

An Opportunity to Give Back

by Joe Wachs (Delta Kappa/Ball State '98), Director of Chapter Services

Throughout my tenure on staff, I have had the opportunity to interact with many of our alumnus members in Theta Chi Fraternity. Many of them ask how this chapter is doing, or how this expansion effort is going? Many of them express an interest to get involved; wanting to get many of the same experiences they felt as undergraduate members.

There are so many ways for our alumnus members to get involved, whether it is on the local or national level. However, I wanted to focus on one particular role for this "Volunteer Corner;" the Regional Counselor position. Our Regional Counselors are those men who serve as a localized resource for our undergraduate members. They attend chapter meetings, facilitate workshops and retreats, or simply lend a listening ear. Needless to say, the role of Regional Counselor is one that requires knowledge on a wide variety of topics within the Fraternity.

On June 22–23, 2001, seven recently appointed Regional Counselors traveled to Indianapolis and met at the International Headquarters for a Regional Counselor Training Workshop sponsored by the Regional Plan Committee. Our



guests that weekend were Al Aldrich (Alpha Omicron/Washington State '76), Tim Miller (Eta Kappa/James Madison '96), Dan Wheeler (Theta Epsilon/Kennesaw State '98), Brian Yochum (Eta Tau/CSU-Stanislaus '96), Doug Rentko (Epsilon Psi/NJIT '98), Sean Kelly

(Nu/Hampden-Sydney '99), and Brett Wagner (Beta Lambda/Akron '98).

With an outstanding curriculum prepared by Great Lakes Regional Director Brit Rowe (Zeta Kappa/Ohio Northern '93) and the rest of the Regional Plan Committee, these new counselors were able to meet and interact with one another, while learning how to make a positive impact as Regional Counselors.

Our Leadership and Education Consultant Staff kicked off the weekend with a lively session on how to facilitate effective team-building activities with chapter members. Scott Thomas (Delta Kappa/Ball State '97), Director of Leadership Development, facilitated an interactive "quiz" over our National By-Laws; and Joe Wachs (Delta Kappa/Ball State '98), Director of Chapter Services, rounded out the first evening with 'The Big Seven: Questions every chapter will ask.'

Dave Westol (Beta Zeta/Michigan State '73), Executive Director, CAE, began Saturday morning with his 'Theta Chi 101' presentation and a question and answer period. Andrea Eickhoff, Director of LEAD, delivered a very informative discussion on the LEAD Program. Andy Robison (Delta Pi/Indiana State '90) had a dual role in



Executive Director Dave Westol (Beta Zeta/Michigan State '73), standing, shared many items of information about our Fraternity with new Regional Counselors in his 'Theta Chi 101' presentation.



Newly appointed Regional Counselors and facilitators, outside the International Headquarters at a Regional Counselor Training Workshop. From left, they are Tim Miller (Eta Kappa/James Madison '96), Sean Kelly (Nu/Hampden-Sydney '99), Brian Yochum (Eta Tau/CSU-Stanislaus '96), Brett Wagner (Beta Lambda/Akron '98), Dan Wheeler (Theta Epsilon/Kennesaw State '98), Al Aldrich (Alpha Omicron/Washington State '76), Doug Rentko (Epsilon Psi/NJIT '98), and facilitator, Ty Humpert (Theta Tau/Western Michigan '97).

discussing facilitation and confrontation skills. Ty Humpert (Theta Tau/Western Michigan '97) provided the group with a high-energy session on leadership skills. Other topics covered were Chapter Advisory Boards, goal setting, and chapter scenarios.

This was definitely a great opportunity for our newly appointed Counselors to learn more about their duties. However, this is just the beginning. They join an already experienced staff of more than 50 dedicated brothers who serve our Fraternity as Regional Counselors in our eight separate regions. We need more. We will continue to seek out those talented individuals who want to take the opportunity to give back to the Fraternity that gave so much to them. We will continue to hold annual workshops in Indianapolis such as the one discussed above to better prepare our volunteers for their responsibilities. We will continue to see a marked difference in our chapters that are visited by these dedicated brothers. We will continue to become better because of Theta Chi.

If you would like more information on serving as a Regional Counselor, please contact Joe Wachs, Director of Chapter Services at 317-824-1881 or via e-mail at joe@thetachi.org.

REGIONAL COUNSELORS

NORTHEAST

Regional Director
Dick Doyon
Counselors
Chuck Flanders
Rich Partridge
Jim Scott

MID-ATLANTIC

Regional Director
Scott Hendriks
Counselors
Mark Ellenberger
Tim O'Brien
Doug Rentko

ATLANTIC

Regional Director
Christian Chace
Counselors
Rich Eagles
Tim Miller

SOUTHEAST

Regional Director
Randy Harrington
Counselors
Sean Kelly
Jeff Perkins
Bill Thomas
Dan Wheeler

GREAT LAKES

Regional Director
Brit Rowe

Counselors
Darick Brown
Gene Clark
Jim Grissinger
Brad Justus
Brian Lambert
Terry Landes
Brett Peters
David Sprague
Stan Sweeney
Brett Wagner
Daniel White
Michael Wieting

PLAINS

Regional Director
Royce Keehr
Counselors
Doug Allen
Robert Carroll
Greg Dinehart
Wade Lancaster
Mike Smoots
Dennis Vonasek

SOUTHWEST

Regional Director
Allen Carter
Counselors
Zach Baitinger
Blair Dickens
Clarence Frank
Don Hawkins
Mark Thrash
Chad Williams

WEST

Regional Director
Kelly Willis
Counselors
Allen Aldrich
Tony Givargis
Bryan Holcomb
Trent Mostaert
Jon Smith
Thomas Roberts
Brian Yochum

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE

Paul Norstrom,
Chairman
Rich Partridge,
Co-Chairman
Dick Doyon
Scott Hendriks
Christian Chace
Randy Harrington
Brit Rowe
Royce Keehr
Allen Carter
Kelly Willis
Joe Wachs
Amber Ray