



2015 Grand Council Convention

February 7 & 8, 2015

Utica, NY

Attendance

Vice Grand Exalted Master: Steve Wozniak, Alpha S'08

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

Grand Alumni Secretary: Joe Bithorn, Gamma S '04

Grand Editor: Jeff Carpenter, Nu S '11

Grand Chaplin: Daniel Horton, Delta S '01

Greg Hoefler, Alpha S'86

Jason Martin, Gamma F'04

Kevin Kavanagh, Gamma S'06

Torr Micha, Gamma F'12

Dan McKiernan, Gamma F'12

Mike Rocka, Gamma F'13

Marc Mastrella, Gamma F'11

Greg Gilbert, Gamma F'71
Ryan Fincham, Nu F'10
James Milano, Nu S'12
Patrick Carey, Delta F'91
Frank Salverini, Delta F'14
Dyain Chateau, Delta F'14
Alex Halpin, Delta F'13
Joe Pascarella, Delta S'13
Patrick Boire, Alpha F'84
Robert Koschnick, Gamma F'01
Richard Mason, Alpha F'94
Tony Micheletta, Gamma S'10
Billy Siegfried, Gamma S'11
Mark Santelli, Alpha S'80
Alan Tulip, Alpha S'82
Eric Tulip, Alpha S'12
Roger Willingham, Alpha F'94
Joshua Resch, Alpha F'10
Zachery Holmes, Alpha F'11
Kang "Will" Zeng, Nu S'12
Adam Payette, Nu S'14
Tom Schassler, Nu S'14
Steve Kolivoski, Nu S'14
Greydon Marlow, Gamma S'10
Darren Barcomb, S'94

Gregory Kapusta, S'14

Ryan Santoro, F'11

David Andrews, Nu S'13

Ramon Sanchez, Nu F'13

Shaffat Sinah, Nu S'12

Farhan Kabir, Nu S'10

****Day One: meeting called to order at 9:17 a.m.****

Horton leads in opening prayer

Wozniak announces a moment of silence for brothers who have passed in the past year.

Wozniak reads letter from GEM Whipple aloud.

Alamia reads 2014 minutes.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES BY KAVANUGH, SECOND BY MANY. MOTION PASSES.

Wozniak goes over itinerary for the weekend.

Officer's Reports:

VGEM

- Review of chapter visits.

GST

- Checking - \$7014.22 Savings - \$456.79, Money Market - \$8648.833. Cash on hand - \$450.
- Spent \$1250 on website and paid Wozniak for two chapter visits.
- Scholarship fund has not been set up, wanted to make sure we had enough money for website and this weekend. Will set up fund after website is fully paid for. Minimum balance for what we want is \$5,000.
- 2013 GC minutes were found.
- "I believe in full transparency. If anyone wants to see any information, feel free to see me."
- Only mailed out invoices to chapters, felt it was not cost affective to mail everyone. Will mail invoices by request.

Grand Editor

- No bulletin as of yet, missing some information.
- Giving himself a two week deadline to send something out
- Heavy on-line presence for updates. All accounts are hidden at this time, will be launched later. Email address created to improve communication.

Chaplin

- Old ritual box is heavy so replaced with a new box that is easier to move.

Historian

- No Report

Alumni Secretary

- All my energy was spent on the new website. It will be done soon.

Active Chapter Reports:

Delta - given by Joe Pascrella

- Good semester for us.
- 13 actives, five in house.
- Community service - Relay for Life, adopt a highway, helped local church.
- Horton helped with room six, looks pretty good.
- Still working on house.
- Want to do more community service.
- Starting pledging in March.

Gamma - given by Marc Mastrella

- 22 actives.
- House is in good shape. Working on bathroom on second floor. Roof repaired.
- Won Presidential award during Homecoming.
- Improving standard points, which is a grading system.
- Raised of \$4,000 for Relay for Life. Raised \$700 for haunted house. Also took on Wounded Warrior project. Showing community we aren't just here to party.
- Need to improve grades. New incentive plan being put in place.
- Pledging starts 2/9/15.

Nu - given by Greydon Marlow

- 14.1 per member for community service. Block clean up and can drive.
- \$4,000 in general fund.
- Donated \$467 for cystic fibrosis.
- 21 active with one inactive. Pledged five guys last fall. Bids were handed out this week. Continue rushing events. February 16 starts pledging with chance to get a second class in.
- House we are rented was sold recently. Leaky faucet needs to be fixed. New owner will fix.
- Barcomb doing great job on house account.

Alpha - given by Zach Holmes

- Became president recently because last one moved out of house.
- 13 actives. Two people want to move back into the house. Goal is to get more numbers. Shooting for ten pledges, 15 will get a reward.
- Disappointed in steering away from corporate board, trying to fix that.
- Pledging starts 2/23/15. Eight rushes right now.
- Would like more alumni presence.
- Want to have more rush events on campus.
- No trouble with the law.
- Off probation for first time since fall 2010.

- Want to reach out more for the community.

Corporate Board Reports

Delta- given by Pat Carey

- Done a lot of restructuring. Now have a close rep close relationship with actives.
- Horton - we now have liability insurance.

Gamma - given by Joe Bithorn

- Fixed the house up a bit. New boiler, roof, and second floor girls bathroom. Need about \$50,000 a year to keep the house up.
- Good relationship between actives and CB.
- Started a development program. Workshops to prepare actives for life. Hope to help minimize risk.
- Executive board is now bonded.

Nu - given by Farhan Kabir

- Trying to purchase the house. Barcomb big advocate. Barcomb - "exactly about \$6,100"

- Setting up a detailed budget to help us get a house.
- Creating an alumni standards policy.
- Carey - we have a code of conduct policy that will help you

Alpha - given by Mark Santelli

- Transitioning still from Mr. Miller is close to being complete.
- Think website will help close gaps.
- Renovations are being done to fix porch and door.
- No major short term expenses.
- Wants to focus more on membership.
- \$6,000 worth of incentives for grades.

Discussion of sharing information about blanket liability insurances for all chapters.

Bithorn shows new website in detail to all attendees.

Discussion:

Horton - no places for address.

Alamia - that's coming.

Carey - thank you Bizzle for all you did.

Fincham - legal issue with discussion information with under age people, can't disclose some information.

Horton - keep in generic.

Willingham - Plattsburgh State sends letters to all parents notifying parents that children are pledging.

Alamia - what does everybody think?

Santelli - good for Corporate Boards.

Horton- great to have all information in one sport.

Kavanugh - can we upload info?

Bithorn - no, send to myself or Carpenter.

Santelli - what do you still need?

Bithorn - pictures.

Carpenter - send us pictures.

Sanchez - registration available?

Bithorn - yes, but you wont be accepted yet. Need to find ways to decipher.

Willingham - issues with validating, don't want a PI to get access..

Bithorn - don't put anything that will get us in trouble.

Carey - what is punishment if hazing statement is violated?

Kavanagh - what happens if people no longer have positions?

Wozniak - will be a transition period.

Bithorn - "no way will I hijack this website. I will continue to work on the site even if I don't have a position."

****Break for lunch. Meeting called back at 1:10 p.m.****

Barcomb opens round table discussion about Nu chapter's plan to purchase a house.

Wozniak reads Lehigh's letter of recognition from Grand Historian position.

Old Business

Discussion of anti Hazing blurb. We do not condone hazing.

- Alamia - there is no record of us discussion what we wanted to have the blurb say.

New Business

MOTION TO ALLOW FOR VGEM TO NOMINATE A NEW GRAND HISTORIAN, AND THAT MAN BE PAT CAREY, BOIRE, SECOND BY HORTON, PASSES.

Carey sworn in as Grand Historian

Wozniak opens discussion on where to hold next year's convention.

Discussion on becoming a national fraternity.

Kavanagh - we need a five or ten year plan. Do we want to expand or stay the way we are? Let's come up with goals.

Boire- lets start a committee to set up goals and work on a definitive plan.

WOZNIAK CREATES A COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THESE GOALS. APPOINTS KAVANGH TO BE HEAD OF COMMITTEE. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO BE NAMED LATER.

Wozniak reviews positions of up for election (VGEM, GST, and Grand Alumni Secretary)

MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS VGEM, ALAMIA, SECOND BY MANY. PASSES.

Wozniak accepts

Cavanaugh, accepts

Alamia, accepts

CLOSED.

MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS GST, ALAMIA, SECOND BY MANY. PASSES.

Alamia, accepts

Kavanagh, declines

Pascarella, not yet a councilmen, can accept tomorrow

Martin, declines

CLOSED.

MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS GRAND ALUMNI SECRETARY, HORTON, SECOND BY MANY. PASSES.

Koshnik, decline

Bithorn, accepts

Barcomb, declines

Kavanaugh, accepts

Horton, declines "damn you're crazy"

CLOSED.

MOTION TO TABLE ELCTIONS TIL TOMORROW, ALAMIA, SECOND BY MANY. PASSES.

Discussion of raising GC dues

MOTION TO INCREASE GRAND COUNCIL DUES TO \$25 A YEAR, WITH A CAP OF \$75. COUNCILMEN WHO OWE PREVIOUS CAP AMOUNT OF \$60 WILL REMAIN AT THAT RATE. INCREASE TO TAKE AFFECT FOR 2016 GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION, BOIRE, CAREY. MOTION PASSES.

Discussion to eliminate specific chapter recognition and just being known as Theta Gamma.

MOTION TO TABLE THIS DISCUSSION UNTIL TOMORROW. HORTON, SECOND BY MANY. PASSES.

MOTION TO CLOSE NEW BUSINESS BY HORTON, SECOND ALAMIA, PASSES.

****Groups created for additional round table discussions while new councilmen are initiated.****

****END OF DAY ONE****

****Day Two: meeting called back to order at 9:48 a.m.****

New councilmen are given pins and shingles.

MOTION TO REOPEN NEW BUSINESS BY BITHORN, SECOND MANY, PASSES.

MOTION TO HAVE 2016 CONVENTION FEBRUARY 5 -7 IN UTICA BY CAREY, HOEFER.

Discussion:

Milano - people complained about this weekend, why do we want to go back?

Carpenter - we decided to alternate between east and west NY.

PB - correct.

Alamia - last year's minutes do not have an approved motion that we had to alternate each year. Only that we would consider it.

Carey - can't base attendance solely on location.

PUT TO VOTE, MOTION PASSES.

MOTION TO HAVE 2017 GRAND COUNCIL MEETING IN THE CAPTIAL REGION BY BOIRE, SECOND BY MANY.

Discussion :

None.

PUT TO A VOTE, MOTION PASSES.

Boire will look hotel in Lake George area.

Discussion about moving 2016 convention dates due to conflicting with the Super Bowl. Review of possible weekends. Decided that convention dates will remain.

MOTION TO REOPEN DISUCSSION OF ADOPTING LIFETIME DUES ALAMIA, SECOND SIEFRIED. PASSES.

DISCUSSION -

Tulip - what's the benefit?

Bithorn - helps with money up front for GC.

Wozniak - helps the strategic goals that we are striving for

Boire - god forbid we have legal issues and need a financial buffer.

Bithron - gamma took a loan from GC after money was embezzled, helped pay our bills.

Willingham - will not be chasing people for dues all the time.

Bithorn - everyone saves \$10 a week, you can afford it.

Kavanagh - \$1,500 suggested based on life expectancy and \$75 a year.

Alamia - too much.

Milano - \$200 is reasonable.

Carey - \$200 too low.

MOTION TO CREATE LIFETIME DUES OF ONE TIME \$500 DUES BY BITHORN, SECOND BY MANY

Discussion:

Mastrella - You don't have to do this.

Martin - payment plan?

Alamia - no, too much work, pay all.

Boire - good idea, but you may lose revenue.

Mason - whole bunch of scenarios, but it will all average out.

Hoefer - dues are councilmen dues, not for weekend, you are supposed to pay regardless if you show up or not.

Willingham - people who are going to pay are the people who show up all the time.

VOTE, MOTION PASSES.

MOTION TO REOPEN NOMINATION FOR VGEM, GST, AND ALUMNI SECRETARY, MANY, SECOND BY MANY, PASSES

Results:

WOZNIAK ELECTED VGEM

MOTION TO WHITE BALLOT VOTE FOR WHITE BALLOT FOR GST, CAREY, SECOND MANY. PASSES.

ALAMIA ELECTED AS GST

KAVANAUGH ELECTED AS ALUMNI SECRETARY

New officers are sworn in

Kavanaugh - what kind of committee do you want us to run. Exploratory?

Wozniak - yes, decisions will be made at a GC level.

MOTION TO ADJOUR MEETING BY MANY, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

****Meeting is adjourned at 11:55 a.m.****