

The Whippoorwill

Eta Chapter of Psi Upsilon Fraternity – Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

January 2022

Eta LinkedIn Group

The GLA is launching a career development and mentoring program with active and alumni brothers via this group on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12161993/>

Join our conversation and contribute your own ideas for extending our personal and professional networks! Feel free to join. Any questions contact Bill Bear, Eta '84. You will find him on LinkedIn.

COVID slows down, then speeds back up again...

The big news in August was that the Chapter House was once more populated by the undergraduate Brothers. Fortunately, the House came through the COVID-induced shutdown in pretty good shape. Lehigh was still under various restrictive rules to meet the continuing COVID situation in the fall semester with things slowly things are getting back to [the new] normal. But then came Omicron. Undergrads are still in the house, but there will be more restrictions, including a virtual-only rush period. Yet another hurdle for undergrads to overcome.

Psi Upsilon International Office in Indianapolis Real Estate Sold

The Psi Board of Directors began developing a strategic plan for the Indianapolis back in 2019. This ~½ acre property and building, purchased in 1994, has served our staff and housed our archives well. It demanded, however, quite a lot of maintenance. In the midst of the pandemic, the board was reviewing with contractors the various possibilities to complete necessary repairs and upgrades. In a moment of serendipity, as the plan was being finalized, we received an unsolicited – and very reasonable - offer from our neighbor to purchase the land and building. Ultimately, after careful review with real estate experts and our counsel, the board voted unanimously to move forward with sale of the building and property. A new home for our staff and historical archives was found. The move was completed late in 2021.

Beginning-of-the-New-Year Opportunity

I skipped the end-of-year blitz when many charities are sending out solicitations for year-end add-to-your-tax-deduction donations. I thought it best to be different and include a solicitation at the beginning of the year. Why? Because your fraternity IS very different! I venture to guess it's still where you spent some of the best years of your life. And where you made friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Why not help this generation enjoy the same opportunity?

There are three ways to pay dues/donate/contribute.

1. Click the memberplanet link below to donate directly to the GLA. (Not technically tax-deductible.)
2. Send a check to **Goodale Literary Association c/o Rob Stone 3179 Rachel Dr. Bethlehem, PA, 18020-2858**
3. A tax-deductible donation to Lehigh University with funds earmarked for Psi Upsilon. These funds can only be used in ways the University deems are for programs and education. We have been successful in getting new furniture, sending undergrads to Psi U conventions, and fulfilling other Chapter House needs through this fund.

www.memberplanet.com/s/psiu-lehighuniversity-alum/annualdues_2_1_1

The 'ask' for annual dues is historically \$50. But larger one-time donations are certainly accepted. If you donate \$250 you join our Clapsed-Hands group and I will send you a frame-quality lithograph-like 14x20 print of the Chapter House.

Seeking more historical info on Eta Firetruck tradition

I have agreed to write an article about the Eta's firetruck tradition for the next edition of Psi U's publication, "Reflections: A Journal of Psi Upsilon History". I would love to get more material from you. If you were thinking of writing something for me, please do so now – I have a January 20th deadline. Here are a few more tidbits from Brothers...

→ Brother Phil Gauffreau '84 writes...

One story I can't forget was when everyone let me host our first "Country Pub Night", we decided we had to dress up the bar with hay bales and corn stalks (such a cliché!). Someone they said they knew of a farm where we could get that stuff, so off we went in the fire truck. Teeper [Theodore Emerson] must have been driving. Little did I know we had to travel down Route 22 for a few exits to get there. That truck was cranking along at about 35 mph while traffic backed up behind us, horns honking. Of course, we were standing in the back of the truck carrying on, waving and shouting at everyone. At least on the way back we were able to sit on the hay bales. Imagine trying to do that today! Best pub night ever!

→ Brother John Sise '72 via Brother Russ Allison '78

Fergy (Bob Ferguson) was driving the truck down from the top of the hill on the lower road when the truck started to swerve back and forth. What was most interesting is that there were guys walking alongside the road! How he managed not to hit one, I will never know. It turns out that the big "U" bolts holding the front axle onto the frame had come loose. Also on the mechanical front, at one point we broke off a bolt on the water pump plus we had no fan for a while - we could only drive the truck up to the top of the hill before it overheated. Then we had to coast downhill so that it could cool off.

→ Brother Teeper Emerson '82 writes...

When I was at the ETA [79-82] the truck was a 1947 Chevrolet pumper. There was always a group of brothers who were interested in the truck and would work on it. I remember Steve Geiger, Dave Chapman, Don Grunwald and myself as being mechanics on it. A big memory was at Christmas time when we would drive the truck into Bethlehem to a group home for children, pick them up and bring them back to the ETA for presents. It was very rewarding to see the smiles on the kids' faces. This was the one time we used the siren in town as the kids really loved it. Otherwise, we were only supposed to use the siren on campus. Of course, there were the after-game rides around the campus, we would pile 10-15 people in the back and sing a few traditional Psi U songs and football cheers.

→ Brother Bruce Stackhouse '76 writes...

In 1976 we decided to enter it in the annual LU car rally. While I went to sign in my navigator stayed by the truck. As I walked back, I saw an elderly gentleman leaving the truck. My navigator said the old man asked him what we were doing with the firetruck and he told him entering it in the rally. He wished us good luck as he walked away. I asked my navigator if he knew who that was and he didn't know. It was W. Deming Lewis, the President of Lehigh University! We had a great time in the rally. Kids would wave to us and we'd hit the siren as we passed by. We were a little slow to the first several check points since the truck's acceleration was a lot slower than needed. I told my navigator to hold on since I was going to go as fast as I can. Sometimes we missed turns, but that wasn't a problem. When we stopped all traffic would stop. So, we would put on the flashing lights and back up. We had to do this several times. We ended up finishing 20th out of 160 entries. A pretty good performance by a 1943 firetruck!

→ Brother Jim Wasson '58 writes...

I well remember the Eta firetruck, the original old one. Vintage 1930's, I believe. There is a picture of it in the 1958 Epitome, p. 178. Were it not for Brother Tom Griggs, I don't think it would have ever gotten out of the parking lot except to roll downhill. Tom spent many hours keeping the old machine running. Its primary use was transportation to and from football games, but I recall it rolled (under power, that is) for a few other occasions.

Repeat... please send more stories and pictures before January 20th. John Mathews '81 → farmerjack25@gmail.com

Eta events on Lehigh/Lafayette day

November saw the 157th playing of the most-played rivalry in college football: Lehigh v. Lafayette. Whereas the teams came into the game with only 5 wins between them, as they say, "You can throw the records out on this one". Lehigh came out on top in a close 17-10 game. The annual GLA meeting was held before the game, followed by tailgating. A group of ~30 Brothers and friends and family enjoyed various drinks and eats including burgers and perogies cooked by Brothers Gauffreau and Bear. After the game the undergraduates hosted a meal at the Chapter House.





