



2014 Grand Council Convention

February 8th & 9th, 2014 – Troy, NY

Attendance

Grand Exalted Master: Pat Carey – Delta, F '91

Vice Grand Exalted Master: Matt Whipple – Nu, S '08

Grand Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Alamia – Nu, F '02

Grand Alumni Secretary: Joe Bithorn – Gamma, S '04

Grand Editor: Steve Wozniak – Alpha, S '08

Chaplin: Daniel Horton – Delta, S '01

Darren Barcomb – S '94

Pat Boire – Alpha, F'84

Dan Famiglietti – Nu, S '08

Jeremy Fisher – Nu, S '08

Eric Schor – Nu, S '96

Luca Charles – Nu, S '10

Greydon Marlow – Nu, F '13

Ryan Santoro – Nu, F '11

Jeff Carpenter – Nu, S '11

Jean Pepin – Nu, F '01

Justin Schwartz – Delta, F'10

Eric Wisotsky – Delta, '91
Michael Opoku – Alpha, '11
Tom Roux – Alpha, F '10
Alan Noble – Alpha, S'05
Daniel Monsen – Delta
Dennis Pacella – Delta S '12
Dennis Klim – Delta, '68
Joe Pascarella – Delta, S '13
Alex Zafiropoulos – Delta, F'13
Zackery Kline – Delta, F'13
Alex Folsom – Delta, F'13
Jeffery Zayas – Delta, F'13
Andrew Williams – Nu, S'10
Farhan Kabir – Nu, S'10
Anthony Napolitano, Nu F'09
John Holub – Nu, F'10
Adam Newman – Nu, S'12
Matt Pontius – Nu, S'04
David Andrews – Nu, S'13
James Milano – Nu, S'12
Yevgeniy “Eugene” Khutoryanskiy – Nu, S'11
Jerrod Odgen – Nu S'97
Ramon Sanchez – Nu, F'13
Alex Favata – Gamma, F'12
Michael Fingar, Gamma, S'10
Robert Roth – Gamma, F'07
Marc Mastrella – Gamma, F'11
Mike Mallardi – Gamma, F'05

Jason Martin – Gamma, F’04

Kevin Kavanagh – Gamma, S’06

Alex Vandermark – Gamma, F’07

Igor Jekic – Gamma, S’13

Jason Morrison – Gamma, S’13

Ryan Young – Alpha, F ’10

Cory Aldous – Alpha, F ’10

Chris Thomas – Alpha, F ’10

Mark Santelli – Alpha, S ’80

****Day 1: Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.****

Grand Chaplin leads in opening prayer

previous meeting minutes were not read as they were lost

Officer’s Reports:

GEM

- Went over itinerary for the weekend
- We have lost minutes from last year’s minutes. We will need to piece them together through memories of who was present last year.
- No real report. Thanks all for coming and thank you for supporting me during my term as GEM. Thank you to all GEMs before me.
- Concerned about the direction of the organization and hope to continue on the direction that was set before us.
- Concerns about Delta chapter, Grand Council discussed options, chapter is now doing well. Thank you to Daniel “Wyo” Horton for his dedication.
- “Let’s continue to support each other”

VGEM

- Went over chapter visit reports.
- Took SWAT reports from all chapters last three years and combined them. Discussed strengths and weakness of all active chapters.
- Covered roles of Grand Council and Corporate Board.

GST

- Briefly again went over that last year's minutes were lost.
- Overall balances: Checking \$8561, Savings \$456, cash on hand \$60, Money Market account plus//minus \$10k.
- Expenses so far: Pledge Pins (\$452) and conference room already paid for (\$324)
- Alpha CB gave us a check for \$7700. This was money from the previous Grand Council. Thank you, Mark Santelli.
- Schor – Apologized and took responsibility for losing minutes.

Alumni Secretary

- Review of duties
- State of Fraternity. Want to get back in touch with alumni who haven't been active recently.
- Migration from the TG Bulletin Board to Facebook. FB has helped us network and has gotten alumni to catch up/network.
- Discussed regions. When GC disbanded, regions were set up to govern. Regents are figureheads who uphold TG traditions in their specified area.
- List of the plethora of TG facebook pages. Discussion of pros/cons of all these pages.
- Conclusion – we are not seeing the big pictures. We need an online presence, but steer away from FB.
- Agreement from majority in attendance that GC is a governing body.
- "Grand Council needs to stand at the forefront."
- The old bulletin board is outdated and there will be a proposal for a new, and official, TG website along with other forms of social media.

Grand Editor

- Bulletin was created for this year, but computer crashed before printing. Will print soon.
- Setting up new Twitter, Facebook, and Linkdin accounts.
- Also creating an events calendar.

Grand Chaplin

- No report.
- "I hate Facebook."

Grand Historian

- Not present. No report.

Active Chapter Reports:

Alpha – As given by Cory Aldus.

- Several renovations done to third floor.
- Twelve actives
- 300 hrs Community Service. Hosted a haunted house. Raised money to help Pi Nu's mom who has cancer and hosted a fish fry at the VFW.
- Gave out three bids. Pledging starts 2/10/14.

Gamma – As given by Marc Mastrella

- 19 actives.
- Maintaining good bond with community. Helping out two local business
- Pledging starts 2/9/14. Eleven binds handed out.
- Brotherhood has been coming together.
- Relay for life is the big community service project. Selling flowers for Valentine's Day.

Delta – As given by Joe Pascarella

- Kicked off campus last semester
- Nine new guys.
- Back to traditional routes.
- Restricted from meetings on campus, but still can wear letters.
- Pledging starts 3/10/14. Six bids handed out.
- Eleven actives.
- Need to do more community service.
- House is currently closed.

Nu – As given by Yevgeniy “Eugene” Khutoryanskiy

- 2.97 cumulative GPA for spring, 2.94 for fall.
- 401 total hours community service (4th of 21 organizations)
- Donations to Kamp Ta-Kum-Ta and Cystic Fibrosis.
- \$3,200 in bank account
- Chapter needs new ritual books.
- Selling homecoming shirts after meeting.
- 25 actives. 15 are graduating the spring semester.

BREAK AT 10:00 TO CONDUCT RITUAL AND DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS TOPICS

Meeting called back to order at 3:00 p.m.

Corporate Board Reports

Gamma – As given by Jason Martin

- Only question on accessing crests. Where can we place crests on shirts. Heard that they should never be on the back of shirts. General consensus stated that there is no negative stigma on where to place them
- Mastrella – “Take a look at other chapter’s constitutions for ideas.”

***Alpha, Gamma, and Nu Corporate Boards did not feel the need to report. ***

Old Business

- Discussed, reviewed, and confirmed the amendment last year Grand Council nominations to change so that Corporate Boards are responsible for all GC nominations. They can elect up to five alumni brothers. Active chapters will still nominate three graduating seniors. Voted on, again. Motion passes, again.

New Business

Bithorn – Three amendments brought to the table (proposed changes are in red):

1. Article VI -- Grand Council, Section 6 -- Meetings, **Sub. Section 4 -- Executive Board Meetings (NEW)**

In order to ensure that the Grand Council business continues to progress when the council is not in session the Executive Board is to meet at a minimum of four (4) times per year outside of the convention.

A gathering of one more than half (4/7) of the executive board members will be considered quorum.

Members of the executive board may meet either in person or through teleconference.

The Grand Secretary/Treasurer is to keep official minutes. In his absence the VGEM or Grand Alumni Secretary will keep the official record.

Any member of the executive board may call an executive board meeting by notifying the other members of the board at least 1 week in advance and providing a proposed agenda.

Discussion:

- Whipple reads constitution and elaborates on this motion.
- Bithorn – discuss a monetary cap of \$500.
- Wisotsky – Can active GC members vote on all issues?
- Carey – discusses issues with the small quorum.
- Alamia – Can Pat elaborate on quorum?
- Horton – concerns that there aren't more exact rules.
- Odgen – no need for four meetings.
- Santelli – Who can call meetings?
- Carpenter – seems a good idea to pass because it provides structure.
- Wisotsky – I like certain points.
- Alamia – this is what the masses wanted, gives us power and accountability.
- Schwartz – new laws allows teleconferencing for not for profit.
- Barcomb – Nu chapter has done it, teleconference works well.
- Pat – amend it to add monetary amount and it should pass.
- Horton – can we put this in bi-laws instead?
- **Whipple – MOTION TO AMEND ORIGINAL MOTION TO ADD WORDING THAT EXECUTIVE BOARD CAN'T AMEND CONSTITUTION AND CAN'T SPEND A MONETARY AMOUNT MORE THAN \$500, OR ONE-THIRD OF THE CHECKING ACCOUNT. Odgen – MOTION TO ADD TO THE AFORMENTIONED MOTION, PENDING CHANGES, TO BE PLACED IN THE BI-LAWS. 2nd BY Williams. MOTION PASSES.**

2. Article 5 -- Chapters, Section 8 (NEW) -- Incorporation

A chapters' membership, or a group or association of alumni members, may seek to become incorporated if there is not already one in existence. The Grand Council shall recognize the corporation as an affiliation of Theta Gamma Fraternity, working complementary to the chapter. Their purpose of existence shall be to supervise and conduct all business affairs necessary to maintain a stable environment within the chapter.

The Grand Council shall recognize the sovereignty of a chapters' corporate board, in all concerns of house management and physical properties, along with its business decisions and affairs.

For there to be complete recognition, the mission and purpose of the chapters' corporation must be consistent with that of the Constitution and Bylaws of Theta Gamma Fraternity, and shall not interfere with the Grand Council's ability to govern the fraternity.

Discussion:

- Odgen – seems contradictory. Has this been approved by a lawyer?
- Bithorn – no.
- Carpenter – can GC put down sanctions? What's the purpose of GC in this?
- Horton – I like the word sovereignty. Gives me independence, no medaling.
- Carey – GC to maintain standards, not into day-to-day operations.
- Vandermark – I understand the role of GC as advisors.
- Alamia – Nu and Gamma CB recognizes GC, this amendment is a formality. Only logical that GC recognizes CBs.
- Schorr – reads constitution to refresh.
- Schwartz – be careful with word sovereignty and properties. This implies that CB can take what they want.
- Bithorn – This takes liability off GC. Purpose was to bring separate CBs and recognize. Reads Gamma's CB wording that they recognize GC.
- Milano – implies that we maybe condoning illegal activities. Not a justification.
- Odgen – Does GC have authority pull a charter?
- **Odgen - MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL LEGAL COUNCIL CAN REVIEW, 2nd Carpenter. MOTION PASSES.**
- **Bithorn – MOTION TO TABLE AND ADPOT FIRST PARAGRAPH IN CONSITUTION AND HAVE SECOND AND THIRD PARAGRAHS REVIEWED BY LEGAL COUNCIL. 2nd – Vandermark. MOTION PASSES.**

3. Article VI -- Grand Council, Section 4 -- Officers, Sub. Section 3 -- Powers and Duties, Paragraph 7

The Grand Editor shall have full charge of issuing the THETA GAMMA BULLETIN, with recommended publication. **The Grand Editor shall have full charge of content management within the fraternity website (www.thetagamma.com) and all electronic and social media that is owned or sponsored by Theta Gamma Fraternity Grand Council.**

Discussion:

- **MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL TOMORROW – Bithorn, 2nd BY Roth, PASSES.**

MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR OPEN GRAND COUNCIL POSTIONS BY WHIPPLE, 2ND BY MANY, MOTION PASSES.

MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR GEM BY WHIPPLE, 2ND BY MANY, MOTION PASSES.

- Whipple by Shcorr, 2ND Odgen – accepted
- Horton by Vandermark, declined
- Carey, declined
- Blithorn, declined

MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR GRAND EDITOR BY WHIPPLE, 2ND BY MANY, MOTION PASSES.

- Wozniak by Vandermark, 2nd by many, accepted
- Carpenter by Whipple, 2nd by Charles, accepted

MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR GRAND CHAPLIN, BY WHIPPLE, 2ND BY MANY, MOTION PASSES.

- Boire by Barcomb, 2nd by many, declined
- Horton by Pascella, 2nd Whipple, accepted
- Kabir by Carpenter, 2nd Williams, accepted
- Martin by Whipple, 2nd by many, declined
- Carpenter by Wisotsky, Whipple, accepted
- Santelli by Bithorn, 2nd Whipple, declined

MOTION TO TABLE NOMINATIONS BY WHIPPLE, 2ND BY MANY, MOTION PASSES.

MOTION TO MAKE CONVENTIONS DURING WARM WEATHER MONTHS – BY Barcomb, 2ND Wistosky.

Discussion:

- Carey – held them in June before. Issue with Alumni weekend and golf tourney. As for chapters, we couldn't utilize school due to school being in session.
- Schorr – limited window of time. More attendance during the winter than we ever had in the summer.
- Alamia – winters meetings are more logical.
- Schorr – we are trying to get business done, we get better traction back in winter.
- Martin – Gamma has pledging now, it can be an inconvenience.
- Mastrella – school gives us pledge dates, don't know when it is.
- Horton – we do it early in the semester to avoid this. Never seen this many new graduating GC members. Hate to go back to old turnout numbers.
- Whipple – plan on motions same weekend same venue next year.
- Martin - will scout locations.
- PB – suggest we go back to central NY.
- Fams – why fix what isn't broken?
- **PUT TO A VOTE. MOTIONS FAILS.**

Discussion get created a new website by Bithorn. Provides two quotes for review.

Discussion:

- **Pontius – willing to donate his time to set this up the website.**
- **Boire – have him set up a proposal in a certain time frame or go with an outside contractor.**
- **Carey – let's mull this over for tomorrow.**

Discussion of the GC adopting a risk management position By Wisotsky. TABLED.

MOTION TO ADJOURN HORTON, SECOND MANY, MOTION PASSES.

****Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.****

****Day 2: Meeting called back to order at 9:10 a.m.****

Distribution of shingles and pins to all new GC members.

CONTINUATION OF NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO READDRESS TABLED AMENDMENTS BY BIZZLE, 2ND WOZNAK. MOTION PASSES.

BITHORN REREADS FIRST PARAGRAPH OF MOTION #2.

Discussion:

- Carey – good way to go as there is no reorganization. No power seeded in either direction.
- **PUT TO VOTE. MOTION PASSES.**

ALAMIA REREADS MOTION #3.

Discussion:

- None.
- **PUT TO A VOTE. MOTION PASSES.**

MOTION TO REOPEN NOMINATIONS BY ALAMIA, 2ND WHIPPLE. MOTION PASSES.

Grand Chaplin:

- Kabir withdraws.
- Carpenter withdraws

MOTION TO CAST WHITE BALLOT VOTE TO ELECT HORTON BY PB, 2ND BY WOZNAK. MOTION PASSES.

Grand Editor:

- No additional nominations.
- **MOTION TO CLOSE BY HORTON, 2ND SCHORR. MOTION PASSES.**

Grand Exalted Master:

- No additional nominations.

MOTION TO CAST WHITE BALLOT VOTE TO ELECT WHIPPLE BY ALAMIA, 2ND BY WILLIAMS. MOTION PASSES.

****Whipple vacates Vice Grand Exalted Master position****

**MOTION OPEN NOMNATIONS FOR VICE GRAND EXALTED MASTER BY WHIPPLE, 2ND BY MANY.
MOTION PASSES.**

- Wozniak by Whipple, 2nd by Schor, accepted.
- Bithorn, declines
- PASCELLA by Schor, 2nd by many, accepted.
- Alamia, by Whipple, 2nd by many, declines.

****Speeches for VGEM****

WOZNAK ELECTED AS VGEM

MOTION TO WHITE BALLOT CARPENTER TO GRAND EDITOR BY ALAMIA, 2ND BY MANY, MOTION PASSES.

MOTION TO REOPEN DISCUSSION TO WEBISTE AND FUNDING BY BITHORN, 2ND WHIPPLE, MOTION PASSES.

Discussion:

- Schor – Give Pontius a month to set up a proposal.
- Blithorn – Ponitus OK with e-board being employed.
- Pontius – Yes. Horton – we have a monetary cap?
- Blithorn – Cap at \$3,000 and not exceed?
- **MOTION TO ALLOCATE NO MORE THAN \$3,000 FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW WEBSITE BY SANTELLI, 2ND WOZNAK. MOTION PASSES.**

MOTION TO PUT THE REMAINING BALANCE OF THE CHECK RECEIVED BY ALPHA CORPORATE BOARD TO A SEPARATE ACCOUNT BY HORTON, 2ND MANY.

Discussion:

- Horton – don't want it to be put into other things.
- Schorr-12 month CD?
- Horton – want to reestablish scholarship fund.
- Carpenter – is there policies on scholarship?
- Horton – yes.
- Schor goes over scholarship process and where money comes from (interest of accounts).
- Whipple – I understand history, but don't feel you should keep it the way it was before.
- Horton – The money we got original purpose is for scholarship fund.
- Whipple – I want to see minutes where it says this is for scholarship.
- PB – impossible cause this was from 1954.
- Carey – why is this a discussion?
- **PUT TO A VOTE. MOTION PASSES.**

MOTION TO SET UP A COMMITTEE FOR A UNIVERSAL PLEDGE PROGRAM BY CARPENTER, 2ND BY MANY.

Discussion:

- Whipple – I got permission to set up goals and objectives. That's first step into more unified process.
- Carpenter – let's see a deadline.
- Whipple – needs to set up a committee.
- Witosky – Let's have a solid skeleton, chapters fill in the rest.
- Pascarella – it's difficult we don't have the same amount of weeks.
- Carey – when it comes to pledging. I was for universal programs 15 years ago. With the diversity of chapters, unification will be a very difficult feat. GC can advise on making sure rituals are done correctly. Understanding is what makes a brother, not everything else.
- **PUT TO A VOTE. MOTION PASSES.**

MOTION TO DISCUSS TO OPEN THE IDEA OF GETTING A PERSON IN CHARGE OF RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE GC BY WISOTSKY. NEVER SECONDED.

Discussion:

- Whipple – It's under advisement, can get something ready by next year.
- Schor – I believe it's already been discussed. Let's look at old minutes first to see what it says.

****New officers are sworn in****

Whipple – thank you for your service, Pat.

MOTION TO HAVE GC MEETING SAME WEEKEND NEXT YEAR IN THE CENTRAL NY AREA (I.E. UTICA, SYRACUSE, ETC.) BY PB, SECOND BY MANY.

Discussion:

- Schor – does anybody have time and effort to find a location?
- Charles – What's more comfortable.
- Mastrella – do you think Albany increased participation?
- Alamia – Numerous factors as to why there is a high turnout. Not just location.
- **PUT TO VOTE. MOTION PASSES. MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 7TH & 8TH, 2015 AT LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED LATER. LOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO AFOREMENTIONED DATE.**

MOTION TO CLOSE NEW BUSINESS BY HORTON, 2ND BY MANY. MOTION PASSES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Carpenter – Nu chapter is still is selling shirts
- Bithorn – Golf tourney is June, 2014.
- Carey – Thank you for letting be your GEM for all these years.
- Schor – RIP Fred Lebi
- Schwartz – Commend Carpenter for his discussion in groups yesterday.
- Wisotsky – Good to come this weekend after a long absence. Look forward to the future
- Whipple – great seeing new faces. New GC members, let's kick the "one and done" and come back next year.
- Alamia – need receipts from active chapters for reimbursements.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING BY CAREY, 2ND BY MANY. MOTION PASSES.

****Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.****