



# Many Ways to Extend “The Helping Hand”

By Dana K. Richardson (Delta Psi/Kansas), National Counselor

**A**s we begin to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Theta Chi Fraternity’s founding, it is appropriate to reflect upon the many alumni who, over our history, have volunteered their time and talent. The actions of these brothers have helped our undergraduate chapters prosper, thus insuring Theta Chi Fraternity’s growth, and, in one specific case, its survival.

For example, when we joined Theta Chi, many of us learned of Egbert Phelps, who, though he transferred from Norwich University to Union College, still counseled Frederick Freeman and Arthur Chase in developing the Fraternity. Professor Charles Dole (Alpha/Norwich 1869), was on the faculty at Norwich in the fall of 1881 when Theta Chi was down to one lone undergraduate, James M. Holland (Alpha ’83). Brother Dole gathered local alumni and helped James Holland initiate Phil S. Randall & Henry B. Hersey on November 19, 1881, thereby keeping our Fraternity alive. George W. Chapman (Omega/Pennsylvania State ’32) was the first Regional Counselor for the Fraternity, prior to a distinguished career as Executive Director for Theta Chi. These men, and many others, lived and continue to live up to the motto of our Fraternity and extended the “Helping Hand” to our undergraduate and alumnus brothers

Working towards the next 150 years of Theta Chi Fraternity, there are many ways for alumnus members to volunteer at both the local and National level of involvement. All of the following positions are important to the well-being of our Fraternity, and serving in any one or more of them provides a great deal of personal satisfaction.

In addition to the more formal roles mentioned above, there are other ways to be involved. If you have a specific skill or talent

**Chapter Advisor**  
Provides advice to a local Theta Chi undergraduate chapter; attending 1–2 chapter meetings a month.

**Chapter Advisory Board (CAB)**  
Members of a CAB act as mentors for a specific undergraduate chapter office or function (example: advisor to Treasurer). Being on a CAB would require a few hours per semester, especially during officer transitions.

**Chapter Building Corporations**  
Members handle housing issues for a local undergraduate chapter. This position is elected annually from alumni of that chapter.

**Alumni Chapter Coordinator**  
Manage local alumni chapter planning social activities and events. The time commitment would be 1–2 hours/month.

**Facilitator**  
Helps teach at Regional and National undergraduate leadership conferences. Time requirement is event-specific, but usually 1–2 days/year.

**Regional Counselor**  
Assists undergraduates and alumni for assigned chapters in his region, and would also interact with school administration. We are seeking brothers who have been out of school for a minimum of 2 years and can spare 2–3 hours/month minimum.

that would benefit the Fraternity, we would like to hear from you. For example: can you only spare one afternoon a year to help staff a Career Day at a chapter? We would welcome that level of participation.

While we will always be working to recruit alumnus brothers to help our undergraduate members, Theta Chi is also renewing its focus on its general alumni membership. Recently an Alumni Committee was established by the Grand Chapter. One of the goals of this committee is to take the concept of “Theta Chi for Life” to the next level by developing various programs

for our alumni members at large, our younger alumni, our extended Theta Chi family, and in other capacities. As this moves forward, new opportunities to get involved will be identified.

All alumni interested in serving Theta Chi in a volunteer capacity are encouraged to contact Joe Wachs, the Fraternity’s Director of Chapter Services ([joe@thetachi.org](mailto:joe@thetachi.org)/317-824-1881), for more information.

I believe that my personal decision to volunteer for Theta Chi was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Now, with the support of my wife, I continue to enjoy many opportunities to

*I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of Temperance and Tolerance, extols virtue, exacts harmony, and extends a helping hand to my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and serving my God, my country and my fellow man.*



The first recipients of the George T. Kilavos National Service Award, which honors 20 or more years of volunteer service to Theta Chi Fraternity, were recognized at Convention 2004, in Phoenix, Arizona. Accepting their awards from Paul Norstrem (National President, back row, left), and Dana Richardson (National Counselor, back row, right) are (front row, from left): William H. Thomas (Alpha Phi/Alabama '63), Richard S. Doyon (Gamma/Maine '79), and Joseph R. D'Amore (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg '77). Dale Taylor (past National President and current President of the Norwich Housing Corporation, back row, middle), accepted the Kilavos Award on behalf of his Alpha Phi chapter brother, Fulton S. Hamilton ('72).

give back to the Fraternity for all it has done in my life. Without a doubt, the genuine friendships I've made along the way have made it worthwhile.

If you feel like me, and believe that Theta Chi has made a difference in helping you become the man that you are today, please consider taking up the charge and volunteer. Remember there are many ways to extend the "Helping Hand!" If you'd like to discuss your ideas further, please drop me an email ([dana.richardson@mchsi.com](mailto:dana.richardson@mchsi.com)) or call at 800-331-9857, x 22731. ■

THETA CHI FRATERNITY  
*...COMING HOME*  
 the 150th - 2006  
 ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION  
*there is no future without history and promise*  
*cc cummings*

*nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place of culture and a builder of character. It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, hand to all who seek it. I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby*