



Theta Delta Chi's 178th Convention Recap

The 178th Annual Convention was held July 31 through August 2, 2025. It was hosted in Crawfordsville, Indiana, the home of Wabash College and the Upsilon Deuteron Charge.

Wabash College, a small liberal arts college in Indiana, is highly regarded for its rigorous academics and strong alumni network, often ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the Midwest. Its prestige stems from its focus on undergraduate education, leadership development, and a unique all-male student body, fostering a tight-knit community with a reputation for producing successful graduates.

Upsilon Deuteron was chartered on May 24, 1879. It later went dormant in 1882. The Charge returned on April 26, 1992, and has been continuously active since. While the Charge and College might have smaller numbers than other Charges in Theta Delta Chi, they have a history of punching above their weight class. The Charge has received over 30 awards since 1992. Including seven wins of the Charles P. Schmidt Loyalty Cup and three Victory Cups.

Many thought an in-person convention would not take place based on announcements made at the 177th Convention, yet it still came to fruition with the help of the Upsilon Deuteron undergraduates led by **Carter Bertsch '26**. The incredible hosts made the convention not only feasible but memorable. This allowed the Grand Lodge to align an alternating in-person and virtual Convention schedule with the even years to ensure the 180th would be an in-person event.

1st General Business Session

It all started with the 1st General Business Session on Thursday, July 31st, led by the **President of the Grand Lodge, Jim Leuck, Upsilon Deuteron '09**. After the formal opening by Brother **Greg Wagner, Epsilon '84, EMGL**, the Call of the Roll was done by Brother **Juan Alfaro, Xi Triton '18, GSGL**. Brother Leuck then designated Parliamentarian and Sergeant-at-Arms, Brother **Jason Dietz, Sigma Triton '20**, and **Corey Egler, Upsilon Deuteron 2015**, respectively. After the approval of the minutes and reports, Growth & Expansion was discussed. **Drew Johnson, Beta Deuteron '20**, is leading all re-colonizations and new expansion group initiatives. Please reach out with any referrals of names for our current groups or potential ones.

A proposal on a service fee increase was presented; this change to the legislation was voted on at the 2nd General Business Session. The following Certificates of Excellence were presented before the meeting closed:

Certificates of Excellence

Finance - Beta Deuteron
Risk Management - Beta Deuteron
Programming - Upsilon Deuteron
Inter-Charge Relations - Tau Tetraton
Campus Involvement - Alpha NME - Rho Triton
Hospitality - Sigma Deuteron
Social Media Marketing - Mu Triton
Leadership - Sigma Deuteron
Recruitment - Tau Triton

Opening Reception at Plaza Lanes

Following the business session, it was off to the lanes. Brothers enjoyed bowling and pizza as they renewed in union their social joys. The welcome event was packed with Theta Delts enjoying the evening after a long day of travel.



Friday Minerva Sessions

On Friday, August 1st, the undergraduates and full-registrants took to the water and canoed on Sugar Creek. Pairs of paddlers traversed the creek, allowing members to practice both navigation and teamwork. The previous day's rain left everyone with the perfect cool weather and high water levels for a great day on the water. The morning on the



water set the tone for the remainder of the day. After enjoying lunches on the waterfront, the group returned to campus for the second Theta Delta Chi Educational Foundation-funded Minerva Session, a dynamic discussion on Theta Delta Chi's Wellness Initiative, led by Charge Consultant **Nick Carter, Tau Triton '24, Carter Bertsch, Upsilon Deuteron '26, and Jacob Noonan, Beta Deuteron '27**. The issue of wellness, encompassing emotional, physical, and psychological aspects, is an issue confronting male college students in ever-increasing amounts.

Men often struggle with asking for help, and seeking out resources on our campuses can be a challenging task. Brothers Carter, Bertsch and Noonan conducted a year-long process of assembling a digital list of resources at all of our campuses focused on wellness. These resources are available to all Brothers on MyTDX.org. During the Wellness Minerva Session, these three brothers shared their personal wellness journeys with participants and then provided the resource documents for each Charge. The participants then role-played several different scenarios and discussed how they might approach brothers in distress to help them. This program was well-received by everyone present.

Omega Service

Afterwards, the Grand Lodge and attendees went to Pioneer Chapel on Campus to honor those who passed during the Annual Omega Service led by **Patrick Tiernan, Chi Triton '99**. Brother Tiernan is the current President of the Founders' Corporation and a several-time officiant of the service. An engaging and moving service stirred a sense of emotion as the Grand Lodge read the roll of those who entered the Omega Charge. **Jacob Noonan, Beta Deuteron '27**, played the Theta Delt songs *Love Cannot Die*, the *Invocation*, and the *Doxology* on piano for all who attended.



Friday Reception

Friday night culminated with a BBQ in Chadwick Court. The event had a special highlight coordinated by the **Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism**. Rapper **Sam the Sentient**, an artist from their Stars of the Spectrum program, performed a few songs about his experiences and a new tune that touched on the values and history of Theta Delta Chi. Undergraduates swarmed the stage in support of the gifted wordsmith. It was a symbol



of the great relationship Theta Delta Chi has with its philanthropic partner.

2nd General Business Session

Saturday, the final day of the Convention, kicked off with the 2nd General Business Session, which conducted the remaining business of the year and **the election of the 149th Grand Lodge**. The newest Grand Lodge roster is listed below. The Educational Foundation also elected two annual Directors. The legislation on the service fee proposal did pass on the floor during the 2nd General Business Session. It will be sent out no sooner than September 15th for ratification from the Charges. The legislation would adjust the current service fee amount from \$126/year to \$150/year starting in the Fall of 2026. The amount is typically billed in two installments due by October 15th and February 15th in the fall and spring, respectively. Theta Delta Chi and the Grand Lodge have always utilized all mechanisms possible to keep the fees of the organization affordable; however, there is a need to adjust the income to meet rising costs and the changing landscape. The Grand Lodge relies on Grants from the Educational Foundation and subsidies from the Founders' Corporation to maintain financial operations each year.

The Grand Lodge was required to cover insurance balances with financing, incurring additional costs that were not passed on to the Charges. This was directly due to Charges not meeting their financial obligations on time, particularly not

paying their insurance fees in full before the policy starts, and not ensuring initiation fees are paid prior to receiving the first degree of initiation.

The Charges on the floor examined the financials published in the delegate book and addressed the financial challenges at the International level. The Lodge kept all previous fiscal year expense lines below budget, with the exception of travel; however, income has been delayed or decreased from traditional projections. Other factors, such as rising costs, new expenses, and insurance, made this a critical time to implement the increase. The Grand Lodge does not have the ability to amend the service fee or any other legislative provision without a Convention vote and ratification from the Charges. This increase is critical to the financial future of the organization, as is the need for Charges to act in line with the values of Theta Delta Chi. Recruitment flourishes and risk is decreased when members embody the values in all moments and work together. A ballot for ratification will be sent to Charge Officers and Advisors later, along with additional background information to share with the Charge as they vote and submit their ballot. It is important to address the service fee proposal with the long-term vision and organizational success in mind.



Saturday Minerva Sessions

After the meeting closed and the Brothers had time to break bread together over brunch, the group participated in the remainder of the Educational Foundation-sponsored Minerva Sessions: the **Anti-Hazing Presentation and ΘΔΧ: Document Review**, which focused on the newly re-published Book of Rituals, policies, By-Laws, and Theta Delta Chi songs.

The Anti-Hazing Presentation, led by **Dr. Rick Wood, Gamma Triton '73**, explored two

centuries of data on hazing and discussed the social, political, and cultural context around each decade of data. Examining the data parlayed into a discussion of personal and organizational values, all focused on addressing hazing. The group also discussed the impact on individuals within the Charge and how to combat hazing.

The final Minerva Session allowed participants the opportunity to examine changes in the Book of Ritual and provided each Charge with a leatherbound portfolio containing the official Constitution and By-Laws of Theta Delta Chi, the updated and revised Book of Ritual, along with many of the official songs of the organization. A song practice was conducted along with a discussion of the lyrics. A set of expectations for the handling of the portfolio was also shared with all participants.

The PGL Reception & Grand Banquet

Then everyone prepared for the highlight of the weekend, the 178th Theta Delta Chi Annual Convention Grand Banquet was held at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, hosted by emcees **Corey Egler, Upsilon Deuteron '15** and **Patrick Tiernan**. The event celebrated the Fraternity's enduring brotherhood, leadership, and commitment to its core values, recognizing outstanding contributions from Charges and individual members through a series of prestigious awards, inspirational speeches, and traditional ceremonies.

The evening began with the introduction of the 149th Grand Lodge, led by **President Jim Leuck, Upsilon Deuteron '09** alongside **Graduate Treasurer Manuel Valdez, Mu Triton '21, Graduate Secretary Juan Alfaro, Xi Triton '17, Executive Members Greg Wagner, Epsilon '84 and Stephan Johnson, Gamma Deuteron '92 and Undergraduate Members at Large Nolan Klemesrud, Beta Deuteron '27 and Andrew Evans, Rho Proteron '27**. A moment of reflection featured an invocation led by **Patrick Tiernan**, followed by the singing of "O Canada" and "The Star-Spangled Banner," honoring the Fraternity's shared heritage. Past Presidents of the Grand Lodge, including **Don Laxton, Kappa Triton '77, Don Noveau, Beta '70, Richard Wood, Jason Dietz, Sigma Triton '01** and the current **President of the Grand Lodge, Jim Leuck**, were present and recognized for their service to the board.

The banquet highlighted Theta Delta Chi's commitment to philanthropy, with a fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the Educational Foundation, encouraged through donations via texting TDX178 to 41444.

Nick Carter introduced the Wellness Initiative, setting the stage for the evening's focus on service and community impact. He recognized three undergraduates from the Convention who submitted Wellness Tips for the Instagram series on Theta Delta Chi's page ([instagram.com/thetadeltachi](https://www.instagram.com/thetadeltachi)). Check out TDX on IG to see Wellness Tips on the stories and in the highlights. Two keynote speeches framed the event. **Nathaniel Dice, Upsilon Deuteron '27** delivered "**Brick by Brick**," inspiring attendees with a vision of incremental growth, while **Kyle O'Keefe, Upsilon Deuteron '08** spoke on "**Built by Brotherhood: Growing Beyond the Letters**," emphasizing the lifelong bonds of Theta Delta Chi. The awards segment celebrated exceptional achievements across multiple categories:

Awards

Glenn Marston Travel Cup

Awarded to **Beta Deuteron** for the highest collective miles traveled by undergraduate non-delegates, reflecting their dedication to attending the Convention.

Graduate Attendance Trophy

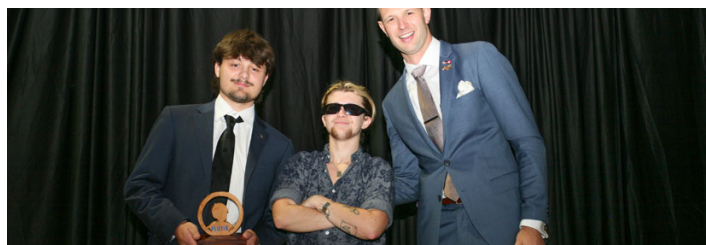
Upsilon Deuteron's alumni earned recognition for their strong presence, showcasing their enduring commitment.

Bruce R. Trefz Service and Philanthropy Cup

Tau Tetraton was honored for their impactful service, particularly their Flutie 5K, now a Johnson & Wales Homecoming event, and their work with individuals with disabilities.

Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism Awards

Taking Charge Award: Rho Triton for their innovative Spring Film Festival at VCU, a pioneering event in partnership with the Flutie Foundation.



Highest Fundraiser Award: Tau Tetraton for raising \$11,748, nearly a third of the national total, through events like Flutie 5K and Dodgebrawl.

Tried & True Award: Psi Tetraton for their consistent annual fundraising through Splashdown Week, demonstrating self-sufficiency.

Comeback Charge of the Year: Beta Deuteron for raising over \$8,000 via peer-to-peer fundraising, marking a strong return.

Dougie Award: Brandon Loubier (Tau Tetraton) for his leadership in autism advocacy and sustaining the Flutie 5K.

Charles P. Schmid Loyalty Cups
Epsilon Charge for the highest number of donors and Upsilon Deuteron for the highest percentage of donors to Voluntary Graduate Dues, supporting educational programs.

Douglas G. Southern Development Award
Doug Johnson, Epsilon Triton '89 for his leadership in boosting Educational Foundation donations.



Guy C. Pierce Improvement Cup
Rho Triton for doubling membership, raising their GPA to 3.2, and launching the Flutie Film Festival.

Dr. Richard E. Wood Ritual Improvement Cup
Tau Tetraton for improving their Record of Visitation score from 2 to 4 through a ReCharge program.

President's Cup

Upsilon Deuteron for their perfect Ritual score and exemplary values in Crawfordsville.



Educational Foundation Scholarship Awards

Davenport: \$4,000

Aaradhya Sharma, Alpha '27
Alexander Carucci, Alpha '27
Carson Writz, Upsilon Deuteron '26
Michael Drew, Rich Jr Rho Triton '27

Davenport/Larsen:\$4,000

Simon Ross, Sigma Dueteron '26

Larsen: \$2,666

Charlie Dentz, Sigma Deuteron '26
Conor Boyum, Sigma Deuteron '28
Edward Eggert, Sigma Deuteron '28
Liam Collins, Sigma Deuteron '27
Seth Krosin, Sigma Deuteron '27

General: \$1,847

Andrew Evans, Rho Proteron '27
Carter Bertsch, Upsilon Deuteron '26
Nicolas Recene, Xi Triton '27
Robert Johnson, Beta Deuteron '27

Porter: \$1,250

Justin Cohen, Sigma Deuteron '27

Undergraduate of the Year

Nolan Klemesrud, Beta Deuteron '27 for his IFC leadership and record-breaking recruitment.



Frederic Carter Impact Award

Carter Bertsch, Upsilon Deuteron '26 and Jacob Noonan, Beta Deuteron '27 for their work on the Wellness Initiative and Convention planning.

Theta Delt of the Year

Adam Marks, Nu Deuteron '99 for over two decades of service, from undergraduate leadership, to Grand Lodge service, to chairing the Scholarship Committee.



Alumnus of the Year

Juan Alfaro, Xi Triton '17 for his service as an alumni advisor, being one of the first classes of initiates after the Charge's refounding, setting its trajectory, and advocating for anti-hazing education.



Victory Cup

Beta Deuteron for excelling in academics, philanthropy, ritual, and campus involvement, embodying self-improvement.



President of the Year

Will Strickland, Sigma Deuteron '27 for his transparent and accountable leadership.



The evening concluded with remarks from **Grand Lodge President Jim Leuck** and closing remarks by **Educational Foundation President Jeff Horton, Nu Triton '90** followed by the traditional Toast to the Omega and the singing of "Stars Ablaze," uniting attendees in a celebration of Theta Delta Chi's legacy and future.

The 178th Grand Banquet was a powerful testament to the Fraternity's values of scholarship, leadership, and brotherhood, honoring those who continue to build its legacy while inspiring future generations of Theta Deltas.

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