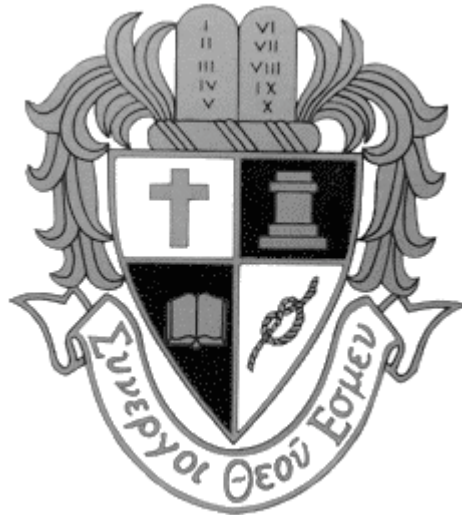


ΣΘΕ

Sigma Theta Epsilon



National Conclave of Chapters
April 7-9, 2006

Indianapolis, IN

Pre-Conclave Journal

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My Brothers,

Thank you for your genuine interest in the National Brotherhood of Sigma Theta Epsilon, and in particular for your genuine interest in the 2006 National Conclave of Chapters.

As you may already know, this year's Conclave could prove to be an extremely important one, as a new constitution has been proposed for the National Brotherhood. A copy of this constitution, and an introduction to it, are included in this journal.

Please go over the proposed constitution with your entire brotherhood before leaving for Indianapolis. Share with them your thoughts, and gather their concerns and questions, if they have any. If at all possible, bring these concerns to the Sigma Theta Epsilon website's bulletin boards. The more discussion that can take place there, the less will need to be done at Conclave. Also, this will give a chance for all brothers, not just chapter delegates to have their questions answered.

Additionally, you will find platforms for declared candidates for the offices of National President, National Secretary, National Financial Director, and one seat on the Housing Corporation. Please, review these as well, and bring any questions for the candidates to the boards, or with you to Conclave.

I hope that God's hand be with you and guide you on your way to Conclave safely, and that your chapter is overflowing the outpouring of His grace and Love.

In the Spirit of Philoi,

Tyler A. Betts
Sigma Theta Epsilon, National Secretary

Proposed Business Items

The only business item submitted to the Conclave this year is the proposed constitution. The following is an introduction to the new Constitution, and the process by which it came to be, submitted by the Constitutional committee:

The Constitutional Committee was formed by the National Cabinet at the 2004 Fall Gathering. After getting up and running in February, 2005, the committee has spent almost an entire year on the draft constitution which we are now presenting for peer review. This process has taken longer than we had hoped, but we feel the end product justifies the time that has been put into it. This is not the final draft, we are hoping that any potential problems can be identified at this stage and be corrected if necessary prior to presenting the constitution to the National Conclave for approval. So if you have comments or suggestions, now is the time to raise them.

Before you read the proposed constitution, we would like to first explain the reasons for this new constitution as well as several of the major changes contained within the constitution. Our current constitutional framework has become increasingly outdated, as reflected by the fact that every Conclave in recent years has seen at least one and often multiple constitutional amendments. The national structure is currently strained with trying to coordinate 10 chapters, which leaves very little room for us to grow. Conclaves and Fall Gatherings have become increasingly complicate to coordinate. However, perhaps the biggest problem at now is that our method of placing policies directly into the constitution creates an inflexible system that is difficult to change as needed, resulting in the aforementioned constitutional amendments every Conclave.

As for the major changes, first and foremost is a move away from how we have perceived the constitution. Our current constitution consists of both a constitution and by-laws; the proposed constitution does away with the by-laws in favor of a single document. We have also attempted to remove all "policy" issues from the constitution in favor of strictly structural issues. Putting policies into the constitution makes the document needlessly long, and creates problems whenever the constitution needs to be amended to fix policies that don't work. For example, there is no reason to have the exact method of how to form a chapter in the constitution. Instead, we have left the requirement that there be a pledge colony, and then a colony, and finally that a charter be granted. But we have not dictated exactly how this is to be accomplished. The actual mechanics of forming a chapter is a policy that can, and frequently has, changed, depending on what is working at a particular time.

The second major change is a structural change in how the national fraternity is operated. The National Conclave of Chapters remains, although its composition has been changed slightly with the reintroduction of the alumni delegate and the granting of a vote to the national officers. The biggest change lies in the National Cabinet, now to be known as the National Board. The membership is comprised solely of national officers, whose numbers have been reduced from the current 8 to 6. The National Board is given the authority to hire an Executive Director, who will be in charge of the day to day operations of the national fraternity. This does not mean an Executive Director will be hired immediately, or even that the position will be full-time or even paid at first. The National Board merely has the authority to do so when it feels that the position is needed.

The final major change is a restructuring of our current system of Conclaves and Fall Gatherings. Conclaves will only be required to be held every other year, although they are still permitted to be held annually. Once Conclave is begun to be held biannually, a regional system will be put into place and regional conclaves will be held in the off years. The regional system will also give us more flexibility to have more Fall Gatherings, which has become an increasingly complicated issue.

The main purpose of this constitutional draft is to give the fraternity the means by which to sustain the expansion that we have seen in the past several years. To accomplish this, we must become a more professional organization. Our current system of government has had its problems in the past, but in

general it has been able to manage a national fraternity of 10 or so chapters. Our current system does not have the structural capacity to satisfactorily manage 20 or even 40 chapters. If you do not believe this, just imagine how long a business session at Conclave would last under our current system if we had 20 chapters, with each chapter wanting a say on every single minor issue. In order to become more efficient, we must move to a system that allows the national fraternity set policy and make decisions, with proper oversight by the National Conclave.

Please take a few minutes and carefully read over this proposed constitution, and discuss it with your chapter brothers, perhaps even dedicate an entire brotherhood meeting to it. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please post them in this thread. Again, this is not a final form; we plan to take all comments under careful consideration, and will present a final, revised version to the chapters prior to Conclave so that everyone has an opportunity to review the final version before it is considered at Conclave. Therefore, we ask that any comments be posted on the boards or directed to a member of the constitutional committee no later than March 1, so that we can submit a final version to the chapters by March 15.

*The Constitutional Committee
Chad Burdette
David Burden
Shannon Wagers
Jason Sheldon
Aaron Aldridge*

The following is the proposed new constitution:

Sigma Theta Epsilon
National Christian Fraternity
National Constitution
Revised Final Committee Draft

Preamble:

Appreciating the need for a closer Christian fellowship among college and university men, and believing that a fraternal organization can stimulate such fellowship, and believing that college and university men, if so organized, can have a much more effective influence on the life and leadership of the Church and the world, we unite ourselves as Sigma Theta Epsilon, National Christian Fraternity, Incorporated.

Article 1: Name

The name of this fraternity shall be Sigma Theta Epsilon, National Christian Fraternity, Incorporated. The name Sigma Theta Epsilon represents the first letters of the Greek words “Sunergoi Theou Esman” taken from I Corinthians 3:9, meaning “Fellow workers with God.”

Article 2: Purpose

- Section 1: To extend our service projects through programs of action to meet unfilled human needs.
- Section 2: To attempt, with the guidance of God, to live Christian lives of faith and service.
- Section 3: To provide social activities through service and brotherhood.
- Section 4: To provide a background for understanding ourselves, our faith, and our world.

Article 3: Government

- Section 1: National Conclave of Chapters
- A. The government of the fraternity shall be vested in the National Conclave of Chapters, comprised of the National Officers and the Chapters.
 - B. The National Conclave of Chapters shall meet in odd numbered years in order to conduct business and hold elections. The time and place of the meeting shall be set by the National Board. The National Board may call a meeting of the National Conclave of Chapters in even numbered years in order to conduct business. Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the National Board.
 - C. Unless otherwise provided by this constitution, the voting power of the National Conclave of Chapters shall be vested in three delegates from each Chapter, each delegate having one vote. The chapter delegates shall consist of the chapter president or his designee, one other active chapter member as elected by the chapter, and one chapter alumnus as elected by the chapter. Chapters without an alumnus present will only have two voting delegates.
 - D. The National Conclave of Chapters shall have the sole authority to revoke Chapter charters unless otherwise provided herein.
- Section 2: National Board
- A. The National Board shall be comprised of the National Officers.
 - B. The National Board shall transact all fraternity business between meetings of the National Conclave of Chapters, and shall have all powers not expressly reserved by the National Conclave of Chapters.
 - C. The National Board shall work under the direction of the National Conclave of Chapters, which may amend any action by a two-thirds vote.

Article 4: Officers

Section 1: The National Officers shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Pledgemaster, and Alumni Secretary. At the time of their election, all officers must be alumni for a minimum of one calendar year. The National President and the Alumni Secretary must be alumni for at least two calendar years at the time of their election. The National President shall have held a prior national office. Should no candidate be present at the Conclave who meets these minimum requirements, the National Board shall have the authority to fill the position by appointment.

A. The National President shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the National Conclave of Chapters and the National Board.
2. Have the power to call all meetings of the National Board.
3. Have the power, subject to approval of the National Board, to enter into contract.
4. Speak officially for the fraternity between meetings of the National Conclave of Chapters.
5. Serve on the Board of Directors of the Sigma Theta Epsilon Housing Corporation.
6. Be responsible for the promotion and the expansion of the fraternity, including the organization of Colonies.
7. Have the power, subject to approval of the National Board, to appoint committees and chairmen of those committees.

B. The National Vice President shall:

1. Serve in the capacity of the President upon the direction of the President or when the President is unable to fulfill his duties.
2. Be responsible for the planning, writing, and implementation of all national rituals, including revisions of the Ritual as necessary, and the effective use of the rituals by local chapters.
3. Implement a fraternity program focus for each year, which shall be published annually in the National Program Book.
4. Be responsible for the oversight of chapter religious programs, including providing devotions and Bible study outlines to the chapters.
5. Further the development of the religious and spiritual life of the fraternity.

C. The National Secretary shall:

1. Serve as the secretary for the National Board, and publish and distribute the minutes of all meetings of the National Conclave of Chapters and the National Board.
2. Compile and publish the Philoi on a regular basis.

3. Be responsible for the care of the historical records of the fraternity, including the periodic revision of the national history.
 4. Serve as parliamentarian during meetings of the National Conclave of Chapters.
- D. The National Treasurer shall:
1. Receive all monies, record them, and transmit financial reports to the National Board.
 2. Disburse all money in accordance with national policy.
 3. Prepare a national budget for approval by the National Conclave of Chapters.
 4. Prepare and file all necessary tax returns.
 5. Have the financial records audited within thirty days prior to any meeting of the National Conclave of Chapters.
 6. Serve on the Board of Directors of the Sigma Theta Epsilon Housing Corporation.
 7. Oversee the finances of the chapters and review chapter audits on a regular basis.
- E. The National Pledgemaster shall:
1. Supervise the pledging of Colonies by serving as the Pledgemaster of the Colonies or appointing an alumnus to so serve.
 2. Be responsible for the planning, writing, and implementation of the national pledge program, which shall include, but not be limited to, the Pledge Manual, the National Pledge Test, the Pledgemaster's Handbook, and all national pledge requirements.
 3. Be responsible for supervising all local pledge programs to ensure that they meet the standards of the national pledge policy.
 4. Thoroughly investigate any allegations of hazing, and promptly report any findings to the National Board.
- F: The National Alumni Secretary shall:
1. Set policy and activities for and administer the national alumni program.
 2. Maintain, in cooperation with the National Executive Director, a record of the alumni of the fraternity.
 3. Coordinate and supervise the local alumni associations.
 4. Compile and publish an alumni newsletter on a regular basis.

Section 2: The National Officers shall be elected by the National Conclave of Chapters and shall serve a term of two years beginning at Conclave at which they are elected and continuing until their successors are installed at the following Conclave. The National President shall have the power to fill any vacant officer position, subject to the approval of the National

Board. National Officers may be removed from office for cause by a four-fifths vote of the National Board or by a two-thirds vote of the National Conclave of Chapters.

Article 5: Executive Director

Section 1: The National Board shall have the authority to hire, and to set a salary for, an Executive Director. The Executive Director shall serve at the discretion of the National Board.

Section 2: The Executive Director shall:

- A. Be responsible for the operation of the national office, from which he shall conduct the routine correspondence and activities of the fraternity.
- B. Have the express authority, subject to funding approval by the National Board, to hire additional administrative employees.
- C. Appoint or hire an Information Technology Director, whose responsibilities shall include the design and maintenance of any websites operated by the fraternity as well as assist the Executive Director with any other information technology.
- D. Coordinate communications between the chapters and the National Board.
- E. Be responsible, in cooperation with the National President, for the promotion and the expansion of the fraternity.
- F. Maintain a complete record of the membership of the fraternity.
- G. Be responsible for the design, acquisition, and sale of all merchandise and jewelry.
- H. Bill and collect all dues, and turn over all monies to the National Treasurer.
- I. Distribute publications, supplies, forms, and other materials to the chapters.
- J. Compile the policies of the fraternity in the Standard, which shall be published and distributed on a regular basis.
- K. Assist the National Officers in their duties.
- L. Do any other such duties as assigned to him by the National Board or the National Conclave of Chapters.

Section 3: In the event that an Executive Director is not hired by the National Board, or at any time when the Executive Director is unable to carry out his duties, the duties assigned to the Executive Director in Article 5, Section 2, subsections F, I, and J shall revert to the National Secretary. The duties in Article 5, Section 2, subsections G and H shall revert to the National Treasurer. All other duties shall revert to the National President.

Article 6: Chapters

- Section 1: Government of a chapter shall be vested in the active membership of that chapter. Government of each chapter shall be established according to Robert's Rules of Order. Each chapter shall also elect a sponsor who shall advise the chapter and its officers.
- Section 2: Chapters 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. The naming of new chapters shall continue in order through the Greek alphabet.
- Section 3: Each chapter shall have, at minimum, the following offices or their equivalents: president, chaplain, secretary, treasurer, pledgemaster, service director, social director, alumni director, and steward. Additional offices shall be at the discretion of the individual chapters.
- Section 4: Chapter officers are to be elected for terms of one year. The officer election must be held prior to the start of the final academic period of the school year.
- Section 5: All chapters shall maintain a total active membership of no fewer than eight men. Should the total active membership fall below this number after the first calendar year following activation, the chapter shall automatically be deemed to be on probation for an academic year.

Article 7: Expansion

- Section 1: The National Board shall have the authority to establish a process by which a group of men may petition for pledge colony status. The National Pledgemaster shall supervise the organization of the pledge colony. After meeting all requirements for the formation of a pledge colony, the National Pledgemaster shall recommend to the National Board that the Pledge Initiation Ritual for a Pledge Colony be conducted. Pledge colonies shall be named according to the college or university at which the pledge colony is located.
- Section 2: Upon the completion of the pledging process and all other requirements as established by the National Board, the National Pledgemaster shall recommend to the National Board that the members of the pledge colony be granted Formal Activation. Upon Formal Activation of the initial pledge class, the pledge colony shall become a colony. Members of a colony may take on any membership status of the fraternity, and a colony may initiate additional pledge classes. Colonies shall be represented by a non-voting delegate at the National Conclave of Chapters. All rituals

performed by a colony must be overseen by either the National Pledgemaster or another fraternity official appointed for that purpose.

Section 3: After a time period established by the National Board, the National Pledgemaster shall recommend to the National Board that a charter be granted to the colony if the colony has successfully completed all requirements as set forth by the National Board. A two-thirds vote of the National Board shall be required to grant a charter. Upon the granting of a charter, the colony shall go through the Chartering of a New Chapter ritual.

Article 8: Chapter Sanctions

Section 1: The National Board shall have the authority to levy sanctions, including financial sanctions, upon chapters for violations of the National Constitution or of fraternity policy. Any sanction levied by the National Board may be amended or overturned by a majority vote of the National Conclave of Chapters.

Section 2: A chapter may be placed on probation for a period of up to one year by the National Board as a result of serious violations of the National Constitution or of fraternity policy. Chapters on probation shall be subject to oversight by the National Board, which may override any action of the chapter. While on probation, the chapter president shall serve as the sole voting delegate to the National Conclave of Chapters. Chapters on probation shall continue to be responsible for all national financial obligations.

Section 3: A chapter may be placed on suspension for a definite period of time, not to exceed two academic years, by the National Board as a result of major or repeated violations of the National Constitution or of fraternity policy. Chapters under suspension shall be denied voting privileges in the National Conclave of Chapters and shall be subject to oversight by the National Board. Chapters under suspension shall continue to be responsible for all national financial obligations.

Section 4: A chapter may be declared inactive by the National Board as a result of major or repeated violations of the National Constitution or of fraternity policy while on suspension, or as a result of having no active members. Inactive chapters shall be denied voting privileges in the National Conclave of Chapters and all other rights granted to chapters herein. Inactive chapters may be re-activated within a time period of three years subject to approval of and oversight by the National Board. Inactive chapters shall forfeit their charter after being inactive for a period of three

calendar years. Subsequent efforts to form a chapter at that college or university shall follow the process outlined in Article 7.

Article 9: Regions

- Section 1: The National Board shall establish Regions composed of chapters of a specific geographical area, and shall assign each chapter to a Region. The National Board shall have the authority to re-allocate chapters between the Regions and create new regions as necessary. Any change in the division of Regions shall be effective the following academic year.
- Section 2: Regional Conclaves shall be held in even numbered years, if there is no scheduled meeting of the National Conclave of Chapters. Regional Conclaves shall include spiritual and social activities in addition to any business conducted. Regional Conclaves may consist of more than one region at the discretion of the National Board.
- Section 3: In addition to Regional Conclaves, Fall Gatherings may be held each year. Fall Gatherings are to be gatherings of multiple chapters or colonies within a region for spiritual, social, and service activities.

Article 10: Membership

- Section 1: Membership in the fraternity shall be of the following types: Pledge, Active, Inactive, Associate, Alumnus, Honorary, and Sweetheart.
- A. Pledge: Has provisional membership in the fraternity, received at the Pledging Ritual. May only hold pledge class offices, has no voting privileges in local chapter business, and may not serve as a chapter delegate to the National Conclave of Chapters. Pays all applicable dues and fees. Membership is revoked in the event of de-pledging and the former pledge retains no rights or privileges.
 - B. Active: Has full membership in the fraternity, received at Formal Initiation. Must pay all applicable dues and fees to maintain membership status. Has full voting privileges and may serve as an officer of the fraternity. Eligible for the Degree of the Knotted Rope upon graduation.
 - C. Associate: May not hold chapter office. May attend chapter meetings and other functions. Must pay all applicable dues and fees. Must petition the local chapter for reactivation into the Brotherhood or for continuation as associate status at the end of each academic term. Must petition the local chapter in order to receive the Degree of the Knotted Rope.
 - D. Inactive: Has no status in the fraternity and may not hold chapter office. May attend meetings and other functions with the

permission of the local chapter. Serves no office, has no rights, privileges, or responsibilities with the exception of any unpaid financial obligations. Is not eligible to receive the Degree of the Knotted Rope. May petition the chapter for Active or Associate status.

- E. Alumnus: Has graduated, transferred, or withdrawn from the college or university and has received the Degree of the Knotted Rope. May not hold chapter office and has no voting privileges but retains all other rights and privileges of Active membership.
- F. Honorary Member: May attend meetings and other functions but may not hold chapter office. Is not eligible to receive the Degree of the Knotted Rope. Honorary membership may be conferred by a local chapter on individuals who are not students at the college or university with which the local chapter is associated and who have made contributions to the fraternity worthy of special recognition.
- G. Sweetheart: May be any woman attending the college or university with which the local chapter is associated. May not hold chapter office, has no voting privileges, and may not be required to pay any dues. May attend all meetings and functions of the chapter. Receives the Sweetheart's Degree of the Knotted Rope upon the expiration of her term as Sweetheart. A Sweetheart shall serve a term of one year and may not be re-elected. A chapter may only elect one Sweetheart per electoral year.

Section 2: No chapter shall discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability in any aspect of the function or membership of the fraternity.

Section 3: A member in good standing may transfer to another chapter, on petition to and acceptance by that chapter, without initiation or payment of special fees.

Article 11: Dues

Section 1: The amount of national dues and pledge fees shall be set by the National Conclave of Chapters. Any increase in dues shall take place at the start of the fiscal year.

Section 2: The date by which dues must be paid shall be set by the National Board. Pledge dues, which include the pledge fee and national dues, are due in full within thirty days of the Pledging Ritual. The National Board shall have the authority to impose penalties if dues or pledge fees are not paid by the said date.

Section 3: A chapter may petition the National Board for leniency due to financial hardship. The National Board shall have the power to waive any penalties if the situation warrants such action.

Article 12: Real Estate

Section 1: Neither the national fraternity nor the local chapters shall lease, rent, or own real estate.

Section 2: Any real estate leased, rented, or owned for the use of the national fraternity or the local chapters shall be done so by and through the Sigma Theta Epsilon Housing Corporation. Any property in which a substantial number of members of a local chapter reside and in which the chapter holds official meetings or functions shall be deemed to be used for the purposes of that local chapter. Exceptions may be granted by the National Board.

Article 13: Relationships

Section 1: The national fraternity shall not enter into any formal relationship with any group or organization that would alter the nature of the fraternity without prior approval of the National Conclave of Chapters.

Section 2: Each chapter shall be officially recognized as a student organization by the college or university at which the local chapter is located. Each chapter may interact with a campus religious life program or other Christian organization, subject to approval by the National Board. No chapter shall become affiliated with the Interfraternity Council or other such similar organization without the prior explicit approval of the National Board.

Article 14: Fiscal Year

Section 1: The National Board shall have the authority to set the fiscal year of the fraternity.

Article 15: Amendments and Implementation

Section 1: This constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the National Conclave of Chapters. The constitution shall be effective at the start of the next National Conclave of Chapters after the constitution is ratified.

Section 2: Amendments to this constitution shall be submitted to the National Conclave of Chapters by either the National Board or by two-thirds of the chapters. Amendments shall be adopted by a four-fifths vote of the National Conclave of Chapters.

Please view the Conclave Journal, to be distributed to each chapter at check-in, for the National Officers position on the business item.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

For the Office of National President,

Chad Burdette has declared himself a candidate.

Conclave 2006 will mark Chad's 6th year serving as a National Officer. He pledged the Alpha Gamma chapter his sophomore year of college (1997) and was active in the chapter as a brother, service director, and president. While attending Conclave 2000, he was elected to the position of National Secretary where he served one term before being elected National President in 2002. After moving to West Virginia University, Chad helped form and served as pledgemaster for the Beta Eta chapter. He brings to the position the knowledge and experiences gained through education (Masters of Political Science and Public Administration).

As the National President for the past 4 years Chad has been able to accomplish many things for the fraternity. With the help of the other National Officers and Chapter Presidents the fraternity was able to adopt a Statement of Faith and make improvements in the operation and expansion of the national organization. Chad's project since being elected to a second term has been working on a reorganization of the structure of the national fraternity, which is being presented to the Conclave of Chapters this year. In his four years, Chad has made visits to all the chapters of the fraternity giving him a better idea of how the fraternity operates, which is important when trying to determine the future steps that the fraternity needs to take. If elected then his term in office will be focused on the following points:

- **Transitions:** Assuming the new Constitution passes the term of the President will be one year before it is filled under the reorganization. His role would be to make sure that the transitions which are taking place happen smoothly and efficiently as possible. This includes making necessary revisions to the Standard and helping chapters bring their Constitutions in line with Nationals.
- **Creating:** One area that needs to be addressed is ways to help struggling chapters become strong again. Chad would work with Expansion and other officers in developing programs and interventions that Nationals can do to help the chapters get back on their collective feet.
- **Development:** Over the past years Chad has worked on a National Officers manual which lays out the duties and the procedure for how things are supposed to flow when it comes to fraternity business and operations. Once this is in place, he would like to extend it and provide a general outline for chapters to follow.
- **Communication:** Chad plans to continue to stress the need for communication between National Officers, Nationals and chapters, chapter to chapter and alumni relations. Chad would continue to make

chapter visits as time and resources allow, because he enjoys meeting the brothers he normally would not at the national gatherings.

These points are clearly defined so that they can be measured on a regular basis. Chad's overall vision for the fraternity is to pass the new Constitution which will allow Sigma Theta Epsilon to grow, then work on solidifying our existing chapters (especially those who seem to have chronic problems with membership) and continue to expand the organization at a rate and manner that it does not damage the current operations of the fraternity.

Chad's Testimony:

I was raised in the church my whole life but it was not until I was 12 years old that I first accepted Christ as my Savior. I was at Bible camp and that day we had to do an activity which I did not want to do because I was afraid of heights but I finally did it. That night the counselor gave the nightly devotion and related the message to the activity we did and the difficulty I had doing the activity and the message he presented just made everything click for me. After that I coasted for awhile slowly growing in my Christian walk. The first real test I had was my sophomore year of college when my father was killed. This happened at the same semester I was pledging STE which was in hindsight something I needed at that point in my life. I feel that God meant for me to pledge that year instead of the previous year to show me that even in the darkest days of my life he will be there to help me and bring the things I need into my life. This is the first time I had truly felt God's peace because if I think that if I did not have that peace and the group of brothers he brought into my life at that time I would have become someone completely different. These days I remain active in my church back home and here in Morgantown. I take part in 2 Bible Studies and the parking ministry at Chestnut Ridge Church and active in my church back in Elkview helping out whenever they need it and I am around. Sigma Theta Epsilon has also encouraged my Christian walk by providing Christian men and friends who I can talk and pray with when times get tough.

For the Office of National Secretary,

Tyler Betts has declared himself a candidate.

Tyler Betts is an alumnus of Ohio Northern University, where he completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Physics, and of the Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon, where he served as House Manager, Service Chair, Assistant Pledge Master, and President. He has served the National Fraternity as National Secretary since his election at Conclave 2004, and is currently a graduate student and teaching assistant at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH.

In his time in office, Tyler has attempted to strengthen Chapter-to-National Officer communication lines, streamline (with the help of Information Technology director Joshua Parsell) the flow of reports from the chapters to the National Officers, and create a database of information as required by his office. While the first two are well on their way to being accomplished, the information compiling has been not as successful.

If reelected, it will be Tyler's first goal to improve the storing and care of information, such as the updating of the roll of actives, the compilation of local constitutions, and other similar records. His second goal will be to find a way to encourage more involvement on the national level from more active brothers, through mediums like the Philoi. His third goal will be to continue to build upon the successes of his first term in office, and to continue to find ways to streamline communications and build bridges to chapters.

Tyler's overall goal is to see growth in the fraternity, and the Office of National Secretary being performed as described in the current National By-Laws. To that extent, he can be held accountable to any duty given to him therein, and can be measured a success or failure by his ability to succeed in those obligations alone.

Tyler's Testimony:

From the time I was able to make my own decisions, my brother Raymond was the only Christian in my household. Luckily (or divinely) for me, he was also my role model. It was through my close bond with Raymond, my brother, that Christ was first given access to my heart, and it was through the wanderings of my mind, and the inquisition of a testimony at a Newsboys concert that Christ was first allowed the throne of my heart.

However, it was through Sigma Theta Epsilon that Christ was first given the control of my life. Appreciating the need for a closer Christian fellowship on my campus, I pledged Sigma Theta Epsilon looking for Christian fellowship. What I found was more than I thought. I found an opportunity for true brotherhood, that had been missing since my brother moved out. I found an opportunity to serve

others, to serve God, and to find myself in that service. It is through Sigma Theta Epsilon that the Holy Spirit molded me from an infant in Christ to the servant of Christ I am today

I am currently involved in the ministries of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, in Findlay, OH. I am involved in the planning of their new "emergent" worship services, along with my wife, who also attends a small group for married couples on Thursday nights with me. We are also planning on starting a drama ministry at St. Mark's.

Recently, my pastor shared with me the story of Terah, found in the book of Genesis, chapter 11. This story has become the commitment of my life now, as I am seeking to find ways to not settle for Haran in any part of my life, be it my career, my marriage, the fraternity, or anything else, but instead to strive forward for the land of Canaan God has promised me and God has set out for me.

For the Office of National Financial Director

Alex Johnson has declared himself a candidate

Alex Johnson is full of gratitude to the brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon for allowing him to serve as Financial Director for the past two years. He has learned a great deal, and feels that he has made a difference in the fraternity. After prayerful consideration, he would like to ask for you to let him continue for the next year to try to help the organization grow and become stronger.

One thing that Alex has noticed over the past two years is that new chapter treasurers seem quite lost when they first take office. This is partially the fault of the National Financial Director, as he doesn't always contact the new treasurers right away, but often, he doesn't even know that officer change has happened. Hopefully the new online forms that Information Technology Director Joshua Parsell has created for officer turn-over will take care of the confusion after officer change. But, to address the root cause of the problem, if elected, Alex will (finally) complete the chapter treasurer handbook. New treasurers will be able to download this from the STE website, or have it e-mailed to them. Hopefully this will help with all the confusion that has been going on about when dues are due. It will include sections on Pledge dues, national dues, pledge pins, sample budgets, and the like.

Alex also pledges to contact each treasurer more often than to just bug them about dues. He wants to build some relationships with these men. They may want to knock ... or rather ... run for this position someday, and he wants them to be ready.

Alex also added the following personal note:

This past year has been a busy one. Most recently it has probably seemed like I dropped off the face of the earth due to work. We had a rather large fire at work on Feb 22nd. After the initial assessment, it looked like we would be down for a while, but when we got to work, it went back together very well. All in all, I probably averaged 65-70 hours a week for three weeks. Earlier than that, as most of you know, my wife and I welcomed a wonderful little boy, Ricky into our lives. Boy did he throw some challenges in there. Right now I am faced with some choices for my career and I would love some prayer on that subject.

Hopefully, you all will enjoy Conclave this year. The national officers and I have gone through a few challenges this year finding a hotel, and hopefully, you won't notice the difference.

For a Seat on the Housing Corporation,

Tony Rieger has declared himself a candidate

Tony Rieger is from Cincinnati, Ohio and went to the University of Cincinnati and is part of the Beta Gamma chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon. He is currently in his final year working on a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. He served as treasurer of the chapter for two years and have worked for such finance firms as Fidelity and Advest Inc., which is a division of Axa Inc. Currently, Tony works as a coordinator and computer programmer/analyst for The Kroger Co. In the past, he has worked in co-operation with the housing corporation to help get property insurance for the BG house.

If elected, Tony intends to be readily available to all chapters and to the National Officers whether through contact in e-mail or by phone. He desires to work on communication between the Housing Corp. and the chapters to ensure that both the chapters and the Housing Corp. are successful. He is committed to the chapters well being and will always work hard for everything they need and will do the same for things they want when appropriate. He is and always will be dedicated to doing what is right, upholding the integrity of the fraternity and ensuring its success in whatever way he is able to do so. He feels that the Housing Corp provides great potential to help advance the fraternity and help the chapters by securing property that is not only affordable but also a healthy and comfortable environment with which to live in.

Tony also added the following personal note:

My heart is for serving the fraternity in whatever way possible and I feel that this position would be a great fit for me to use my abilities to help serve Christ and serve the fraternity. I was raised Christian and believed from a young age however through High School I lost track of what was truly important to me and made some wrong decisions in my life. My senior year in High School I began to go to church again and really did some soul searching to decide what it was I truly wanted to stand for and believe in. It was at this point that I went to UC and became apart of Athletes In Action. This is when I feel that I truly began to walk the walk and stand for what I believe in which is that Jesus Christ is my lord and savior and I wish to do His will in my life. I have constantly been in the word and working to serve Christ from that point on in my life.

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn
Indianapolis-SE Beech Grove
5120 Victory DR
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Amenities

Outdoor Pool
High-speed Internet Access
On-site Guest Self-Laundry Facilities (washer/dryer)
Iron / Ironing Board
Coffee Maker
Health/Fitness Center On-Site
Hairdryer
A/C Public Areas
Directions / Map

Hotel Features

Suburban
2003 Last Renovation Date
6 Floors
1 Restaurant
Personal Services

A/C Public Areas
Dry Cleaning Pickup/Laundry
Ice Machine
Room Service
Safety Deposit Box available at Front Desk
Business Services

Copying
Facsimile
Parking Information

Number of Parking Spaces: 160
Complimentary Parking

Tentative Schedule

8:30: Devotion

9:00: Roll of Chapters, Business I: Officer Elections, begin Business

12:00: Lunch (on your own)

1:30: Business II

4:00: Cabinet Meeting

5:00 Housing Corp

6:00 Rituals (Officer Installation, Love Feast,)

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Free time

Sunday 4/9:

9:00: Devotion

9:30: Head home

Please note: This schedule is tentative, and is subject to change.

If there are any updates available to the schedule that are known at check-in, you will be given an updated schedule then.

Updates will also be announced during devotion, business meetings, and the Housing Corp meeting