

THE BETA Pi per

CELEBRATING 134 YEARS OF BETA PI

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

FALL 2023

STATE OF THE CHAPTER

Beta Theta Pi Society Updates

As a new academic year arrived, Beta Theta Pi Society of MN Housing Corporation prioritized keeping tabs on the chapter house and connecting regularly with chapter leaders.

Repairs and Refurbishments

While some general maintenance and simple repairs continue to be needed, the board is most concerned about some interior low-volume water leaks that have surfaced in the basement. We are considering bringing in a general contractor in the months ahead. We've also recently received the results of an annual audit from the city of Minneapolis and plan to address any findings.

Money Matters

The society has about \$18,800 in cash savings on hand. We also have \$490,610 in long-term debt as we continue to service our mortgages. Rent paid by the undergraduate members and alumni donations are our two main revenue sources. Your support is needed and appreciated!

If you have the ability to donate, please consider making a gift before the end of the year.

Volunteer Opportunities

There have been some personnel changes on the board. This past spring, Society Co-Treasurer **Jack Liang '13** needed to step away for personal matters, so recent graduate **Trevor Frane '23** has recently joined to help with financial matters. He is also working with the Fraternity Purchasing Association on campus, all while managing his own full-time career.

Are you willing and able to get involved? We continue to seek new volunteers to help with the House Corporation, chapter advising, alumni engagement, and more. You could be a perfect fit for our team!

We remain thankful for all your support and look forward to seeing you on campus again soon.

Yours in __kai__,

Scott Heineman '03

President of the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota
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Thank you, Paul Goff '26 and family, for hosting fall 2023's Brotherhood Weekend!

ONCE A BETA, ALWAYS A BETA

Remembering Bert Leach '52

One of Beta Pi's most dedicated, well-known, and longest-serving brothers, **Bert Leach '52**, passed away on July 11, 2023. He was 93 years old.

Bert joined Beta as a sophomore in the fall of 1949. After graduation in 1952, Bert married Norma Neprud, his loving wife of over 50 years, then enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served valiantly for the next 20 years as a helicopter pilot.

During his military career, Bert flew helicopters for one tour in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. As a test pilot, he set six world speed records and represented the U.S. Army while flying in the Paris Air Show. After retiring from the military in 1972 as a Lt. Colonel, he became a financial advisor for the next 26 years. During that time, Bert and Norma regularly participated in a Beta bridge club with a collection of other Beta alumni and spouses.



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Can You Lend a Hand?

We're seeking a few dedicated individuals to help with event support, marketing, and execution for our Minnesota Beta Convention in April 2024. If you can assist, contact one of our organizers listed on the back page.



STARTING STRONG

Undergraduates Navigate a Successful Fall Semester

Philanthropy for the Community

This past April, **Cody Sweet '26** organized our annual Beta Theta Pies philanthropy event. The proceeds from this event were generously donated to the Aurora Center, furthering the fight against sexual violence on our campus.

Jonathan Day '26 has been equally dedicated, orchestrating various community service events with organizations like Feed My Starving Children and the St. Paul Children's Museum. We eagerly anticipate our next public philanthropy event, Light the Row, scheduled for December 7.

Emphasizing Academics

Joey Burgess '25 and **Gabriel Baggot '23** established weekly study events in the spring, and thanks to their efforts, we proudly achieved a commendable 3.43 GPA. Once again, we secured a spot in the top five on the IFC grades report. We also extend our congratulations and best wishes to **Zachary Ahearn '25**, who will embark on a study abroad semester in Taiwan in spring 2024.

2023 General Convention

In August, **Jake Polzin '25**, **Owen Ratgen '24**, and **Simon Horning '24** had the privilege of attending the General Convention in Dallas. They not only participated in crucial voting on general fraternity agendas but also honed valuable leadership skills by engaging with prominent members from chapters across North America.

Welcoming New Betas

Finally, through rigorous efforts throughout the summer and fall, we are thrilled to announce the successful signing of 17 new members, including two legacies. The new additions have displayed an unwavering commitment to our new member education program.

On December 1, they will undergo initiation, an event that remains open to all interested alumni, further solidifying the bonds of our brotherhood.

Yours in __kai__,
Tyler Drew '26

Welcome, New Members

- Boone Allen '27** | Austin, Texas
- Gabriel Anderson '27** | Blaine, Minn.
- Brendyn Beasley '27** | Albert Lee, Minn.
- Evan Boerboom '26** | Rockford, Minn.
- Diego Contreras-Gonzales '27** | Santiago, Chile
- Adam Cotton '27** | Cedarburg, Wis.
- Ashton Demmer '27** | Mound, Minn.
- Alexi Hadjistamoulou '27** | Maple Grove, Minn.
- Logan Jakubowski '27** | Cedarburg, Wis.
- Cooper Knutsen '26** | Minneapolis, Minn.
- Caleb Maas '27** | Monticello, Minn.
- Arnav Negrecha '27** | Springfield, Ill.
- Kyle Nilson '27** | Lake Elmo, Minn.
- Aryaman Paul** | Dublin, Calif.
- Carson Purdy Hilts '27** | Janesville, Wis.
- Kendall Rodin '27** | Milwaukee, Wis.
- Nathan Vielmetti '27** | Foxpoint, Wis.



Advisors and undergraduates represent at the Beta Theta Pi General Convention.

“As an out-of-state student, Beta helped me establish my community in Minnesota.” –**Boone Allen**

“To me, Beta is a foundation for men to become leaders and excel in the world.” –**Gabriel Anderson**

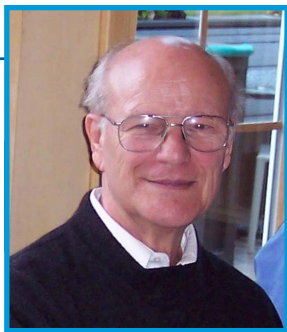
“Beta pushes you to find the man you're destined to be.”
–**Diego Contreras-Gonzales**



Members work alongside their brothers at a chapter study event.



Jonathan Day '26 and Nicholas Johnson '26 man a table at the Beta Theta Pies event.



A Legacy of Integrity

IN MEMORY OF DONN P. BARBER '56

Donn P. Barber '56, of Minneapolis, Minn., passed away on August 2, 2023, at age 89.

After graduation, Donn remained involved with Beta Pi at numerous social events. When his son, **Paul '84**, enrolled at Minnesota, Donn encouraged him to visit the Beta Pi house, leading to the two sharing a legacy connection.

His journey in the corporate world began with notable positions at W.R. Grace and the Whirlpool Corporation, where he honed his skills and established a reputation for excellence; however, Donn's most enduring professional chapter was his role as Chief Financial Officer for Hartzell Corporation, where he dedicated over 30 years of his life. His commitment to financial stewardship and leadership was pivotal to the company's success and growth.

Beyond the boardroom, Donn was an active National Association of Accountants and Financial Executives Institute member, demonstrating his dedication to his field and continuous professional development. Summers at the cabin on Lake Sylvia were a cherished tradition that allowed him to connect with nature, family, and friends.

In his later years, Donn and his wife, Louise, became involved with the Edina Coalition for Grief Support, where they forged meaningful relationships and provided invaluable support to others navigating the challenging journey of loss.

Travel was a passion for Donn and Louise. Their adventures took them to an astounding 64 countries, enriching their lives with diverse cultures, experiences, and memories. Donn was also a long-time member of St John's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Louise; sons Paul and David; and many other family members and friends.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter President
Jacob T. Polzin '25

Vice President of Risk Management
William K. Allan '24

Vice President of Brotherhood
Connor B. DeJong '23

Vice President of Ritual
Thomas J. Wolfe '23

Vice President of Finance
Zachary S. Ahearn '25

Vice President of Programming
Daniel J. Peters '25

Vice President of Communications
Joseph A. Burgess '25

Vice President of Recruitment
Owen B. Ratgen '24
ratge006@umn.edu

Vice President of New Member Education
Simon C. Horning '24

THREE GOALS FOR 2023-24

Recruitment: Enlist 10 more members in spring 2024.

Retention: Grow retention rates through brotherhood events and increased new member participation.

Finance: Support the chapter's stability by securing members to live in the house for the 2024-25 academic year.

Can you help us with our recruitment goal?

If you know any men enrolling who would make a good Beta, send their info to Vice President of Recruitment **Owen Ratgen '24** at ratge006@umn.edu or (651) 210-0149.

ONCE A BETA, ALWAYS A BETA *Remembering Bert Leach '52*

(Continued from page 1)

Bert had a deep pride in the fraternity and an appreciation for the lifelong friendships he formed as an undergraduate. "Bert was the consummate Beta," said **Bob Brunmeier '84**. "You always knew where you stood with him. His boisterous laugh could be across the room, and you always looked forward to seeing him."

In 1989, Bert began serving Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota House Corporation for more than 20 years, including several years as president. As a volunteer, Bert recognized and supported initiatives to increase investment in the fraternity, both at local and national levels. In the early 1990s, he raised thousands for improvements to the chapter house kitchen and other areas and helped fundraise for the Men of Principle Initiative led by the General Fraternity.

In 2013, Bert served as honorary chairman for the society's *The North Shall Increase* capital campaign. With his guidance and leadership, our campaign raised more than \$750,000, which helped finance the largest renovations to date at the chapter house in 2016.

Bert also led a monthly Beta lunch gathering for a dozen local alumni, consistently making personal phone calls to each invitee every month and encouraging them to extend the invitation to others.

"I derived much happiness and friendship from the fraternity, and I wanted to give back so that future generations can enjoy the same experience that I had," Bert wrote in 2016. "Once a Beta, always a Beta."

Bert lived a long and full life. He was an active member of Minnetonka Lutheran Church for many years. Many of our brothers, across generations, are thankful to have known him. Beta left a mark on Bert, and Bert certainly left an even larger mark on Beta Pi. Our memory of him can inspire us for years to come.

Yours in __kai__,
Branden Peterson '05

You're Invited to:

Beta Pi Alumni Banquet



Join us in 2024 as we revive our annual alumni gatherings in the Twin Cities.

What:

TI-DE-I-DE-O!

Cost:

\$40 per person
If this amount is challenging for you, please reach out; we're here to help.

Time:

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
7:00 p.m. – Dinner

Where:

Beta Pi Chapter House

Dress Code:

Business Casual
Jeans and tennis shoes are acceptable.



Why Attend?

Brotherhood: Reconnect and enjoy merriment with your brothers from your era and beyond. We'll aim to seat you with your fellow alumni by age and class.

Beta Update: Stay informed on the fraternity's activities.

Alumni Milestones: Recognize those reaching 25 or 50 years of membership.

Meet the Graduates: Extend a warm welcome to our newest members.

Register Online!

Visit bit.ly/BetaPiRSVP or scan the QR code now to RSVP.



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Nate Wong '15
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(701) 212-7017

Tyler Drew '26
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Top, from left: Branden Peterson '05, Logan Dahl '21, Avi Sethi '09, Bryan Patrick '06 (nice trophy!), Brad Martin '95, Paul Johnson, and Scott Martin '89. Middle: Wes Chapman '82, Bob Alliegro '84, Steve Kanner '83, Jerry LaMere '87, Lech Literski '06, John Hutchinson '07, Brian Sondag '06, and Brent Anderson '85. Bottom: Jake Polzin '25 and Jake Helms '07.

THE TRADITION CONTINUES Beta Alumni Golf and Gather Makes Its Return!

In June, 23 alumni gathered for a friendly competition held at Keller Golf Course in Maplewood, Minnesota. The team including **Lech Literski '06, Nick Johnson, Oklahoma '05, Bryan Patrick '06, and Branden Peterson '05** took top honors and added their names to our prestigious Beta Pi Cup.

We also raised **\$1,600** for Beta Pi. Thank you, brothers!

Want to play next year? Email **Brent Anderson '85** at brent.a.anderson@ubs.com