

Deadlines for *The Compass*

Compass Reports for chapters, colonies and alumnae associations are due:

Fall November 20

Spring April 20

All other submissions to *The Compass* are accepted at any time of year, such as "Between Sisters" and feature article ideas. Please e-mail all *Compass Reports* and other submissions to the National Office at TPAReports@aol.com.

Director of Publication

Renée Gravois Lee, BE

Assistant Editor and Chapter/Alumnae Reports Editor

Heather Duckett Schattberg, AT

Art Direction and Design

Jessie Ryszczyn, FH

Contributors

Susan Pisano Lindeman, Σ

Jennifer Lando, AE

Betsy Kovacs, AN

Christine Misch Rhein, AN

Kristin Windeshausen Henkenius, AΠ

Karen Jenkins Rubican, AΣ

Kelly Watkins, AT

Beth Aceves Tomlinson, BE

Jennifer Mazza, BΣ

Maishia Gillman, FH

Darcy-Tell Morales, FH

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The Compass is dedicated to publishing educational material pertinent to the membership of Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity in collegiate chapters and alumnae associations, and as individual members.

Send to the National Office address changes, vital statistics, in memoriam and Fraternity business and correspondence:

Theta Phi Alpha National Office

27025 Knickerbocker Road

Bay Village, Ohio 44140-2300

ThetaPhiNO@aol.com

(877) THETA PH(I)

Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity is a national women's fraternity, founded in 1912 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and reveres as its Founders: Amelia McSweeney, Mildred Connely, May C. Ryan, Selma Gilday, Camilla Ryan Sutherland, Helen Ryan Quinlan, Katrina Caughey Ward, Dorothy Caughey Phalan, Otilia Leuchtweis O'Hara and Eva Stroh Bauer Everson.

The Grand Council of Theta Phi Alpha, 2002-2004

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Karen Jenkins Rubican, AΣ,

National First Vice President

Kristin Windeshausen Henkenius, AΠ,

National Second Vice President

Emily Del Negro Ciancio, BP,

National Executive Secretary

Katherine Prokupek Gaver, AΠ, National Treasurer

How You Can Support Theta Phi Alpha

The continued success of Theta Phi Alpha depends on YOU. Please consider giving of your time and talents. Financial contributions are also welcomed.

Volunteering is a great opportunity to help shape the future of the Fraternity and live your lifelong commitment to ΘΦΑ. Volunteer opportunities are available to fit all talents and interests. For more information, contact the National Office at ThetaPhiNO@aol.com or (877) THETA PH(I).

Paying your annual ΘΦΑ Alumnae Dues is another way to support Theta Phi Alpha. Your annual alumnae membership dues help to finance Fraternity operations, the National Office, and new and ongoing programs for collegians and alumnae. Mail your ΘΦΑ Alumnae Dues to ΘΦΑ National Office, 27025 Knickerbocker Road, Bay Village, Ohio, 44140-2300.



Founders' Day Proclamation 2004



Dear Sisters,

Happy Founders' Day! What an amazing time in the history of our Fraternity.

As I reflect back on this past year, the primary theme that keeps coming to mind is sisterhood. So often we are asked to define sisterhood, to explain why we stay involved as alumnae, or asked if being in a sorority is the same as "buying our friends." In trying to define sisterhood, I wanted to share my thoughts with you.

I once saw a t-shirt that read: "If being in a sorority is buying my friends, then it is the best investment that I have ever made." I think that this truly explains what being in a sorority is really about. I recently was asked by some of my pledge sisters, "why do you stay involved with the sorority?" I responded as I always do, "because I said that I would."

At our Initiations, each one of us, whether our Initiation occurred in the early 1900s or in the early 2000s, made promises to Theta Phi Alpha. We said that we understood that membership in Theta Phi Alpha is for a lifetime and not only during our college years. Our Founders, who we honor today, would hope that we truly live our ritual and stay committed to our fraternal ideals.

Living our sisterhood is truly the best part of being in a sorority. At some point, Theta Phi Alpha has given us special gifts. For some, it is lifelong friendships, some met their life partners because of their involvement with Theta Phi Alpha, and others may have enhanced their professional careers because of a sister who extended them an opportunity. Whatever the case may be, even if we don't think about it, Theta Phi Alpha has blessed many of us.

Each and every day, I share sisterhood with women from all over the world. Whether it is a note, a phone call, email, a late night instant message, or just spending time and enjoying one another, our Theta Phi Alpha sisterhood has truly blessed my life. My hope and wish for each of us, is that our beloved Fraternity continues through every one of our efforts, to provide an opportunity for women, young and old, to develop and truly live out our purpose in this world.

As we prepare for Convention 2004, we have much to celebrate. Because of volunteer efforts by collegians and alumnae, we have seen great growth in our Fraternity this past biennium. New chapters have been installed, alumnae associations have been established, and chapters have grown and developed. These and many other wonderful accomplishments are made a reality because of true sisterhood and because of belief in the ideals and values established by those ten young women in 1912. Today is a day of remembrance and celebration. Be proud to be a Theta Phi Alpha and do all that you can do to make a difference in the lives of those around you.

My hopes and prayers for you today are that the words of our creed and ritual remind you that we share a bond that transcends time and that our love for our beloved Fraternity will truly be "Ever Loyal, Ever Lasting."

Yours in the bonds of sisterhood,

Mari Ann Callais

Mari Ann Callais, AB
National President