



# A Simple “Charge” For A Monumental Task

By Allan J. Calarco (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg '78)

**I**t all began late in 1999, with a short conversation with then-National President, Jim McEachern (Beta Psi/Presbyterian '82), and Executive Director, Dave Westol (Beta Zeta/Michigan State '73). They asked if I would be interested in “chairing” the 150th Anniversary Convention to be celebrated in 2006. Our goal, they stated, “was to go back to Norwich, and make the event memorable for everyone”!

During my 20+ years of volunteer work with our Fraternity...I have seen all the photographs and read the articles concerning the 75th, and 100th Anniversary celebrations, both conducted on campus at Norwich University. While flattered for being offered such a wonderful opportunity to give something back to Theta Chi, I wanted to be sure I could do it. I watched the videotapes from the previous Anniversary conventions, and read *The Rattle* articles concerning the events. If you see the old photos throughout the International Headquarters, and watch the videotapes of those celebrations, I knew the bar was set very high. There was so

*There is no future  
without history and  
promise.*

*-c.c. cummings*

much to do. With these tools in hand, I decided to see this as a truly wonderful opportunity...a gift. It will only happen once, and I wanted to be a part of it!

My first responsibility was to organize and offer a plan. I was to suggest a theme, work on publicity, look at all the time lines and opportunities, seek volunteers to chair the various sub-groups, and offer a proposed budget for the event. We were then 6 years away from the event...with plenty of time for planning. I am fortunate in that the Grand Chapter gave me full authority to personally recruit volunteers

for the core committee, and sub-groups. Seldom in our lives, whether at work, personally, or as a volunteer, do we get to select ALL the participants for a particular project. I am fortunate, in that Norwich University (Theta Chi Fraternity's Alma Mater), is welcoming us back to the campus for this mutually-historic event with open arms. I am fortunate that every single person I asked to help... said “YES”! I am fortunate because they are showing tremendous initiative and creativity in what they are planning and recommending.

We are now about one year from the event and it is taking shape nicely. While we will have all the usual Convention Business to manage during the program, clearly this Sesquicentennial Anniversary from June 8th to 11th, 2006, will be a celebration of our Fraternity. It will be the absolute best we have to offer!

The Core Committee is comprised of individuals representing 31 chapters in our Fraternity. My goal was to have as large a cross section of Theta Chi as possible represented on the com-



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mittee. Given all those who have volunteered, we have succeeded in this goal. Members and their areas of responsibility are as follows:

Scott Thomas (Delta Kappa/Ball State '97), Assistant to the Convention Chairman

- Dave Westol, Awards and Recognitions
- Dana Richardson (Delta Psi/Kansas '83), Grand Chapter Liaison
- Mike Maloney (Delta Upsilon/Arizona State '87), Leadership and Education [Committee] Liaison
- Jim Powell (Delta Pi/Indiana State '81), Financial Advisor
- El Ahlwardt (Gamma Rho/Florida State '73), Norwich University/Campus Liaison
- Wes Wicker (Alpha Phi/Alabama '79), Keynote Speakers
- Jim Hosterman (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg '86), Logistics
- Nick Collins (Alpha/Norwich '55), Special Consultant
- Deb Minney, International Headquarters, Administrative Support
- Doug Allen (Delta Beta/Georgia '90), Archive & Historical Subcommittee, Co-Chair
- Dennis Vonasek (Phi/North Dakota State '87), Archive & Historical Subcommittee, Co-Chair
- Joe D'Amore (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg '77), Ritual Exemplification Subcommittee, Co-Chair
- Dick Doyon (Gamma/Maine '79), Ritual Exemplification Subcommittee, Co-Chair
- Jim Hardwick (Phi/North Dakota State '87), 150 Significant Contributors Subcommittee, Co-Chair

- Mike Elston (Gamma Tau/Drake '91), 150 Significant Contributors Subcommittee, Co-Chair

The Core Committee has several Subcommittees, to address several aspects that are quite worthy of emphasis for this unique event in the history of Theta Chi. Those subcommittees, and what they will do, are as follows:

- Archives & Historical Significance: charged with the infusion of historically significant events and artifacts, and the inclusion of our Fraternity history in this celebration
- Ritual Exemplification: charged with the exemplification of our Ritual in all convention-related events
- 150 Significant Contributors (Perpetuating Our Ideals): charged with the selection of 150 individuals who have contributed to the success of our Fraternity, thereby, perpetuating of our ideals

In particular I would love to hear from any alumnus members who attended the previous celebrations at Norwich. We are organizing a "museum of Fraternity memorabilia," and welcome any contributions to this exhibit. Maybe you have some photos, some memories you care to share.

So in about one year, Theta Chi will become part of a special group of Greek Letter societies celebrating 150 years of existence. While I know that the committee will do what it can to provide an event that is both memorable and celebrative, we clearly won't succeed without you! *Think about joining us at Norwich...for a day or a weekend.*

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