



RECORDS  
OF THE  
SPECIAL CONVENTION  
OF THE  
PSI UPSILON FRATERNITY

HELD AT  
THE WALDORF-ASTORIA  
NEW YORK CITY

OCTOBER 18, 1918

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The Eighty-fifth Year of the Fraternity

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OMEGA—R[obert] Bourke Corcoran, '15.

BETA BETA—Sumner Whitney Shepherd, Jr., '19.

ETA—John Grant Powles, '21.

OMICRON—Emmett Loehr Murphy, '07.

DELTA DELTA—Charles Hazard Kimberly, '20; Edgerton Grant North, '21.

THETA THETA—Herbert Judson Flagg, '12; Virgil Morgan Upton, '18,

and recommended that representatives of the *Theta*, *Sigma* and *Gamma* Chapters be admitted without credentials. On motion duly made the recommendation was unanimously adopted.

The *Sigma* representatives were Brothers Otis Everett Randall, '84; George Rudolph Dinkel, '20, and Stewart Forstall, '21.

The *Gamma* representative was Brother Waterman Thomas Hewett, '69.

Brother John Worden Elwood (*Gamma* '18, *Lambda* '19) presented the credentials issued by the *Theta* to Brother De Forest Williams Weed (*Theta* '03), and a letter from Brother Weed requesting Brother Elwood to act in his behalf at the Convention.

The report was accepted.

Brother Wertheimer for the Committee on Permanent Organization reported the following nominations:

*President*

Herbert Lawrence Bridgman (*Gamma* '66)

*Vice-President*

Otis Everett Randall (*Sigma* '84)

*Recorder*

John Vosburgh Irwin (*Delta* '94)

*Assistant Recorder*

Emmett Loehr Murphy (*Omicron* '07)

On motion the report was unanimously adopted and Brother Bridgman took the Chair.

The Communication of the Executive Council to the Special Convention of the Fraternity was read by Brother George S. Coleman, Secretary (Appendix A).

By unanimous consent the Convention proceeded to consider the Communication.

Brother Bangs moved to amend the resolution of the Executive Council adopted September 30, 1918, concerning Chapter Activities during the War, by omitting therefrom the clause, "*considering that fraternity activities are incompatible with military discipline,*" and by substituting therefor "*at the request of the War Department,*" and spoke on the subject.

Brother Coleman explained the circumstances leading to the adoption by the Council of the resolution of September 30.

Brother Corcoran (*Omega*) urged a full discussion of the subject.

Brother Bangs then withdrew his resolution and presented the following as a substitute for the Council's resolution:

*Resolved*, That this Convention, in compliance with the known desires of the War Department, feels that this Fraternity can best help to win the war by suspending the functions and meetings of a social or ceremonial nature of the Chapters for the period of the present emergency in institutions where units of the Students' Army Training Corps are established, which includes all colleges where there are Chapters of PSI Upsilon.

Seconded by Brother Elwood (*Gamma, Lambda*). Remarks were made by Brother Hewett (*Gamma*), Brother Moser (*Upsilon*), Brother Ellwood (for *Theta*), Brother Roberts (*Delta '05*), Brother Frame (*Delta*), Brother Naylor (*Zeta*), Brother Stevens (*Chi '99*), Brother Randall (*Sigma*), Brother Murphy (*Omicron*), Brother Irwin (*Delta*).

The Recorder read a telegram from Brother F. S. Brandenburg (*Rho '09*) to Brother Bridgman, concerning proposed action as to Fraternity activities (Appendix C).

Brother Bangs then spoke, confirming the views of previous speakers that the Fraternity is unanimous in taking every step necessary to support the Government and the War Department.

The resolution before the Convention was then unanimously adopted, without roll-call (*General Resolution No. 1*).

Brother Bangs then submitted a further resolution as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Convention does not construe the desires of the War Department as excluding the initiation of new members.

Brother Flagg (*Theta Theta*) proposed that the resolution be amended to read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Convention construes the desires of the War Department as not excluding the initiation of new members.

Brother Bangs accepted the proposed amendment, and in its modified form it was unanimously adopted (*General Resolution No. 2*).

Brother Bangs presented a copy of the report of James Duane Livingston, Chairman of the Inter-Fraternity Conference, in relation to the suspension of fraternity activities desired by the War Department and moved that the same be spread on the records and the substance thereof transmitted to the various Chapters. Carried unanimously (Appendix E).

On motion the Executive Council was directed to report the result of the deliberations of the Convention to the various Chapters. Carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brother Corcoran (*Omega*) and seconded by Brother Frame (*Delta*) that the Advisory War Council be fully organized and given broad powers and directed to arrange for correspondence with members in the Service.

Brother Naylor (*Zeta*) stated that a committee appointed by the Executive Council to consider and submit a plan of reorganization of Fraternity activities would be ready to report in a short time, and if the plan were adopted the Advisory War Council would be relieved of its work.

Brother Corcoran then withdrew the motion.

Brother Coleman stated that the members of the Advisory War Council had done splendid work since their appointment last February. The only Chapter not represented was the EPSILON.

On motion of Brother Bangs, seconded by Brother Naylor, the Convention then adjourned *sine die*.

JOHN V. IRWIN  
DELTA '94  
Recorder

EMMETT L. MURPHY  
OMICRON '07  
Assistant Recorder

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

## GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

*General Resolution No. 1.—Resolved,* That this Convention, in compliance with the known desires of the War Department, feels that this Fraternity can best help to win the war by suspending the functions and meetings of a social or ceremonial nature of the Chapters for the period of the present emergency in institutions where units of the Students' Army Training Corps are established, which include all colleges where there are Chapters of PSI Upsilon.

*General Resolution No. 2.—Resolved,* That the Convention construes the desires of the War Department as not excluding the initiation of new members.

## (APPENDIX A)

## COMMUNICATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

TO

## THE SPECIAL CONVENTION OF THE FRATERNITY

I. THE BUSINESS BEFORE THE CONVENTION. The last preceding Annual Convention of PSI Upsilon was held with the *Zeta* Chapter in 1916. Since then twenty-three meetings of the Council have been held and printed copies of the minutes have been distributed. Arrangements for the regular Annual Convention of 1917 had been made and notice given by the *Mu* Chapter for May of that year, but the Convention was postponed on account of the intervention of the United States in the war. Even before such intervention many of our members had felt the call to arms and had left college for military service. Since the declaration of war every Chapter of PSI Upsilon has furnished men to the colors and every campus has become a camp. In the conditions thus created and upon the written request of our Chapters the Executive Council has issued a call for a *Special* Convention of the Fraternity

“to consider the conditions created by the war and to make provision  
“for the proper maintenance of Chapter organization and for the  
“protection of property until normal conditions are restored.”

This is the particular business of the Convention now assembled.

The Council invites free expression of opinion upon these subjects and, if possible in the limited time at our disposal, the introduction of resolutions to carry decisions of the Convention into effect.

II. SUSPENDING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR. At a meeting of the Council on September 30, 1918, after ascertaining the Government's position as to fraternities where the Students' Army Training Corps had been or was to be established, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council of the PSI Upsilon Fraternity, considering that fraternity activities are incompatible with military discipline, feels that this Fraternity can best help to win the war by suspending such activities for the period of the present emergency in institutions where units of the Students' Army Training Corps are established, which include all colleges where there are Chapters of PSI Upsilon.



As stated in the call for this Convention, we understand that the Government does not intend to prohibit a meeting of college fraternities for purely business purposes.

III. SUSPENSION OF ANNUAL TAXES. The Chapters have been advised by the Council that no further taxes would be levied upon them until the Convention should authorize the same. The Council had in mind the regular Annual Convention. No bills for taxes have been rendered since the bills sent out in January, 1917.

IV. TERMS OF MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. Under the Constitution the full term of a member of the Council elected at Annual Convention is five years. As no convention has been held since 1916 the terms of Brothers Earl D. Babst and Theodore L. Waugh, of the Class of 1917, and of Brothers Austin M. Poole and Edward L. Stevens, of the Class of 1918, apparently expired. The Council has authority to fill vacancies in its membership, and as a precaution elected the brothers to fill their own places until the next general Convention acts in the matter.

In the case of Brother Frederick P. Keppel, who gave up active work as Dean of Columbia to enter Government Service at Washington and has become Third Assistant Secretary of War, we felt constrained to accept his resignation upon his appointment to that position, and since May 23, 1918 his place on the Council has been vacant.

V. AMERICAN UNIVERSITY UNION IN EUROPE. PSI Upsilon was one of the first college fraternities to join the American University in Europe, with headquarters in Paris and London. The Director of the Paris headquarters has been Brother George H. Nettleton, *Beta '96*, and we are indebted to him for many courtesies extended to our members. A register has been provided wherein members of college fraternities may indicate their college and class, and copies of the names and affiliations of our own members are now being sent to us.

VI. ADVISORY WAR COUNCIL. As an aid to the Council in the safeguarding of the Chapters during the stress of war it was deemed proper to invite the co-operation of their alumni. At the meeting of February 13, 1918, a resolution was adopted "that the President appoint as an Advisory War Council a representative of each Chapter, to keep in touch with the Chapters and to be prepared to report to the Executive Council as to the conditions and needs of the Chapters."

Every Chapter except the *Epsilon* is now represented by a member of the Advisory War Council, and the Executive Council gratefully acknowledges the substantial assistance rendered by these alumni brothers.

VII. RECORDS OF SERVICE AND MEMORIAL TABLETS. If it meets with the approval of this Convention the Council would be pleased to have some formal action taken to secure and preserve complete records of participation in the present war, on the military and civil sides, of the members of our Fraternity; and provision made for uniform memorial tablets for the Chapters of members who have lost or shall yet lose their lives in the Service.

Respectfully submitted

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PSI UPSILON FRATERNITY

HERBERT L. BRIDGMAN  
*President*

GEO. S. COLEMAN  
*Secretary*

October 18, 1918

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(APPENDIX B)

COPY OF CALL TO THE CHAPTERS FOR SPECIAL CONVENTION

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PSI UPSILON FRATERNITY

P. O. Box 720  
City Hall Station

New York, October 3, 1918

BROTHERS:

Pursuant to a resolution of the Executive Council upon the request in writing of more than five Chapters, a Special Convention of the PSI UPSILON Fraternity is hereby called for Friday, October 18, 1918, at 9 A. M., at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, to consider the conditions created by the war and to make provision for the proper maintenance of Chapter organization and for the protection of property until normal conditions are restored.

## (APPENDIX E)

## ABSTRACT OF REPORT OF JAMES DUANE LIVINGSTON, CHAIRMAN OF INTER-FRATERNITY CONFERENCE, IN RELATION TO SUSPENSION OF FRATERNITY ACTIVITIES DESIRED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report covers the period from September 13 to October 9, 1918, and details the steps taken to secure from the War Department a ruling favorable to the continuance of fraternity life in the colleges.

On September 26 Mr. Livingston received from the War Department Committee on Education and Special Training a "MEMORANDUM TO FRATERNITIES," referring to recent legislation known as "*Man Power Bill*" and to the "*Students' Army Training Corps*" plan, and to their probable effect upon fraternity activity. The *Memorandum* was signed by Colonel Rees, of the General Staff, Chairman of the Committee. The concluding paragraphs of the *Memorandum* were as follows:

6. As the members of the Students' Army Training Corps will occupy the status of soldiers on active duty subject as such to military discipline at all times and quartered together in military barracks, the effect of the plan will be to alter the whole character of the educational institutions to transform them from colleges, in the meaning that word has acquired, into military training camps. Whereas heretofore college life was made up of many different phases, educational, athletic, and social, it will now consist of only one—intensive military training.

7. The War Department, considering that fraternity activities and military discipline are incompatible in the very nature of things, feels that it is to the best interests of the Service that the operations of fraternities in institutions where units of the Students' Army Training Corps have been established be suspended for the period of the present emergency. It further feels that the best interests of the fraternities themselves require such suspension, considering that the continued operation of the fraternities must result, due to the rapidly changing personnel and combined circumstances, in a lowering of the high ideals as to membership established by the fraternities themselves, as well as in heavy financial loss to them.

8. It is confidently felt by the War Department that the fraternities will realize the benefit to all concerned to be derived from the suspension of their activities in institutions in whose ability the Government has reposed its trust to train its soldiers, and will show the same spirit of loyalty and service in the present emergency as has been shown by the institutions themselves.

As the Students' Army Training Corps were to be started October 1, Chairman Livingston and the Secretary of the Inter-Fraternity Council, Mr. Henry H. McCorkle, went to Washington and had conferences with Mr. Keppel, Third Assistant Secretary of War, Colonel Rees, Chairman of the Committee on Education and Special Training of the War Department, and Major Joy; explained the situation of the fraternities and urged that the War Department make it plain that it "does not desire the suspension of the life of the fraternities," and that it "does not object to the meeting of fraternity men at times and in places that do not conflict with military regulations."

As a result of the conference a meeting of the Committee was called by Colonel Rees and the following memorandum was adopted:

The War Department, considering that Fraternity activities are incompatible with military discipline in the very nature of things, feels that it is in the best interest of the Service that they be suspended in institutions where units of the Students' Army Training Corps have been established, for the period of the present emergency. By "Fraternity activities" as above used, is meant the social side of fraternity life—the living of the members together in fraternity houses and the *functions and meetings of a social or ceremonial nature*.

Realizing, however, that some fraternity organization must be kept intact to insure the resumption of fraternity activities when the present emergency has passed, the War Department will interpose no objection to the holding of such meetings as are of a purely business character.

In reply to the following telegraphic inquiry from a member of one of the fraternities under date of October 9, 1918:

Does meeting of purely business character permit initiations of new men and pledging new men or does the prohibition of functions and meetings of ceremonial nature prohibit such action?

Mr. Livingston replied:

Fraternities must be maintained. In my judgment men may be pledged. Initiated at business meetings and usual ceremonies omitted. Reason for cutting out ceremonial and social meetings is that men in S. A. T. C. must devote their time to duties under schedule.