



OUR MUTUAL QUEST..
interfraternity history and
objectives

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ORIGIN OF FRATERNITIES

The American college fraternity system is as old as the United States itself, for it was in 1776 that the first secret Greek-letter society came into existence. It was the custom then for students at William and Mary, the second oldest college in America, to gather in the Apollo Room of the Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg, Virginia, to discuss the affairs of the day. On the night of December 5, 1776, five close companions stayed after the others had left and founded Phi Beta Kappa. A secret motto, grip, and ritual were subsequently adopted. The Fraternity had to be secret because the William and Mary faculty didn't approve of its students discussing social issues and possibly straying too far from accepted beliefs. Therefore, the members developed secret signals of challenge and recognition. The concept of a secret grip, motto, ritual, a distinctive badge, code of laws and the use of Greek letters by Phi Beta Kappa were adopted by subsequent fraternities. Fraternity, Morality, and Literature were the principles symbolized by the stars on the silver medal adopted as the insignia of Phi Beta Kappa membership.

The society prospered, and three years later expansion began. Chapters were established at Yale, Harvard, Dartmouth and numerous other campuses. As Phi Beta Kappa developed, it evolved into a purely honorary society. For this reason, as other fraternities were founded, they were not considered competitors. By 1826, Phi Beta Kappa had become a scholarship society, much as it is known today.

Beginning with Kappa Alpha Society, established at Union College, New York on November 26, 1825, the continuous existence of social fraternities started. This group is generally recognized as America's oldest college social fraternity. Although many students and faculty members opposed Kappa Alpha Society due to its secrecy, other students admired the concept of the organization and formed Sigma Phi on March 4, 1827, and Delta Phi on November 17, 1827. Kappa Alpha Society, Sigma Phi, and Delta Phi formed the "Union Triad," and set the pattern for the American fraternity system. Eventually, Union students founded six fraternities, which is why the college is recognized as the "Mother of Fraternities". By 1860, the fraternity system was firmly established with 22 of the present-day general fraternities already having been founded. During the Civil War, Southern universities practically ceased to function with virtually all young men in the service. As a result, most fraternities suspended activities. In a few cases, fraternity brothers attempted to remain organized within their military units.

Theta Xi was the only fraternity organized during the Civil War and was also the first professional fraternity, centered on the engineering disciplines.

Healing the wounds left by the bitter sectional feeling after the war was a task particularly suited to fraternities. Responding to the urgency of this situation was Alpha Tau Omega, the first fraternity founded after the Civil War in 1865; Kappa Alpha Order, 1865; Kappa Sigma Kappa, 1867; Pi Kappa Alpha, 1868; Sigma Nu, 1869; and Kappa Sigma, 1869; all in Virginia.

The nation and its campuses were not the same after the Civil War. One significant change was the increased entrance of women into higher education. "Aware of the condescending and frequently scornful activities of the male

students,” writes one historian, women “wanted nothing more than to prove their capabilities and to achieve an equally important position” on their campuses.

Sororities had their beginnings at Wesleyan Female College, Macon, Georgia. The Adelphean Society was organized May 15, 1851, and followed a year later by the Philomathean Society. They remained strictly local sororities for more than 50 years before adopting Greek names and expanding as Alpha Delta Pi and Phi Mu, respectively. I.C. Sorosis (now Pi Beta Phi) was founded April 28, 1867, at Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois as the first national sorority, and Kappa Alpha Theta was founded January 27, 1870, at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, as the first women’s Greek-letter society. In the early days, most educational institutions existed primarily to prepare young men for the clergy or other professional careers. Emphasis was placed upon the classical studies, especially Greek and Latin. When fraternities came along, it was natural for them to draw on those teachings. Literary exercises were a common part of all chapter meetings, where the presentation of essays and debates was customary. At first, meetings were held in rented rooms but soon the chapters acquired halls which they furnished as club rooms.

As more and more men entered college, curricula expanded and many colleges became universities. The church relationship with schools weakened and, in many cases, ceased altogether. New institutions and state-supported institutions grew to fulfill the need for mass education. As the chapters grew larger, they found it possible and desirable to provide living quarters. Soon the fraternity house became a common site in college towns. Fraternities which lacked sufficient leadership soon passed out of existence. Those which were well-organized expanded at a rapid rate and encouraged the formation of new fraternities. The Greek system entered into the 20th Century with the realization of the importance of interfraternity endeavors. An intersorority conference (the forerunner of today’s National Panhellenic Conference) met in Chicago in 1902 and the National Interfraternity Conference first convened in New York City in 1909.

World War I was fought to “make the world safe for democracy.” Following the war, rapid fraternity expansion characterized collegiate life in the 1920s. The Great Depression caused many fraternities to disappear or merge in the 1930s, and World War II found many more chapters temporarily closed - entire memberships were drafted or volunteered - and many of their houses used by the government for military housing. The end of the fraternity system was feared by some and predicted by many.

With peace in 1945, men flocked to the campuses to resume their studies and to resume fraternity life as well. Matured by the war, they had a serious attitude towards studies, an impatience with juvenile hazing practices, and an openness to consider some social changes, facing up to and beginning to resolve discriminatory inequities. The growth of the huge, impersonal education complex resulted in an increased need for fraternities and their personal contact and relationships within a smaller group.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s students challenged all that was traditional. Fraternities, highly visible and identifiable, were considered to be part of the “establishment” and not germane to the era. The Greek system responded, after a

period of difficulty, by reexamining itself, reaffirming principles and purposes, and realigning priorities and programs. Students responded by recognizing fraternities as a means for personal development and achievement.

As colleges increased in number and enrollment, new fraternities were needed and many were established in the United States and Canada. Hundreds of local societies had sprung up and there were not enough national organizations to absorb them. This condition brought about the formation of more general fraternities.

Fraternities have undergone many changes in details of organization since their inception. Originally, they consisted of independent chapters, loosely bound by common principles and a common name. Today they have become thoroughly organized national and, in some cases, international institutions. Most maintain full-time staffs which operate out of headquarters offices.

Today fraternities are expanding and most colleges and universities now permit national fraternities to organize on their campuses. There is constant improvement in the cooperation between fraternities and college administrations. Local interfraternity councils are becoming more effective, and most national fraternities are instituting programs that aid materially in the development of their members. More benefits are being derived from fraternity membership than ever before. We look forward to an era of continued growth and prosperity for the American college fraternity system, the world's greatest youth movement.

U.S. PRESIDENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF GENERAL FRATERNITIES

James K. Polk	Kappa Alpha Society
Ulysses S. Grant	Delta Phi
Rutherford B. Hayes	Delta Kappa Epsilon
James A. Garfield	Delta Upsilon
Chester A. Arthur	Psi Upsilon
Grover Cleveland	Sigma Chi
Benjamin Harrison	Phi Delta Theta and Delta Chi*
William McKinley	Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Theodore Roosevelt	Alpha Delta Phi & Delta Kappa Epsilon*
William Howard Taft	Acacia & Psi Upsilon*
Woodrow Wilson	Phi Kappa Psi
Calvin Coolidge	Phi Gamma Delta
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Alpha Delta Phi
Harry S. Truman	Lambda Chi Alpha
Dwight D. Eisenhower	Tau Epsilon Phi
John F. Kennedy	Phi Kappa Theta
Gerald R. Ford	Delta Kappa Epsilon
Ronald Reagan	Tau Kappa Epsilon
George H. W. Bush	Delta Kappa Epsilon
George W. Bush	Delta Kappa Epsilon

*Although no longer possible to belong to more than one general college fraternity, an individual in previous times could hold dual membership under certain circumstances.

Former President Ronald W. Reagan addressed the National Interfraternity Conference 75th Anniversary Banquet with this filmed message: “Your organization and the college and university fraternities you represent have good reasons to be proud of your many achievements. We cannot reach confidently for the future without responsible leadership, educational achievement, and firm grasp on traditional values...

“By making sure that the fraternity system remains a positive influence on our college and university campuses, you’re helping America meet the great challenges that lie ahead.”

President Reagan was presented the NIC’s Gold Medal at a 1984 White House luncheon.

NOMENCLATURE

Nomenclature is a sophisticated term referring to the set of symbols by which an organization is named. The name of a fraternity is usually composed of two or three Greek letters (e.g., Theta Xi, Kappa Sigma Kappa). These letters commonly represent a motto which, in most instances, is unknown to all but members and which indicates, in a short form, the purpose and aims of the organization.

The branches and groups situated at the various colleges and universities are, with few exceptions, called chapters. Chapters receive individual names, sometimes from the Greek alphabet in order of their establishment (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, etc.) and sometimes without apparent order (Beta, Gamma Iota, Delta Delta, etc.), in which case the chapter letter is generally the initial of some word peculiar to the college or a motto adopted by the chapter. Sometimes they are named for the host institution (Union Chapter) or for the college town (Middletown Chapter). Several fraternities have adopted the state system, naming the first chapter established in each state Alpha, and so forth (New York-Beta, etc.).

FRATERNITY LANGUAGE

DON'T SAY "FRAT" - "Frat" is an abbreviation which is simply not appropriate. It is generally used as an expression of contempt when used with regard to high school and non-collegiate societies. It should never appear in the vocabulary of a college fraternity man. When speaking about a college fraternity, say "fraternity".

WHEN TO USE ALUMNUS AND ALUMNI - An alumnus is a male graduate, or former student. Alumni is the plural of alumnus. The feminine form is alumna (singular) and alumnae (plural). Great care and precision should be employed by fraternity men in using these terms appropriately.

GENERAL FRATERNITY - A General Fraternity is one which does not appeal to a special interest group. Theta Xi may be properly described as a General Fraternity.

OPENING AND CLOSING LETTERS - The proper salutation is "Dear Brother", when writing between Fraternity Brothers. The proper fraternal close between initiated members, is "Yours in the Bonds" and between members of other fraternities, "Fraternally", "Fraternally yours."

ASSOCIATE MEMBER - An associate member is a prospective member of your chapter who has taken the vows required in the formal Associate Member Ceremony.

INITIATE - An initiate is an initiated member, one who has received the Ceremony of Initiation.

UNDERGRADUATES - Members of the present collegiate chapter are called undergraduates or "undergraduate members."

GRADUATES - Members of the chapter or any chapter who have graduated or left college are known as graduate members or alumni.

CHAPTER - A chapter is an organization, a house is the chapter's residence. It is incorrect to call the chapter (organization) a house.

INITIATION - The preferred term used to describe the Fraternity's ritual ceremony of induction of associate members into chapter membership.

DON'T SAY NATIONAL(S)- The Fraternity is made up of all members. When talking about the "National" be sure to clarify whom you are talking about. Is it Headquarters Staff, Grand Lodge, the National Convention, or Regional Conference? If so, use their proper designation. "National(s)" if it means anything, would reference all members. By the way, national is singular, not plural and is an adjective, not a noun.

On a side note, a national fraternity should not be confused with an international fraternity. A national fraternity is one that has chapters within the United States. An international fraternity is one that has chapters both in Canada and in the United States.

INTERFRATERNAL ACRONYMS

IFC	Interfraternity Council
NIC	North-American Interfraternity Conference
NPC	National Panhellenic Conference
NPHC	National Pan-Hellenic Council
FEA	Fraternity Executives Association
FIPG	founded as Fraternity Insurance Purchasing Group, now FIPG, Inc.
AFA	Association of Fraternity Advisors
NASPA	National Association of Student Personnel Administrators

COLLEGE FRATERNITIES

<u>Founding Year</u>	<u>Fraternity</u>	<u>Location of Founding Chapter</u>
1824	Chi Phi	Princeton
1825	Kappa Alpha Society	Union
1827	Delta Phi	Union
	Sigma Phi	Union
1832	Alpha Delta Phi	Hamilton
1833	Psi Upsilon	Union
1834	Delta Upsilon	Williams
1839	Beta Theta Pi	Miami-Ohio
1841	Chi Psi	Union
1844	Delta Kappa Epsilon	Yale
1845	Alpha Sigma Phi	Yale
1847	Delta Psi	Columbia
	Theta Delta Chi	Union
	Zeta Psi	N.Y.U.
1848	Phi Delta Theta	Miami-Ohio
	Phi Gamma Delta	Washington & Jefferson
1850	Phi Kappa Sigma	Pennsylvania
1852	Phi Kappa Psi	Washington & Jefferson
1855	Sigma Chi	Miami-Ohio
1856	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	U. of Alabama
	Theta Chi	Norwich
1858	Delta Tau Delta	Bethany
1864	THETA XI	Rensselaer
1865	Alpha Tau Omega	V.M.I.
	Kappa Alpha Order	Washington & Lee U.
1868	Pi Kappa Alpha	U. of Virginia
1869	Kappa Sigma	U. of Virginia
	Sigma Nu	V.M.I.
1873	Phi Sigma Kappa	U. of Massachusetts
1889	Phi Kappa Theta	Brown
1890	Delta Chi	Cornell
1895	Alpha Chi Rho	Trinity
	Delta Sigma Phi	C.U.N.Y.
	Pi Lambda Phi	Yale
1897	Sigma Pi	Vincennes
1898	Zeta Beta Tau	New York City
1899	Tau Kappa Epsilon	Illinois Wesleyan U.
1901	Sigma Phi Epsilon	U. of Richmond
1904	Acacia	Michigan
	Alpha Gamma Rho	Ohio State U.
	Pi Kappa Phi	U. of Charleston, South Carolina

1905	Phi Kappa Tau Farmhouse Kappa Delta Rho	Miami-Ohio Missouri Middleburg
1906	Alpha Phi Alpha	Cornell
1907	Triangle	U. of Illinois
1909	Lambda Chi Alpha Sigma Alpha Mu	Boston U. C.U.N.Y.
1910	Tau Epsilon Phi	Columbia
1911	Kappa Alpha Psi Omega Psi Phi	Indiana U. Howard U.
1913	Alpha Epsilon Pi	N.Y.U.
1914	Alpha Kappa Lambda Phi Beta Sigma Alpha Phi Delta	U. of California, Berkeley Howard U. Syracuse U.
1918	Phi Mu Delta	U. of Connecticut
1920	Sigma Tau Gamma	Cent. Missouri State College
1922	Alpha Gamma Sigma	Ohio State U.
1924	Alpha Delta Gamma	Loyola U., Chicago
1925	Beta Sigma Psi Phi Lambda Chi	U. of Illinois Arkansas STC
1943	Sigma Beta Kappa	St. Bernard's-Alabama
1967	Sigma Gamma Chi	U. of Utah

INTERFRATERNITY ORGANIZATIONS

NORTH-AMERICAN INTERFRATERNITY CONFERENCE

The National Interfraternity Conference (NIC), an association of men's general national and international college fraternities, was founded in New York City on November 27, 1909. Several efforts to coordinate the activities of men's fraternities had taken place earlier, but the meeting called in New York by Dr. W.H.P. Faunce, president of Brown University, finally achieved the formation of a national association. Theta Xi is a senior member of the Conference, having been admitted to membership in 1911. In 1999, the Conference changed its name to the North-American Interfraternity Conference to better reflect its membership.

Annual meetings of the NIC are held in late November or early December and each member fraternity is represented by one delegate and one alternate. The conference provides a forum for the discussion of fraternity concerns and is a reservoir of informed opinion regarding fraternity operations and policies. It is a vehicle for joint action in protecting and promoting fraternity interests, and is an important instrument for developing cooperation among fraternities and their host institutions.

The Conference regularly publishes minutes of general meetings and meetings of its Board of Directors. In 1934, the Conference adopted the “Fraternity Criteria”, which was revised in 1981, and is reproduced in the appendices. These criteria represent the NIC’s declaration of principles and its method of providing for closer cooperation between fraternities and educational institutions.

Two members of Theta Xi have served as President of the NIC. William J. Barnes, Gamma 318, was President in 1950; and Z. L. Loflin, Alpha Alpha 112, held the office in 1969.

OTHER INTERFRATERNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Two additional interfraternity groups work in close cooperation with the NIC. The oldest is the College Fraternity Editors Association (CFEA), which first met in 1883, and was officially recognized in 1923. Harold P. Davison, Iota 149, served as CFEA Chairman in 1950-51. The second group is the Fraternity Executives Association (FEA), which was founded in 1930. Brother Davison served as President of FEA in 1948-49 and Brother James E. Vredenburg, Jr., Beta Omega 11, served as President in 1993-94.

The goals of the NIC are met on campus by local interfraternity councils. It is traditional for Theta Xi men to make their talents available to their local interfraternity systems. We are partners with every fraternity. Just as our brotherhood is larger than any one Brother, interfraternity brotherhood is larger than the individual Fraternity within the NIC.

In the spirit of addressing areas and topics of mutual concern, various pertinent statements of the NIC and the FEA are included in the appendices.