



**THETA GAMMA**  
**GRAND COUNCIL BULLETIN**  
**FEB 2016**

*“Once you begin a great movement, there’s no telling where it will end. We meant to change a nation, and instead we changed the world”*

-Ronald Reagan

# AGENDA

Friday:

-3:00pm - hotel check in begins/socialize

Saturday:

-8:30am - meeting is called to order followed by officer, active, corporate board, and committee reports

-Noon - lunch

-1:00pm - old/new business

-3:00pm - meeting adjourned

-6:30pm - dinner (mandatory)

Sunday:

9:30am - meeting called to order, re-open new business, and elections

11:30am - meeting adjourned

# GRAND EXALTED MASTER

**matt whipple**



Brothers of Theta Gamma,

There have been great strides made over the past several years that I believe sets the table for an exciting time in Theta Gamma history. We have made significant investments in technology and resources to better connect us to each other and to serve as a conductor for growth. While things like our redeveloped website give us the ability to serve our membership better it is other developments that I believe set the table for growth in our brotherhood.

We have seen a strong resurgence of alumni joining together around common goals that have been able to achieve measurable accomplishments. There have been concerted efforts by groups of concerned alumni to make meaningful contributions to our chapters such as the Nu house fund and veterans paddles at our chapter houses. These results show that we have untapped resources that are willing and able to reach common goals.

As we move forward as a council there needs to be a focus on ways to harness the willingness of our membership to make substantial contributions to the Fraternity. Well thought out and actionable planning should be our focus to move past a stagnate number of active chapters and active council membership. We have done a great job at engaging new members to join the Grand Council but have not found ways to keep them involved moving forward. Those councilman who have failed to return need to look for ways that they can contribute outside of their one weekend per year obligation and council leadership needs to embrace members that show a willingness to contribute.

It has been a pleasure to lead and work with many dedicated brothers over the past two years. There is a positive trend of forward thinking and initiative that I have enjoyed watching and contributing to when possible. As our active chapters continue to adapt and overcome to new challenges in modern day fraternity life we need to find new ways to support them. My challenge to our councilman is to learn about the differences these young men face compared to the times of your active membership. While there are many parallels across decades, your insight as more experienced brothers may provide a unique aspect to solving some of the modern challenges that they face.

F.I.T.B.  
Matt Whipple  
Spring 2008 NU

# VICE GRAND EXALTED MASTER

**steve wozniak**



Good day brothers! I hope this bulletin finds you well & safe for the coming year while we all celebrate the 104th year of Theta Gamma! I am very pleased to announce that while I write this, I have just been sworn into my 2nd term of

The Vice Grand Exalted Master. It is my honor & duty as VGEM to make annual chapter visits to every active chapter during the college school year before each annual Grand Council meeting. Who could argue with a mandatory return to the Fraternity anyways?

I tried approaching the annual chapter visits similarly to my previous years visit. My first chapter visit brought me to the Delta Chapter on October 16th, 2015, just 364 short days since my last visit. Upon my arrival to the house, the brothers were eager for my arrival. They showed me a great time & were a great group of brothers. They had 9 actives with 4 in the house at the time of my visit with the rest of the brothers spread out throughout the community in off campus housing & 1 on campus. 3 of these brothers were set to graduate at the end of the semester. I visited before pledging but the brothers did indicate positive things about the coming pledge classes. Wyo, the Delta Chapter's VP of House Affairs & Advisor was also present during my visit, he took me on a house tour and took me on a tour of the town including a pit stop at the local fill up, PICS. I think this is where I talked Wyo, the Grand Chaplain to attend a trip to the Gamma Chapter the next day!

We visited Gamma Chapter on 10/17/2015. We arrived to a fortress, every entrance was secured & buttoned up like a fort. The brothers were everywhere when we got inside, there were 20 actives, 14 that live in the house alone! The rest of the active brothers are - 4 living on campus & 2 in off campus apartments. We happened to make the annual chapter visit during Gamma's pledging & had the opportunity to meet 3 new bobo's! They even joined in our Q&A session briefly. They seemed to be great guys based on our brief discussion. I went on the house tour with the house manager, Ben. I must say, the house was immaculate. I've never seen a fraternity house look this good. I must admit, if you get the chance, take a trip to Gam-

ma, you'll be amazed. They have put forth a tremendous effort with their house & it should be recognized. Although, I do have to point out their lack of proper plywood support in their attic space. I was the only one (1 out of about 5 people at that time) who managed to fall through a 12"x12" area not filled with a piece of plywood up to my man parts, leaving me dangling about 12 feet above the floor below. No, I wasn't drinking, yes, everyone there was laughing & yes I had massive purple bruises on my side & leg for weeks afterwards. I think there may even be a plaque now with my name, per my request, on that patch thanks to my fine from the Gamma Chapter. But quite honestly, this visit was the best visit I have ever been on. The brothers are extremely close with each other, they have the strongest bond I have seen at any chapter. The active brothers were an exceptional group of guys with respect for one another & the ideology of Theta Gamma that all chapters should strive to follow. I look forward to my next trip back to Gamma. Cheers to the actives for an awesome time & thanks to Speed for being a great advisor & influence to these young men, everyone one of you should be proud.

I intend on making my final 2 chapter visits on the same weekend to Alpha & Nu briefly before our annual Grand Council on February 5th through the 7th in lovely Utica, NY where I will have more updates on my chapter visits. I urge you to be sure to check out the new website [www.thetagamma.com](http://www.thetagamma.com) which we have all been working so hard on, it is taking shape little by little. A big thanks to Bizzle for his role in rolling out the new site. I won't elaborate on the new site, as our Grand Alumni Secretary & Grand Editor I'm sure will do so.

I look forward to visiting with the active chapters next year, meeting with fresh faces & learning of the new ventures each Theta Gamma man is taking to expand our reach. Be well brothers.

-Steve Wozniak

# GRAND HISTORIAN

**pat carey**



Brothers All,

First and foremost I wish to extend my thanks to the council for the appointment to the office of Grand Historian. I hope, that in the remainder of the term of office I have left to serve, that I may be of service to the brotherhood. This office is the very first office that I ever held on the executive board of the Grand Council. It is also the office through which I was able to grasp a deeper and more profound respect for the brotherhood of Theta Gamma. It afforded me the opportunity to immerse myself in what is truly a deep and rich history.

As historian I have had access to wealth of knowledge that until now most brothers have not had the ability to easily access themselves. However it is my hope that the hard work that has recently been done to revamp the website will change that. It is my hope that in the near future we will be able to provide all of our members with access to the thousands of pages of historical information we have in our files. Though it may take several years to provide all of this information, due simply to the sheer magnitude of files we have to work through.

In closing I ask that all of you as brothers help me in maintaining an accurate and complete historical record of the Fraternity. If you have any information that you feel is of historical significance please forward that information on to me. I ask that the chapters forward information on to me. I ask that officers of every branch of our organization also remember to pass information on to me. In a nutshell any information that is not passed on may just as well be considered lost and as such is of no help to the brotherhood. Always remember that those who do not know history are bound to repeat it.

Always In The Bonds  
Patrick Carey

# GRAND ALUMNI SECRETARY

**kevin kavanaugh**



Brothers,  
Let me start by thanking all those brothers who have attended the convention and given me the honor of serving the fraternity as a Grand Council Executive Board member. I have been very busy this year and have no aspirations of slowing down anytime soon. When I took office there was a great deal to be done. I started by contacting all the chapters and getting the database from each one. Then I compiled them together into a "master database". Since then I have appointed Regents to oversee alumni relations all over the country, if you have not been in contact with yours please reach out.

These are the current regents:  
Northeast – Darren Barcomb  
Northwest – Jay Meltzer  
Central – Russ Guerrieri  
Southwest – Chris Pearl  
Southeast – Erik Olmer  
North Carolina – Jerry Tenny

The regents are there to handle any and all alumni matters, including the hosting of alumni events in your area!

Another topic that is near and dear to my heart is a project

we started. If you have not heard about it yet let me be the first to tell you about the "Veterans Paddle Project". This project is just as it sounds, a paddle designed to honor the brave men of our fraternity that have chosen to write a blank check to the United States government payable up to their life to defend the freedoms we have in the great country. Each chapter with the assistance of the Grand Council is to make an identical paddle for their chapter. The only difference in the paddles are the Names on it, each chapter has plaques showing who has served at their chapter. Gamma and Nu chapter have completed the project to date but Delta and Alpha are fast on their way to completing the project as well. This project serves as a two prong project; on one hand it honors those men. On the other it creates a strong representation of brotherhood and unity between all chapters. Brotherhood, Unity, and Trust are pillars of our great organization. We hope to see you all a convention this year to hear a full and detailed report of all the things we have accomplished in the last year.

Kevin M Kavanaugh

# GRAND TREASURER

**joe alamia**



Brothers All,

First off, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Grand Council. I would like to ask for all of your help as we have a good amount of uncollected dues that I have been trying to chase down. If you, or know of any other brothers who owe dues, please contact me as soon as possible so we can take care of this. Please remember that we need everybody's help in order for our fraternity to succeed.

Joe Alamia

# GRAND EDITOR

**jeff carpenter**



Brothers,

I regret to say that I am unable to attend convention this year as I'm currently in the NY State Corrections Academy. With that said, I would like to thank the alumni and actives that kept the GC updated with events, initiations, and other important events throughout the year. Our new website, and ultimately all communication as a fraternity, is only worthwhile if the flow of information continues directly to the next GC officers.

Furthermore, it is up to you present to ensure that you choose not just your buddy, but rather, the BEST officers for the sake of our progress. It is up to you as a councilman to push us to greatness.

Jeff Carpenter

# TG WEBMASTER

**joe bithorn**



At the 2015 Convention, I had the honor of unveiling our new website to the Grand Council. It was a collaborated effort from brothers of all chapters, and after several years of planning, finally came to fruition. I am very proud of what we have accomplished thus far. Working together as a team to meet a common goal is a good quality of Theta Gamma men. Thank you to all who have participated in this project. I look forward to what the next year brings us. Although the site has been off to a slow start in terms of keeping it updated, I am confident it will serve as a useful tool for both the active chapters and its alumni. Some of its features include:

*-The ability to contact the Grand Council Executive Board directly.* Each officer has been provided with a fraternity email address (i.e. GEM@thetagama.com). You could either send an email directly or use our "contact us" form.

*-Documents section.* Need a copy of TG's Constitution? Wondering what Theta Gamma's Code of Conduct says? Wish to quickly print a copy of your chapter house's lease? The documents page is a one-stop-shop of all things Theta Gamma. Note: you must be registered to access this page.

*-Chapter visits.* Every year, our VGEM travels to all the chapters and puts together a progress report for the coming convention. There's a page on the website designated for this noble task. Throughout the year, you will be able to read up on how each of the chapters are doing, outlining their strengths and weaknesses.

*-Feeling a little financially festive & charitable?* Well, throughout the website -] are paypal links to make a monetary donations to the fraternity. The choice is in your hands, as you have the opportunity to decide where your money goes. Each chapter corporation has provided us with their own Paypal links.

Currently, the role I play in regards to the website is admin. When people register, it's my job to validate that they are indeed a brother. Upon submitting the form, they are sent an email asking the fraternity password. I have run into situations where some of our old-timers have forgotten the correct response. In those cases, I have been able to cross reference their contact information, with what we have in our database. Since we unveiled the site at last convention, we have had 130 brothers register for the site. The goal for this past year was to solidify a good system for validating brothers. The focus on the next year will be to update the content and look for areas that need improvement.

I invite you all to visit [www.thetagama.com](http://www.thetagama.com), register and see for yourself what it has to offer. If you have any questions regarding the website or with registering, email me at [admin@thetagama.com](mailto:admin@thetagama.com).

-J. Bithorn (Gamma) Sp. '04

# ALPHA CHAPTER

**suny canton**

- Chapter President: Elijah Bulris
- Corp. President: Mark Santelli

## **Fall 2014-Spring 2015**

- Initiated 11 new brothers
- 5 brothers graduated
- Year ended with 14 active brothers
- Completed a total of 250 community service hours and raised \$290 for their philanthropy



## **Fall 2015**

- Currently 7 brothers in the house
- 11 active brothers
- Goals for Spring: get 10 brothers in the house and improve grades/study hours
- Upcoming events: Pledging takes place Feb. 8th-Feb. 26th, Alumni weekend is June 3rd-June 5th



# GAMMA CHAPTER

**suny alfred**



-Chapter President:  
Devin Korrie  
-Corp. President: Joe  
Bithorn

## Fall 2014-Spring 2015

- Initiated 11 brothers  
- Had 6 brothers grad-  
uate  
-Completed the year

with 26 active brothers

-Completed a total of 450 community service hours  
-Raised \$12,000 for Relay for Life and \$700 via their Haunted House  
-Completed house projects such as a new 2nd floor bathroom, new kitchen appliances, freshly painted hallways, and had sheathing applied to attic floor  
-Received Standard of Excellence through the school, won the President's Challenge, and won Greek Olympics

## Fall 2015

-Initiated 3 brothers  
-8 expected to graduate  
-22 active brothers  
-410 service hours  
-\$500 philanthropy dollars raised



-Goals for spring: give out 10+ bids, increase the house GPA, and improve community relations



# DELTA CHAPTER

**suny delhi**

- Chapter President:  
Chris Perlmutter
- Corp. President: Ken Dippold

## Fall 2014-Spring 2015

- Initiated 5 brothers
- Had 6 brothers graduate
- Completed the year with 10 active brothers
- Completed 5 service hours per brother



## Fall 2015

- Initiated 2 brothers
- Had 5 brothers graduate
- Currently has 10 active brothers
- Goals for Spring: Improve community service hours and have a large rush class
- Internal goals: Come together and stay as one as was instilled during pledging
- Events scheduling TBD based on budget



# NU CHAPTER

**suny plattsburgh**



Chapter President:  
Peaches Kondracki  
Corp. President:  
Farhan Kabir

## **Fall 2014-Spring 2015**

- Initiated 8 brothers
- 5 brothers graduated
- Ended year with 17

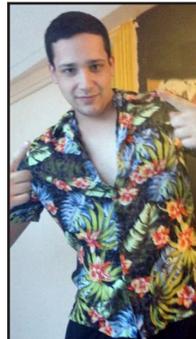
active brothers

- Completed 481 total service hours and raised \$1,257 for their philanthropies
- Received the Fraternal Camaraderie Award by the school

## **Fall 2015**

- Initiated 6 brothers
- 2 brothers graduated
- 23 current active brothers
- 255 community service hours and \$1,100 philanthropy dollars raised
- House fund at \$12,500+
- Awarded numerous "Pillars of Excellence" by the school

Goals: win chapter of excellence, improve event attendance, obtain large spring pledge class



# 2015 CONVENTION RECAP

## New Councilmen

-Mastrella, Marc - Gamma  
-Kolivoski, Stephen -  
Gamma  
-Mason, Richard - Gamma  
-Pascerella, Joe - Delta  
-Siegfried, Will - Gamma  
-Halpin, Alex - Delta  
-Santoro, Ryan - Nu  
-Fincham, Ryan - Nu  
-McKiernan, Dan - Gamma  
-Sinah, Shaffat - Nu  
-Gilbert, Greg - Gamma  
-Micha, Torr - Gamma  
-Holmes, Zachery - Alpha  
-Resch, Josh - Alpha  
-Salvemini,  
Frank - Delta  
-Zang, Kang  
- Nu



## -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 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.

The executive board cannot amend the constitution during their executive board meetings outside of the annual Grand Council Convention.

The executive board cannot spend more than \$500 or one-third of the Grand Council Checking Account.

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

The Grand Secretary/Treasurer is to keep official minutes. In his absence, the VGEM or GAS 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 & providing a proposed agenda. (02/9/2014 Troy, NY)

-Grand council dues raised to \$25 per year with a cap of \$75, Councilmen who owe previous cap amount of \$60 will remain at that rate. The new rates will take affect for the 2016 convention. (Utica, 2015)

## Amendments since 2014

### -Section 4 – Officers

#### Sub Section 3 – Powers & 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](http://www.thetagamma.com)) and all electronic and social media that is owned or sponsored by Theta Gamma Fraternity Grand Council. (2/9/2014, Troy NY)

### -ARTICLE V – 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. (2/9/2014, Troy NY)

### -ARTICLE VI – Grand Council

# NOTES

# NOTES

