

The Pennsylvania Eta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

HISTORY



The Pennsylvania Eta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon was founded at Penn State University in 1915, and has been in continuous operation. The chapter exists to offer young men attending Penn State the opportunity to supplement their academic education with the experience of a life of fellowship in Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, according to the fraternity ideals of Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love. Sigma Phi Epsilon – (Sig Ep) – is the largest and one of the strongest national collegiate fraternities, with local chapters at over 200 colleges and universities and prominent alumni in all walks of life. Penn Eta follows the practices of the Sig Ep National Fraternity – referred to as the Ritual– which all Sig Ep brothers know. The Ritual is intended to inculcate the Fraternity’s Cardinal Principals of Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love into our members.

Alumni Corporation

The chapter facility is owned by the Pennsylvania Eta Alumni Corporation, a non-profit organization whose members include all active alumni brothers of the Penn Eta Chapter. Upon graduation, undergraduate brothers in good standing automatically become members of the Alumni Corporation. The Alumni Corporation has the authority to operate a Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter through a charter granted by the national fraternity. The Alumni Corporation operates similarly to other non-profit corporations: it can own property, it can collect and spend money and it must pay taxes. The Corporation is governed by its Bylaws, which have been approved by the members.



The Alumni Corporation supports the values of the Fraternity through supporting the academic goals of our undergraduates, providing programs that give our students access to leaders at Penn State and in the business world, and fostering social development – a platform known as The Balanced Man Concept.

Sigma Phi Epsilon provides a website at sigep.org that provides additional information.



ALUMNI CORPORATION OPERATIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The day-to-day operation of the Alumni Corporation is managed by a Board of Directors elected by the alumni at the annual meeting of the corporation (which traditionally has taken place on or near Homecoming). The directors on this Alumni Board are seven unpaid volunteers that have chosen to donate their time to serve the fraternity, each of which may be designated to serve as a particular officer of the Corporation. The Board includes a President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and four Vice Presidents who are responsible for care of the chapter facility, providing support for the development of the undergraduate members, communications with our alumni members and planning alumni events. Each of them also mentors one or more undergraduate executive officers.

ACTIVITIES

The Alumni Corporation supports the values of the Fraternity through supporting the academic goals of our undergraduates, providing programs that give our students access to leaders at Penn State and in the business world, and fostering social development – a platform known as The Balanced Man Concept. For example, our members have generously contributed to multiple scholarship funds to encourage our undergraduate members to excel academically and fraternally. One of the primary ways the Alumni Corporation supports the pursuit of the values of fraternal living is by operating a chapter house where undergraduates can live together and build bonds of brotherhood that will forever impact their lives. Our current chapter house at 524 Locust Lane was built in 1926-27, and has been designated a historic building by the Borough of State College, as one of the more unique residences in Happy Valley.

