

2018 Grand Council Convention
February 23rd, 2018 through February 25th, 2018
Ft. William Henry, Lake George New York

Day 1: 2/23/18- Meeting called to order at 7:15PM

Prayer lead by Brother Carey.

Brother Mason reads 2017 Grand Council Convention minutes >Motion made to accept 2017 Grand Council minutes by Brother Ogden, 2nd by Many/ PASSED

Proposal to split Grand Secretary Treasurer position into two separate positions:

Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary: Motion to be tabled-2nd by many and passed by many

Code of Conduct proposal- Brother Ogden move to table- 2nd by many, passed by many.

Officer Reports:

GEM

Brother Carey: a big thanks goes out to PB for helping out getting the Convention together and a big Thank You to brother Gilbert for helping get the Constitution committee going with Brother Collins.

- On expansion
 - Farnham University of Virginia has been interested and communication has begun. Though the school is not allowing new Greek Organizations at this time, we are still involved and communicating.
 - University of Connecticut: Student has ceased contact with Brother Carey at this time but will be contacted again to keep interest.
 - BETA chapter reformation could be, possibly, just beginning.
- Brother Carey: Town Hall meetings were not attended by many but we're still going to have them in the near future, need more involvement in order for them to be successful and last.
- Brother Carey: Social Media is a double edged sword, we need to learn how to use these platforms for positivity and communication, but the negative things need to stop.

VGEM

- Brother Alamia: Thanks Pat, for moving this forward.

- All chapters were contacted, only one physical visit to Nu chapter was completed, rest by phone, Gamma, Delta, Alpha
- SWOT Analysis will be reviewed tomorrow.

Grand Secretary Treasurer:

Now using Community Bank, NA for our banking.

- Checking: \$ 7,719.16 (Deposit of 216.96)
- Savings: \$8,654.19
- PayPal: \$0.00

Dues collected before conference were in the amount of \$925.00

- Chapter Dues:
 - Last Year (17) for DELTA, What about a “pitch-in” collection for \$80, which seems fair
 - GAMMA missing 2014 dues but only that year, not since. Call it \$200.00 to catch it up? Any objections to either?
 - NONE
- GST will follow up with Brother Collins for Old GC/Miller money.

Grand Chaplin:

- Brother Horton: New robes bought and most chapters have them. Sorry for the delay and thank you to Brother Carey for helping out
- Ready for wall run-throughs which will be very important, something that needs to be done the same for each chapter.

Grand Alumni Secretary:

- Brother Ortega: I have a calendar ready for Chapter, Grand Council and other events and if everyone would send me chapter activities, we can add them for everyone to see.

Motion to open nominations for Grand Exalted Master, Grand Chaplin, Grand Editor, Possible Grand Secretary by brother Carey- 2nd by many. PASSES

Motion of open nominations for GEM- 2nd by Many. PASSES

- Joe Alimia -2nd by many
- Pat Carey- 2nd by brother Boire/many others
- Joe Bithorn- 2nd by many
- Angely Ortega- 2nd by many

- ALL ACCEPT

Motion to table nominations until day 2 by brother Ogden- 2nd by brother Side PASSES

Motion to open nominations for Grand Chaplin by Alamia- 2nd by many-PASSES

- Dan “Wyo” Horton- 2nd by many- Accepts

Motion to table nominations-2nd by many

Motion to open nominations for Grand Editor by Alamia-2nd by many-PASSES

- Joe Bithorn- 2nd by many-Accepts

Motion to table nominations- 2nd by many

Motion to open nominations for “Possible” Grand Secretary by Alamia-2nd by many PASSES

- Angely Ortega- 2nd by many-Accepts
- Joe Bithorn-2nd by many- Declines

**Motion to adjourn meeting- 2nd by many. Passed by Many
Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM February 23rd.**

Day 2: February 24th, 2018: Meeting called to order 8:00AM

Brother Horton leads prayer

Brother Bithorn handed out Theta Gamma bulletin for 2017-2018

Brother Boire and Brother Gilbert lead breakout sessions, listed as follows:

1. Active Development program lead by Boire
2. Constitution re-vamp lead by Gilbert

New Councilmen are initiated

Meeting called back to order at 10:21AM

Breakout sessions reviewed with brother Alamia:

- Breakout Session 1
 - Brother Boire thanked everyone involved in the session and explained that it went well due to all the participation
 - There is a need to breakdown the stigma that is present with “old” vs. “new” brothers. It can be intimidating.
 - Continue to ask for help, we’re all here for the greater good of Theta Gamma

- Brother Ogden: We need to start some sort of resume critiquing, we have enough brothers in positions to help newer brothers with their professional development. I know we all care about beer and chicks, but let's start worrying about success of our brothers for their future as well!
- We need to do a better job of understanding the roles of each governing entity of Theta Gamma from Chapter, Corporate Board and Grand Council
- Brother Ogden: We need to start communicating the correct things regarding responsibilities so that it's clear
- Brother Wilkinson: It's a lack of education problem.
- Brother Boire: We need to make the transition to roles easier and concrete. Need a journal of some sort.
- Breakout Session 2
 - Brother Gilbert stated that we have a lot of work to do.
 - The session went well, a committee is forming to look at, and amend the Constitution.
 - Will hopefully have the Constitution updated prior to 2019 Grand Council Convention.

Officer Reports Cont'd:

Grand Editor:

- Brother Bithorn really enjoys Staples
- Social Media can be a strength but still has its problems with negativity, it is an open forum.
 - With that said, we would like to see an increase in exposure of the GC Website. We had a slow summer
 - TROLLING sucks and currently working with the "Flock" to minimize the stupidity.
- Bithorn read through the stats from the website. Really need to promote the website.
- Big thanks goes out to Mike McCormick and Angely Ortega for their continued contributions and help with Website development.

Grand Historian:

- Research from lost chapters is going really well. Would like to get some help, anyone interested, contact brother Roger Willingham

- We know Captain has a ton of stuff
 - We could possibly develop a sort of “Museum” on the website.

Chapter Reports:

ALPHA Active:

- 4 Actives at this point
 - In order for us to get back recognized with the school, we need to perform 500 hours of Community service by August 1st. As of now, we have 162 hours and that was completed by 4 guys, 1 of which is in the military.
 - No pledging until Spring ‘19, so we have 1 year.

ALPHA Corporate Board:

- Brother Ray Spears:
 - Tough financial situation with only 4 active brothers.
 - We have our Alumni weekend the first weekend in June, would love to see brothers come up, from all the chapters. The unity would help out a lot!
 - We have a conference call set up for the 2nd Tuesday of every month and would love call ins.

GAMMA Active:

- We had an OK year.
- Relatively low numbers, with 9 active
- We have a pledge class of 11 for this spring, which is huge numbers wise.

GAMMA Corporate Board:

- Brother Greg Gilbert
 - We have suspended our capital improvements for the house. WE need brothers to live there, but the school puts a lot of influence on how and when we move off campus. Things keep changing in regards to regulations.
 - Please go to Clambake this year which is the 1st weekend of May
 - We have an Alumni weekend on March 24th weekend.
 - Overall, doing well. New pledge class will be very helpful.

DELTA Active Chapter:

- We’re currently in a rough spot with the house, no brothers are currently living there.
- University not allowing anyone to live there.
- PIG ROAST scheduled for September 29th.

DELTA Corporate Board:

- Corporate Board meeting will be held on March 24th, 2018.
- Will be meeting with the school, in March and we'll go from there.

NU Active Chapter:

- Doing well, we have 19 actives.
- Dealing with the anti-greek climate, especially with another Fraternity being kicked out due to hazing pledges.
- We are now the oldest Fraternity on campus, which is great for recruiting new members.
- Going to work on communication with other chapters. Focus more on positivity, do a much better job removing alumni that are negative and there to be destructive, rather than helpful.

NU Corporate Board:

- Report by brother Olmer ready by brother Willingham.
- Corp Board wants to better relationship with Grand Council through open lines of communication.
- Banquet will be held on April 27th at Dana's Rusty Anchor in Plattsburgh.

Old Business:

Motion to reopen proposed Amendments to the Grand Council Constitution and By-Laws: 2nd by many/PASSES

Motion to revise Article VI-Grand Council, Section 4-Officers, Sub. Section 3 Powers and Duties, Paragraph 3. 2nd by many/PASSES

Motion to pass Amendment: 2nd by many / PASSES

Motion to reopen discussion on Code of Conduct: 2nd by many/ PASSES

- Brother Ogden: Strike word "Outside" law enforcement
- Add:
 - Any conduct unbecoming of a brother
 - Any action or inaction that puts a brother or the Fraternity in Peril.

Motion to table changes until the actives returned by brother Ogden, 2nd by many/ PASSES

Motion to pass revisions on Code of Conduct by Alamia, 2nd by many/ PASSES

Motion to open New Business by Bithorn, 2nd by many/PASSES

Motion to open discussion for 2019 Grand Council Convention by Carey-2nd by many/PASSES

- Lots of discussion about where to have it.
 - Most of the brothers in the room, if not all, really enjoyed having the convention at the Ft. William Henry
 - Brother Boire and Brother Carey pointed out how much 1 conference room costs, let alone the three that we receive and it's absolutely FREE, which was reiterated by brother Wilkinson, many, many, many times.
 - Need to determine date
 - Brother Carey options for talking to the Hotel and having a date and time for the 2019 Grand Council Convention within 30 days of today.

Motion to reopen positions by brother Alamia, 2nd by many/ PASSES

Motion to cast White Ballot for Grand Editor, Grand Secretary and Grand Chaplin 2nd by many/PASSES.

Grand Chaplin- Dan "Wyo" Horton

Grand Secretary- Luke Wilkinson

Grand Editor- Joe Bithorn

Motion to reopen nominations for GEM by Bithorn, 2nd by Alamia/PASSES

Joe Alamia- Accepts

Pat Carey- Accepts

Joe Bithorn-Declines

Angely Ortega- Declines

Motion to close nominations for GEM, 2nd by many/PASSES

Congratulations Pat Carey, GEM.

Motion made by Carey to give Grand Council power to handle expansion until revision to the Constitution is complete, Section 7 2nd by many/PASSES.

Brother Ogden brings up having a super majority to make any decisions with the vote needing to be 5/8s.

Brother Carey states that when decisions like this need to be made, the board likes to be unanimous and this has worked in the past and will continue.

Announcements:

Brother Carey: Our many thanks goes out to Mike McCormick for his help. Brother Carey read some ideas that Mike came up with regarding website usage.

Brother Willingham adds that anyone interested in helping him with the history, research, he would appreciate it.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM, February 24th

Roll Call:

Grand Exalted Master: Patrick Carey, Delta, F'91

Vice Grand Exalted Master: Joe Alamia, Nu, F'02

Grand Secretary/Treasurer: Richard Mason, Alpha/Gamma, F'94

Grand Chaplain: Daniel Horton, Delta, S'01

Grand Alumni Secretary: Angely Ortega, Gamma, F'14

Grand Historian: Roger Willingham, Alpha, F'94

Grand Editor: Joe Bithorn, Gamma, S'04

Grand Advisor: Pat Boire, Alpha/Nu, F'84

Greg Gilbert, Gamma, S'71

Steve Bond, Alpha, F'82

Ray Spears, Alpha, F'84

John Weeks, Alpha, S'87

Gary Lee Vaughn, Nu, F'88

Jonathon Side, Nu, F'90

Jerrold Ogden, Nu, S'97

Jason Fitzgerald, Gamma, S'98

Pasquale Crivelli, Delta, S'98

Luke Wilkinson, Nu, F'04

Don Miller, Delta, F'05

Thomas Kacalski, Gamma, F'06

Michael Finger, Gamma, S'10

Torr Micah, Gamma, F'12

Thomas Mangiacasale, Gamma, S'13

Cristian Mendoza, Alpha, S'14
Patrick Defoe, Gamma, F'14
Chase Boyer, Alpha, S'15
Thomas Germain, Alpha, S'15
Matt Cunningham, Gamma, F'15
Damian Holman, Alpha, S'16
Zachary Speckczynski, Gamma, F'16
Steven Degroff, Delta, F'16
Anthony Sottile, Delta, F'16
Otis Edwards, Alpha, S'17
Matt Georgia, Nu, S'17
Pat Martin, Nu, S'17