



THETA TAU
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

GRAND REGENT

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Brothers,

I have just returned from our 2016 Convention in Cincinnati with renewed enthusiasm for the year ahead. In addition to electing new national officers and recognizing some important alumni for their contributions to our fraternity, we approved a significant revision to the Constitution and Bylaws of Theta Tau. This completed a process that was begun several years ago with the creation of our Policy and Procedures Manual.

You may have seen the proposed revision in the June 2016 *Velocitas*, which was vastly improved during the convention, with the input of informed delegates, national officers, and other members. With the help of those who attended Convention, we now have a modern Constitution that can focus solely on the governance of the fraternity. I am very appreciative of the efforts of so many who arrived at our Convention prepared to work on such an important task. I especially appreciate the considerable time and energy that past Grand Regent Michael Livingston and Educational Foundation Board Member Sean Walsh spent on preparing the original drafts.

Because of the changes, I anticipate that the Central Office will publish the revised Constitution early this semester. We are also working on revising the Policies and Procedures Manual to capture some of the details that did not make the "final cut" of the Constitution, but are nevertheless important to retain.

There are a couple of important changes to note. The Convention approved the removal of the Delegate-at-Large and the Student Member of the Executive Council positions. In their place, the Constitution creates a Student Advisory Committee, with the chair being a student member elected at the Convention. Congratulations to Rena Wang of Alpha chapter on being named the first chair of this committee! Rena is already hard at work forming a committee charter, and naming other members of the committee.

A second substantial change is that resignation of membership in Theta Tau is now permitted, with the resigned member being treated as if they had been expelled. While a formalized procedure for doing this will be included in the revised Policies and Procedures Manual, in the interim period, a member who does not carry a balance with the chapter (i.e. they are completely paid up and there are no outstanding debts), should write a formal letter to the Central Office informing us of their decision to resign membership. While the Convention believed that membership is for life, we recognized that a member seeking to resign is, by definition, acting in an unfraternal manner, and should be treated accordingly. I hope that this streamlined process will allow chapters to focus on positive activities and people that will bring a high standard of professional interest among its members, and unite them in a strong bond of fraternal fellowship.

One additional item from the Convention is a committee that is working on concerns about the "non-discrimination" clause. A committee has been formed that will draft an updated policy that will reflect the desire of the fraternity to be inclusive in its membership selection practices. If it is not completed in time to be distributed with the rest of the Policies and Procedures Manual, it will be distributed separately.

The final major action at the convention was the election of a new Executive Council to serve the fraternity over the next biennium. Congratulations to all of those who were elected! However, I think it is very important to recognize the contributions of those individuals who have provided so much time and talent to the fraternity over the past many years. Past Grand Regent Michael Livingston, Grand Regent Brandon Satterwhite, Grand Scribe Rachael Ferrera, and Grand Outer

Guard Amanda Graor have each served our fraternity in many various capacities for well over a decade, and we would not be where we are today without their contributions. Thank you each for your service.

Additionally, this Convention concluded the terms of several other national officers including:

- Atlantic Regional Directors Adrienne Arndt and Victor Holland,
- Great Lakes Regional Director Emily Birukow,
- Midwest Regional Directors Jeremy Boedeker and Lauren Stemper,
- Northeast Regional Directors Nick Panetta and Joe Reill,
- Alumni Programs Director Christina Kubicki, and
- Editor-in-Chief of the Gear, Sly Stafford.

Each has sacrificed their personal time and talent to give back to the fraternity, and I would be remiss to not thank them also for their contributions and service to our fraternity.

The successors that the Executive Council has named to each position are ready and eager to take on the mantle of leadership within the fraternity. Please join me in welcoming Curtis Barger, Lindsey Carr, Stephen Collins, David Dean, Emily Frosina, John Henise, Karen Hoshino, Zack Johnson, Ana Perarnau, Lauren Phillips, Becky Wauford, and Benjamin Wise to the group of national officers committed to serving the fraternity. We wish them great success going forward!

Unfortunately, there were some additional items that marred an otherwise successful Convention. The first item was the significant number of chapters who did not send a delegate to Convention. The Convention is the opportunity for your chapter to have a voice in the affairs of the fraternity, and it is essential that you be present to speak on the behalf of your chapter brothers. To that end, the Executive Council has asked the Student Advisory Committee for suggestions on how to increase attendance at the National Convention.

The second item involved the disappearance of the large badge replica and the cloth Theta Tau flag that are used to represent the fraternity in all of our national events, from the National Convention to chapter and colony installations. These items disappeared from our main meeting room overnight, and were found missing on Saturday morning. While it cannot be proven that these items were taken by a member of Theta Tau, I cannot fathom why a member of the general public would take these things, leaving other valuable items such as laptops and projectors untouched.

I am deeply disturbed and offended by this direct attack on the symbols of our fraternity at its most important meeting. I ask that all members of Theta Tau be vigilant for these items so that they may be recovered safely. If you have any information on the whereabouts of these items, please inform the Central Office, the Grand Marshal, or me as soon as possible. We pride ourselves on our honesty and integrity, and ask that each member conduct themselves accordingly.

Despite this, I believe that the overall spirit of brotherhood demonstrated at our National Convention is indicative of our fraternity's strength, and I look forward to working with each of you over the next biennium. Thank you for making our fraternity great!

In H & T,



J. Matthew Clark, XXX!