



Theta Chi for Life

By Brian K. Hall (Theta Eta/Sam Houston State University '88), National Vice President

“Would you consider volunteering for Theta Chi Fraternity?”

I first heard that simple question more than 14 years ago at our convention in Dallas, Texas. Thank you for asking me, Brother Warren Hoffman!

As I serve in my 8th and final year on the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, I would like to share the significance of this question, along with that of another simple, yet important question.

I'm speaking of the question: “Would you like to join Theta Chi Fraternity?” There are at least 137 college and university campuses in the United States and Canada where this question must be asked often by our undergraduate members of their friends and peers.

As an alumnus brother, I'll repeat it again here. “Would you like to join Theta Chi Fraternity?” You see, recruitment continues to be the very lifeblood of our Fraternity. This apparent need to replace ourselves as members held true in the past, and it most certainly holds true as a key for success today and in the future.

The setting for the question to me about first joining Theta Chi was similar to the circumstances when I was asked by Brother Hoffman to volunteer my time as an alumnus member. First, the question to join came from a friend, Steven Schorr. We played on the same flag football team, lived in the same dorm, and had lunch together several times per week. One day, Steve said: “would you consider joining our efforts to start a chapter of Theta Chi, here at Sam Houston State?” Soon after that, I found myself sharing in the workload, challenges, and fun that are all potentially part of the Theta Chi Fraternity experience in college. As I look back on those days, I remember being proud of belonging to something that I trusted and had ownership in. That really made the difference for me.

“Why would you ever say yes to more work?”

As young college students, most of us were overwhelmed by the simple thought of being away from home. Yet it was this same experience that lured us into wanting to try new challenges. Here was our chance to grow as an individual. As we learned more about the many options available, we found the Fraternity to be a great place to grow and learn...and eventually inspire others. We learned to share most of the workload with others, yet there were still plenty of opportunities for us to take a leadership role, further challenging ourselves. The choice was ours to make, and that was most powerful. The rewards became the friendships, the memories, the failures and the triumphs.

“Is it possible to ever recapture those feelings again?”

As an alumnus member of Theta Chi, you may find yourself in a role that combines the demands of being a parent, husband, corporate citizen, or community leader. However, there is a part of you that yearns for the opportunity to give something back to the Fraternity. Here's your opportunity to consider filling a local need within your area of expertise and knowledge. Or you can provide your local chapter with some financial advice. Maybe you can get involved with your local alumni group or be a guest speaker at an upcoming chapter event. Whatever the situation, the yearning in your life can be filled by volunteering for Theta Chi.

Because you've joined this great Fraternity, what makes you stay involved? If you think about it, you probably have more reasons than fingers when you add up all the reasons.'

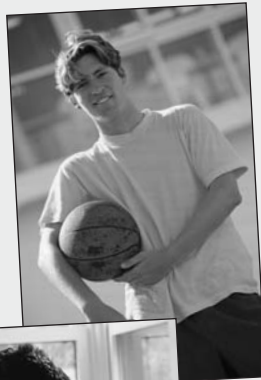
Remember how you felt as an undergraduate member, when you realized that you were an integral part of your chapter? You were missed when you were not there. You were praised when you did the little things. You learned that deep friendships grow out of acquaintances. You found that you were

not afraid to demand the best of yourself and others. You grew to love those around you, and your brothers felt the same about you. You found pride in representing your university. You might have driven all night to attend a conference 500 miles away just to meet new brothers. Remember when you first realized that there were hundreds of Theta Chi brothers just like you? It was likely overwhelming to discover that you belonged to something much bigger than you ever imagined. Shouldn't young men on college campuses today have the same opportunity to experience those feelings? I think they do, and I hope you agree with me.

When you think about it, volunteering as an alumnus for Theta Chi Fraternity is similar in many ways to first joining Theta Chi Fraternity...only better. As an alumnus member, you enjoy in a different way the feeling you get when you run into a brother and friend you haven't seen in a while. You immediately break into a conversation about the time “back when...” You jokingly recall that spring break trip you took. You give thanks again for their attendance in your wedding. These are just a few of

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Norwich Housing Corporation



Today's student can't live in yesterday's fraternity house.

the "moments in life" that help you to remember how real are the priceless experiences of being a member of Theta Chi. There are a world of activities, weddings, trips, memories, and maybe terrific moments with your son that await you as a volunteer for Theta Chi.

Our great Fraternity is built on a solid foundation of friendships derived from the very commitment of those who chose to serve. These were the first steps laid out in 1856 by Frederick Norton Freeman and Arthur Chase. I'm certain that they enjoyed many challenges and triumphs along their journey. The good news is they, and we, were followed by countless other men and women who have helped to make Theta Chi Fraternity a way of life for many. Their hard work and dedication as undergraduates and alums continue to pave the way to the future.

The great news is that we are currently surrounded by thousands of potential members and volunteers who want to be "Better Because of Theta Chi." To one extent or another, they are willing to share their time, energy, and desire to give something back to Theta Chi. They all just need to be asked a very simple question. "Will you consider joining with me and becoming a volunteer for Theta Chi Fraternity?" Brother Hoffman asked me, and now, it is a great pleasure to ask you the same question.

It has been an honor to serve on the Grand Chapter, and most recently as your National Vice President! I look forward to serving you in my next role! ■

Our Fraternity houses are aging. Our undergraduate Brothers remain the same age but their expectations are higher. The Norwich Housing Corporation's mission is to assist in the acquisition and renovation of viable housing for our undergraduate chapters. We have low interest rate loans available for life safety improvements such as fire sprinklers and alarms; as well as mortgage loans to assist alumni corporations in improving the housing situations of their respective undergraduate chapters. The Officers and Directors of NHC stand ready to assist in any way needed. Working together, we can meet the needs of today's student and improve our ability to compete in today's college marketplace. For more information, or to request a loan application, please contact Jim Powell, Director of Financial Operations, at

(317) 824-1881 or by e-mail
at jpowell@thetachi.org.



The Norwich Housing Corporation is comprised of five alumnus members of Theta Chi Fraternity. Presently serving are James Thompson, President; Dale Taylor, Vice President; Doug Schemenauer, Secretary; Lindsay Olsen, Treasurer; and Pat O'Connor, Counselor.