

**2020 Grand Council Convention**  
**February 21st, 2020 through February 23rd, 2020**  
**Ft. William Henry, Lake George, New York**

**Day1: Friday, February 21st, 2020.**  
**Meeting called to order @ 7:00PM**

Prayer was led by Brother "Wyo" Horton.

2019 Grand Council Convention Minutes: Read by Brother Wilkinson

Motion to accept Minutes: Brother Ogden/2nd/ Passed.

*Officer Reports:*

**Grand Exalted Master:** Brother Pat Carey

- We had a fantastic year, though we've been through some struggles with the Alpha and Delta chapters, we feel as though we, as an organization is headed in the right direction.
- Expansion committee, as well as overall expansion has hit some snags, but that will be further discussed during our Expansion Committee report.
- Overall, we're ready to start supporting our struggling chapters, which will be our focus this coming year.
- I'm very happy with the members of this board, and happy to see what comes next.
- Thanks goes out to PB and Tammy for putting together another great year here at the Ft. William Henry.
- A new committee was put together this year, headed up by Brother Wilkinson, focusing on networking. I'll let him speak to that a bit more during his report.

**Grand Secretary:** Brother Luke Wilkinson

- I second what Brother Carey has stated, it's been a really good year. We've gotten a lot accomplished but still need to focus on some areas.
- Thanks goes out to PB and Tammy for putting together another great year here at the Ft. William Henry.
- Brother Lurch and I have headed up a new committee, which is focused on building a network outside of social media for brothers that choose not to utilize Facebook, etc. and to have this network be a part of our website.
- I've written a letter to all brothers that should be e-mailed out within the next few weeks.

- The one gripe I have is the lack of communication with me about needing shingles. That's why you don't have them for the newly initiated brothers. I don't know who they are.....plain and simple.....GS@Thetagamma.com.....simple.

**Grand Historian:** Brother Dan "Wyo" Horton

- We have plenty of pledge pins. We really got a great deal on 500 pins, so we're pretty set up.
- I also second that it was a good year for us.
- Please communicate with me and the Grand Secretary, as he's stated, we'll get you whatever you need if we know who to get it to.
- You have any questions at all about rituals, please ask, I'm willing to help.

**Grand Alumni Secretary:** Brother Angely Ortega

- I visited most of the chapters this year for all the main events, which was really cool. I tried really hard to promote all of the Chapters' events and I think it went well. Pig Roast, Clambake.....
- I enjoyed talking to a lot of Alumni
- I went to Alpha twice, they really need our help and definitely more Alumni Support! They need the numbers to survive, so we need to step it up.
- I'm working on the database, it's going well but I need to gather some more information.
- I'm happy with our progress, but we need to focus inward more.

**Grand Editor:** Brother Brandon Remy

- It was a big job, bigger than I thought it was going to be.
  - We're going to need to put together a committee this year for the website, it's in some need of help.
- Brother Bithorn has the bulletin, which does have some formatting issues, but nothing major, I thought it came out pretty good!
- Thank You for letting me man this position, I think it was overall, a good year.

**Grand Treasurer:** Brother Pasquale "PJ" Crivelli

- First and foremost, Thank You all, I love seeing the amount of brothers here on Friday, Wow.
- It's an honor to be here, I love seeing the growth!
- Got a lot of invoices out, and received a lot of payments.

- If there were any mistakes, we'll fix them.
- 40 Thousand dollars is owed to the GC, that's a lot of money.
- I did get some pushback, of course, but thought that the \$75.00 buy back program was good, together we'll work it out..
  - 2019:
    - IN: \$1,225 \_\_\_\_\_ OUT: \$2,189.25
- Pledge Pins were involved in taht and it cost us \$500.00 but it was a great deal and well worth it.
  - 2020:
    - IN: (So far) \$2,259
- We've had another brother pay a Lifetime! Agnely Ortega is now lifetime!

ACCOUNT TOTALS:

- Checking-----> \$4,691.06
- Savings-----> \$8,663.62
- PayPal-----> \$ 2,259.00
  
- Please come see me for payments this year, meals, etc.

**Grand Historian:** Brother Roger Willingham (read by Pat Carey)

- See below

Greetings Brothers

First, I would like to apologize to the brotherhood for my absence. I wish I could attend this year's convention but I have a family wedding to attend in Michigan. Another year has passed by and we are entering into our 108<sup>th</sup> year of existence, although a lot has changed in those 100 plus years there are still many things that remain the same. The brotherhood still faces the challenges of recruiting positive young men into the fold against the negative publicity that Greek Organization's face on campuses across the globe, just like the challenge our founding fathers faced when they first started our Noble brotherhood. They arose to the challenge and so can we, we will overcome and continue their legacy as long as there are brothers willing to do the work and commit to the betterment of Theta Gamma. This is why the Conventions is so vital, it provides the venue for alumni and actives to get together and strengthen our bonds, share ideas and work together so we can move forward. I urge senior members to listen to the junior members with understanding and compassion and provide them with your wisdom and guidance, remember you were young once too and wanted to be respected by your seniors. I implore junior members to listen to the advice that is given, remember the alumni have given up their precious time to

be here with you so they can provide you with assistance. So, enjoy the convention and I hope to see many of you at next year's convention.

Now for my report, I have been tasked by The Grand Exalted Master to update and edit the History in the Pledging Manual. In order to do this properly I have been researching our chapters histories looking through correspondence, College year books and internet searches, along with much needed assistance from alumni who have provided me with much conflicting information. I have been sorting through much of this information to verify accuracy and validate it so it may be used to update our history in the manual. I still have much more to do and would like all who would like to volunteer and assist me in this endeavor to reach out to me. You can email me at [rew3275@yahoo.com](mailto:rew3275@yahoo.com) or through e-mail link for the Grand Historian on website.

Forever in The Bonds

Roger Willingham

Grand Historian.

**Grand Vice Exalted Master:** Brother Joe Bithorn (Presented on February 22nd, 2020)

- I want to start by going over the officer description of the Grand Vice, making sure to highlight my responsibilities, especially to the chapters, bridge the communication gap and create accountability for the Grand Council
- I sent a Letter to each chapter President:
- Started a shared Drive through Google for Grand Advisors and Grand Council which provides a centralized location to do business, create a contact space, and storage for important documents. I think it's a good idea.
- Uploaded a contact list to it, which can easily be updated throughout the year in order to keep contact fluid.
- Format revision of the Chapter visit and report, in order to maintain order that format and template. Uniformity.
- Leads to the SWOT ANALYSIS:

*Chapter Visitation Reports SWOT ANALYSIS*

# ALPHA



## CHAPTER SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
<p>GPA                      Good relations with Greek coordinator, other Greeks, community, school                      Rushing (4 def, 8 maybe)                      Rushing for grades                      Pledging program goals to stress more how to run a chapter.                      Core group of committed alumni (ATG, Inc.)                      House in good condition</p>	<p>No Philanthropy                      Active membership (1)                      Current actives will not be in Canton next year. Difficult to pass down experiential learning.                      Current pledge program teaches how to be brothers, not officers                      House – no bathroom on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor                      Black Box room door hinges                      No Alumni letter                      On-campus advisor not active</p>	<p>Rushing: social media                      TG/<u>PiNu</u>, only Greeks that own a house &amp; are zoned for many tenants. Should be advertised during rush                      TG better reputation than other orgs. Potential to bring in better quality than other Greeks                      Facebook to communicate with Alpha alumni                      Find tenants in <u>PiNu</u>, GDI, Law office.</p>	<p>Cannot rush w/ posters (required to use <u>RootLife</u>)                      Greek life low membership (not popular to Canton students)                      ATG, Inc. generating no income.                      House at risk of selling                      ATG, Inc. past due rent not collected</p>

**GAMMA:**

- No physical visit for this one.....interview was over the phone:

**GAMMA**



CHAPTER SWOT ANALYSIS			
Strengths	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
GPA Officer transition, New <u>shadow old</u> Good relations with school, Greeks, & community Philanthropy (haunted <u>house,relay</u> ) Leads Greek community in bonding (hosted all Greek open @ TG) BETTER THAN KAPPA! Updating PM pledge manual Clear goals set for house projects Haze-free program for 13 years	Not as many pledges as expected (6 pledges for spring) Consistency during pledging (wazoo). Fun stuff takes away from seriousness and can put stress on pledges Size of ritual room (disorganized) Safety: fire escape, icy driveway No fall alumni letter Cost of pledging for pledges	All Greek rush on campus (gets TG's name out) 2 rush event required on campus Attend Village of Alfred meetings	Digital signage pushed by school rather than posters All Greek rush requirement on campus (GDI's afraid to <u>attned</u> )

DELTA:

- I was there a week after Founders Day.



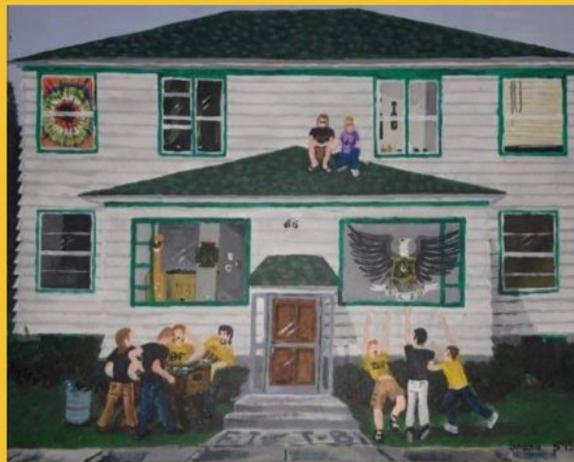
### CHAPTER SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
<p>GPA                      Good relationship with school, new Greek advisor, community Relay for Life                      Rushing (6 def, 6 maybe)                      Rushing for grades, respectful, motivated to rush                      Plan to remove hazing                      Wyg to assist with pledging &amp; rituals. Anthony stated that GC ritual workshop was very helpful                      Both actives to attend one more year. Can pass down as much experiential learning as possible.</p>	<p>Did not achieve required community service per brother (waived by school last semester)                      Active membership (2)                      Rush difficulties - Location (both commuter), schedule conflict, #'s                      Fraternity house has MANY safety issues (see interview)                      Ritual equipment very disorganized (white robe shredded, good one sent to Nu)                      No Fall alumni letter                      DTG database in need of update                      No on-campus advisor                      Chapter communication &amp; meeting structure could improve</p>	<p>SUNY Delhi supports TG's recognition gain                      All rushes live on campus                      DTG, Inc. Patreon account generating approx \$500/mo.                      Helping to pay taxes.                      PiNu rushing for TG (women attract men)                      Many more rushing strategies not being explored</p>	<p>Relationship with Rho Chi Phi (TG quitters/blackballs)                      School mandate to have 5 active members (e-board)                      Other Fraternities w/ larger #'s are more appealing for "fraternity experience"                      DTG, Inc. generating rent income. House at risk of selling                      DTG, Inc. rent and dues owed not collected</p>

NU:

- Brother Wilkinson was there for me on this one on February 1st, 2020.

# NU



CHAPTER SWOT ANALYSIS			
<p>The fraternity feels like a family. Very close brotherhood. Well Roundedness</p>	<p>Membership Grades Drop Outs Campus presence</p>	<p>"Failure is not an option!" Rushing is a strength, which equals pledging! We can get the numbers, there is an opportunity for that, this year.</p>	<p>Sanctions. Grades!.</p>

The biggest takeaway from the overall SWOT Analysis is pretty simple. We need campus advisors at the struggling chapters.

*Committee Reports:*

Brother Mick Collins thanks Brother Gilbert and the constitution committee to start this off. Brother Gilbert acknowledged the committee, and thanked Brother Collins.

- Expansion Committee: Brother Pat Defoe, Chair
  - This was an immensely large, larger than I thought, task.
  - Visited, and or reached out to over 100 schools and I encountered a lot of roadblocks.
  - When I did bring portfolios, it went well up until the big question was asked, and that was about insurance.
  - Insurance is the problem and the biggest roadblock. I had at least 8 meetings cut short due to the lack of insurance.
  - Best chance was Epsilon at Cobleskill, School loved it, and recently came out with Greek Policies, so we'll see how it progresses.
    - There was a lot of discussion about how much moeny is paid out for insurance per brother, per chapter, it's \$225.00 per brother at Plattsburgh State.

- We're going to continue to push forward but we'll see where it goes.
- Network Development: Brother Luke Wilkinson
  - Brother Douglas Phillips, better known to all as Lurch, and I worked on the first stages of putting together a network through the website, which first needs to get updated, and connect our brothers who don't want to use Social Media. Our focus is to bring some of our older brothers back to these events and in touch with other brothers from the same era. Also to utilize these relationships to foster growth for active brothers. We also want to use this network to connect brothers for employment, resume building etc.
  - Lurch and I worked on a letter which was sent to the GAS to get sent out to Alumni to get a sense of interest.
  - Next steps to the process are in the works.

Motion to adjourn meeting until tomorrow, February 22nd, 2020, by Wyo/2nd by many/PASSED.

**Meeting called to order February 22nd, 2020 at 10:02AM**

Prayer led by Brother Bithorn.

Congratulations to the new councilmen!

Brother Pat Carey made a motion to open Nominations: 2nd by many/ PASSED

Grand Exalted Master:

1. Brother Mick Collins nominates Brother Patrick Carey, 2nd by many/ ACCEPTS.

Grand Secretary:

1. Brother Jared Ogden nominates Brother Luke Wilkinson, 2nd by Aaron Bovie/ACCEPTS

Grand Chaplin:

1. Brother Patrick Boire nominates Brother Daniel "Wyo" Horton/ 2nd by Brother Luke Wilkinson/ACCEPTS

Grand Editor:

1. Brother Spencer Brink nominates Brother Brandon Remmie/2nd by many/ACCEPTS

-Brother Patrick Carey reminds brothers that Nominations will be reopened after lunch, in order for Brothers to have a chance to think.

*Speaker:*

Brother Mick Collins, who was tasked by Brother Patrick Carey to put together “ Thoughts from a former GEM.” along with former Grand Exalted Master such as Brother Douglas “Lurch” Phillips and Ray Spears.

- Mick spoke a little about what GEM’s went through, since the reinstatement of the GC in on May 13th of 1989.
- Mick talked a lot about leaders, not only of our organization, but every organization, take the brunt of the things that go wrong, and it can be tough. Mick wants us to recognize that the view from the top isn’t always glorious, but necessary.
- Mick spoke about the work done by Mr. Miller in 1988 to get the GC refounded. Mick had the original hand written letter from Mr. Miller detailing how the transition back would go.
- He ended by talking about the challenges, and of course the success that followed. Mostly successes, but some major challenges along the way, provided many obstacles to overcome. We still have those obstacles, but together we can get through anything.
- In closing, Mick said that he would change it for the “ \_\_\_\_\_ world!” (you fill in the blank)

*Chapter Reports Cont’d*

ALPHA CORPORATE BOARD:

Brother Rod Fuller:

- Ryan doing really well, literally being the only active member for a long time.
- Communication, though, still very good
- House is really good shape
  - Needs the love and be lived in.
- We had some beds and furniture donated which was very nice.
- We have a house father living in the back, which is good for the new members when we get them. He’s a brother, which was a question raised by Brother Yukon. He has a good reputation with the school, and Ryan get along.
- Owning this home, means that a structure needs to be followed. Feel like we have that.
- Overall we’re OK, but we need numbers!

## GAMMA ACTIVE CHAPTER:

Brother John Weaver:

- We're doing well right now, we have 20 atives, 6 pledges.
- Highest GPA on Campus with a 2.98 cumulative.
- We're currently updating the 2nd floor living room
  - Dedicating it as the "Murray Room"
- We do, however, have 10 brothers graduating. But we think we can hopefully replenish.
- We're low on Pledge Pins, gave 3 out and 3 bigs let the littles borrow.

Announcements for us:

1. 19th of June through the 21st, it's Centennial, we'd like a big turnout, please contact Brother Bithorn, or Brother Gilbert for more information.
2. We have the Relay for Life coming up March 28th, 2020.
  - We'd like to retain the "most funds raised" award!

## GAMMA CORPORATE BOARD:

Brother Greg Gilbert:

- Don't have a lot to review, Corporate Board is in the black, doing well financially.
  - We've completed some capital projects, have some in the works at the house, with the 2nd floor remodel and the 3rd floor laundry.
- We, of course, need some alumni to step it up and get involved, need to get more onboard.
- Centennial Celebrations
  - Meet and Greet Friday, have a band
  - Breakfast Saturday with a tour of Campus, Games, Beer tasting, then dinner with cocktail hour and dancing.
  - The college is opening Townhouses for \$60.00 per night per person.
  - Letter is coming out soon with pre-selection reservations for the events.
  - Shirts will be available
    - Wanted to give a shout out to the school's alumni director as well, BIG help and on board with everything.
- Clambake will be May 2nd 2020.
  - Family friend in the park, camping available, details to follow.

Motion to adjourn for lunch by Brother Wilkinson, 2nd by Many. PASSED  
Adjourned at 11:46AM.

Meeting called back to Order at 1:01 PM on February 22nd, 2020.

## DELTA ACTIVE CHAPTER:

Brother Spencer Brink

- We are currently in the pledging process with 6 guys pledging right now!
- We have 2 advisors on campus now, we're signing an agreement with the school
- We have a lot of projects going on for the house right now,
  - These guys moving in hopefully will number 5 or 6.
- Community service is going OK, with two of us it's tough but we're cutting popsicle sticks currently for an Elementary School project.

We are OFFICIALLY Recognized as soon as return in the Fall, as we need to have 5 guys and with the pledging process underway, we'll have the 5.

## DELTA CORPORATE BOARD

Brother PJ Crivelli

- A you know, it's been rough, but we're getting through it.
- We've had an empty house for years, and the money to keep it going is almost gone...we've floated it for a long time.
- We've had the sell the house discussion
- Having the opportunity to the 5 guys is awesome, as we need to get back on Campus.
- Thanks goes out to Brother Bithorn who has been calling in and assisting with meetings.
- Pig Roast grew super well this year
  - Thanks goes out to the Chapters for getting some guys there.
- We're also having the Centennial this year with the Pig Roast.
  - American Legion on September 26th, 2020. Shooting for 200 people!
- Camp Out will be July 31st through August 1st, 2020. Perling New York.
- Thanks goes out to the Patreon Members for donating upwards of \$500.00 a month to keep this thing going, if it wasn't for that, we'd be done with the house.

## NU ACTIVE CHAPTER

Brother Colton Langtry

- We currently reside at 66 Broad St. House is working for us right now. We will most likely change to somewhere else for next year though.
- We have 10 actives right now, gave out 8 bids, 3 of which were legacies.
- Our GPA is 2.4 which needs to go up a bit, which we're focused on.
- We have 3 to 4 guys holding all positions which is tough.
- We are currently on probation, we got caught for using songs, using blindfolds, but it was mostly due to a kid getting super wasted, going to the hospital and ratting us out because of his Mom.

- School brought in a consultant, which we paid for.....partially....but honestly, it was a really good thing and we learned a ton.
- We had to cut out some new member education, due to being on campus and more transparent.
  - We're teaching positions first and foremost which will help with the transition to new officers. It's about education, we can learn and will learn history forever.
- Our community service has been really good this year.
  - Phil Perazzo took home the gold for most hours.
    - We also did the Relay for Life, many blood drives. We set up an easter egg hunt for the community each year which has been very successful.
- We're getting back on track.

## NU CORPORATE BOARD

Brother Daren Barcomb

- I want to reiterate what the chapter has just said first and foremost.
- We're doing well collecting dues from Alumni, lots of back dues coming in.
- House account at \$24,000.00
- We put together an Alumni mailing list of 180+ guys. Working out well.
- We held a conference call for the Corporate board on February 19th, which went well, was well attended.
- Still going to have the Summer get together just firming up when and where.
- Homecoming will be 3rd weekend in October
- Spring Formal will be held mid to late April.

Motion to Open Old Business/2nd by Many/PASSED

No Old Business

Motion to close Old Business/2nd by Many/PASSED

Motion to open New Business/2nd by Brother Side/PASSED

Brother Joe Bithorn presented the "Old Bulletin Books Fundraiser."

- I want to generate some funds for the Grand Council, and I would, on behalf of the Grand Council, produce these books, for free at my college's Library. The cost of the

project, for 1 book, would be \$13.75 ish. I would sell the books for \$100.00 per book, raising a little over \$85.00 for the Grand Council.

- There was further discussion at this point about the cost of the book after Joe graduates from college, discussion regarding each Chapter receiving a book and what the money would be used for.
- I would be able to continue to make the books until I graduate, yes, a chapter would get a book, (THANKS to Brother Yukon for donating \$100.00 for 4 books to go to the Chapters!),).
  - Discussion began about making the book upon request
    1. A motion was made for the Grand Council to accept making this book upon request/2nd by many/PASSED

Brother Mick Collins spoke about the Scholarship fund, which he and Brother Carey spoke about money that was used to establish the account needing to be moved out of an account that was created by Mr. Miller. The money, which amounted up to \$4,000, was moved to the Grand Council Savings Account. There was discussion about money that is fundraised, possibly through stickers and other general forms of fundraising, should continue to grow this account to be used for the Scholarship, which it was initially set up for. And, it's been utilized. But, we need to bring it back.

Brother Collins sought to use the money made from interest as the money to provide as the Scholarship.

- A motion to move \$4,000 into a separate account run by the Grand Council was called to question/2nd by Brother Rivera/PASSED

Brother Patrick Defoe, after discussion about doubling the dues, made a motion to double dues for Councilmen/ 2nd by Brother Ortega/FAILED.

There was discussion about using a fundraising platform called Patreon, which Delta Chapter has been using for time and raising upwards of \$500.00 per month, which actually assisted with saving the house. This could be used for the Grand Council as a fundraising option as well.

- It needs to be investigated, and will.
  - Motion to open a Patreon Account for the GC/2nd by many/PASSED.

Motion to close New Business/2nd by Brother Boire/ PASSED

Motion to reopen Nominations/2nd by Brother Defoe/PASSED.

- Grand Exalted Master:
  - Brother Pat Deofe nominates brother Bithorn/Declines
  - Brother \_\_\_\_\_nomitaes PB/Declined
- Grand Editor:
  - Brother Defoe nominates Brother Ortega/ACCEPTS
    - Speeches and discussions were had with both Brother Brandon Remie and Brother Angely Ortega.
  - A vote was completed,
    - Congratulations goes out to Brother Remie.

Motion to close nominations by Brother Ogden/2nd by many/PASSED

Motion to open White Ballot for those unopposed/2nd by many/PASSED

#### INDUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS WERE COMPLETE

Grand Exalted Master: Brother Patrick Carey

Grand Secretary: Brother Luke Wilkinson

Grand Editor: Brother Brandon Remie

Grand Chaplain: Brother Daniel "Wyo" Horton

Brother Patrick Boire and Brother Mick Collins had a discussion with all the brothers in the room about the Masons, what they represent and who they are. How they resemble exactly the men that we work day and day out to be. Both Brothers wanted to enlighten us as to possibly the next chapter in serice.

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Wear the carnations!

We will be doing the prayer at dinner.

We took a moment of silence at this time, as an awareness for the Brothers we lost in 2019-2020.

**Meeting Adjourned: 3:25 PM, February 22nd, 2020.**

