

The Pledge Manual
of
Theta Tau Fraternity



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WHERE ARE THE CHAPTERS OF THETA TAU?

ALPHA, Founded October 15, 1904 University of Minnesota	(Chapter House) 324 Walnut Street, S. E. Minneapolis, Minnesota
BETA, Established March 26, 1906 Michigan College of Mining and Technology	(Chapter House) 1405 College Avenue Houghton, Michigan
GAMMA, Established November 8, 1907 Colorado School of Mines	Colorado School of Mines Golden, Colorado
DELTA, Established May 23, 1911 Case Institute of Technology	Theta Tau Box, Case Institute of Technology Cleveland, Ohio
EPSILON, Established May 4, 1911 University of California	Hearst Mining Building, University of California Berkeley, California
ZETA, Established April 17, 1912 University of Kansas	(Chapter House) 1602 Louisiana Street Lawrence, Kansas
ETA, Established March 23, 1912 Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Inactive
THETA, Established May 26, 1914 Columbia University	Engineering Building, Columbia University New York, New York
IOTA, Established February 5, 1916 Missouri School of Mines	Missouri School of Mines Rolla, Missouri
KAPPA, Established March 25, 1916 University of Illinois	Inactive
LAMBDA, Established April 29, 1920 University of Utah	Union Building, University of Utah Salt Lake City, Utah
MU, Established January 3, 1922 University of Alabama	University of Alabama University, Alabama
NU, Established January 1, 1922 Carnegie Institute of Technology	Inactive
XI, Established January 13, 1923 University of Wisconsin	College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin Madison, Wisconsin
OMICRON, Established February 3, 1923 University of Iowa	210 Engineering Hall, University of Iowa Iowa City, Iowa
PI, Established May 26, 1923 University of Virginia	College of Engineering, University of Virginia University, Virginia
RHO, Established February 16, 1924 N. C. State College of Ag. and Eng.	N. C. State College, State College Station Raleigh, North Carolina
SIGMA, Established November 29, 1924 Ohio State University	(Chapter House) 1946 Indianola Avenue Columbus 10, Ohio
TAU, Established December 12, 1925 Syracuse University	College of Applied Science, Syracuse University Syracuse, New York
UPSILON, Established April 7, 1928 University of Arkansas	(Chapter House) 612 Storrer Street Fayetteville, Arkansas
PHI, Established April 21, 1928 Purdue University	(Chapter House) 416 N. Chauncey Street West Lafayette, Indiana
CHI, Established April 23, 1930 University of Arizona	Engineering Building, University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona
PSI, Established May 7, 1932 Montana School of Mines	Montana School of Mines Butte, Montana
OMEGA, Established March 26, 1932 South Dakota School of Mines	(Chapter House) 107 Kansas City Street Rapid City, South Dakota
GAMMA BETA, Established March 16, 1935 George Washington University	School of Engineering, George Washington University, Washington, D. C.
DELTA BETA, Established May 20, 1939 University of Louisville	(Chapter House) 2022 S. First Street Louisville, Kentucky
EPSILON BETA, Established May 19, 1951 Wayne University	College of Engineering, Wayne University Detroit, Michigan

TO THE PLEDGE OF THETA TAU:

You are now a pledge of one chapter of Theta Tau, a national *professional* engineering fraternity.

Your selection is in itself a significant honor. The chapter which you now represent has carefully considered your character, personality, integrity, and fidelity to your chosen profession. It is incumbent upon every member of Theta Tau, individually and collectively as a chapter, to investigate carefully before an invitation to pledge is extended.

Your acceptance of this invitation and its token, the badge of a pledge, places squarely upon you the responsibility of so conducting yourself that the Fraternity shall never regret the confidence it now places in you.

It must not be construed, however, that your election as a pledge obligates your chapter or any other chapter of Theta Tau to admit you to active membership in the Fraternity. You can be initiated into its membership only after you have served the period of probation set forth in the laws of your chapter and in so doing have proved yourself worthy of Theta Tau. Throughout this period your chapter will exercise certain prescribed authority which you should acknowledge cheerfully and promptly. You can be assured you will not be called upon to do anything which will embarrass you publicly or which might prove contrary to your obligations to God, your country, or yourself.

Having fulfilled your obligations as a pledge, your name will again be presented to your chapter, this time for election to active and full membership. Your election must be by unanimous consent according to the constitution of our Fraternity.

We admonish you now to weigh carefully the responsibility and the dignity of your present position and by so doing to bear successfully the trials of a pledgeman.

True to the tradition of all fraternities, Theta Tau has a prescribed ritual into which are woven all of the ideals and character of the Fraternity. Such matters obviously can be revealed only to the properly elected men at the time of and subsequent to their initiation into active membership.

There are, however, many points of interest concerning the Fraternity which you should know and upon which you must become thoroughly conversant. Since you will be called upon at some future date to pass an examination, it is recommended that you diligently pursue the study of all information contained in this Manual.

WHAT IS THETA TAU?

As a professional fraternity, Theta Tau limits its membership to males who possess the qualities of brotherhood, as determined by the individual chapters; who demonstrate a professional attitude beneficial to Theta Tau; and who are not affiliated with any other engineering fraternity whether or not such fraternity claims to be purely social. General or engineering scholastic honor societies which are nationally

recognized as such and are so registered in *Baird's Manual of College Fraternities* are not considered competitive fraternities to Theta Tau.

Theta Tau Fraternity was founded at the University of Minnesota on October 15, 1904, by Erich J. Schrader, Isaac B. Hanks, William M. Lewis, and Edwin L. Vinal. Erich J. Schrader is at present the Counselor of the Executive Council.

Since the date of its founding the Fraternity has enjoyed a moderate, steady, healthy growth. At the time of the publication of this Manual, there were twenty-four active chapters in leading technical schools throughout the nation and nearly 14,500 initiated members. There are three chapters which, due to local circumstances, are at present inactive.

To our founders and early members of Alpha, Beta, and Gamma Chapters must go the credit for a well-laid foundation; and to their successors who willingly contribute their time and ingenuity to the building of the Fraternity must go the credit for the effective structure of the present national organization. On such strong foundations Theta Tau has been enabled to withstand wars, economic depressions, and many other adversities which too often bring about the collapse of fraternal structures.

Just as engineering is defined as a profession of creation, so might Theta Tau, an engineering fraternity, be called a fraternity of creation. For you will come to discover in the course of time that this Fraternity creates in its men not alone the desire to master the principles and problems of the profession, but to regard the brothers in such a manner as to bespeak loyal co-operation and courageous treatment of difficult situations.

Theta Tau is not purely a social fraternity, but its chapters do aim to organize the social as well as professional life of its members and establish a brotherhood among engineers. It is not an honor society and our Constitution expressly prohibits any chapter from establishing a scholastic requirement other than that established by the college for satisfactory scholastic standing and for graduation. These regulations also apply to graduate students who are eligible for active membership in Theta Tau. It follows that since Theta Tau is a professional fraternity all of its active members should strive to be good students and thereby show their interest in their chosen profession. A chapter in good scholastic standing has the favorable support of the faculty at all times.

Theta Tau is specifically a professional fraternity and is different from the academic or social fraternity. In addition to the desirable attributes of a social fraternity, Theta Tau has one common bond, an interest in and pursuance of engineering in its several branches. It differs from the honor society in that its men, while meeting scholastic requirements indicative of future professional achievement, are chosen not alone by these standards.

Theta Tau offers a program which appeals alike to the undergraduate and the alumnus. By the maintenance of active chapters on well-selected campuses, the Fraternity can most effectively aid in developing young engineers and build-

ing up a worthy body of alumni. When student days are ended it bridges the chasm between them and the long years of professional practice ahead. As the young man passes through the period of transition from the warm familiar campus to the world of business and commerce, he likewise passes from a chapter of understanding, loyal brothers into a vast alumni chapter of successful men ever ready and willing to advise and assist him. There are thousands in places of high responsibility throughout the world, all wearing the selfsame badge and speaking the language of the engineering profession.

WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THETA TAU?

Theta Tau demands of active members and pledgemen alike that all just, financial obligations be discharged promptly. In thus obligating yourself, it is imperative that you be completely informed concerning these matters. Individual chapters have their own peculiar conditions which largely determine their financial status and the obligations of membership. Theta Taus and their pledgemen must be prepared in advance to meet the following:

	Amounts at.....Chapter
Pledge Dues	\$.....per.....
National and Local Initiation Fees (including Badge)	\$.....per.....
Active Membership Dues	\$.....per.....
Room and Board	\$.....per.....
Special Assessments	\$.....per.....
Building Fund Notes	\$.....per.....

Pledge Dues

It is the custom of most chapters to collect a nominal monthly, quarterly, or semester fee from all pledges.

National and Local Initiation Fees

When you have successfully completed your work as a pledgeman and have been unanimously elected to active membership in your chapter, you will be called upon to pay *in advance of your initiation* a specified charge designed to cover all local and national initiation fees, the cost of your badge, and a life subscription to our national publication *The Gear of Theta Tau*. *Your chapter is compelled to collect this fee in full and in advance and has no authority to make special arrangements in individual cases.*

Active Membership Dues

After your initiation and as long as you remain an active member of your chapter, you will be assessed active membership dues at regular intervals. Whatever this amount, the chapter will pay a certain prescribed portion of it into the national treasury as your annual national dues.

It is impossible for the national officers to collect dues from individual active members. The chapter as a whole is held responsible for the initiation fees and the semi-annual dues of active members. Semi-annual dues are not payable by new initiates *for the term in which they were initiated*. If you do not pay your national initiation fee or your semi-annual dues promptly, the other active members must pay them. No member of Theta Tau would expect his brothers to pay his fees.

Room and Board

If your chapter maintains a house wherein room and board are available to active members and pledges, you will be expected to pay the prescribed charges for such services. These figures will vary depending upon the local conditions.

Special Assessments

Although the national treasury does not levy this type of charge against individual members at any time, it is the custom of most chapters to cover in this manner unusual purchases of furnishings, athletic fees, chapter sponsored parties, dinners and entertainment.

Building Fund Notes

Some chapters accumulate building funds by accepting notes from new initiates bearing due dates during the member's undergraduate days or after his graduation.

A complete understanding of your future financial relations with your chapter is of inestimable importance. Should there be doubt on your part concerning any phase of this question, the time to dispel such doubt is *now*. The Regent and Treasurer of your chapter are properly informed on this subject and will be happy to discuss with you in confidence any point in question.

WHAT ARE OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THETA TAU?

It is an established principle of life that privilege increases obligation. The high privilege of membership in Theta Tau is no exception to this axiom, for you will discover as you live your life in the Fraternity that your obligations are without end. Your good offices should begin with the youngest pledge of your chapter and extend throughout your own chapter into the national fraternity and to every alumnus with whom you come in contact.

Every pledge and active member of your chapter will expect you to give any assistance within your power. Such opportunity for service may present itself in the chapter house, on the campus, or in the classroom. You will perhaps be called upon to assist a brother in the solution of a new or difficult problem; or again you might be asked to make some sacrifice to save the life of a brother. Every real Theta Tau stands ready and eager to discharge such obligations to his brothers.

Your chapter will expect you to attend all meetings and to take an active interest in the business transacted therein; use your time and ingenuity in fur-

thering the development of its program; acknowledge all constituted authority of its duly elected officers; obey the laws under which it is chartered and operates; revere its traditions; and honor the date of its founding. When you become an alumnus your chapter will expect to hear from you concerning your business location, your honors, and the development of your career.

The Fraternity, as constituted nationally, lays upon you the necessity of making your career in the profession one of honor to all Theta Taus. Wherever you find alumni of your own or any other chapter, you are expected to identify yourself to the extent of aiding in the formation of alumni clubs or affiliating with those already existent. You should be constantly on the watch for capable young men entering an engineering course in schools where there are chapters of Theta Tau, in order that you may inform the chapter.

On October 15 of each year celebrations are held throughout the country to recall the founding of our Fraternity and to honor the names of the founders of Alpha chapter. You are requested to honor this date in some manner, no matter where you may be situated.

Members of Theta Tau are obligated to send some form of greeting to their chapters on or about October 15. If several are located in the same vicinity they could gather for an informal meeting.

It is in this manner that you are obligated to the Fraternity as are all others who now wear the same badge.

ARE THERE OTHER MATTERS WITH WHICH A PLEDGE SHOULD FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF?

Theta Tau, like other fraternities, has certain forms, insignia, flowers, colors, publications, and songs which, while peculiar to Theta Tau, are not veiled in secrecy. You should make diligent application to the study of these various symbols in order that you may understand and recognize them.

PLEDGE FORM

The Fraternity has a standard Pledge Form which each pledgeman must complete in detail immediately upon the acceptance of his bid. This form is to be filed in the national archives and every care must be exercised in its proper execution. You should be very certain that all information shown thereon is absolutely correct and legible. The "shingle" to which every newly initiated member is entitled, cannot be issued until this form has been filed with the Grand Marshal.

As soon as you are pledged ask the Scribe or Regent of the chapter for a pledge form and fill it out immediately.

INSIGNIA

There are certain definite articles of jewelry which publicly identify a pledge or member and are copyrighted by Theta Tau for the use of members and pledges only. Their form and proper use are carefully controlled by the Fraternity and no deviation is ever permitted.

PLEDGE BUTTON

The badge or button of a pledge is a triangular gold shield with a dark red gear wheel in its field. It is for the exclusive use of pledgemen and must be worn at all times in the left lapel of the coat. It is the property of the chapter and must be surrendered to the chapter should the pledge be broken or at the time of initiation.

OFFICIAL BADGE

The official badge of the Fraternity is a gold gear wheel with crossed hammer and tongs and the letters Theta and Tau. In the center of the wheel is a dark red garnet, and the inner rim of the gear wheel is jeweled with pearls. The official badge may be worn by *members only*. It is the property of the member and will so remain unless the member should be suspended or expelled from the Fraternity in which case it must be surrendered to his chapter. The official badge must be worn at all times on the left side. It is compulsory for every initiate to have a badge and no man shall be initiated who declines to purchase or wear it.

SISTER PIN

The sister pin is a gold gear wheel smaller in size than the official badge but which does not bear the crossed hammer and tongs. Its jewels are the same as the official badge and it too bears the letters Theta and Tau. It may be worn by relatives or friends of the members. In no case is the official badge to be so used.

RECOGNITION BUTTON

The recognition button is a replica of the pledge button but reduced in size. This may be worn by members only and then on the upper tip of the left coat lapel.

The national Fraternity has designated an official jeweler which firm is authorized to produce and sell official Theta Tau jewelry, and all insignia must be secured from them upon application to and at the direction of the *Grand Treasurer*.

THE COAT OF ARMS

The coat of arms is explained as a bridge with three arches, proper; on the chief gules, three gear wheels proper; crest; a hand grasping hammer and tongs, all proper.

It is permissible to reproduce the Coat of Arms on jewelry, and it is frequently worn on the coat lapel in place of the official recognition button.

FLOWER

The flower of Theta Tau is the Jacqueminot or dark red rose.

JEWEL

The official jewel of the Fraternity is the dark red garnet.

COLORS

The official colors of the Fraternity are dark red and gold, and it is proper to use these colors together on any article significant of the Fraternity.

THE GEAR OF THETA TAU

The Gear is the national magazine of the Fraternity. The first number was published by Beta Chapter in 1907 under the name of *Hammer and Tongs*. In 1908 the name of the magazine was changed to *The Gear*. In 1918 it was published by Delta Chapter and in 1922 again by Alpha. In 1926 Omicron Chapter published it, and since that time it has been published by alumni of Omicron. It is published twice annually in the spring and fall of the year. In it are to be found informal papers by distinguished alumni, chapter letters, alumni notes, biographical sketches, editorials, and any information of importance which may be issued by the Executive Council.

When you are initiated you will pay a modest sum into a life subscription fund which is held as a trust fund by the Grand Treasurer. The magazine will be sent to you without charge as long as you live or as long as the fund exists to pay for the ever-increasing costs. During the time that you are an undergraduate your copy will be sent to you in care of your chapter. When you graduate or when you cease to be an active member, you should immediately notify the editors so that the magazine can be sent to your new address. Always keep the editors informed of your change of address; otherwise, you will not continue to receive *The Gear*.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The national officers of the Fraternity are the members of the Executive Council. A complete list of the members of the Executive Council is printed in *The Gear*.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

Alumni Associations have been established in eleven cities. The oldest one is the Southwestern Alumni Association founded in 1908 at Douglas, Arizona, but is now situated in Tucson. Each issue of *The Gear* contains a complete list of the Associations and the addresses of the secretaries. As alumni you are obligated by your initiation promises to affiliate with the Alumni Association in your area. The Association will welcome you and the contact can be of great value to you.

It would be impossible to list in this Manual the hundreds of distinguished alumni of our Fraternity. Among these are United States Senators, members of the armed forces who have distinguished themselves, and prominent members of the engineering profession. Honors and accomplishments achieved by our members are published in every issue of *The Gear*.

WHAT FRATERNITIES ARE COMPETITIVE TO THETA TAU?

Theta Tau is the oldest *professional* engineering fraternity of its type. Others have followed and exist today on many campuses. To those organizations whose general patterns resemble Theta Tau's and who seek their members from the same general group of men, *we have declared ourselves competitive, and all*

members of Theta Tau are strictly prohibited from belonging to any one or more of them. They are:

Alpha Chi Sigma

Alpha Rho Chi

FarmHouse

Kappa Eta Kappa

Scarab

Sigma Phi Delta

Sigma Rho

Sigma Tau Phi

Triangle

Should you as a pledge or later a member of Theta Tau be approached by any other group not mentioned above, it is your duty to inform yourself immediately concerning the status of the organization even before accepting its courtesies. Your chapter officers and members of the Executive Council are always available to inform you concerning any group.

Because Theta Tau is strictly a professional fraternity, it does not compete in any manner with the strictly academic and honor societies; thus making it possible for you to hold membership in any academic fraternity or honor society without violating your obligations to Theta Tau except any and all engineering fraternities which may call themselves social fraternities but restrict their membership to one or more courses in engineering or geology.

Before joining any other organization (social or honorary) be certain it is not competitive with Theta Tau. You should also ascertain its national scope and character. Weigh carefully your decision to assume the responsibilities of membership. There is far more satisfaction in being an excellent member of one organization than in being a poor member of several.

The Constitution forbids membership in other engineering fraternities regardless of whether the selection is made from the entire engineering student body or from a specific department. The Professional Interfraternity Conference prohibits its member fraternities from initiating members of any other fraternity in the same or overlapping categories.

Members of the Professional Interfraternity Conference

ARCHITECTURE—Alpha Rho Chi

CHEMISTRY—Alpha Chi Sigma

COMMERCE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION—Alpha Kappa Psi,
Delta Sigma Pi

DENTISTRY—Alpha Omega, Delta Sigma Delta, Xi Psi Phi, Psi Omega

EDUCATION—Kappa Phi Kappa, Phi Epsilon Kappa

ENGINEERING—Theta Tau, Sigma Phi Delta

LAW—Gamma Eta Gamma, Delta Theta Phi, Sigma Delta Kappa, Phi
Alpha Delta, Phi Beta Gamma, Phi Delta Phi

MEDICINE—Alpha Kappa Kappa, Theta Kappa Psi, Nu Sigma Nu, Phi
Beta Pi, Phi Delta Epsilon, Phi Lambda Kappa, Phi Rho Sigma,
Phi Chi

MUSIC—Phi Mu Alpha (Sinfonia)

PHARMACY—Kappa Psi, Rho Pi Phi, Phi Delta Chi

VETERINARY MEDICINE—Omega Tau Sigma

THETA TAU.

Introduction.

Words and music by D. C. Blackmar, Beta '12.

Vivace.

Our H and T we cher-ish thee and ev-er in our mem-o-ry, we

keep thy signs and sym-bols fast, stored up midst loved things we've a-massed. The

Ham - mer and the Tongs and Gear, these em - blems we held dear

And our good fra - ter - nal law we live and The - ta - Tau.....

Chorus.

Come all The - ta Tau men Drink the

Tempo di Valse.

Toast a gain..... Here's to our broth - ers still

Thema Tau. 3-3.

young in years..... Here's to our alum - ni, our real en - gi-

neers..... Ev - ery one be mer - - - ry

What if the world seems wrong..... we'll each help the

oth - er, we're each some ones broth - er In good old Ham-mer and Tong.

Thema Ten 3-3.

SWEETHEART OF THETA TAU

Quartet Arrangement

Words and Music by Ruth Lambertus

To Sigma Chapter

Moderato

Thru the maze of mem-o-ries, In those care-free col-lege days, A

thou-sand faces gleam and smile, But there's one that remains always Oh

a tempo

Sweet-heart of Theta Tau I love you, In all my dreams your dear face shines thru,

You are the one that I adore My The-ta Tau girl for-ever more.

FAITH OF THE ENGINEER

I AM AN ENGINEER. *In my profession I take deep pride, but without vainglory; to it I owe solemn obligations that I am eager to fulfill.*

As an Engineer, I will participate in none but honest enterprise. To him that has engaged my services, as employer or client, I will give the utmost of performance and fidelity.

When needed, my skill and knowledge shall be given without reservation for the public good. From special capacity springs the obligation to use it well in the service of humanity; and I accept the challenge that this implies.

Jealous of the high repute of my calling, I will strive to protect the interests and the good name of any engineer that I know to be deserving; but I will not shrink, should duty dictate, from disclosing the truth regarding anyone that, by unscrupulous act, has shown himself unworthy of the profession.

Since the Age of Stone, human progress has been conditioned by the genius of my professional forbears. By them have been rendered usable to mankind Nature's vast resources of material and energy. By them have been vitalized and turned to practical account the principles of science and the revelations of technology. Except for this heritage of accumulated experience, my efforts would be feeble. I dedicate myself to the dissemination of engineering knowledge, and especially to the instruction of younger members of my profession in all its arts and traditions.

To my fellows I pledge, in the same full measure I ask of them, integrity and fair dealing, tolerance and respect, and devotion to the standards and the dignity of our profession; with the consciousness, always, that our special expertness carries with it the obligation to serve humanity with complete sincerity.

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