



Sigma Theta Epsilon

National Conclave of Chapters

April 17-19, 2009, St. Louis, Missouri

Compiled by the National Secretary

# Contents

Schedule of Events	3
Introduction	4
Business Items	5
Officer Elections	7
Chapter Reports	18
National Officer Reports	27
Housing Corporation Report	38

# Schedule of Events

Friday April 17

Registration and free time. Dinner on your own.

Saturday April 19.

8:00 Breakfast provided in conference room.

8:45 Devotional

9:00 Roll Call of Chapters

9:15 National Officer Elections

10:00 Break

10:15 National Officer Election (continued)

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Business

4:30 (or 30 minutes after close of business) Officer Installation (Closed Ritual)  
Love Feast-Chapter awards-(Open Event)

6:30 Leave for Dinner –Location TBA

Sunday, April 19

7:30 Breakfast provided in Conference Room

8:00 Devotional, Drawing and Dismissal

April 6, 2009

Dear Brothers:

Greetings and Philoi!

The time draws near for our annual Conclave of Chapters at St. Louis. I anticipate seeing many of you there at what promises to be one of the nicest facilities that we have had for our national meeting.

In the pages that follow, you will find proposed business for your consideration. Also, you will find reports from chapters around the country as well as your national officers. Please review this information carefully and discuss it with your chapters so that your delegates have an understanding of the issues and of your chapters' opinions of each matter.

This marks a period of both advancement and retrenchment for our brotherhood. We celebrate the revival of activity at Ohio University, hopefully culminating in the reactivation of the Beta Theta Chapter. We also mourn the decision of the Beta Beta Chapter to request their DKR's, thus dissolving that chapter. Sigma Theta Epsilon has the opportunity to make great strides in the next year, but it could also fare quite poorly in the future. We are an arm of the Church and, like the Church, we always live on the brink of extinction.

Like the Church, Sigma Theta Epsilon depends on you. As we prepare for our business meeting and a new phase in our history, the national board requests your prayers for the national organization, the officers for the upcoming term and for each chapter. Pray that God would give us all guidance that we might serve him and our campus communities for many years to come.

I hope

Best Regards,

David K. Burden  
National Secretary

# Business Items

## Agenda Item I

Standard Change Alcohol Policy

Currently Reads:

5.02 Violations of this policy by individual members of the fraternity shall not be subject to review by the National Board. However, the refusal or failure of a *local chapter or temporary club* to enforce this policy among its membership may be considered a violation of this policy by that chapter, colony, or pledge colony.

The National Board proposes the following amendment to the standard.

5.02 Violations of this policy by individual members of the fraternity shall not be subject to review by the National Board. However, the refusal or failure of a *local chapter, colony, or pledge colony* to enforce this policy among its membership may be considered a violation of this policy by that chapter, colony, or pledge colony.

Author: Shannon Wagers, National Pledgemaster

Support and Rationale: The board unanimously supports this item. It does not substantively change policy, but simply updates the language to fit the current nomenclature.

## Agenda Item II

Standard Change-Dues

Currently Reads

12.10 National Dues

A. National Dues shall be \$42 per Active, or Associate, brother, per year

Proposed to amend to \$50

Author: Shannon Wagers, National Pledgemaster

The National Board Recommends 3-0-2 in favor of the proposal.

For: Betts, Burden, Wagers

Opposed: None

Abstain: Johnson, Merricle

Rationale- As will be shown in the proposed budget, this will enable the fraternity to operate on a more financially secure footing. Please consult the Treasurer's Report on page XX for a breakdown on proposed budgets.

### Agenda Item III

Constitutional Amendment- Probation due to low numbers.

Proposed by Blake McCammon, Beta Zeta Chapter

Article 6 (Chapters) Section 5. Currently reads:

All chapters shall maintain a total active membership of no fewer than eight men. Should the total active membership fall below this number after the first calendar year following activation, the chapter shall automatically be deemed to be on probation for an academic year.

Proposal to Amend to:

Section 5: All chapters shall maintain a total active membership of no fewer than eight men. Should the total active membership fall below this number after the first calendar year following activation, the chapter shall automatically be deemed to be on probation.

For reference: Article Five deals with the minimum requisites to form and maintain a chapter.

See Article Eight for probation due to misconduct.

Support and Rationale: The National Board by a 3-2 vote recommends the adoption of this constitutional amendment.

In Favor: Betts, Merricle, Wagers.

Those in favor believe that this change allows the National Board flexibility and discretion in dealing with chapters that have quickly addressed the numbers issue rather than forcing the chapter into automatic full year of probation period as required by the current constitutional language. The National Constitution defines Probation as to up to one year, and the National Board should be empowered to determine if to impose a sanction up to, but certainly less than one year given the circumstance. For the record, actions of apathy, indolence, and ignorance should be and will be taken extremely seriously by the board.

Opposed: Burden, Johnson.

Those opposed believe that this language was drafted specifically to oversee a chapter that is near the "danger zone." Even if a chapter manages to rise back to eight or nine, the fact that the unfortunate timing of DKR's and the initiation of new brothers suggests that such a chapter is likely not flourishing and should remain on probation. The point of automatic language is that

the matter is so serious as to occasion automatic probation. The board should not be able to undo this probation and should not be subject to the pressure to do so.

# Officer Elections:

## Candidate Statements

### National President

Candidates declared: Shannon Wagers

Candidate information:

- **Tell us about how you came to faith in Christ**

Shannon was raised in a by Christian parents and attended church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Around the age of 10, he realized the need for the Savior in his life, and privately asked Jesus into his heart. On August 13, 1986, Shannon made his public profession of faith on a youth retreat at Camp Kern in Lebanon, Ohio. The following week, Shannon followed with baptism at his church.

- **Tell us about how you are currently advancing your faith**

Shannon currently attends First Church of God (Hamilton) located in Fairfield Township, Ohio. He has attended at his Church of God (Anderson, IN) congregation for the last eight years. Shannon's church is currently seeking a new senior pastor, but enjoys the interim pastor Reverend Bob Siebels. Key day-to-day things that Shannon seeks in advancing his faith are a regular prayer and devotional time and weekly attendance at his local church. Shannon is currently reading "My Utmost for his Highest" in his devotional time and is on a chronological reading plan for the Bible in one-year. Shannon subscribes to podcasts as his rotation includes Liquid Church, Chip Ingram, Ed Young, and Christian Financial Counselors Dave Ramsey and Chuck Bentley. Shannon enjoys Christian Praise and Worship, regularly listening to such artists as Chris Tomlin, Charlie Hall, and Matt Redman among others.

- **What are your goals for the office? What are your goals for the fraternity as a whole?**

Shannon's feelings on goals for any office are that they are not to be separate from the needs of the local brothers and the National Brotherhood on the whole. His personal goal is to be a servant leader, to inspire and empower, and further refine men for the cause of the Kingdom of Christ. Though not possible at all times, Shannon aim is to get to know the local brother at the personal level, by having an "open door" policy and quickly responding to any questions and concerns. Shannon desires to see qualitative and quantitative growth on the local and National levels and to further enrich the lives of the Brotherhood. Lastly, Shannon would like lead the cultivation of future leaders in Sigma Theta Epsilon, by building into the Brotherhood. Shannon states, "The failure to see beyond our own life span is a real hindrance. Good Christians live the life. They walk with God and serve with integrity. 'Great' Christians leave a legacy. They live

the live and pass it on and you see generations of legacy of growth in Christ.” Shannon desires to Sigma Theta Epsilon filled with “Great Christians.”

- **What are specific things the fraternity can look for to determine your success in the office?**

Shannon believes that the metrics of success can be rather relative and subjective when dealing in fraternal matters. His heart leads him to James 5:12 (NIV): Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned. This verse has meant a great deal to Shannon, as he has held to it since Conclave 2003, where he gained election to his first term as National Vice President. Shannon believes that being a man of your word, being transparent in his thoughts and feelings, and being accountable in his actions by doing things “the right way”, are closest metrics that we as men can use to measure his or anyone’s “success” while in service of the National Brotherhood. As we are fellow workers with God, however, Shannon feels truly that we can never measure “success” on this side of heaven. He is reminded of a song by 4Him that states, “What’s in the heart defines -The measure of a man.” To that point, Shannon believes only God can define success.

- **Where do you see the fraternity heading during your term(s) in this office?**

Shannon’s vision of fraternal direction is one of further growth. Not only in hopeful expansion, but growth of the individual brother. He envisions each brother being able to grow in his personal walk much greater than before. The key is two fold. First is the role of Nationals implement the correct systems in place to address outages and improving current ones as needed. Filling the needs of the local brother is dear to his heart. This fraternity is only as strong as its weakest link. Secondly holding each brother accountable to each other in every relationship, whether it is a National or local one. Without this accountability, nothing can be gained, and any forward momentum is lost. Each brother plays a special role that Shannon feels that is divinely appointed. If the Brotherhood individually or collectively falls short, the brotherhood is robbing itself of its own blessing. Shannon desires to better the Brotherhood in terms of operation, key drivers of this that Shannon desires to improve are simplified fraternal processes and improved communication at all levels.

- **Do you believe the national officers should take a more hands-on approach or a more hands-off approach in the business of local chapters?**

In Shannon’s view, the role of Nationals is empowering the local chapters to be the best fellow workers possible. Ecclesiastics 3:1 states, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” To this end, Shannon believes there are times Nationals must be more hands on with a certain chapter or issue than others. Shannon borrows a phrase from church philosophy “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things love.” He believes there must be established degrees of unity in Nationally impactful items but there are occasions that are chapter-centric. He firmly believes the way things are handled must always be in the Spirit of Philoi.

- **Chapter, Pledge Class, DKR Year.**

Shannon is an Alpha class member of the Beta Beta Chapter. He DKR’d in 1996 and graduated from Miami University in 1997 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Chemistry.

- **Current location and job.**

Shannon resides currently in Liberty Township, Ohio (West Chester) which is a northern suburb of Cincinnati. He has been employed with Procter and Gamble for over ten years as a Chemist. As a Senior Researcher in the Global Textiles Department in Fabric Care business, he is currently working technology pipeline discovery for New Business Development. Some past product launches he has been associated with include Cheer Powder with Liqui-fiber, Tide Powder with Wear-care, Tide with a Touch of Downy, and Cheer True-fit.

- **Current Family Status.**

Shannon married Ruth (Murphy) on June 23, 2001. Ruth is also a Senior Researcher with Procter and Gamble, having been employed there for almost eleven years. She is co-located with Shannon at the Ivorydale Technical Center in St. Bernard (Cincinnati), Ohio. She is currently working Downy Process Design and Scale-up.

## **National Vice President.**

Candidates Declared:

Tyler Betts

Candidate Information:

Tyler Betts has declared his intent to run for reelection to the position of National Vice President. He has previously served three years as National Secretary, one term as National Vice President, and one year as National President. Prior to this, Tyler was an active member of the Epsilon Chapter, holding many offices including President, House Manager, and assistant Pledge Master. Tyler resides in Columbus, OH, with his wife, Rachel, where he works at Education Sales Management.

**Tell us how you came to faith in Christ.**

Tyler came to faith in Christ through the example of his older brother, Raymond. Though the specific moment came at a Newsboys concert in Cleveland, OH, it was the constant example of peace, confidence, love, and a servant's heart displayed by his brother that planted the seeds of desire to know and follow Christ. Being offered the choice of following Christ, and having a clear path to these things, Tyler dedicated his life to Christ at the Newsboys concert when he was in the seventh grade.

**Tell us how you are currently advancing your faith.**

Tyler is currently advancing his faith by attempting to find the Master's Way, and to follow it. He and his wife were heavily involved in their church in Findlay, OH, before they moved to Columbus. They remain involved, however, attending on occasion, and following teachings through newsletters, podcasts, and blogs. He is also a reader of non-fiction, and has been reading many books on many areas of faith. Some books that challenge his current thought process with new ideas, and other that would reaffirm what he already holds as truth, helping to solidify those areas. Some of his favorite authors include Rob Bell, N. T. Wright, and Jim Wallace.

**What are your goals for the office? What are your goals for the fraternity as a whole?**

Tyler seeks a second elected term to the office of Vice President to tap into the potential of the fraternity on many fronts. He wants to see it grow in creativity, and hopes to provide many opportunities for brothers and chapters to share their talents. He wants to see it grow in bonds of fellowship, and has plans for many new activities and bonding opportunities. He wants to see it grow in service, and has

ideas for philanthropy and reaching out to the least of these. He desires to see the brotherhood grow in identity, and has many plans to create an image that incorporates the many unique people, places, ideas, and locations that make up Sigma Theta Epsilon, drawing on the past, present, and future. He wants to build on what he's started, such as the program book, Lent Devotional, and Blood:Water Mission, and expand these while exploring other ways to grow.

**What are specific things the fraternity can look for to determine your success in the office?**

The fraternity can measure success for this term in vice presidency, if Tyler is reelected, by three goals. First, are there opportunities for involvement, growth, and showcasing of skills to brothers on a national level. Second, is there a national identity forming that more clearly defines Sigma Theta Epsilon as the ministry for preparing future Christian leaders of the church and the world. Finally, is Sigma Theta Epsilon expanding its reach, both in service and expansion.

**Where do you see the fraternity heading during your term(s) in this office?/Do you believe the national officers should take a more hands-on approach or a more hands-off approach in the business of local chapters?**

Tyler believes the fraternity will, and must, head towards stability over the next two years. Many “nuts and bolts” must be firmly put in place. At the same time, many seeds must be planted to help the brotherhood look towards the future. The national board must work as a cohesive unit to work towards these two goals, and the two goals must not be viewed as disjoint. There must be hands-on work and leadership, to make sure everything is being done properly, but there must also be vision casting from leadership, to make sure the fraternity is growing and moving towards bigger and better things.

For this to happen, Tyler believes the National Board must take a common sense approach. That means an honest mixture of involvement with local chapters, as well as hands-off leadership to allow those chapters to prosper with individual identities and character.

## National Secretary:

Candidates Declared: On April 9, Alex Johnson informed the National Board of his decision to run for the post of National Secretary. This was too late to get the questionnaire completed for this publication, but he will be happy to share any information needed by the conclave during the course of the meeting.

**National Treasurer:**

Candidates Declared:  
Seth Campbell

Candidate information:

**Tell us how you came to faith in Christ.**

I came to Christ when I was approximately five years old. I had a lot of health problems as a child, and my parents wanted me to experience the peace of following Jesus and trusting. So they led me to Christ at that age and I have been following Him since then.

**Tell us how you are currently advancing your faith.**

After moving to Columbus, Ohio a year ago I became involved in The Vineyard Church of Columbus. I have gotten involved in men's ministry, a home group Bible study, and the church's medical ministries. Over the past two years, God has consistently challenged me and has led to me opportunities in which I was not sufficient and had to rely on His grace to lead me. Over and over again, I have found myself face-down before God asking for guidance and being amazed by His greatness and mercy. I have been learning to be silent before God, that His voice would supersede all other voices in my life so I can allow Him to lead me in truth. This past fall, I gave up my Ipod and my car CD player for an indefinite period of time so that I would be forced to use my time driving, working out, etc. to pray or to at least be free of distraction from understanding myself and what I was thinking. I've really learned a lot about what real obedience is, and that God is truly greater than anything He would call us to surrender before Him.

**What are your goals for the office? What are your goals for the fraternity as a whole?**

As treasurer, I want to increase communication. I want to be available for questions and concerns from chapters or other officers. While e-mail is an effective and practical way of communication, I prefer to call people regarding dues, chapter expenses, or any other forms of business. I want this to allow for healthy and consistent communication. I fully realize that the office of treasurer tends to be a "necessary evil" and I do plan on holding all chapters accountable to national standards. At the same time, I want to build healthy relationships with chapters so that we fully understand and appreciate each other, allowing for a healthy financial state of the fraternity.

I want to see the fraternity become rooted in Christ and in serving Him joyfully. I want us to fully appreciate each other and the very unique fellowship that we have. With this in place, we can establish a solid foundation on which we can grow locally and nationally. I want us to move beyond existing and move into thriving as an organization. If we are not excited about the great gift that we have in Sigma Theta Epsilon, we can't expect it to grow or be productive. Realistically, healthy relationships and communication between nationals and local chapters has to exist for this to happen, including prayer on both ends.

**Where do you see the fraternity heading during your term(s) in this office?**

The fraternity should look for level of communication regarding dues as a determination of success. Also, it should look for a level of awareness regarding national financial status and fundraising.

I see the fraternity heading to a more solid foundation that we can build upon. I see us developing a better perspective of our role as a complete organization on every level, with a new level of excitement about being a part of it. If this is in place, we can successfully expand and support a healthy alumni network.

**Do you believe the national officers should take a more hand-on approach a more hand-off approach in the business of local chapters?**

I believe the national officers should at least be aware of events that are happening at all local chapters. Not so much in the sense of being “hands-on” and dictating what happens, but rather being able to support the chapter and provide any needed guidance. I think each chapter should be free to create and implement the things that are best for them. But they must keep their ideas in the framework of the national constitution, so nationals does need to make sure there is accountability there.

National Pledgemaster

Candidates Declared:

Scott Sieber

Candidate information:

5240 Milford Drive  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
(740) 607-0577  
csi.onu2008@gmail.com

Epsilon Chapter  
Beta Nu class  
DKR 2008

I'm currently working part time at home and still searching for a job in my field.

**Tell us about how you came to faith in Christ.**

My faith journey was, and has been, a gradual process. I cannot say that I ever experienced that "God moment" where He hits you in the head with a hammer and you know exactly what it means. Over the course of my youth, through reading scripture and learning all I could about what it meant to be Christian I dedicated my life to God. I knew what it meant to have faith and I believed it.

**Tell us about how you are currently advancing your faith.**

I try, to the best of my ability, to lead by example. As many of us do, I struggle with my witness to others and doing my part to bring people to God. But I can only hope that I am an example to others in my daily life of how to be a Godly man. I am also one who enjoys reading up on a subject when having difficulties. When I've struggled with issues and needed guidance I have always been able to know right where God's answer is. It's amazing to me just how little we know and how we can always expand our knowledge of God's teachings.

**What are your goals for the office? What are your goals for the fraternity as a whole?**

The National Pledgemaster has the pleasure of overseeing the ushering of new members into Sigma Theta Epsilon. It is at these first steps, from bid acceptance to brotherhood initiation, that it is most crucial to have as great an impact as possible on these young men's lives. As National Pledgemaster I will review not only the pledge process as a whole, but I would examine each chapter to evaluate both their strengths and potential weaknesses in the pledge process. I will ensure, to the best of my ability, that new brothers are being welcomed into an environment where they feel comfortable, safe, and loved.

I believe the fraternity, as a whole, is strong. It is extremely encouraging to see the progress that is being made with the revitalization of the Ohio University chapter in Athens, OH. Seeing that chapter brought back from almost nothing is a testament to our brotherhood's character and strength. I would love to see a greater interaction between chapters and a greater connection with our alumni, especially those close to our active chapters.

**What are specific things the fraternity can look for to determine your success in the office?**

From a subjective standpoint the fraternity can look at our overall growth. Are we growing the chapters we have currently? Are we adding any new chapters? If there is a decline in numbers, why is that the case? Am I making the necessary changes to improve the overall pledge process?

**Where do you see the fraternity heading during your term(s) in this office?**

UP!! I would love to see us add a new chapter. We must continue to grow, not only in numbers, but in faith. Our goal as a fraternity is, and always will be, to be fellow workers with God.

**Do you believe the national officers should take a more hands-on approach or a more hands-off approach in the business of local chapters?**

I believe in both. The local chapters are there to grown in fellowship and faith among each other, and are for the most part self-sustaining. In this regard it is best to let local chapters control themselves. What the national officers need to be sure of is that we are constantly up-to-date on what is going on in the local chapters and if need be, step in to assist in situations as appropriate. What chapters need to understand, and what the national officers need to embrace is that we (the national officers) are here for the chapters. It's not about the pay (can't make less than \$0!), it's not about looking good on a resume, it's about a desire to help advance the brotherhood as a whole and the willingness to put in the time and effort to ensure that Sigma Theta Epsilon is always a fellowship of men under God.

National Alumni Secretary:

Candidates Declared: None

Note: Should conclave fail to choose an officer, Article 4, Section 1 of the national constitution empowers the national board to fill the position by appointment.

# Chapter Reports

## Epsilon

### Major Events:

Welcome Fest/1st Week Party

Brotherhood Golf Outing

Root Beer Dinner Night

Brotherhood Retreat

Volleyball for Bloodwater

Homecoming/Alumni Potluck

Halloween Party

Alumni Banquet/Pledge Activation

72 hr Martin Luther King Jr. Movie Trilogy Marathon

STE Bowl

Epsilon Chapter has had a busy year thus far. In fall, we held what will hopefully become the first annual volleyball tournament to raise money for bloodwater mission. Once again, epsilon chapter aided in Homecoming set up, and donated \$500 between several charities. The last year has also been a time of growth for the chapter. Since conclave last year, the chapter has witness the addition of 19 new brothers across two rush periods, including programs such a Root Beer dinner night for the rushes, and a movie marathon. With the growth, more programs were created to improve development within the brotherhood including a fall retreat, and small groups. We have also continued to emphasize better alumni relationships, and attempted to have the Alumni Banquet on the same day as the pledge activation. Epsilon chapter has also taken a leadership role in restarting the Beta Theta (OU) chapter. Brothers have been traveling to Ohio University every Tuesday night to conduct Pledge meetings with the Beta Alpha pledge class.

45 Actives (including sponsor, advisor and sweetheart)

0 Associates

3 Inactive

3 Pledges

## Beta Gamma

### Spring 2008:

Last Spring we decided to have a Man Week in-leau of another Rush during the quarter. We also hosted some small events and our 10th Aniversary Formal in May at the Benchmark in Covington, Kentucky. Overall we had a good turnout but would have liked to see more of our alumni present at the event. We were able to raise some money by auctioning off brothers to do various services such as cooking, giving dance lessons, and other activities. We held a SMOTS event at brother's house in Indiana and held a DKR for two brothers.

### Fall 2008:

Fall Quarter presented many challenges for the fraternity. We had hardships within our house and struggled during recruitment that only produced one pledge. We decided not to have a pledge class of one and wait until Winter Quarter for better numbers. We held our annual Masquerade and Thanksgiving dinner that raised money for two non-profits. We also had a Christmas party and gift exchange for the brothers and anyone living in our house who wanted to participate.

### Winter 2009:

With new officers in place for the next calendar year, things seemed to make a turn for the better. The feeling among brothers was a feeling of renewal and excitement for things to come in the following year. We had more success with recruitment and pledging and gained two more brothers. We held a the Annual STE Bowl against ONU with modified rules but we still had fun. ONU edged us out in a close game that was only decided but 3 points. We also held our Super Bowl party and and Club Rock Dance Party.

Active: 12

Associate: 1

## Beta Delta

As the brothers of the Beta Delta chapter entered this spring semester, we knew we had a need to focus our efforts on the roots that we find in the four-fold purpose. This focus on our purposes that unite Sigma Theta Epsilon members was prompted by our approach to our 10 year anniversary of becoming an active chapter in Sigma Theta Epsilon. Our goals for this semester have resulted in an overall good mood and sense of unity. We have carried on our four-fold purpose as follows:

- I. To extend our service projects through programs of action to meet unfilled human needs.
  - Brothers participated in the restoration of a local park that is in association with the Salvation Army
  - Participated in a Habitat for Humanity project
  - Spent a morning and afternoon participating in activities at an assisted living center
  - Worked with pledges, active brothers, and alumni to do a river clean up
  - Selected a long term service project that provides support for youth that have been affected by emotional and sexual abuse, neglect, poverty and broken homes
- II. To attempt with the guidance of God to live Christian lives of faith and service.
  - Worked with our advisor, Director of Campus Ministry, to promote faith on campus
  - Partnered with Campus Ministry to host a weekly event titled “Soup and Scripture”
  - Hosted Church Services on a Sunday evening
  - In the planning stages of continuing our annual event “Tap on Theology”
- III. To provide social activities through service and Brotherhood.
  - Participated in service projects with pledges and actives to foster the relationship of actives and prospective members
  - Participated in movie nights and dinners
- IV. To provide a background for understanding ourselves, our faith, and our world.
  - Weekly prayer and devotionals during our general meetings
  - Engage in active discussions that share our experiences and beliefs
  - Communicate with the students, faculty, and staff to understand our faith and morals in our University community

As we approach the closing of this semester, I feel confident that our chapter has a good understanding of what should be done to continue this mission to fully understand the purposes that unite us. We currently have seven pledges that are very close to taking their entrance test and become active members. Our current active members continue in the example of those set before them and hold leadership positions in departments all over campus. Alumni have expressed their appreciation to us for continuing the work that they set out to do, give the Our Lady of the Lake University an opportunity to explore faith through service, social, and religious activities. We are all eager to fulfill the task that is set in front of us through our pledge to Sigma Theta Epsilon and Our Lady of the Lake University.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Scott Saavedra  
Beta Delta President

Beta Epsilon  
Bradley University

The first weekend in March was the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament. There were several brothers who either attended as fans or as members of basketball band.

Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> was our Service Chapter. With our Chapter time being 9:00 pm, we decided to postpone many of our ideas for service projects until time during the day. We instead had discussions about what service was, why we do service, what the Biblical basis for service was, and how serving impacts us.

Bradley University's spring break was from the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, so we did not have any official Sigma Theta Epsilon functions during that time. There was however an impromptu get together with several alumni who came to Peoria the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Much of the month of March for Beta Epsilon was spent in preparation for the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Beta Epsilon decided to participate in the philanthropy of a sorority on campus, Sigma Delta Tau. The philanthropy was a week long, and the money raised benefit Prevent Child Abuse America. The events were going to a speaker, a Subway night, a dodgeball Tournament, a pizza night, penny wars, and a pageant. We decided to participate to get our name out on campus, support a good cause, and to be an Christian example to the Greek system. Most of the events were based on participation, and as a whole Beta Epsilon did a phenomenal job participating. We won the overall competition, due to everyone's commitment and dedications. Sigma Delta Tau raised over \$4000 for Prevent Child Abuse America. After the pageant, we had our Annual Hawaiian party.

Our Sweetheart, Rebecca Wenning, was also in charge of 30 Hour Famine, philanthropy to raise money through World Vision. 30 Hour Famine participants go without food for 30 hours to bring awareness to world hunger, and get sponsors to donate money to help fight hunger. We helped her with putting the event on, working a donations table, collecting donations, hosting the meal together after the 30 hours was done, and participating in the 30 hour famine. The amount of money raised is in the process of being counted.

I will give a little more detail about the number of brothers currently active and inactive in Beta Epsilon Chapter. We have 19 active brothers and one pledge. Two brothers went inactive this semester. One is in Egypt, and another is a grad student who with work and school did not have the time to devote to the brotherhood. We tried having the brother on associate status but he did not have the time to make that worthwhile. Last Conclave there were 26 Active Brothers. 3 have DKR'd, 4 went inactive before my term as President, two have gone inactive during my term as I have explained.

## Beta Zeta

The year started off with excitement and some discontent. As of September Beta Zeta was put on probation for a low number count, however, we didn't let that stop us from having an awesome year. The year kicked off with a bonfire where both Sigma Theta Epsilon and Kappa Phi enjoyed fellowship along with a devotional. In October the Beta Zeta Chapter won first place in the mechanical division during the homecoming parade. Our service projects for the semester focused on the local Salvation Army Camp. We raked rocks, laid mulch, and cleared up brush along some tracks in order to help the camp open their new High Ropes Course. After the ropes course was ready the camp allowed us to be the guinea pigs and try it out. It was not only fun, but a great chance for us to grow as brothers, learning to trust and communicate with each other better.

Fall Gathering was exciting. Two pledges and two officers made a 9-hour eventful drive up to Peoria, IL. Beta Zeta announced that they would put in a bid to host Fall Gathering. We put in our bid and during Conclave we will find out if we get it. The Kappa Phi semi-formal was held on November 22, 2008. The semester ended with the induction of six new members into the Beta Chapter. Their names were Javier Santos, Will Sprung, Anthony Hall, Jacob Scheffel, Sam Elliott, and Daniel Lutz. We had officer elections for a few positions that needed feeling. Blake McCammon stepped down from Secretary, but remained as Vice President. Javier Santos took the role as Secretary and Daniel Lutz took on the position as Chaplain.

This semester started off with a Superbowl Party at the Wesley Foundation. It was a sad day for many of us when the Cardinals lost. Other activities included a Service Project where we helped the community with a big limb pick-up project after the Ice Storm that came through. In the middle of the February we had 3 pledges start the process into becoming members of Sigma Theta Epsilon. Their names are Brent Huggins, Andrew Hahn, and Ben Hanneman. We also lead Campus Christian Fellowship. Daniel Lutz, our Chaplain, spoke. And lastly, this past month ended in the resignation of Matthew Dempsey as President. The Vice President, Blake McCammon, has stepped up into the role of President and is fulfilling dual-duties until re-election happens.

Before Conclave we will be inducting Kari Mills as our Sweetheart and Andy Henson, the current Wesley Foundation director, as an honorary member. After Conclave we have plans to do service projects with the Children's home in Tahlequah as well as camping. We are also going to be having an end of the year banquet in May. A few prayer requests for the Fraternity would include continuous growing as a brotherhood and the expansion into a bigger group of guys that can change not only NSU, but the community we are in.

## Beta Eta Chapter

### Greetings

The Beta Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon has had a great year of growth through service and fellowship. Greater yet is the spiritual growth that has taken place in our chapter. Since last spring, our chapter has attempted to organize our executive branch providing for transition for our future brothers. Each officer has compiled an officer's handbook which will likely lead to smoother transitions in administration for future office holders. Details of West Virginia University procedures as well as explanations of national measures have been noted. We believe that by providing a foundation for transition will lead to the strengthening of our chapter.

In terms of our three program areas, our chapter has expanded our capacity and range of activities. Our social programming began with our back to school picnic at Cooper's Rock State Park with over forty alumni, active brothers, potential pledges, and guests in attendance. We also hosted a tailgate for a WVU football game, participated in a hiking trip and campout, and hosted a game night at the WVU's Campus Ministry Center, all in the fall semester.

Our spring semester was just as prolific. Prior to the beginning of classes, we rented a cabin near Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, for a weekend of skiing, hiking, sightseeing, and fellowship. Immediately after the resumption of classes for spring semester, the active brothers began planning our first formal and reunion held at Avery United Methodist Church. Over sixty-five guests came to celebrate over five years of faith and service to West Virginia University and the Morgantown area. Our spring semester is planned to conclude with a celebration picnic to be held at Cheat Lake.

Service remains a key aspect in the development of our chapter. This year we began what hopes to be an annual tradition. Sigma Theta Epsilon and Kappa Phi joined forces early in September for our first annual Weekend of Service. The service weekend sent nearly twenty-five participants to various agencies in the Morgantown area including the Bartlett House (homeless shelter and kitchen), Habitat for Humanity, Habitat ReStore, Morgantown High School Band Boosters, University Christian Council, and Harner Chapel United Methodist Church. The group collectively logged over 150 hours of community service in one weekend. Independently, our chapter also participated in Operation Christmas Child, Jessi's Pals (Jessica Lynch's organization through WVU Children's Hospital), wrote letters of support and encouragement to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, and spent a meeting picking up trash in a local neighborhood.

Through the Wesley Foundation at WVU, our chapter participated in the annual Spring Break Mission Trip by going to Williamsburg, Virginia, to work with the non-profit agency Housing Partnerships, Inc. This agency keeps the citizens of Williamsburg safe, warm, and dry by repairing and remodeling houses for individuals who receive sixty percent or below the median household income. The group spent two days painting four rooms, two days repairing, re-insulating, and re-shingling a roof in desperate need of repair, and two days demolishing a portion the interior of Housing Partnerships, Inc. new offices. The spring semester also saw service through Sarah's Table (homeless kitchen) and plan to participate in WVU's Relay for Life through the American Cancer Society.

Spiritually, the group has continued to grow and mature. We have recently started bi-weekly Bible studies with Kappa Phi and our numbers keep growing with every meeting. Our chapter has continued to host prayer breakfasts and prayer meetings. Through our social and

service programming we continue to discuss our faith and share our prayer concerns and praises with each other.

Undoubtedly the Beta Eta Chapter has shared tremendous success this year through our programming. Our efforts to further organize our chapter should result in increased service, fellowship, and growth. We give thanks to God for our chapter's accomplishments and pray that the Father will continue to guide and direct the Beta Eta chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon as we pursue His will.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D. Cox

Secretary/Treasurer, BH of ΣΘΕ

## Pledge Class of Beta Theta Chapter (Chapter Inactive as of Conclave, 2006)

The Ohio University Beta Theta Chapter has been inactive since 2006 and was set to be permanently deactivated at this year's conclave. In the fall of 2007, Quinn Wright led an unsuccessful attempt to create interest at OU by holding rush events and creating contacts. This failed due to lack of interest. However, in the Fall of 2008 a few men led by Warren Richards and Chris Smith desired to form a national fraternity to replace their ailing AEX chapter (a local brotherhood called brothers in Christ).

After some research it was decided that Sigma theta Epsilon was the best fit for what the men desired. Warren then began the process by contacting Tyler Betts, however, due to technical difficulties his emails were never received. Warren, however, upon the advice of the OU Kappa Phi Sisters, contacted the Epsilon President, Nick Waggamon, that he and others desired Christian brotherhood. The email was received and soon an informational meeting was scheduled. The meeting took place on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February in which six to seven OU guys came out to express interest. These men were met by a group of 10-15 Epsilon Guys at the First United Methodist Church in Athens. Soon the word spread and they were able to recruit two other interested men for a total of 9 men who wished to pledge Sigma Theta Epsilon.

An initial ritual was held on February 26, 2009 for 7 guys with an additional 2 going through a week later. Pledge meetings soon began led by Trevor Robinson an Epsilon Alumnus (Winter '09). The pledge meetings took place in the Wesley Student Center at the First United Methodist Church in Athens, OH. At the second pledging ritual, their future advisor, Keith Rader was also initiated as an honorary brother so that he could participate in all aspects of pledging as the men grew together. Currently the men are finalizing their pledging requirements with their formal activation being set for April 14, 2009.

Reports Not Received from:

Alpha Gamma

Delta

Beta Beta (Inactive as of December, 2008)

Beta Iota (Inactive as of Conclave 2006)

Beta Kappa

## National Officer Reports

### National President

The time between Conclave 2008 and the present has been a time of challenges, both personally and for the Office of the National President, with sprinkles of bad news and great joys mixed in. A year that I hoped would be a year of growth and movement towards grand visions of the future became attempts to minimize damage, find new solutions, and ensure that we are at least treading water.

Economic concerns forced my wife, Rachel, and I to relocate from our previous home in Findlay, OH, and seek out a new place to live, and new jobs, in Columbus, OH. Turmoil engulfed our lives for a bit, but we've since been steadied, as we've found new jobs, and been able to connect with a great group of people, centered around alumni of the fraternity. We've begun to find stability and hope for our future, after quite the battle to keep our footing.

This, in part, effected the fraternity this year. As the National President, when my life was in turmoil, I was often times unable to do the job up to the level at which I would expect myself to perform. Out of necessity, oftentimes my duties and actions in the job were not proactive, as I would like, but were reactive; to the internal needs of the brotherhood, and to the external requests. Projects I would have like to have seen carried forward or started were placed on hold, and visions that I wanted to see the fraternity work towards were neglected. I take full responsibility for the lack of productivity and growth over the past year, and for that reason, among a few others, am not seeking to be elected to the office of National President at Conclave this year.

As mentioned above, the fraternity has had sprinkles of bad news this year. Several chapters needed to be addressed on various matters. Some of these were able to be handled behind closed doors, while others required a public response. I believe, however, that much growth will come from the conversations I've had with these chapters, and in fact I have already experienced some evidence of this growth. In addition, the National Board received word late last year that the active members of the Beta Beta chapter would be voting to remove that chapter from active status, lowering our number of populated, active chapters. The National Board has begun early discussions on how to help revitalize the Beta Beta chapter and recreate a presence of Sigma Theta Epsilon on the campus of Miami University, and I have full confidence that the next slate of elected officers will have great success in this endeavor.

There are quite a few things to celebrate this year as well. A few chapters have reported great success with events raising money for Blood:Water Mission. The on-line presence of the fraternity has increased, as well, with a dedicated Facebook page, and an updated Wikipedia entry. In addition, the brothers of the Epsilon Chapter appear to be on the verge of helping to revitalize and rescue the Beta Theta Chapter at Ohio University.

Overall, the year was a year of challenges. But, if we've studied the history of God's people, we know that it is in these times that God most reveals himself and reveals our true character. I

believe the response of Sigma Theta Epsilon to this year of challenges will be to grow in numbers and in spirit as we move forward, and to excel at every challenge we've been given. It is with confidence that I state that 2008-2009 will be looked at as a footnote and a bump in the road as Sigma Theta Epsilon strives towards the ministry and men that God intends us to be.

May God be holding you all steadfast,

Tyler A. Betts  
National President

National Secretary

Dear Brothers,

I have most of my time during this term in office working to facilitate chapter access to the database and reporting functions. In so doing, I have become painfully aware that this office requires a higher level of technical expertise than that which I possess. Thus I have decided not to seek another term as your secretary.

Since we last met as a national body, the highlights of this year in office include

Hosting the officer advance during summer, 2008

Participating in Fall Gathering East, 2008

Representing the national fraternity –along with President Tyler Betts- at the Epsilon hosted banquet in recognition of Dr. Harold Putt’s twenty fifth year of service as Epsilon advisor

Issuing shingles upon request to chapters

Preparing the Pre-Conclave Journal

Consulting with Chapters and National Officers regarding proposed policy/constitution changes

Serving as a Moderator on the STE bulletin boards.

Respectfully Submitted,

David K. Burden  
National Secretary

National Pledgemaster

Brothers,

I look forward to greeting you in St. Louis and with great joy welcome you to the 2009 National Conclave of Chapters. St Louis has played host a number of times to Conclave during my tenure as a National Officer and hope that you are able to search out the city and have great fellowship.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your National Pledgemaster over the past two years. I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with each of you and getting to know many actives on a personal level.

As I depart from this office to other endeavors, I share a reflection from the Book of Titus, Chapter 3-

*1 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. 3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*

Brothers- may all of you continue to devote yourselves to doing that which is good, and may God bless you and that you profit from these things.

Over past year, my major task was to create new recruitment materials as well the creation of a new National Resource called "The Kyrios". The name of the document is based on the Greek word for "gentleman." Based on the 2005 National Program book, this handbook will serve as an extension of the National Pledge Program, to refine actives and alumni alike in their daily life.

In addition I have attempted to serve the Brotherhood with diligence in other areas including:

- Attending Fall Gathering, and the National Officer Advance
- Addressing chapter concerns as the needed.
- Assisting other Officers and Chapter Presidents as needed
- Serving as steBB moderator

As in the past and I continue to be passionate about researching new ideas for a "Brand Development" for National Identity through our documents, traditions and rituals as well as Designing visual identity materials for National Documents and presentations.

In closing, I would again thank each of you for the opportunity to serve as your National

Pledgemaster.

In the true spirit of Philoi,

Shannon Wagers  
National Pledgemaster  
Sigma Theta Epsilon  
National Christian Fraternity

## National Treasurer

### 2010 Budget Discussion

The budget was a bit difficult to figure out this year. While we have record levels of capital on hand, this has mainly been built in the past. We made money on Conclave last year for the first time, but this year has seen great difficulty. As I write this, I expect us to take a loss of \$1300 on Conclave. Registration is very down this year. The other issue is that I really have no idea what numbers each of the chapters have. Not all the chapters have paid fall dues, much less given me numbers for Winter and/or Spring. This makes it very difficult to forecast the upcoming year. I took the numbers from the STEDB rosters and basically took off 5% .

Here is the 2010 FY proposed budget

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget (June 2009 - May 2010)				
	Income		Current Dues:	\$42
	Dues			\$7,812
	Conclave Income			\$3,900
	Donations			\$300
	Sales			\$100
	National Clothing Store			\$100
	Timothy Grant Income *			\$300
	Activation Fees			\$300
	Total Income			\$12,812
	Expenses			
	T&E Budgets			\$3,500
		President	\$1,000	
		V.Pres	\$500	
		Secretary	\$500	
		Treasurer	\$500	
		Pledgemaster	\$500	
		Alumni Secretary	\$500	
	Publications			\$600
		Alumni	\$600	
	Conclave			\$7,297
	Fall Gathering			\$300
	Officer Advance			\$150
	I.T. Expenses			\$150
	Bank Fees			\$40
	Ceremonial			\$75
	Misc			\$200
	Timothy Grant Payout *			\$300
	Total Expenses			\$12,612
	Net Profit/ (Loss)			\$200
	* If not enough income, then no Payout.			

As you can see, there is a huge issue with this budget. If we lose 5 brothers (or I estimated 5 too high), we are negative.

Also, you may notice a few categories have disappeared. I have collapsed the Conclave number into one to allow a bit more flexibility. I deleted some items that I created in years past that have never been used. Besides that, this is basically the same budget we have used over the past few years.

Many of the items are currently under funded. The Alumni publications should really be double what it is, but we just can't afford it. It would be nice for the travel expenses for the President to be higher to allow for him to visit the chapters, and to travel to meet interest groups. Our chapters do an amazing job with Fall Gathering now. Think of what they could do with even 50% more budget. National Officers have expressed interest in having a more professional office advance in a hotel, or university conference center vs someone's living room as we do it now. All of this takes money.

I officially abstained from this proposal, but I do believe that it is time to begin talking about a dues increase. A proposal has been submitted to raise dues by \$8 a year (\$4 a semester, or 2.67 a quarter) This follows in the next page.

Here is the proposed budget with the higher dues. As you notice, the only thing that changes is the forecast Profit/Loss for the year. Nothing else has been increased.

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget (June 2009 - May 2010)				
	Income		Current Dues:	50
	Dues			\$9,300
	Conclave Income			\$3,900
	Donations			\$300
	Sales			\$100
	National Clothing Store			\$100
	Timothy Grant Income *			\$300
	Activation Fees			\$300
	Total Income			\$14,300
	Expenses			
	T&E Budgets			\$3,500
	President		\$1,000	
	V.Pres		\$500	
	Secretary		\$500	
	Treasurer		\$500	
	Pledgemaster		\$500	
	Alumni Secretary		\$500	
	Publications			\$600
	Alumni		\$600	
	Conclave			\$7,297
	Fall Gathering			\$300
	Officer Advance			\$150
	I.T. Expenses			\$150
	Bank Fees			\$40
	Ceremonial			\$75
	Misc			\$200
	Timothy Grant Payout *			\$300
	Total Expenses			\$12,612
	Net Profit/ (Loss)			\$1,688
	* If not enough income, then no Payout.			

I personally believe a smaller \$6 a year increase (\$3 a semester, or \$2 a quarter) can help just as well, especially if chapters can increase their sizes. It also conforms to the unwritten rule of divisible by 2 and 3 for easier calculation.

The following shows that budget.

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget (June 2009 - May 2010)				
	Income		Current Dues:	48
	Dues			\$8,928
	Conclave Income			\$3,900
	Donations			\$300
	Sales			\$100
	National Clothing Store			\$100
	Timothy Grant Income *			\$300
	Activation Fees			\$300
	Total Income			\$13,928
	Expenses			
	T&E Budgets			\$3,500
	President		\$1,000	
	V.Pres		\$500	
	Secretary		\$500	
	Treasurer		\$500	
	Pledgemaster		\$500	
	Alumni Secretary		\$500	
	Publications			\$600
	Alumni		\$600	
	Conclave			\$7,297
	Fall Gathering			\$300
	Officer Advance			\$150
	I.T. Expenses			\$150
	Bank Fees			\$40
	Ceremonial			\$75
	Misc			\$200
	Timothy Grant Payout *			\$300
	Total Expenses			\$12,612
	Net Profit/ (Loss)			\$1,316
	* If not enough income, then no Payout.			

The good news? We currently have \$9600 in the bank, with plenty of pledge pins and shingles to last for two years or more (a few thousand of this money is for Blood:water mission (way to go guys)). We normally have less than \$3000 at this time of year. As I mentioned earlier, there are still quite a bit more dues to collect. But, most of this savings has been the fact that I am a penny pincher, and that if people didn't ask for a reimbursement, they didn't get it.

I pray that the newly elected Treasurer can come up with even greater ideas. Basically,

during my term I have just been trying to get us to have a positive balance at the end of the year. The finances when I entered office found us \$6000 in debt, with money owed to past National officers for Conclave costs, and an \$1800 credit card debt.

But as I hinted at the beginning, with Conclave potentially losing so much money, and if the numbers at the chapters continue to decline, we could really be in big trouble in the future.

Philo,

Alex Johnson  
National Treasurer

National Alumni Secretary:  
No Report.

Compiler's note: On April 7, 2009, Allen Merricle verbally submitted his resignation to the National President via telephone.

# Housing Corporation

pre-Conclave Journal Report, 2009

I'd to thank the Housing Corp for letting me serve my first term as Director. I hope I can further the purpose of HC and help our chapters with their houses. I want to personally thank Evan Hammersmith for his years of service to the Corp.

I haven't had too much time to get brought up to speed on our current status, but that will change with the HC meeting we will have this weekend at Conclave. I know for sure that we will be looking at the Beta Gamma lease as the current one expires in the next 18 months. Josh Wade (BG president) has shown interest in looking at a different house because of the low numbers in the BG chapter.

The Epsilon house is still in need of much repair and we will be looking at what are the top priorities there and what is prudent to accomplish given our budget.

I am also going to be investigating our ability to pay the local bills (mortgage, utilities, taxes, etc) electronically and automatically. This will reduce the need for the Housing Corp CFO to write checks each month that could get forgotten.

I am open to other chapters who are interested in acquiring a house – either to rent or to buy – and although all options might not be possible, I'd like to look at any opportunity. With the current housing market in this country, this might be an opportune time to purchase. If you know of a possibility, please let me know so we can investigate.

Please look for a summary of the HC Conclave meeting to be sent out in the coming weeks.

**Dave Scherpelz**

Board of Directors  
Sigma Theta Epsilon Housing Corporation