended and presented at Beta Beta Chapter Spring Rush Dinner; attended Beta Gamma Chapter 2003 formal, and he also co-planned, attended and presented at Beta Beta Chapter's tenth anniversary Gala. He made formal and informal chapter visits at Epsilon Chapter, Beta Beta Chapter, Beta Gamma Chapter, and Beta Theta Chapter (Formal Initiation). He also assisted the needs of Sigma Theta Epsilon ECAA and SWONKY in their formation and co-planned and hosted SWONKY AA cookout at his home. He is currently storing the Chapter Composites of the Beta Beta Chapter whilst they are currently without a chapter house.

Aside from his formal role, he also managed a few informal activities which include: hosting National President Chad Burdette and E Chapter Alum David Burden at his home, attending his first Cincinnati Reds Game at Great American Ball Park with National President Chad Burdette, and Beta Beta Chapter Alums Chris Hendricks (his little) and Brandon Doner (his grand-little), attending E Chapter family dinner at the home of David Burden (his big, Clan of Russell descendants), attending the wedding of former Beta Gamma Chapter president Chris Walker, and participating in national fantasy baseball (commissioner) and football leagues.

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## **National Expansion Director**



ISAAC WOODBY

This has been a busy year for Isaac Woodby (see Expansion Report for all the universities Isaac was in contact with). Upon election, Isaac realized how neglected the resources for the expansion director were and has invested a large amount of time into revamping and updating the expansion process. He began immediately after Conclave creating informative materials that outlined the pledge process for new chapters so that interest groups could make informed decisions. He revised the pledge manual to be more informative for new brothers and temp clubs, as well as revised the National Pledge Test so that it didn't become out of date with each new addition of a chapter to the brotherhood. With his background in design, he worked with the layout of the materials to project a professional image to prospective brothers.

Over the course of the year, Isaac has worked with 17 different interest groups or individuals inquiring about starting a chapter of STE. Isaac also served the national fraternity as the pledgemaster for the new Beta Theta chapter at Ohio University, traveling several weekends to lead the group. He served in this role as an opportunity for him to learn firsthand what goes into being a temp club pledgemaster and to be informed on how to refine the process and prepare future pledgemasters for the role. He continues to serve as a national advisor to the new chapter to signify his commitment to not just bring chapters into the fraternity, but to help them become strong and thriving additions to the brotherhood. He began the Big Brother Program, which is now in the leadership of the National Alumni Director, which supplies individual brothers of temp clubs an alumnus big brother who is committed to them in prayer and availability to serve as a mentor for their first year as a chapter.

In addition to his role as National Expansion Director, Isaac has been finding ways for the national fraternity to offer services directly to individual brothers, increasing the benefits one experiences when joining STE. The root of these efforts came from interest groups

asking what benefits come from joining STE and this spurred his interest in providing more. Isaac has worked with Covenant Eyes to offer brothers discounted rates on internet accountability software, drafted the Timothy Scholarship for brothers who are raising support for Christian missions, and has served as an advisor to Dan Divelbiss of Beta Gamma in planning the spring break mission trip.

His goals for the upcoming year will be to continue to refine and create materials and resources to enable expansion efforts on both a national and local level. He has assembled a small team to work on revising the pledgemaster manual and help make it more useful for chapter pledgemasters, and helpful for future pledgemasters of temp clubs. He will continue working with interest groups and directing proactive efforts towards reaching the goal of the Take Ohio Campaign, while maintaining a national perspective on expansion. Look forward to some exciting growth in the upcoming year and useful materials for local chapters to take advantage of.

Isaac would like to thank the following for their help over the last year: the national officers, Alex Johnson, Bill McKell, Brian Dik, Chris Hendricks, David Burden, David Temple, James Orr, Timothy Mullens, Sarah Crannell, Lori Rutherford, Lisa Morrissey, Tyler Betts, and Michael Sowa.

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## **National Alumni Director**



JUSTIN EVILSIZOR

During his first year in office, Justin helped officially recognize the creation of the Epsilon Chapter Alumni Association (ECAA). He also wrote the constitution and by-laws of the Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky Alumni Association (SWONKY). In August, he sent the first national alumni newsletter in two years. This was followed up by the second national alumni newsletter in October. Currently, limited funds from alumni are preventing him from maintaining his original goal of six alumni newsletters per year. He is considering revamping plans and changing to a four newsletter per year system until funds are more consistent. In order to lower costs, he also filed and was approved a bulk mailing permit for the national fraternity. Behind the scenes, Justin also updated MALD almost daily, approved people for the STE Database, made enormous leaps in GIS technology as he mapped all of the alumni in the US and linked it to our current databases. Justin also drafted legislature changes that will help ensure the relationship between AA's and Sigma Theta Epsilon is maintained and healthy. Finally, he put together this pre-Conclave Journal in a hope to set precedence in proper preparation for our national gatherings.

Beyond day-to-day tasks such as alumni newsletters, correspondence, and getting alumni to sign up for the STE Database, Justin has five goals that you can look back at Conclave 2005 and evaluate his performance. If you keep him in office, his number one priority between Conclave 2004 and 2005 is to have every chapter host an alumni event (or for those with little to no alumni, he will get those chapters in the right frame of mind). His second priority will be to increase alumni funds. His third priority will be to oversee the proper establishment of SWONKY and use it as a template for other geography based alumni associations. His fourth goal will be to better aid the national expansion director with his endeavors that require alumni assistance (e.g. the Big Brother program). His fifth goal is to either create this book again next year or work with the elected secretary to see that next year's book will be even better than this year's. Justin foresees many more years of service with Sigma Theta Epsilon.

“This year I regret that I will not be in attendance at Conclave. I was asked, before Fall Gathering (which is when the date for Conclave was set), to be a groomsman in the wedding of one of our STE alumni, Dwight Doig. Having been a good friend of Dwight through my years of service to Sigma Theta Epsilon, I of course agreed to be in his wedding. I discovered the schedule conflict in early January, and did not feel justified in trying to move Conclave's date (although a handful of Beta Gammas are not attending Conclave because of Dwight's wedding). I hope that you understand and respect my decision and not take it as a lack of dedication to the Fraternity on my part. Hardly ever before was there a time I wished more than now that I could be in two places at once. My heart is with you all at Conclave even if my body is not.”

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## **National Historian**



DAVID KOHL

The past 12 months since Conclave 2003 have seen many changes for David. In May 2004 he was hired by the City of Findlay Division of Fire, a job which should serve him to retirement. With a start date at the end of June, David's transition process for his new occupation occupied him through the middle of September. At this point, things started to move. In October, the Nationals were contacted by Thomas Russell, one of Epsilon's Alpha brothers, and the National VP from 1976-1977 and National President from 1977-1978. He donated a number of pictures and files from his tenure as an active and National Officer to the National Archive. These included a number of pictures from Epsilon, and all correspondence that he had while in national office.

In November, after much discussion amongst the National Officers about their inability to enforce national policies, David volunteered to write legislation to create a system in which these policies can be enforced. After over a month of research and writing, he produced the first draft for review by the National Officers in January 2004. This has been a long, tedious process as he has fielded and considered the concerns and suggestions of all National Officers, National Chapter Presidents, and Aaron Aldridge, Housing Corporation Officer and former National President. With the help of all mentioned above, it is felt that a system has been created that will serve the Fraternity long into the future.

David has also been working with Aaron Aldridge, on maintaining the Fraternity History Section of the National Bulletin Board. If retained in office, he plans to digitize the National Archive allowing for quicker searches and greater ease of transferring copies of requested documents. He also looks forward to continued work with Aaron Aldridge on the "Fraternity History" section of the National Bulletin Board. He also looks forward to working with the National Alumni Director, on searching for brothers who have fallen out of contact with the fraternity.

Other activities not listed above for the past year have included acting as liaison to the Nationals for Epsilon Chapter. Participating in the first ever inter-chapter STE bowl of Epsilon vs. Beta Gamma, congratulations, Beta Gamma. Also attended the National Officers Advance in August 2003.

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## ***Open Elections***

Four of the eight national officer positions are up for election. These are the national president, national secretary, national finance director, and national information technology director. Two of the four incumbents has expressed interest in serving an additional term. The following is a breakdown of the candidates for each position.

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### **National President**



CHAD BURDETTE - INCUMBENT

Conclave 2004 will be Chad's sixth consecutive trip to the National Conclave. Over the past four years he has served as National secretary and finishing his first term as National President. Chad is an alumni of the Alpha Gamma Chapter, where he served as Service director and President. Chad is currently completing his Masters of Political Science and a Masters of Public Administration at WVU. When he ran for President in 2002, he stated that one of his goals was to start a chapter at WVU, which he was able to accomplish. Since the Beta Eta chapter has been active Chad has continued to work with them by helping them get familiar with how the fraternity operates at the chapter level and has served as the Pledgemaster for the Alpha, Beta, and Gamma pledge classes.

Other accomplishments include visiting all but a few of the chapters and serving as a member of the Housing Cooperation. "When I was active as a brother I felt as though the national officers were distant people who I only heard or saw from at our national meetings, as President I have tried to maintain contact not only with the chapter presidents, but with the active brotherhood and alumni."

#### **Goals:**

While the goal of the President is to handle the overall operation of the fraternity, in a second term I would like to use what I have learned in my public administration courses so that the operations of the fraternity can run more efficiently and start to lay the groundwork for the future growth of the fraternity. I also want to get the fraternity back to providing shingles and pledge pins (that have been backlogged over the past few years). I would also like to continue to strengthen relationships between nationals and chapters. I plan to set up a schedule where I meet with the chapter Presidents via IM and discuss issues which face the fraternity.

#### **Chad's Testimony**

Chad grew up in a Christian family and accepted Christ on July 12, 1998 at Alpine Bible Camp. Chad is active in church both in Elkview and Morgantown. When I first got to WV

Wesleyan I was approached about joining STE by my RA who was the chapter president at the time. It was not until my sophomore year that I pledged STE. The same semester I pledged my father was killed and I felt that my world had completely crashed down around me. When I returned to school I found on my bed a framed card signed by all the brothers, most who hardly knew who I was since we were only a few weeks into the pledging period. As I reflect back on that time in my life I have come to the conclusion that God intended for me to wait a year to pledge STE because I would need the support and prayers to get me through this point in my life. Since then I have experienced many down periods in my life but I know that I can always count on the brothers of STE for support and prayers to get me through these times. I currently attend Chestnut Ridge Community Church and am an active member of the Young Professional's Bible study.

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## **National Secretary**



TYLER BETTS

Tyler A. Betts pledged the Epsilon Chapter in the fall of 2000 (his freshman year) as a member of the Beta Epsilon pledge class. He will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics and from there he will continue his education at graduate school in pursuit of a Masters and/or Doctorate in Mathematics. Tyler has served Epsilon chapter in many offices. He began as his pledge class president, and then served the next two years as the house manager. He also served as service chair and assistant house manager. This past year, Tyler served as the President. He has also been involved in other organizations on campus, serving as the President for two years of the Student Chapter of the Mathematics Association of America, as well as one year as chaplain and one year as President of Students Uniting in Faith, the central, governing body of the Chapel organizations at Ohio Northern.

If elected, Tyler's goal for the office is to improve communication. He wants to have and maintain contact with every chapter as well as with every national officer. He plans to publish newsletters (Philois) to every chapter to let them know what their brothers around the country are doing as well as what endeavors their national officers are up to. He would look to publish at least two of these per year, and maybe as many as four. Tyler also plans to improve communication among chapters and to communicate, by phone, with those chapters he cannot reach through electronic means. He would like to get rid of the problem of brothers who do not know anything about the attempts by national officers to govern them.

“I believe it is through my goals that you can measure me, if I am elected. Look at the next Conclave to decide if I have sent the newsletters I promised I would. Ask the chapters if they have heard from me. Find out if individual brothers feel more comfortable and more ready to communicate with national officers.”

**Tyler’s Testimony:**

“My coming to know Christ was a painful experience for my biological brother. My family wasn't a church going family, but after meeting his eventual wife who was a strong Christian, my brother became one. The closeness by brother and I shared brought a large burden on his heart to see me come to the Lord. He would cry over me at the alter each week, asking God to find a way into my heart. He would take me to Youth Group meetings with him, but I was known as "Ray's Brother", and not as Tyler, so that turned me away from that avenue. When the Newsboys came to town for a concert at a theme park, God had the opportunity to finally get my attention. I didn't want to let Him, however, as I didn't want to go to the concert and theme park. However, when an eye infection prevented my brother from going, he gave me his ticket (free) and forced me to go. During the concert portion (to save time I won't give details about how I was having a terrible time getting ditched by my sister and hanging out with people calling me "little Ray"), the Newsboys stopped to give a testimony. The lead singer told about how he questioned life, creation, etc ... until one day he had a real encounter with Jesus Christ and invited anyone lacking that to have that encounter that day. My mind (always being the math/physics person I am today) was questioning the same types of things, and having the answer ... and peace ... was something I wanted. I accepted Christ that day, and haven't looked back since.”

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**National Finance Director**



ALEX JOHNSON

Alex was born in Michigan, and then moved four times before second grade. He went to Waynesfield-Goshen School in Northwestern Ohio and also attended the University of Cincinnati where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. Alex joined STE in his Pre-Junior (3rd) year. He accepted a job at BP Chemicals Joliet Works in Joliet, IL, as a Capital Projects engineer and, after graduation, he got married, had a honeymoon, moved to IL, and started the new job all within three weeks of time. After spending a year in the Projects group installing projects ranging from 5k to 250k, he transferred to the Reliability department, where his work has saved the company in excess of 500k in the eighteen months. He and his wife Rachel currently attend church at Community Christian Church (<http://www.communitychristian.org/>). Alex is an apprentice small group leader in a couples group with Rachel. He is also completing a ten week training course to be a small

group leader in his church. His plan is to lead a small group for newly married couples. Alex also runs video and PowerPoint at all the services, at our campus, 1-2 weekends a month.

If elected, he intends to be available, communicative and open with the budget and money, making sure to keep the money where it belongs - a tool to help further God's kingdom through STE. He also has a couple of ideas for fundraisers.

#### Ways We Can Measure His Success if Elected

The following would be the indicators of being a successful Financial Director

- Consistent and timely Communication
- A statement to brothers once a year showing how their dues are being spent.
- An increase in funds.

#### **Alex's Testimony:**

"I grew up in a Christian home and always had God present in my life. The summer after I turned ten I had a lot of sleepless nights staring at the star stickers on my ceiling, thinking about how overwhelming *forever* was. I was scared of being in heaven forever, because, "what if I got bored just floating on a cloud"? My Mom came up one night and found me awake and I told her what I was feeling. She explained to me how I wouldn't be bored in heaven, because I would be with God and praising him forever. That September (25th, '88), I accepted Christ and was baptized. I went to church, Sunday school and youth group all through junior high and high school, but I don't think that I ever really changed all that much. I was the "good kid" in classes and school. I was the one who didn't party, drink, smoke. Looking back, I was pretty boring (I may still be :-)). When I got to college, it was a complete culture shock for me. I went to high school in a school district with 628 kids K-12. My freshman chemistry class at UC was probably the same size; I know the physics tests were that size. I was living with my Grandparents in Mason, OH (about 40 miles from college) and I just pretty much went to school, church and back home again. I wasn't really connected anywhere, and I definitely wasn't growing. In fact, I was drifting away from God. My relationship with my Grandfather was kind of breaking down, and so I got a part time job so that I wasn't home so often (and to make some money, I was broke).

I soon met a guy named Andy Betts in one of my engineering classes, and only because he was wearing a t-shirt sporting a Christian band. He invited me to Campus Crusades for Christ. I resisted for a while and then I finally went. And you know what, I would love to tell you that I came back to Christ then, but to tell you the truth, I hated it there. I was completely ignored, even Andy didn't talk to me. So when Andy asked if I was interested in helping to start a Christian Fraternity, I flat out told him no. I didn't want any part in that. Summer quarter rolled around and there were only six people who didn't take the summer off. I got to be good friends with a guy named Paul. When I started my first co-op job that fall, my Grandfather and I just couldn't take each other anymore, so Paul and I got an apartment together. I got Paul a job at the Burger King that I worked at and we scheduled classes around when we could work. At this point in my life, I was drinking socially (I was

20), and pretty depressed most of the time. I met Rachel while I was working there. I started to come back to God with her help, but was still really depressed.

Paul and I moved into a house with another guy from our classes and two other engineering students. I acted as the bill payer and then made invoices for the other guys. Each guy got a copy of all the invoices. Somehow, they always thought that I was cheating them, and it caused a lot of tension in the house. Rachel was spending a lot of time at the house, and that was also causing tension. When I suddenly lost my co-op job and had to find another, it was like a God-send, I got to move out of the house. I ended up getting a six month co-op job at the BP Chemical plant in Lima, OH, and was able to move back home. Living with my parents, I started to come back to God. When fall came around I headed back for Cincy, and my brother started his freshman year at UC. We lived with my other grandparents and carpoled to classes together. Rachel and I's relationship was flourishing and I was having the usual roller coaster of spirituality, high and then low. Andy Betts and I reconnected, having been in classes together again. I started hanging out at the fraternity house. It was really great that it had taken off. That winter, my brother (biological) and I rushed, he dropped out, but I stuck with it and was invited to join. Joining STE started my full recovery back to Christ. I headed back home for another six months of co-op with BP and continued to grow. My senior year at STE saw me growing stronger in the Lord by the day. The funny thing is that I've always believed, but just never fully trusted God with my life. He is the Lord of my life now!!”

Alex Johnson

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## **National Information Technology Director**



**JOSHUA PARSELL – INCUMBENT**

Conclave 2004 concludes Josh's fourth consecutive year in service of the National Fraternity. He served one term as National Finance Director and has now completed the first-ever term as National IT Director. Prior to his time with Nationals, Josh was an Alpha class member of the Beta Gamma Chapter, serving primarily as House Manager and Steward for two years, and also completing a brief stint as interim President just before graduation.

Josh currently resides with his wife, Ann, in Fairfax, Virginia, where he works as a Systems Analyst for Aerojet. In his job he has a lot of freedom to pick and choose projects and make decisions on what tools and technology to use. Not coincidentally, there has been a lot of overlap with his STE responsibilities throughout the past year. Josh has several projects going at work on a server he built from the ground up, using Linux, Perl,

PHP, Apache web server, and a MySQL database. So, many of the things Josh is doing at work directly correlate to his work on the STE website. This actually benefits both the fraternity and his employer, as his skills cross over and he is able to reuse concepts and even trade code fragments in both directions.

“When I accepted this position at Conclave 2002, my goals were clearly defined. The amendment I authored that year creating Article I Section 8 of the Bylaws very specifically enumerated what we were expecting from this new office. To the best of my ability, I believe I have completed all or part of each of these items, with the only exceptions being where I have been waiting for information or content from another source. (The completion of these duties, of course, presents a problem, which is why we are seeking to amend the description of this office. See elsewhere in the Journal for the Amendment to the Bylaws, Article I Section 8.)”

### **How can we measure your success in the next 2 years?**

“Over the next two years, my main goal will be to continue developing the National Database (steDB) into a powerful and useful tool for communication and record-keeping. Working with all National and Local Officers, I believe the possibilities are truly endless for the value this tool can bring to our organization. Specifically, by Conclave 2005, I expect that officers at the local and National levels will be using steDB regularly to communicate with their members, both active and alumni. Chapter family trees will be dynamically generated. Conclave registration will be seamless. =)

More importantly, as the public "face" of our organization, [www.sigmatheta.org](http://www.sigmatheta.org) will continue to be a dynamic site. It will be updated regularly and given a fresh look from time to time. It is my goal to make sure accurate, up-to-date information is easy to find for anyone who wishes to learn about STE.

Finally, I will continue to utilize interested and motivated brothers to assist me in all aspects of this office. My team will continually look for new ways and develop new methods to use technology to advance God's work in and through this fraternity.”

### **Josh's Testimony**

I trusted Christ at the age of 6, when I became curious about the meaning and purpose of baptism during a baptismal service at my family's church. When we returned home that evening, my mom showed me the "Romans Road" and explained the Gospel to me. I accepted Christ that night and was baptized a short time later.

It was not until high school and college that my faith was really stretched. I began looking for ways to serve and found many opportunities for ministry. I served as a small group leader with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at UC and was privileged to assist in the founding of the Beta Gamma chapter of STE. Friendships made through the Fraternity led to the formation of 'Promising', a modern rock band that became my primary creative outlet and ministry for several years. After moving to Virginia for a new job and now being

married, my wife and I are finding ways to get involved with our church and have begin leading a couples' Bible study.

**Final Words**

It is my pledge to be available to the fraternity at all times. Not literally "all times", of course. Sometimes I sleep or eat or work, and sometimes I go on vacation. But I believe I have remained fairly easy to get in touch with throughout my term in National Office, and I do not expect that to change. I will be accountable to the National brotherhood.

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## ***Housing Corporation Election***

Each year, one of the three independent chairs of the housing corporation is voted upon for a three-year term. Once that person is elected, the five members of the corporation will choose the titles that each person will assume for following year independently of the National Conclave of Chapters.

### **National Housing Corporation Member**

MARK LIGHT – INCUMBENT

Mark would like to continue his efforts and work with the HC by asking for your renewed vote. He has been involved with Sigma Theta Epsilon since 1991, and thus brings over 13 years of experience with the fraternity. He has also served on the cabinet level of the National fraternity as the expansion director for five years and helped establish three of the current chapters.

Recently he has been the owner of the Epsilon house and maintained the property as well as paid all of the bills through rent that the brothers paid. This will be the third year that Mark has managed this house, so he has an understanding of what the pitfalls are of owning houses. This Spring, the Epsilon house will be the first house that the HC will own and manage, which will start the process of being able to buy more houses in the future.

“With the HC in its infancy, I believe that consistency is the key in leadership until procedures are established and maintained. The first house will be the hardest to figure out and then the rest will follow suit. I have a degree in Civil Engineering and currently work at Ohio Northern University. Being at a college gives me insight and connections as to some of the internal problems we might face at college campuses with administrative red tape. My wife and I have owned our house for 6 years and so I understand homeownership from a personal stance. I have watched the fraternity expand through my involvement in the national fraternity and owning and managing houses can only help our fraternity to grow.”

Mark D. Light

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## **Information Updates**

The following is a series of updates concerning things which the Fraternity is involved in but does not require any sort of business on behalf of the Conclave of Chapters. When the Philoi is published regularly once again, these updates will be included in it.

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### ***Housing Corporation***

#### **Guidelines for House Management Teams**

##### **1. Composition**

- House Management Teams (HMTs) will be composed of a minimum of three people: the house manager/steward, as elected by the local chapter, and at least two alumni selected by the Housing Corporation (HC).
- The house manager/steward shall served a year-long term, following the local chapter's normal election cycles.
- The alumni members of the HMT shall serve at the discretion of the HC.
- Alumni of the local chapter serviced by the HMT shall have preference over alumni of other chapters, but this is not a strict requirement. Alumni living within a reasonable distance of the chapter are to be preferred over other, more distant, alumni.
- The HC, at its discretion, may appoint more than two alumni members to the HMT.

##### **2. Relationship to the Housing Corporation**

- The HC retains discretion over the creation of an HMT. The HC retains the right to choose to manage a chapter house directly, or hire an individual or company to manage the house.
- The HMT shall serve as a sub-unit of the HC, and all actions of the HMT are subject to veto by the HC.
- The HC may choose to provide compensation to the HMT.

##### **3. Duties of the Housing Management Team**

- Collect rent and other fees from the occupants of the chapter house, and either forward the rents to the HC or deposit the rents directly into the HC's bank account. The HMT will decide whether money is to be collected and handled by the house manager/steward, or by an alumni member of the HMT.
- Oversee the daily maintenance of the local chapter house, other than tasks that are the responsibility of a third-party landlord according to a lease agreement. Such maintenance would include: snow removal, minor repairs such as broken windows or missing shingles, plumbing issues, interior painting, appliance repair, etc.

- Ensure that the chapter house is kept reasonably clean by the occupants. This may include, upon agreement between the HC and the local chapter, of the purchase of cleaning supplies.
- Select the occupants of the house. Local rules, if applicable, are to be followed by the HMT in assigning places in the chapter house. The HMT may solicit non-fraternity members to live in the house if necessary.
- Ensure that all bills are forwarded to the HC for payment.
- Comply with all housing regulations of the local university.

#### **4. Duties Retained by the Housing Corporation**

- Purchase real estate.
- Negotiate and sign leases.
- Provide insurance.
- Provide for major repairs and capital improvements. This includes: new roofs, new surfaces on parking areas, exterior painting or siding, structural repairs or additions, and any other maintenance task costing in excess of \$500.
- Ensure that mortgage payments, lease payments, and bills are paid on time.
- Set the rent and other fees paid by the occupants.
- Supervise the activities of the HMT.

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### ***Take Ohio Campaign***

(Spring 2004-Summer 2007)

The national leadership of Sigma Theta Epsilon has decided to commit to expanding our ministry to seven major universities in Ohio. As the name suggests, we plan to make a concerted effort above and beyond our typical effort for the major schools in Ohio in order to actively involve and mobilize collegiate and alumni brothers to impact this area of the world for the kingdom of Christ. With currently five out of eleven chapters, the Epsilon Chapter AA and the beginnings of SWONKY, four national officers, and a high concentration of STE alumni in the state of Ohio, we believe it is feasible to reach the goal of expanding to the seven Ohio universities in three years time.

Having a support system of several chapters, a large reserve of alumni and national officers, the Take Ohio Campaign will allow us to experiment with promotional techniques and methods at a lower cost. It will also provide future temp clubs and chapters more personal contact and guidance as we attempt with the guidance of God to colonize the Midwest. By setting proactive goals we can begin to measure our effectiveness as a national organization that is intending to grow and impact this world for Jesus Christ.

**The schools we are targeting are:**

Bowling Green State University, Kent State University, Ohio State University, University of Akron, University of Dayton, University of Toledo and Wright State University

**So why are we targeting these schools?** If we are able to add all seven schools to our brotherhood we will have representation at almost every major university in Ohio that could sustain a chapter of STE. This gives the majority of Ohio residents the opportunity to join a chapter of STE practically wherever they decide to attend school in the state. With the high volume of universities and colleges in Ohio the line had to be drawn at some point, so we chose to colonize the largest universities with the hope that chapters at other schools could be started later.

**Why to do we believe this campaign can succeed?** With five active chapters in the state, active brothers can participate by spreading the word to their friends that may attend our targeted universities. Personal testimonies and the ability to meet chapters on school visits can have a powerful witness to those who God may call to start chapters. With several hundred brothers living in the state (active and alumni) there is a strong network of churches with youth groups where the word could spread, potentially inspiring future founding fathers while they're still in high school. We will more readily be able to provide pledgemasters and alumni big brothers to new chapters, giving alumni the chance to get involved again with the brotherhood. We can also travel (national officers or representatives) to the different schools to meet with interest groups and guide them in the pledging process.

**What does this mean for expansion elsewhere?** In no way are we turning our attention away from states other than Ohio, what it means is that the most *proactive* efforts to start chapters are directed at those seven schools. One of the goals of the Take Ohio Campaign is to mobilize chapters and alumni in the expansion process. Our hope is at the end of this campaign we will have brothers who are trained to be pledgemasters and big brothers of temp clubs, we will have learned effective techniques for promotion, and we will have refined the pledging process for new chapters and their integration into our brotherhood, and will have created a more active alumni support base. All these things will allow us to much more effective and prepared for a more proactive national expansion plan.

**How can you be involved?** Before we really move on this we need to go to God in prayer. This will fail miserably if we attempt to do this on our own or for our own glory and not His. So the first step is to create a prayer team. We need people to be praying that God will prepare the soil and show us where He is moving. Certain schools may not be ready for chapters of STE, however we have three years to be praying that God would prepare the cultures and lift up leaders to start chapters. This is the most vital of roles and is a way for all brothers, no matter their location to be involved.

We need alumni who would be willing to serve as big brothers and pledgemasters and be on reserve in case we need their services. Big brothers can be anywhere in the world as long as they can maintain email and mail contact with their little brothers. We need brothers with multimedia skills to serve in the area of promotions (web and graphic design, web programming, videography, motion graphics, sound design, you name it). Tell your

friends about Sigma Theta Epsilon. Talk to your high school youth groups that have graduating seniors. Give us your ideas!

**What can you expect?** You can expect a lot of spiritual warfare because God has given us an amazing ministry and the forces of darkness don't want to see it spread and build up men to be leaders for Christ. You can expect a lot of trial and error, because this is uncharted territory and we are going to have to learn together. However, you can most have all expect God to do amazing things and this opportunity to impact lives of men for generations to come. So let's pick up our swords, set our eyes on Christ, and take Ohio in His name!

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### ***Covenant Eyes***

The national brotherhood of Sigma Theta Epsilon is reminding the individual brothers of a service that we have begun to provide for brothers of STE. If a brother is struggling with sexual temptation over the internet, he may sign up for covenant eyes through our national website and receive a discount by using his STE promotional code: philoi. This product does not restrict anyone's internet settings. Instead it logs each website visited, the amount of time spent there, and emails this information to two accountability partners. If anyone in your local chapter wants to get rid of this form of sin in their life, covenant eyes has already worked in the lives of several STE brothers and alumni.

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### ***Expansion Progress***

The following is a brief summary of this last year's efforts to work with 17 interest groups or individuals. Many of them turned out to be dead ends; however some are on hold or in progress. I've listed the university, my primary contact, the date I was first contacted, and my assessment of that lead's status. Take into consideration that several of these leads didn't dead end until a month and a half or so until after the date I was first contacted. Each group includes a brief summary of what happened with that school to help you understand why it has the status it was given. I hope this gives you a picture of how I served the brotherhood over the course of my first year in office. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and God in this role.

Isaac Woodby  
National Expansion Director

## **Washington University**

Contact: Jon Mesh, Dishon Knox

Date: Conclave 2003

Status: Dead end

After Conclave, I quickly followed up with the group of men interested in finding out more about starting a chapter (estimated 25). I put together several rough documents that explained the process and its requirements and sent it to them along with a petition for temporary club status. However, at the beginning of May were their finals for the year, so no progress could be made at that point. I reconnected with all of them before their school started and across the board they pulled out due to their prior commitments to pre-existing ministries. So it died there.

## **Ohio University**

Contact: Marcelo Lima

Date: approximately Apr. 6, 2003

Status: Beta Theta: active chapter (Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003)

After Conclave and preparing rough informational materials for WU, I replied to an email address of a Kappa Phi sister at Ohio University, supplied to me by Josh Parsell. She connected me to Marcelo, who along with some other men had tried getting a fraternity together earlier. I traveled out to OU about April 16<sup>th</sup>, to make a presentation to a group of men and a few Kappa Phi girls. I left them with a petition and soon afterwards we received 13 applications. The pledge process started Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> I believe, and over the course of the summer six pledges de-pledged. This left the group with seven, so they held a brief pledge period and added two pledges, while losing another, to leave them at eight pledges. They fulfilled all the pledge requirements, some of them actually twice due to the new pledges and were activated at OU at the end of their fall quarter.

## **University of Kentucky**

Contact: Steven Thomas Bohon

Date: Aug. 8, 2003

Status: Dead end, future contact

I talked with Steven several times on the phone and through email, he was very gung-ho about the fraternity. I sent him the informational documents and answered questions that he had about us. Unfortunately, though this looked promising for quite awhile, he felt God was convicting him to slow down and not do so much. I prayed with him and it is left in the state that if anyone from that school shows interest, I will be sure to inform him about it. I checked in with him a couple months after that, just to see how things were going.

### **University of South Carolina Aiken**

Contact: Timothy Meeseman  
Date: Sept. 10, 2003  
Status: Dead end

Attempted to call, responded to request with an email and sent information materials, no further contact from Timothy. Attempted to contact him again in February simply to investigate if the door was closed, he never responded.

### **University of Pittsburgh Bradford**

Contact: Cody C. Houlser  
Date: Sept. 12, 2003  
Status: Dead end

Talked with Cody several times and he seemed very enthusiastic, sent materials, contact from Cody fizzled out. I believe he had a difficult time getting a group together and I think that school began to take up his time.

### **Ohio Dominican University**

Contact: Julie Marks  
Referred by: Tyler Betts  
Date: Sept. 13, 2003  
Status: Dead end

I talked with Julie, who is the director of Residence Life, at Ohio Dominican. She apparently was simply looking for a service organization, not necessarily one for Christian men. She decided that Sigma Theta Epsilon wasn't what she was looking for and thanked me for my time.

### **University of Houston**

Contact: Ryan Werda  
Date: Sept. 20, 2003  
Status: Dead end, with future interest

I spoke with Ryan several times on the phone and sent requested information. He mentioned several men interested as well, and in talking with him he planned to make an effort to get it started in the spring semester. After winter break I made several attempt to reconnect with Ryan, but I never heard anything back. At the end of February I talked with

him on the phone and he communicated to me that school and work consumed his time, and the guys who were interested disappeared. He however expressed interest that if anyone from UH contacts me to start a chapter, he would like to be involved.

### **Northern Kentucky University**

Contact: Trey Orndorffer

Date: Sept.–Oct, 2003

Status: Dead end, but has future potential

Last summer I got connected to Katie Avra, the vice president of Alpha Delta Sigma, a Christian sorority at NKU. I expressed to her our interest in seeing a chapter get started at that school and she connected us eventually to Trey. I talked with Trey who appeared interested, along with several other men, however no proactive effort on their part ever really happened. So I believe is left off as a school that will have potential future contacts if we make a proactive attempt at that school.

### **Cincinnati Bible College**

Contact: Aaron Miller

Date: Oct. 6, 2003

Status: Dead end

I talked with Aaron after he and a group of friends attended a party at Beta Gamma. CBC is a seminary school in Cincinnati and to my knowledge they do not allow fraternities. Aaron investigated and I believe (if memory serves me), that CBC doesn't not allow them. I investigated the idea of a consortium of chapters, where if a university has a pre-existing consortium with neighboring universities and colleges that perhaps students could join a pre-existing chapter (ex. CBC students joining Beta Gamma). However, that is too complicated of an issue to deal with at the moment. I encouraged those men to involve themselves with Beta Gamma, when I heard of their schools ruling.

### **Shawnee State University**

Contact: Tom (?)

Referred by: Bill McKell

Date: approximately Oct. 28, 2003

Status: dead end- may hold future opportunities though

I communicated over email with Tom (if I recall correctly), who is a friend of our alumnus, Bill McKell, and who works at Shawnee State University. I communicated with him a few times over email and attempted to email him the informational documents, but the attachments didn't go through. He mentioned he didn't know of any students interested, so I believe it is something that he will mention us to students if there is ever talk about a

Christian fraternity. He will be a helpful contact if we ever decide to proactively approach that school.

### **Northwestern University**

Contact: Matthew Schmitz  
Date: Summer-Fall of 2003  
Status: Dead end

Matthew Schmitz lived in the Beta Gamma house several quarters on co-op while in Cincinnati. He expressed interest in starting a chapter at Northwestern University in the fall of 2003. I met with him personally several times to come up with a strategy about getting interest going and designated STE alumnus, Alex Johnson, to be a representative to that school if the need arose. I traveled to Northwestern on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003 to visit the campus, pray for it, and spend time with Matthew. As the fall quarter came around, Matthew attempted a few times to generate interest, but nothing much happened. Later on in the quarter Matthew felt that God was leading him to minister to the freshmen in his honors dorm and expressed his regrets that a chapter didn't get started.

### **Western Michigan University**

Contact: Thomas Davenport, Dan Malseed  
Referred by: Aaron Aldridge  
Date: Nov. 17, 2003  
Status: Unknown- limited potential

Thomas Davenport is an alumnus from the now defunct Alpha Beta chapter that was once at WMU. They found out that STE still exists through Aaron connecting with him. They requested information and I sent it to him and Dan, who is a student who may have interest in starting a chapter. I sent information (there may have been a communication breakdown somehow), but I never heard anything from Dan. I will most likely try to reconnect with Mr. Davenport and talk to him about ways to get interest generated.

### **Kent State University**

Contact: Michael (?)  
Date: Dec. 11, 2003  
Status: On hold, potential for fall of 2004

I spoke with Michael several times and sent him information that he requested about how to start a chapter. Michael is very interested in doing this; however, he is not currently enrolled in classes at Kent though he is a student. He is interested in trying to get a group

of students together next fall and I will be doing everything I can to aid him as this school is one of the goals of the Take Ohio Campaign.

### **University of Tennessee**

Contact: Corey (?)

Referred by: Michael Sowa

Date: Dec. 25, 2003

Status: Currently dead end, but may have future potential though

A brother at Beta Epsilon, Michael Sowa, sent me an email about a friend of his that was going to be attending UT in the fall and would like information. Corey soon after emailed me and asked for info. I sent the informational material, but it failed to go through. I'm unsure if he received when it was sent again. I sent him another email, yet I never received any word back from him. It may have future potential when he attends school in the fall, but that is unknown at the moment.

### **Illinois Wesleyan University**

Contact: Jordan Bartle, Tim Van Dorn

Date: Jan. 30, 2004

Status: Waiting on completed petition

I spoke with Jordan over the phone and at his request sent the informational documents for him and a group of Christian men, who are already assembled, to look at. When I spoke with him, his group was investigating different Christian fraternities to see which one was right for them. After reviewing our material they have decided to go with Sigma Theta Epsilon and have requested a petition, which they have received. As of a few days ago (when this was written) they were working to have all the paperwork ready to be sent in by Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. So if all goes according to plan and they're petition is certified, they may be driving to St. Louis to be initiated as a temp club at Conclave 2004.

### **Morehead State University**

Contact: Matthew Kimmons

Date: Feb. 15, 2004

Status: Still waiting, most likely a dead end

I sent Matthew the information that he requested and spoke with him on the phone to answer any questions he had about our brotherhood. He was working with a group of Christian men interested in a Christian fraternity. I spoke with him after he had a chance to review the information. His concern, along with his group, is that due to the intensity of

their majors in music, they may not have the time for it. So they may at some point find themselves in a situation where they can move on it, or it just may not happen.

### **Bowling Green State University**

Contact: Tom Moyer, Kappa Phi (?)

Date: Feb. 28, 2004

Status: Investigating

Tom Moyer is an alumnus of the Nu chapter, during his college days of 1952-56, and had lost touch with his fraternity. He now works with pastoral care around the campus of Bowling Green State University, where he knows several women in leadership with Kappa Phi. He shared his experiences with STE with those women and was later informed that there were male friends of the students in Kappa Phi who were interested in starting a chapter. I sent Tom our informational documents, which he intends to forward to the adult leaders of Kappa Phi. He also is going to try to get me some contact information so I can hopefully start seeking out these men who might be interested. Once that happens, I will also look into friends that Tyler Betts of Epsilon, had mentioned may be interested.

**Note:** I left out 2 inquiries because I did not know the nature of the inquiry or where they were located, so they started off as practically dead ends.

## **Business Items**

### ***National Judiciary Powers Act of 2004 \****

#### **Author: National Historian**

\*The version to be brought before Conclave may change from the version offered in this journal. Check [www.sigmatheta.org](http://www.sigmatheta.org) to stay on top of the latest version.

With the expansion of the National Fraternity continuing, it is necessary to implement measures for the preservation of the fraternity as a strong, unified organization. Part of these growing pains includes assuring the ability for the National Fraternity to uphold the Constitution, enforce the laws enacted by Conclave, protect the Fraternity for purposes of risk management, and hold accountable the chapters to their debts to the National Fraternity. As the fraternity expands and her programs grow, it is important that the chapters are to be accountable to the payment of dues to the National organization. Without the constant flow of financial support, the national organization will struggle to thrive. In the society of litigation that we live in, if the national organization doesn't have a system in place in which to address incidents within organization, it may be found liable in civil cases arising from such events.

As it is the hope and desire of the author that the judiciary would be utilized infrequently, it is felt that the judicial powers should rest within a National Judiciary comprised of the full elected body of the National Officers. This would allow for accountability to the actives through the biennial elections, while not adding an additional level of bureaucracy to the National Government.

As this act will include changes to both the National Constitution and the National Standard, then the author proposes that there be a 2/3 Conclave vote in which there is quorum present to ensure passage. Splitting the components of the act into those pertaining to the National Constitution and those pertaining to the National Standard would be futile as the amendments to each document are dependent upon the other and cannot stand alone.

#### **Formation and Authority of the National Judiciary.**

The following changes will create powers necessary to enforce the National Constitution and National Standard of Sigma Theta Epsilon. These powers will be vested upon the full elected body of the National Officers of Sigma Theta Epsilon.

National Constitution.  
ARTICLE VI - Government

#### **Additions to STE Constitution**

*Section 3: National Judiciary*

- A. *The National Judiciary shall be comprised of the National Officers and one chapter president, selected at random on a case-by-case basis.*
- B. *The National Judiciary shall have authority over all cases in which chapter actions or policies violate the National Constitution and By-laws or policies adopted by the National Conclave of Chapters. The National Judiciary shall have the power to investigate violations, level punitive action, suspend chapters, and recommend charter revocation to the National Conclave of Chapters.*
- C. *The National Judiciary shall work under the supervision of the National Conclave of Chapters, which may overturn or amend any decision handed down by the Court majority vote following an appeal petition backed by three-fourths (3/4) of all sitting chapter Presidents. This is only applicable to the first Conclave of Chapters following the decision in the case.*

Article VII: *Chapters* (Re-titled from Expansion)

Section Seven: *Chapter Sanctions.*

- A. *A chapter may be placed on suspension for a definite period of time, not to exceed two academic years, by the National Judiciary as a result of major or repeated violations of the National Constitution and By-laws or of fraternity policy. Chapters under suspension shall be denied voting privileges in the National Conclave of Chapters and National Cabinet. Chapters under suspension shall continue to be responsible for all national financial obligations.*
- B. *The National Judiciary may recommend to the National Conclave of Chapters that the charter of a chapter be revoked as a result of continued violations while under suspension. A two-thirds vote of the Conclave is required in order for a charter to be revoked.*
- C. *Lesser penalties, including financial sanctions, may be levied by the National Judiciary as authorized by the National Conclave of Chapters.*
- D. *Penalties levied by the National Judiciary may be amended or overturned by a majority vote of the National Conclave of Chapters at the Conclave immediately following the date of the decision by the National Judiciary, following a recommendation of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the National Presidents.*

Section Eight: *All chapters shall maintain a total active membership of no fewer than eight men. Should the total active membership fall below this number, the chapter shall be deemed to be on probation, and shall be subject to governance by the National Cabinet. While on probation, the chapter president shall serve as the sole voting delegate to the National Conclave of Chapters. Probation may be lifted upon a majority vote of the National Cabinet as a result of total active membership exceeding eight men for at least one academic year.*

National Standard

<<Additions to Standard>>

*Section 16: Judicial Procedure*

- JPA.01*      *A. Charges of a violation by a chapter of the National Constitution and By-laws or of policies adopted by the National Conclave of Chapters, shall be submitted in writing to the National President. The charges shall contain the nature of the violation, details relating to the incident, and the reasons why it is believed that a violation has occurred. Upon receipt of such charges, the National Judiciary shall be convened.*
- B. Upon being convened, the National Judiciary will determine whether a charge has merit and whether it is within the jurisdiction of the committee. If the charge either lacks merit or is outside of the jurisdiction of the committee, the National Judiciary shall refuse to investigate the accusation and so notify all parties involved. If the charges have merit and the committee has jurisdiction, an investigation of the charges shall be undertaken.*
- C. Upon completion of the investigation, the National Judiciary shall issue a decision on whether a violation has occurred. A majority vote of the committee is necessary for a finding of a violation. The committee shall issue a written decision to the National Conclave of Chapters regardless of the result. The written decision may contain dissenting and concurring opinions.*
- JPA.02*      *For a review of a National Judiciary decision at Conclave, the party challenging the decision must submit a written motion to either amend or overturn the decision to the National President and the National Secretary. The written motion must include documented backing from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all sitting Chapter Presidents stating that they agree with the motion. The National President shall verify the consent of the documented Chapter Presidents prior to the beginning of morning session at Conclave.*
- JPA.03*      *Properly submitted motions shall be inserted into the new business section of Conclave.*
- 1. The majority and dissenting opinions and the challenger's motion, shall be presented to the members of Conclave.*
  - 2. The challenger shall have 5 minutes to present orally any additional argument, followed by 5 minutes of rebuttal from a member of the National Judiciary, voting in the majority.*
  - 3. There will be no questions brought from the spectators, the delegates, or the National Officers and the delegates will vote.*

- JPA.04 A majority vote in favor of the challenger shall overturn the decision of the Court. If the challenger's motion fails, the decision stands.*  
*1. In the event of decision of the Court being overturned, the decision will be sent back to the National Judiciary to be amended within the guidelines set by the successful motion, and ratified by Conclave.*  
*2. In the event that a challenger's motion to completely overturn the decision is successful, the motion is overturned and any applicable penalties lifted.*
- JPA.05 If a chapter is found to be in violation of its financial obligations to the National Fraternity, the National Judiciary may require the chapter to pay the full Conclave fees for all chapter delegates.*
- JPA.06 The National Judiciary may levy other financial penalties as it sees fit, but such penalties are not to exceed the total national dues owed by the chapter for the previous two academic years.*
- JPA.07 The status of "Active Chapter – Under Suspension" may be imposed upon chapters for major or repeated violations. At any time that a chapter is put under suspension, it shall be for a finite length of time deemed suitable by the Court to never be greater than two calendar years.*

**<<Changes to Standard - Strike indicated text and add italics>>**

- 6.01 A. No chapter or temporary club shall allow any of its pledges, members or other persons to participate in any hazing ceremony, activity, or practice. This includes all types of corporal punishment, any action that would place a person in peril, any action which involves physical exhaustion or abuse, any activity of a dangerous, rude, or vulgar nature, any activity which would interfere mentally or physically with a person's ability to perform college work, or other activity which would reflect unfavorably on the fraternity system.
- B. All acts of hazing by a chapter or any of its members or alumni are specifically forbidden. Hazing shall be defined as any physical or mental harassment to the individual. Specifically, hazing includes the following:
1. Any activity that requires an unreasonable or inordinate amount of the individual's time, or in any manner impairs the individual's academic efforts.
  2. Any activity that would degrade or otherwise compromise the dignity of the individual.
  3. The required consumption of any liquid or solid matter.
  4. Any requirement which compels an individual to participate in any activity which is illegal, or contrary to an individual's genuine moral and/or religious beliefs, or contrary to the rules and regulations of the college/university.

~~If a hazing allegation is made, a report shall be made within 24 hours to the National Expansion Director by the chapter/temporary club president or a chapter designee/National Expansion representative. The local advisor shall work in consultation with the National Expansion Director in determining the outcome of the investigation. The National Cabinet shall be responsible for any actions against the chapter (and possibly individuals) if it is determined that hazing did occur. The National Expansion Director may take immediate action specifically within that local chapter's pledge program.~~

~~6.02 The National President shall be notified by the National Expansion Director upon the receipt of any allegations of hazing and shall be kept apprised of the investigation and results.~~

6.02 *Any allegations of hazing shall be made to the National President by the chapter or temporary club president, National Expansion director, or any other party aware of the incident. Upon receipt of an allegation, the National President shall convene the National Judiciary, which shall investigate the allegation.*

6.03 *If the National Judiciary determines that hazing did occur, the National Judiciary shall determine the appropriate penalty for the chapter or temporary club where the incident occurred. Such penalties may include, but are not limited to, ordering that the National Expansion Director monitor and approve the pledge program of the chapter or temporary club for a period not to exceed two academic years, and placing the chapter on suspension.*

9.01 While Sigma Theta Epsilon recognizes both abstinence from, as well as responsible use of, alcohol as faithful witnesses to the highest ideals of Christian life, the choice of usage or abstinence lies totally in the individual. We, the National Brotherhood of Sigma Theta Epsilon also recognize the great moral, physical, and spiritual harm that can result from the misuse of alcohol.

Whereas, we recognize the harm done to local chapters, and consequently the National Brotherhood, by past alcohol abuse;

Whereas, we believe it to be within the limits of reason to make our alcohol policy resoundingly clear in order to avoid any misunderstanding of the character and witness of this fraternity;

Whereas, an overwhelming majority of our functions are attended by those not of legal drinking age, it is best to simply remove this potentially troublesome element before it can become a problem;

Therefore, let the following points serve as our National Alcohol Policy:

- A. All activities sponsored by or participated in by the National Organization of Sigma Theta Epsilon, its local chapters, and temporary clubs shall be alcohol-free.
- B. All chapter houses shall be alcohol-free.
- C. There shall be no alcohol consumption by anyone affiliated with the fraternity at the time he/she is wearing Sigma Theta Epsilon's letters.

~~D. Non conformity to these standards shall be noted by the National Cabinet and reported to the National President, who may take appropriate punitive action except the revocation of a charter, which must be approved by the National Conclave.~~

E. Sacramental Elements shall be exempted from this policy, provided that they are used only for their intended purpose and their use conforms with ecclesiastical regulations appertaining thereto.

9.02 *Allegations of a violation of this policy by a chapter or temporary club shall be reported to the National President. Upon receipt of an allegation, the National President shall convene the National Judiciary, which shall investigate the allegation.*

9.03 *If the National Judiciary determines that a violation of this policy did occur, the National Judiciary shall determine the appropriate penalty for the chapter or temporary club where the incident occurred. Such penalties may include, but are not limited to, financial penalties and placing the chapter on suspension.*

9.04 *Violations of this policy by individual members of the fraternity shall not be subject to review by the National Judiciary. However, the refusal or failure of a local chapter or temporary club to enforce this policy among its membership may be considered a violation of this policy by that chapter or temporary club.*

## ***Transfer of Parliamentarian Duties Act of 2004***

**Author: Tyler Betts, Epsilon Chapter**

### **Transfer of Parliamentarian Duties Act of 2004 Proposal:**

- 1) *Strike: By Laws: Article 1, Section two, Part E: The National Vice President Shall serve as national parliamentarian.*
- 2) *Add: By Laws: Article 1, Section 6, Part G: **The National Historian Shall serve as national parliamentarian.***
- 3) *Add: By Laws: Article 1, section two, Part H: **The National Vice President shall implement a fraternity program focus for each year.***
- 4) *Add: By Laws: Article 1: section two, Part I: **The National Vice President shall distribute a national program book.***
- 5) *Add: TPLA.01: **The Vice President shall publish and distribute to chapters a Program book each year during Fall Gathering. The program book shall include ideas for individual chapters to use in incorporating the national Program theme, which shall be introduced by the National Vice President at the National Conclave of Chapters, the year it is to be implemented.***

In Viewing the National Constitution and the National By-Laws, one can easily spot something which is an oddity as well as a potential problem. It is required that the National Vice-President serve as both the National Chaplain and the National Parliamentarian. This can, presently and in the future, cause one of the following problems:

- 1) The best fit for the job of Parliamentarian for Nationals is NOT suited to be the National Chaplain.
- 2) The best fit for the job of Chaplain for Nationals is NOT suited to be the Parliamentarian.

I have personally seen conflict on the local level between someone rooted in order and details (our local Secretary who is our Parliamentarian) and someone who is envisioned with Spiritual growth and the big picture God is lying on hearts (for us, our Chaplain). And it was the meeting of the two different minds that allowed for the best possible solution to problems.

I propose the National Historian be made the Parliamentarian for two reasons. 1) He has no duties at national business meetings nor cabinet meetings except to listen, and can thus be free to pay attention to details and watch for missteps and illegal actions. 2) The National Historian has historical documents and can be on the look-out for red flags as to things that have caused problems to the fraternity in the past ... not only in business items, but also in procedures, attendance, etc ...

Seeing also, a need to give responsibilities of greater importance than writing a monthly devotional, I have also proposed new responsibilities for the National Vice President. These have been selected to give individual chapters the national focus that has been missing.

**National Officers Recommendation:** The National Officers recommend that the Conclave of Chapters vote in favor of this piece of legislature.

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## ***Proposed Constitutional Amendment – Article VII***

**Author: National Vice President**

**Current Version:**

Article VII Expansion

Section One: A group of men, whose minimum number shall be set by the National Cabinet, may apply for a charter to establish a chapter of the fraternity if they meet the following requirements:

- A. All men in the group must be in good academic standing.
- B. The men must present the National Expansion Director a petition containing their signatures, and the signature(s) of their sponsor(s).
- C. Application petitions received by the National Expansion Director shall be certified by the National President.

Section Two: Temporary Club.

- A. Upon certification of an application petition, the National Expansion Director shall supervise the organization of a temporary club and may appoint an appropriate fraternity official to oversee the club's development.
- B. After meeting all requirements, the Temporary Club shall be recommended for a charter by the National Expansion Director.

Section Three: Granting a Charter.

- A. The recommendation of the National Expansion Director that a temporary club be granted a charter shall be made to the National Cabinet.
- B. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the National Cabinet shall be necessary for the granting of a charter.
- C. At the time a charter is granted, the new chapter will pay a charter fee set by the National Cabinet, except that an inactive chapter being re-chartered need not pay a charter fee if it has been inactive less than five (5) years.
- D. Upon the granting of the charter, the new chapter shall go through the activation ritual. The new chapter shall be activated at the next national meeting following the national meeting at which it was initiated as a Temporary Club.
- E. Should a Temporary Club not be granted a charter and be activated as a chapter at that national meeting,, the club may request an extension subject to the approval of the National Expansion Director and the National President. If the club is not activated at the next national meeting, the Temporary Club is automatically dissolved and the group of men must petition for a new Temporary Club.

Section Four: A. Chapters of the fraternity shall be designated by the letters of the Greek alphabet or a successive combination thereof, except that the Omega chapter shall be reserved for the deceased members

of the fraternity.

B. The naming of new chapters shall continue in order through the Greek alphabet. The names of chapters whose charters have been absorbed shall not be re-used on that campus or any other.

Section Five: Government of a chapter shall be vested in active membership of the chapter. Government of each chapter shall be established according to Robert's Rules of Order. Each chapter shall also elect a sponsor/advisor who shall advise the chapter and its officers.

Section Six: Pledgeship.

A. Pledgeship in this fraternity shall be open to all Christian men enrolled in colleges or universities with an active chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon.

B. Men received into pledgeship shall undergo a training period of not less than six (6) weeks nor more than ten (10) weeks, unless prior special permission is granted by the National Expansion Director.

### **Proposed Version:**

#### Article VII Chapters

##### Section One: **Petition for Temporary Club Status**

A. A group of men, whose minimum number shall be set by the National Cabinet, may apply for a charter to establish a chapter of the fraternity if they meet the following requirements:

1. All men in the group must be in good academic standing.
2. The men must present the National Expansion Director a petition containing their signatures, and the signature(s) of their sponsor(s).
3. Application petitions received by the National Expansion Director shall be certified by the National President.

##### Section Two: **Temporary Club Status**

A. Upon certification of an application petition, the National Expansion Director shall supervise the organization of a Temporary club and may appoint an appropriate fraternity official to oversee the club's development.

B. After meeting all requirements, the Temporary Club shall be recommended for a charter by the National Expansion Director.

##### Section Three: **Granting a Charter.**

A. The recommendation of the National Expansion Director that a Temporary club be granted a charter shall be made to the National Cabinet.

B. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the National Cabinet shall be necessary for the granting of a charter.

**C. Upon the approval for granting a charter, the temporary club shall go through the "Chartering of a New Chapter" ritual. The temporary club shall be activated at the current or next national meeting. The National Expansion Director may request another time and location for the "Chartering of a New Chapter" ritual, subject to the approval of the National Cabinet.**

**D. Before a charter is granted by the "Chartering of a New Chapter" ritual, the new chapter will pay a charter fee set by the National Cabinet, except that an inactive chapter being re-chartered need not pay a charter fee if it has been inactive less than five (5) years.**

E. Should a Temporary club not be granted a charter and be activated as a chapter at that national meeting, the club may request an extension subject to the approval of the National Expansion Director and the National President. If the club is not activated **by the close** of the next national meeting, the Temporary

club is automatically dissolved and the group of men must petition for a new Temporary Club.

**Section Four: Chapter Designation**

A. Chapters of the fraternity shall be designated by the letters of the Greek alphabet or a successive combination thereof, except that the Omega chapter shall be reserved for the deceased members of the fraternity.

B. The naming of new chapters shall continue in order through the Greek alphabet. The names of chapters whose charters have been absorbed shall not be re-used on that campus or any other.

**Section Five: Governing**

Government of a chapter shall be vested in active membership of the chapter. Government of each chapter shall be established according to Robert's Rules of Order. Each chapter shall also elect a sponsor/advisor who shall advise the chapter and its officers.

**Section Six: National Pledge Program.**

A. Pledge ship in this fraternity shall be open to all Christian men enrolled in colleges or universities with an active chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon.

B. Men received into pledge ship shall undergo a training period of not less than six (6) weeks nor more than ten (10) weeks, unless prior special permission is granted by the National Expansion Director.

The constitutional amendment is a housecleaning amendment that properly names each section of the article. Also, the constitution is changed to reflect the ritual book concerning how a temporary club gets chartered. Everything in this bill is consistent with current policies and merely is an update to reflect how the Fraternity currently operates.

**National Officers Recommendation:** The National Offices unanimously recommend that the Conclave of Chapters approve this constitutional amendment.

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***Proposed Constitutional Amendment – Article VIII: Membership***

**Author: National Vice President**

**Current Version:**

Article VIII Membership

Section Three: Membership Description.

A. Active. Automatically receives the Degree of the Knotted Rope, pays all applicable dues and fees, has voting privileges and may serve as an officer of the fraternity. He has all rights, privileges, and responsibilities.

B. Inactive. He has no status in the fraternity. Serves no office, has no rights, privileges, responsibilities (with the exception of unpaid financial obligations) and does not receive the Degree of the Knotted Rope.

C. Associate. Serves no office, may attend meetings and other functions, must pay applicable dues and fees, may petition for reactivation into the brotherhood or for continuation as associate status at the end of each term. He may petition for the Degree of the Knotted Rope.

D. Alumnus. An active member is automatically given the Degree of the Knotted Rope and granted this status upon leaving a college or university with a chapter by graduation, transfer, or withdraw. An active member may also receive alumnus membership upon approval of the local chapter.

E. Honorary.

1. National honorary membership shall be conferred only by the National Conclave of Chapters.

2. Each chapter may grant honorary membership in a manner it deems suitable.

F. Sweetheart. Serves no office, may attend meetings as a non-voting member and all other functions, does not pay dues. Receives the Sweetheart's Degree of the Knotted Rope. May be any woman attending the university with which the local chapter is associated. Each chapter may elect a Sweetheart in the manner it deems suitable.

#### **Proposed Version:**

Article VIII Membership

Section Three: Membership Description.

**A. Pledge. (Member in Entry Status) He has provisional membership in the fraternity, received at the Pledge Ritual. May only hold pledge class offices, has no voting rights in local chapter or national fraternity business, may only wear fraternity letters/symbols on a designated pledge jersey/shirt, may only wear the pledge pin in regards to fraternity jewelry, pays all applicable dues and fees, and does not receive the Degree of the Knotted Rope. Membership is revoked upon de-pledging and the former pledge retains no rights or privileges.**

**B. Active. (Member in Good Standing) He has full membership in the fraternity, received at the Formal Initiation. An Active brother must pay applicable dues and fees to maintain membership status, and therefore has voting privileges and may serve as an officer of the fraternity. He has all rights, privileges, and responsibilities. Active brothers are automatically eligible for the Degree of the Knotted Rope.**

C. Inactive. **(Member in Poor Standing)** He has no status in the fraternity, He may attend meetings and other functions with the permission of the local brotherhood.. Serves no office, has no rights, privileges, responsibilities with the exception of unpaid financial obligations and is not eligible to receive the Degree of the Knotted Rope.

D. Associate. **(Member in Limited Standing)** Serves no office, may attend meetings and other functions, must pay applicable dues and fees, and may petition for reactivation into the brotherhood or for continuation as associate status at the end of each term. He may petition his local chapter to receive the Degree of the Knotted Rope.

**E. Honored Alumnus (Recipient of the Degree of the Knotted Rope). An active member may only receive the degree of the knotted rope membership upon approval of the local chapter, as it is granted by the local chapter's consensus vote based upon the following criteria:**

**1. An active member in good standing with no liabilities or financial obligations is automatically given the Degree of the Knotted Rope and granted this status upon leaving a college or university with a chapter by graduation, transfers, or withdraws.**

**2. An active member may also receive alumnus membership upon by special request to his local chapter and their approval consensus vote.**

**3. Other circumstances are subject to the local chapter's consensus approval vote.**

**F. Sweetheart.** Serves no office, may attend meetings as a non-voting member and all other functions, and does not pay dues. Receives the Sweetheart's Degree of the Knotted Rope. May be any woman attending the university with which the local chapter is associated. **Each chapter may elect one Sweetheart per electoral year in the manner it deems suitable for a length of one term.**

**G Honorary Membership** Honorary members may attend meetings and other functions, must pay applicable dues and fees, serve no office, and are not eligible to receive the Degree of the Knotted Rope

1. National honorary membership shall be conferred only by the National Conclave of Chapters.
  - a. the title of honorary brother to men
  - b. the title of honorary sweetheart women
2. Each chapter may grant honorary membership in cases where candidates are not otherwise eligible for any other type of membership
  - a. the title of honorary brother to men
  - b. the title of honorary sweetheart women

This piece of legislature was drafted to address several confusions among various chapters about our membership options. First of all, the lack of a definition of a pledge in our Fraternity has been addressed. The definition in this proposal is consistent with all other national documents and customs currently implemented by the Fraternity.

By creating a definition for a pledge, it became necessary to revise the definition of some of the other status options. Inactive and associate status were only changed in that "poor standing" and "limited standing" were added to further clarify and differentiate consistently between membership types. Active status was changed only in that information regarding their becoming active upon completing the formal initiation is included as well as the practiced and understood notion that one must pay applicable dues and fees to maintain active status.

The sweetheart status has been cleaned up to avoid confusion some chapters have had over the years. Rewording "a sweetheart" to "one sweetheart" helps clarify that a chapter may not have multiple sweethearts serving at once. Finally, the National Officers feel very strongly that a chapter can not let a sweetheart serve more than one term. The reason behind this is that a sweetheart who could be eligible for a second year of office may want to try very hard to stay in office. This can create a lot of problems for the chapter, the sweetheart, and other girls who are eligible to serve as sweetheart. The National Officers have seen this cause a problem in the past and strongly recommend this option in order to avoid repeating the repercussions.

**National Officers Recommendation:** This constitutional amendment was created to help alleviate problems various chapters have been experiencing. To keep these same occurrences from happening in the future, the National Officers have recommended that the Conclave of Chapters approve this constitutional amendment.

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## ***Proposed Constitutional Amendment – Article X: Real Estate***

### **Current Version:**

<u>Section One:</u>	The National Cabinet, with the National President presiding, shall control all real estate held by the National Fraternity.
<u>Section Two:</u>	Chapter Real Estate. A. Chapters may lease or rent real estate in compliance with all local, state, campus, and federal laws and ordinances. B. All financial arrangements of the purchase of real estate shall be approved by the National Cabinet. C. Minimum insurance standards for the real estate shall be set by the National Cabinet. D. Chapters may not own real estate.

### **Proposed Version:**

<u>Section One:</u>	Neither the National Fraternity nor the local chapters shall lease, rent, or own real estate.
<u>Section Two:</u>	Any real estate used for the purposes of the National Fraternity or the local chapters shall be leased, rented, or owned by the Sigma Theta Epsilon Housing Corporation.

This amendment is necessary for the Housing Corporation to be recognized and legally allowed to function for the Fraternity. Now that the corporation is making progress and is ready to begin assuming property, this amendment needs to pass.

**National Officers Recommendation:** The National Officers unanimously recommend the Conclave of Chapters approve this piece of business.

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## ***Proposed Constitutional Amendment – Bylaw I, Section Eight***

**Author: National Information Technology Director**

### **Current Version:**

Section Eight: The National Information Technology Director shall:
A. Be of active status for at least two (2) years or alumni status.
B. Maintain the National Website, <a href="http://sigmatheta.org">sigmatheta.org</a> , as a central, consistent, and easily navigatable resource for information as follows: - Work with the Secretary to publish all publicly-available information, including but not limited to: our Purpose, Philosophy, National Constitution, contact information for the National Cabinet, and links to local chapters' websites. - Assist the Secretary with electronic publications of The Standard, The Philoi, and any other communication or documents. - Assist the Alumni Director with electronic publication of the Alumni Newsletters.

- Assist the Historian with electronic publication of National and local chapter historical archive.
  - Assist the Expansion Director with developing a resource page for students interested in starting a chapter at their institution.
  - Work with the Financial Director to allow online credit card donations to the fraternity.
  - Set up/maintain national officers' email addresses.
  - Set up a secure site for Cabinet members for distribution of confidential communication and documents.
  - Set up secure access for all verified brothers ( Active and Alumni) to a National Contact Database.
  - Set up a discussion board or forum to promote community on a national level among brothers, alumni, and others.
  - Co-ordinate with the STE Housing Corporation to develop a website for communication among the Board of Directors, local Stewards, and residents.
  - Guide the local chapters in the development of their own webpages.
  - Invite feedback from site visitors to allow for continuous site improvement and expansion of usability and usefulness
- C. Oversee any purchase or development of software or hardware for use by national officers in conjunction with their responsibilities.
- D. Develop an information policy to govern the types of information which may be published online and any restriction thereon, for both nationals and the local chapters, to be approved by the Conclave.
- E. Review the website annually and present a detailed report to the Conclave covering site traffic, status of ongoing and future projects, and the revenue produced directly by the website.
- F. Appoint assistants and form committees as necessary for the delegation of the duties of this office utilizing interested and capable Active and Alumni members.
- G. Carry on correspondence pertaining to this office.
- H. Work under the direction of the National Cabinet, which may amend any action by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

**Proposed Version:**

- Section Eight: The National Information Technology Director shall:
- A. Be of active status for at least two (2) years or alumni status.
  - B. Maintain the National Website, sigmatheta.org, as a central, consistent resource for all public information.
  - C. Leverage all available technologies to improve and facilitate communication and information access across the National fraternity, while making all reasonable efforts to maintain the security of sensitive or private information.
  - D. Oversee any purchase or development of software or hardware for use by national officers in conjunction with their responsibilities.
  - E. Develop and recommend Information Technology Policies to govern the use of information technology by the fraternity.
  - F. Review the fraternity's use of technology annually, present a report to the Conclave covering the status of ongoing and future projects, and make recommendations for future activities.
  - G. Carry on correspondence pertaining to this office.
  - H. Work under the direction of the National Cabinet, which may amend any action by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

This is a housecleaning piece of legislature that will update the IT Director's duties from a checklist into an ongoing set of responsibilities. If this amendment does not pass, the role of the IT Director, according to the bylaws of our constitution, will become obsolete.

**National Officers Recommendation:** The National Officers unanimously recommend the passage of this constitutional amendment.

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## ***Proposed Constitutional Amendment – Bylaw IX: Conclave Reports***

**Author: National Vice President**

**Current Version:**

Article IX Conclave Reports

Section One: A composite report will be required of the local chapter at each meeting of the National Conclave of Chapters. It will include information from the local officers desired by the National Officers.

Section Two: The chapter will give all information to the National Secretary, who will publish them in the Conclave Journal.

**Proposed Version:**

Article IX Chapter Correspondence

Section One: National Meetings:

A. A written composite report will be required of the local chapter at each **National Meeting**. It will include information from the local officers desired by the National Officers.

B. The local chapter will submit these reports according to the guidelines set forth by the National Secretary. The National Secretary will publish the reports in the respective National Meeting Journal.

Section Two: Monthly Correspondence:

A. A written composite report will be required of each local chapter president (or his designee) during the months **of the respective chapter's regular school terms**. It will include information from the local officers desired by the National Officers.

B. The local chapter will submit these reports according to the guidelines set forth by the National Secretary.

This piece of legislature was drafted by National Vice President Shannon Wagers under his platform of accountability in order to further ensure proper correspondence is present in the Fraternity. It is basically housecleaning legislature according to the customs the Fraternity already observes concerning correspondence. For several years, chapters have been giving updates at Fall Gathering in addition to Conclave, and this bill reflects that. Furthermore, it is blanketed in a way that allows us to adopt to future technology (just as we have switched from reports delivered through the postal service to email updates to bulletin board updates) and it gives the Secretary the power to receive the information that he is looking for.

**National Officers Recommendation:** The National Officers recognize this constitutional amendment as a positive piece of legislature that will help the secretary and other officers

perform their duties. They unanimously recommend that the Conclave of Chapters approve this bill.

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## ***Conduct and Usage of the Letters of STE Law of 2004***

### **Author: National President**

#### **Conduct and Usage of the Letters of Sigma Theta Epsilon:**

CULSTE.01 Usage of the name, letters and all other insignia of Sigma Theta Epsilon shall be reserved for brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon with the following exceptions.

- A. Pledges may wear letters belonging to their big brothers on special occasions as determined by the pledge master. On such days, pledges are still required to wear their pledge pins.
- B. Sponsors, advisors, sweethearts, alumni, associates, inactives and honorary brothers have the same rights to letter/insignia usage as active brothers.
- C. Lavaliered (pinned) girlfriends may wear letter clothing belonging to their boyfriends as long as this is done tastefully and respectfully.
- D. Wives of brothers may wear letter clothing regardless of whether they were lavaliered or pinned, as they are considered one flesh in accordance to Genesis 2:24 .

#### CULSTE.02

The letters and insignia of Sigma Theta Epsilon shall only be attached to items of clothing that demonstrates appropriate Christian modesty. The name, letters or insignia of Sigma Theta Epsilon shall never be attached to articles or designs that would tarnish the name or reputation of the national organization or associate it with any unseemly activity. (I.E. co-sponsoring of events with distributors of alcoholic beverages, or vulgar designs.)

#### CULSTE.03 Fraternity Jewelry Regulations

A. Pledge Pin: Pledges shall wear the pledge pin over their hearts on the innermost layer of clothing-excepting undershirts. The pledge pin may never wear as a lapel pin. The only times during that a pledge is excused from wearing the pin during the pledging period are situations wherein the pin may be damaged or lost such as athletic events or situations where other regulations prohibit its use such as the wearing of military uniforms. At the completion of pledging, the brother should never wear the pledge pin again.

B. Badge and monogram pin: The badge or monogram pen may be worn on a jacket lapel over the heart. If a brother is not wearing a jacket, it shall be worn in the same manner as the pledge pin. Badge and key pin shall only be worn with business or formal attire.

C. Lavalier (Greek system tradition, as this is not an official piece of Sigma Theta Epsilon jewelry) : A necklace consisting of the Greek letters "Sigma Theta Epsilon" may be given to the girlfriend of a brother as a symbol of the serious nature of their relationship. After this time, the girlfriend may wear letter apparel but only while also wearing the lavalier necklace.

CULSTE.04

No person shall wear Sigma Theta Epsilon letters or insignia while engaging in any activity that might damage the name or reputation of the fraternity.

After discussion on the STE Bulletin Boards between various chapters and alumni culminated with a request to Nationals for drafting legislature concerning conduct and usage of our letters, National President Chad Burdette responded with this proposal.

**National Officers Recommendation:** There is nothing in this legislature that has not already been unofficially or informally practiced already. However, this proposal puts in writing what the Fraternity has already been observing and the National Officers believe, therefore, that this legislature is useful. The National Officers recommend that the Conclave of Chapters approve this legislature.

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## ***Alumni Association Law of 2004***

**Author: National Alumni Director**

**Current Version of Standard Ten:**

14.3 Sigma Theta Epsilon hereby authorizes the organization, whether by chapter or geographical region, of local alumni associations, subject to the following conditions:

- A. Each local alumni association shall adopt a constitution and file a copy with Sigma Theta Epsilon.
- B. Each local alumni association shall maintain current contact information with Sigma Theta Epsilon, and keep the national fraternity advised of its scheduled activities.
- C. No local alumni association shall conduct any activities contrary to those outlined in the Standard that would besmirch the name of Sigma Theta Epsilon.
- D. The National Alumni Director shall act as a liaison between the national fraternity and any local alumni association.

**Alumni Association Law of 2004:**

**10.02** Sigma Theta Epsilon hereby authorizes the organization, whether by chapter or geographical region, of local alumni associations, subject to the following conditions:

- A. Each local alumni association shall adopt a constitution and file a copy with Sigma Theta Epsilon.
- B. Each local alumni association shall maintain current contact information with Sigma Theta Epsilon, and keep the national fraternity advised of its scheduled activities.
- C. No local alumni association shall conduct any activities contrary to those outlined in the **Fraternity's National Documents** that would besmirch the name of Sigma Theta Epsilon.
- D. The National Alumni Director shall act as a liaison between the national fraternity and any local alumni association.

**1. A proposed change to an alumni association's constitution must first be submitted**

to the National Alumni Director.

2. A constitutional amendment that is vetoed by the National Alumni Director within thirty (30) days of receiving it may not be incorporated.

This piece of legislature is intended to prevent Alumni Associations from evolving into something that is not consistent with the rest of STE. Without it, once an AA has submitted its constitution to STE, it is free to completely alter it without regard to the rest of the brotherhood. An extreme example, but an AA could rename itself the “Association of devil worshipping brothers of STE who like to get drunk in public”. The proposal provides a way of preventing such actions.

The wording was selected so that the AA’s do not have to wait for approval of the National Alumni Director, which could slow down their process. The method outlined is the least cumbersome method which gives the brotherhood the chance to keep AA’s from becoming something the fraternity is not.

**National Officers Recommendation:** The National Officers unanimously recommend that the Conclave of Chapters approve this piece of business.

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## ***Proposed Standard – National Awards & Scholarships Law of 2004***

**Author: National Expansion Director**

### **Current Version of Standard XIV:**

Section 14: National Awards and Scholarship

14.01 The Dr. E.G. Williamson Award shall be awarded each year to the chapter that has in the prior year best upheld the principles expressed by Dr. Williamson in 1927. The winner of the award shall be determined at Spring Conclave by the National Officers. That chapter shall then possess the plaque until the award is given to a different chapter. In deciding the winner, the National Officers shall consider the following criteria:

1. Service projects.
2. Religious projects.
3. Social activities.
4. Stewardship on the local and national levels.
5. Overall success of the chapter in the past year.

### **National Awards & Scholarships Law of 2004:**

Section 14: National Awards and Scholarship

14.01 The Dr. E.G. Williamson Award shall be awarded each year to the chapter that has in the prior year best upheld the principles expressed by Dr. Williamson in 1927. **The recipient** of the award shall be determined at Spring Conclave by the National Officers. That chapter shall then possess the plaque until the award is given to a different chapter. **The National Officers shall consider the following criteria to determine the award recipient:**

1. Service projects.
2. Religious projects.
3. Social activities.
4. Stewardship on the local and national levels.
5. Overall success of the chapter in the past year

**NASL.01 The Timothy Scholarship shall be awarded by the Scholarship Committee in the amount of \$300 for the purpose of missions, upholding the character of 1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NIV)," We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow-worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith." The Scholarship Committee, chaired by the National Vice President, shall determine the application deadline, number of scholarships awarded, and scholarship recipient(s). The Timothy Scholarship is available only to active brothers and Alumni who have received the Degree of the Knotted Rope. The National Officers shall consider the following criteria to determine the scholarship recipient(s) , :**

1. Mission destination and duration
2. Financial need
3. Seniority.
4. Offices held in the fraternity
5. Fulfillment of national obligations of the applicant's home chapter
6. GPA of active brothers

**NASL.02 The Scholarship Committee will maintain all rules and policies governing The Timothy Scholarship.**

This law does two things, one housecleaning and one introduction of new policies. The housecleaning is simply cleaning up the description and wording of the Dr. E.G. Williamson Award. The other is the creation of the Timothy Scholarship.

The Timothy Scholarship was created as a way for Nationals to provide yet another service for individual brothers of local chapters. It is biblically based, supports our four-fold purpose, and has no financial impact on the Fraternity (its funding is separate from our budget and is maintained solely through donations). Details of the rules and policies have already been drafted, and the first award will not be awarded (if the legislation passes) until Conclave of 2005. There are already commitments from various alumni so that if this legislation is approved a Timothy Scholarship Award may be awarded to an applicant at Conclave 2005.

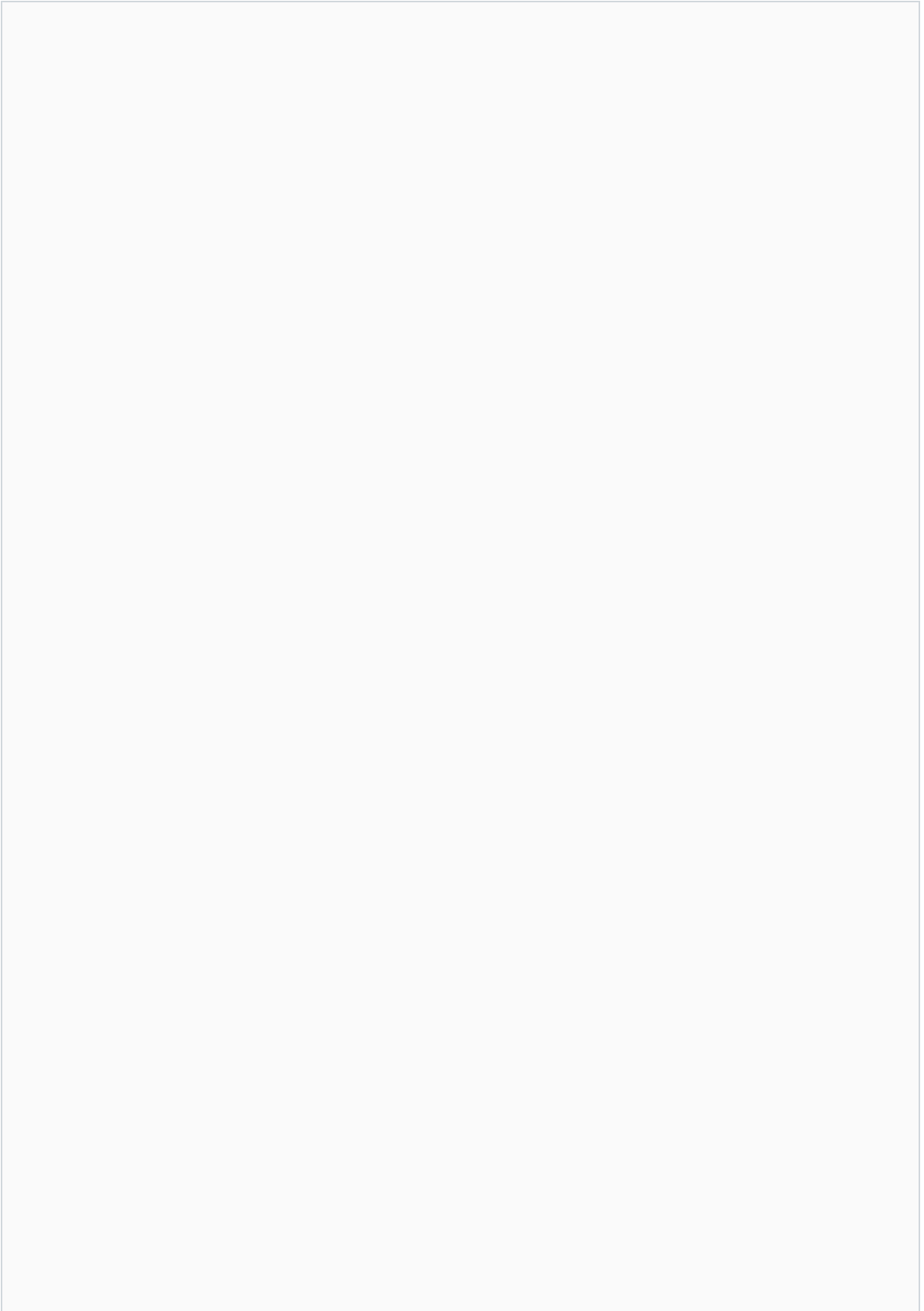
**National Officers Recommendation:** The National Officers unanimously recommend that the Conclave of Chapters approve this recommendation. If there are questions, a Timothy Scholarship FAQ can be requested by emailing [alumni@sigmatheta.org](mailto:alumni@sigmatheta.org).

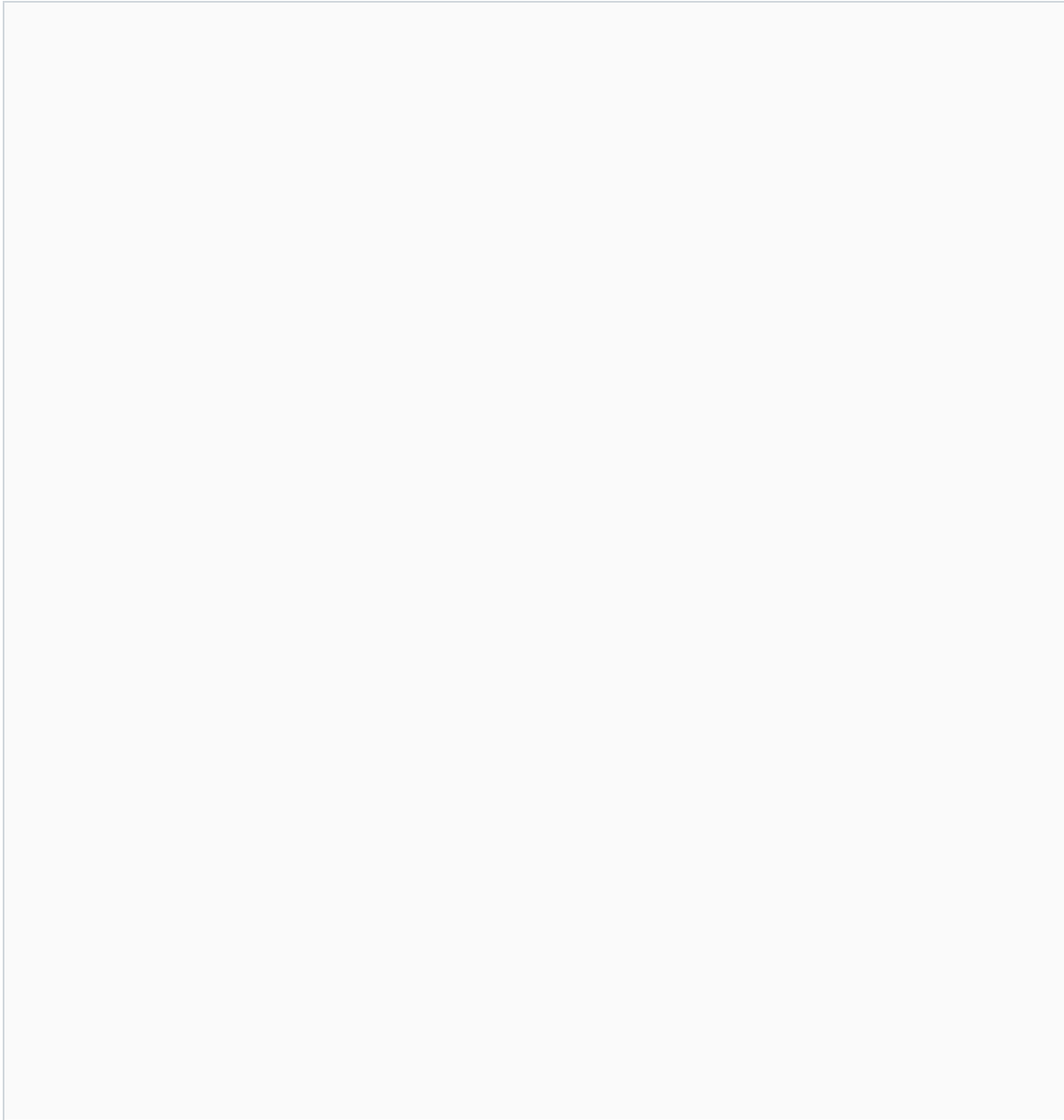
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## ***Proposed Ritual – Honorary Brother***

**Author: National Vice President**

**Proposed Ritual:**





It is the responsibility of the National Vice President, according to the bylaws set forth by our sacred constitution to oversee the planning, writing, and implementation of all national rituals, of which this is one (Bylaw Article one, section 2C). To that end, Shannon has written this ritual to be used when initiating an honorary brother, which until this time did not exist.

**National Officers Recommendation:** The National Officers unanimously recommend that the Conclave of Chapters approve this ritual.

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## ***Ritual Book Amendment – Traditions and Secrets Law of 2004***

### **Author: National Vice President**

The Traditions and Secrets Law of 2004 seeks to move some of our text in the ritual book around and rename other parts in a simple housecleaning law. The bolded text below beginning with “ ” through “ ” will be moved from the description of the “ ” to the “ ” which will be renamed “ ”.

#### **Traditions and Secrets Law of 2004:**

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#### **Traditions and Secrets Law of 2004:**

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**National Officers Recommendation:** The and are secrets of the Fraternity. Moving them from the description of to our portion of the ritual book is logical. The National Officers unanimously recommend that the Conclave of Chapters approve this ritual book update.

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## **Cabinet Meeting Agenda**

The following is a summary of some of the business items that need to be addressed during the Cabinet Meeting. Please ensure that each Chapter President has reviewed the items so that everything can be covered in the time allotted.

### ***Choosing Location for Conclave 2005 & 2006***

- See supplementary material regarding potential Conclave sites.

### ***T-shirt Design Competition/Archives***

- Information will be available at Conclave.

### ***New National Awards/Scholarships***

- Information will be available at Conclave.

## All About St. Louis

### *Accommodations*



Hampton Inn St. Louis - Downtown (Union Station)  
2211 Market Street  
St. Louis, MO 63074  
(314) 241-3200 (Phone)  
(314) 241-9351 (Fax)

"Fabulous Union Station location for St. Louis business and fun. This newly renovated hi-rise Hampton Inn has convenient access to all Downtown offices and the major sports venues Busch Stadium, Edward Jones Dome and Savvis Center. Situated just west of historic Union Station with easy access to all major highways...." Situated on eleven floors rooms are standard with a coffee maker, iron and ironing board, data port, and free in-room movie channel. Enjoy free local calls and no surcharge for using a calling card, free breakfast bar (6 AM to 10 AM), complimentary copies of USA Today Monday through Friday, free coffee and tea in the lobby 24 hours a day, and 24-hour front desk, message and fax service. Hotel is just 2 blocks for Union Station (Hard Rock Cafe, Metro Subway).

#### **Hotel features :**

Indoor pool (sorry, no game room)  
Coin Laundry  
Laundry/Valet Service  
Automated Teller (ATM)  
Breakfast Area, Complimentary  
Elevators  
Luggage Hold

#### **Hotel Policy:**

Check-in/Checkout  
Check-in after: 3:00PM  
Checkout before: 12:00PM

#### **From Lambert Airport to hotel:**

1.) Metro Subway (2 blocks from Hotel)

**-OR-**

2.) TransExpress Hotel shuttle : \$22 dollar per person round trip

## **Attractions**

### **The best places in St. Louis to see live music:**

<http://www.explorestlouis.com/nightlife/NightLifeResultMtg.asp?Category=60> (Blueberry Hill is considered to be one of the best places in the country to see live music).

#### **Lewis & Clark: Imagining the Expedition from St. Louis**

12/6/2003 - 1/31/2005.

Location: Gateway Arch Riverfront (Museum of Westward Expansion)

Time:

Cost: Free

Tickets:

Examine the Corps of Discovery's eventful, but generally unknown, five-month preparation period at St. Louis and Camp River Dubois prior to their departure up the Missouri River in May 1804. The exhibit will present five main themes, including diplomacy with the Indians, scientific work and examples of the weapons, equipment and belongings of a Lewis and Clark explorer. Grand opening special events on December 6 from noon until 4 p.m. This exhibit is co-sponsored by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey.

For more information call: (314) 655-1701

[www.gatewayarch.com](http://www.gatewayarch.com)

#### **Blues Music**

1/1/2004 - 12/31/2004.

Location: BB's Jazz, Blues and Soups

Time:

Cost:

Tickets:

St. Louis' best blues music seven nights a week and Gospel brunch on Sundays.

For more information call: (314) 436-5222

[www.bbsjazzbluessoups.com/music.htm](http://www.bbsjazzbluessoups.com/music.htm)

#### **Blues, Jazz, Cajun & Zydeco Music**

1/1/2004 - 12/31/2004.

Location: Broadway Oyster Bar, 736 S. Broadway

Time:

Cost:

Tickets:

Sunday - Thursday 11 a.m. - 1:30 a.m.; Friday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 a.m.

For more information call: (314) 621-8811

[www.broadwayoysterbar.com](http://www.broadwayoysterbar.com)

#### **Live Music at the Schlafly Taproom**

1/1/2004 - 12/31/2004.

Location: Schlafly Tap Room, 2100 Locust

Time: Friday & Saturday 8:00 p.m. - midnight; Sunday 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cost:

Tickets:

Everything from blues, jazz, R&B, acoustic folk and Latin to swing, rockabilly, country and traditional Irish music.

For more information call: (314) 781-4200

[www.schlafly.com](http://www.schlafly.com)

#### **Ford Free Fridays**

1/2/2004 - 12/31/2004.

Location: Saint Louis Art Museum in Forest Park

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Tickets:

Admission to the Art Museum's special exhibitions is free every Friday courtesy of Ford Motor Company's Ford Free Fridays. (Admission to the museum's permanent collection is always free.) Other features each Friday include all-evening dining with an early three-course special from 5-6 p.m.; a free tour at 2 p.m.; free Focus Talks at 6 and 7 p.m.; free CD-Rom audiotours all day; and free auditorium programs including films, performances and lectures at 7 p.m.

For more information call: (314) 721-0072

[www.slam.org](http://www.slam.org)

### **Lewis and Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition**

1/14/2004 - 9/6/2004.

Location: The History Museum in Forest Park

Time: Daily, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., open til 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays

Cost: \$12.00 adults; \$10.00 seniors; \$6.00 children (6-18); under 5 free

Tickets:

This national exhibition follows the Lewis and Clark expedition through the American west and displays hundreds of rare and priceless artifacts and documents that have not been together since the explorers returned to St. Louis in 1806. The core of this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition will be formed by artifacts, artwork, and documents entrusted to the Missouri Historical Society by the Clark and Lewis families in the early 20th century. Period objects and art will represent the equipment the explorers used, the landscapes they saw, and the Native American tribes they met. More than 600 artifacts will illustrate cultural encounters along the journey of Lewis and Clark.

For more information call: (314) 454-3150

[www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org](http://www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org)

### **Post-World War II American Works on Paper from the Washington University Gallery of Art**

1/23/2004 - 4/25/2004.

Location: Washington University Gallery of Art

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Friday; 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday; Closed Mondays and University holidays

Cost: Free

Tickets:

For more information call: (314) 935-4523

[www.wuga.wustl.edu](http://www.wuga.wustl.edu)

### **Prints of the Civil War**

2/7/2004 - 9/19/2004.

Location: Jefferson Barracks Historic Site

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays

Cost: \$2.00 ages 12 and older; \$1.00 ages 6-11; Free ages 5 and under

Tickets:

This exhibit focuses on prints and engravings of the Civil War as depicted by the artists/journalists of the time, the first embedded correspondents that traveled with the American military.

For more information call: (314) 544-5714

[www.stlouisco.com/parks](http://www.stlouisco.com/parks)

## ***Maps***

See <http://www.explorestlouis.com/visitors/maps.asp> for maps of downtown.

## *Schedule*

### **Friday 4/2:**

Arrive

Secret Meeting of the Saints TBA

Cabinet meeting

### **Saturday 4/3:**

8:30: Devotion

9:30: Business I (Officer Elections, New Business)

12:00: Lunch (on your own)

1:30: Business II (New Business 2)

4:00: Cabinet Meeting

5:30: Rituals (Officer Installation, Love Feast, Other Rituals if necessary)

6:30: Dinner

8:00: Free time

### **Sunday 4/4:**

9:00: Devotion

9:30: Head home

**THERE WILL ALSO BE A HOUSING COOPERATION MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED BY THE HC BOARD.**

**THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND WILL LIKELY CHANGE.**