

THE BETA Piper

CELEBRATING 135 YEARS OF BETA PI

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

SUMMER 2025

Beta Pi's Bright Future

Alumni Society Update

Greetings, brothers! As the school year comes to a close, we are pleased to report that Beta Pi Chapter remains strong, with clear goals and solid plans for 2025-26. The new chapter leadership is collaborating effectively with our alumni board, setting the stage for continued success.

BOARD RESTRUCTURING

The Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota is entering an exciting period of change this summer. In late May, we plan to elect a new slate of alumni volunteers to our board. Alongside this transition, we are introducing changes to existing roles and adding new ones to better reflect the needs and objectives of our organization. Our goals include clearer role expectations, defined term lengths, and more opportunities for brothers to contribute their time and talents. We're thrilled to welcome several new brothers who are eager to make a positive impact.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of the end of the school year, our cash balance stands at approximately \$35,000. We continue to service two mortgages, with long-term debt totaling around \$454,000. To enhance our financial bookkeeping and reporting, we recently partnered with the Fraternity Purchasing Association on campus. Just as they support fraternities and sororities, FPA is already providing valuable assistance to our alumni society, streamlining our financial processes.

RECENT PROJECTS AND HOUSE UPDATES

In the past few months, we invested nearly \$20,000 to replace our dishwasher and purchase a new commercial refrigerator. Special thanks to alumnus **Bob Brunmeier '84** for his leadership in coordinating these projects. Additionally, repairs were recently completed after a portion of the fireplace brickwork collapsed. A huge shoutout to **Brent Anderson '85**, who generously covered the repair costs.

LOOKING AHEAD

As highlighted in recent newsletters, we continue to face challenges with the original water and hot water steam cast-iron pipes running through the house. At nearly 100 years old, these pipes are increasingly prone to failure, cracking, and causing damage. We are developing a detailed plan and timeline for their replacement, intending to complete the project by next summer (2026).

Our chapter's strength comes not just from those living under its roof but also from the ongoing support and dedication of alumni like you. We appreciate your continued involvement and look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Yours in __kai__,

Branden Peterson '05

President, Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota
branden@betathetapisocietymn.org



ALUMNI BOARD

President
Branden Peterson '05

Executive VP
Bob Brunmeier '84

Secretary **Open**

VP of Finance **Open**

VP Property Management
Ed Pelava

VP Risk and Compliance
Steve Edwards '05

VP Alumni Engagement
Tyler Drew '25

VP Development
Jacob Polzin '24

Sargeant-at-Arms
Paul Goff '25

Members
Bill Madden '86
Scott J. Heineman '03
David W. Stiff, Indiana '77
Jim Curtis, Wisconsin '86

Our team is growing! We'd love to connect and figure out where/how you can get involved. Reach out to Branden at branden@betathetapisocietymn.org.



PURSUING PASSIONS

Alumni Spotlight: Mark Schneider '64 on His Many Hobbies

Mark Schneider '64 was first introduced to Beta Theta Pi by a Beta friend. When he went through formal recruitment, he felt comfortable with the men of Beta Pi and appreciated the strong sense of brotherhood he observed there. To Mark, it was a clear choice to join Beta.

During his time at Beta, Mark learned about the enduring value of brotherhood and dedication to a common cause. He was involved as an undergraduate and served as pledge master. He has carried that dedication throughout many activities, finding a brotherhood in each, which has further motivated his involvement.



Mark graduated with a bachelor's in biology. He then continued his studies in graduate school at the University of Oregon, majoring in fish physiology and biochemistry. Five years later, with a master's degree and a Ph.D., he began his 40-year career.

His first employer was Battelle Northwest Labs at the Hanford project in eastern Washington, where he managed a group of research biologists. In 1978, Mark took a position with the Lockheed Marine laboratory addressing Pyramid Lake fisheries near Reno, Nevada. As that contract neared completion, Mark moved his family back to the Pacific NW and took a position with the congressionally mandated

Power Planning Council, writing a plan to restore salmon runs in the Columbia River. The implementer of the plan was Bonneville Power Administration. A final job change took Mark to a position with the National Marine Fisheries Service and water quality issues associated with the hydroelectric system on the Columbia and Snake Rivers of the Pacific NW.

Mark began scuba diving at age 15 and was an avid diver most of his life, completing over 2,000 dives until he stopped in 2008. He enjoyed diving recreationally, spending weekends in Puget Sound with his friends. "There is a very special kind of Brotherhood that forms between serious divers. Because of my profession in fisheries biology, it became a very useful tool in some of the studies I was involved with."

One activity where Mark has found a "second" brotherhood is the unlimited hydroplane races, where he began as a rescue diver. As the years passed, Mark became more involved with the management of the Columbia Cup boat race. Throughout 55 years, he only missed one race on the Columbia River. From 2003-08, he served as the director of safety and rescue on the American Boat Racing Association and had the opportunity to travel to all the unlimited hydro races around the country. While he is no longer a diver, two years ago the current rescue team invited him to the races as an honored Key

Personnel member of the team he helped form in 1973. Mark had an awesome time and was thrilled to be invited again this year.

Now retired, Mark remains busy with his passions. The centerpiece of one passion is a 1966 Austin-Healey 3000 Mk III BJ8, purchased from the original owner in 1970. He drives his car often and is a part of local clubs, as well as serving as treasurer on the board of directors of the Austin-Healey Club USA.

Mark is a serious student of the guitar. He started playing as a teenager and now plays every day and takes lessons from a Grammy-winning instructor.

As a photographer, he likes photographing local sports car racetracks and boat races. "It's a real challenge of being in the right spot at the right time to catch images of fast cars, racing airplanes, or hydroplanes."

Mark and his Alpha Gamma Delta wife, Marilynne, have been in love for many years. They have a daughter, son (a Sigma Chi), and four grandkids. His twin granddaughters are sophomores at the University of Oregon and are both involved in Greek life. One of his grandsons is a Sigma Chi and works as a headhunter. His other grandson is a firefighter, EMT, and paramedic.

You can connect with Mark at marksbj8@gmail.com

Our Mystic Shrine



William "Bill" Madden '47 passed away on February 25, 2025, just shy of his 100th birthday. A lifelong St. Paul resident, Bill graduated from Cretin High School, served as a Navy officer in WWII, and

enjoyed a 42-year career at 3M. He married Beverly in 1951 and shared 40 wonderful years before her passing. Bill was an avid golfer, bridge player, and letter writer known for his gentlemanly charm. He was a dedicated member of chapter and will be dearly missed.



Harold "Hal" Wylie Jr. '51 passed away on April 7, 2025, at age 95. Hal graduated from The Blake School and the University of Minnesota. He served in the U.S. Air Force before a 32-year career

at Timex, retiring in 1992. A passionate singer, Hal helped found the Connecticut Choral Society and performed locally and internationally. He was devoted to community service, earning the James J. Clark Memorial Award and the Bernard Rosenberg Award. Hal was a deacon and active member of North Congregational Church.



Floyd Wendell Hagen '60 passed away on July 18, 2024, at age 87. Floyd earned his aerospace engineering degree from the University of Minnesota, where he met his beloved wife, Jacquie. He

worked at Rosemount Engineering/BFGoodrich for 39 years, holding 30 U.S. patents. A proud member of the Eden Prairie Lions Club since 1976, Floyd also volunteered with VOSH, distributing eyeglasses internationally. He began running marathons in his mid-30s, completing at least 25. Floyd was active in The Friendship Force, Immanuel Church, and more. He welcomed all his visitors with an enthusiastic "Welcome to my humble abode."



Celebrating a Year of Brotherhood

Undergraduates Share Recent Successes



*Broomball is more fun with man's best friend!
Pictured: Nicholas Johnson '26 and his dog.*



Brothers play a friendly game of broomball during a brotherhood weekend.



Chevy Post '25 and Cody Sweet '26 enjoy Beta's Spring Formal in Arcadia, Wisconsin.

Beta Pi remained committed to service, leadership, and brotherhood throughout the 2024–25 academic year. Last December, **Paul Goff '26** organized the annual Light the Row event, raising over \$3,000 for the Aurora Center and its mission to prevent sexual violence on campus. Goff and **Jakubowski '27** continued their year-round volunteer work as certified Violence Prevention Advocates with the Aurora Center. Brothers **Purdy-Hilts '27** and **Contreras '27** also served as sexual violence advocates with Boynton Health.

In April, the chapter hosted its spring philanthropy event, Beta Theta Pies, raising more than \$1,000 for local causes. We are especially proud of the efforts of **Will Luther '28** in coordinating the event.

This spring, Beta Pi welcomed Beta Theta Pi General Secretary and CEO Jeff Rundle for dinner during the Big Beta Board of Trustees meeting in Minneapolis. His visit provided an opportunity for the chapter to showcase its

achievements and strengthen connections with national leadership.

Our chapter welcomed 13 new members last fall, bringing total membership to 45 men. Among them, Will Luther made his mark by serving as a page in the Minnesota State Senate this winter. We were also excited to initiate two additional members before the semester ended.

Beyond the chapter house, Beta Pi brothers excelled in academic, professional, and unique arenas. Brothers **Maas '27**, **Anderson '27**, and **Whalen '28** placed second in the 18th Annual Supply Chain Case Competition hosted by the Carlson School of Management, while Brother **Nilson '27** prepared to compete in his upcoming case competition. Brother **Day '26** won first place at the Blarney's Pub and Grill Swimwear Modeling Competition in February, demonstrating the chapter's diverse talents.

Brother **Quigley '28** stood out in the University of Minnesota ROTC program, placing 5th at the National ROTC KU Buddy Ranger

Competition and securing 1st place out of 373 participants—including Army Special Forces and civilians—at the Arden Hills Norwegian Foot March. The 30-kilometer course, completed with a 25-pound ruck, is known for its rigorous demands. Quigley recorded one of the fastest times in recent years. He departed for Air Assault School on May 19. We also said goodbye to Brother **Polzin '24**, who moved to Scottsdale, Ariz. to pursue his dream of becoming a pilot.

At the chapter house, the addition of a pool table in the G Room transformed it into a lively social space. Brother President **Jacob Loveall '26** remarked, "I've never seen so many people in the G Room before." The house also welcomed Mitch, our new full-time cook, who quickly became part of our community.

As the semester concluded, Beta Pi reflected on a successful year of growth and impact and looked forward to building on this momentum in the fall.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter President **Jacob W. Loveall '26**, lovea009@umn.edu
 Vice President of Brotherhood **Boone R. Allen '27**
 Vice President of Finance **Caleb T. Maas '27**
 Vice President of Communications **Kyle Nilson '27**
 Vice President of New Member Education **Gabriel W. Anderson '27**
 Vice President of Risk Management **Nicholas A. Johnson '26**
 Vice President of Programming **Kendall E. Rodin '27**
 Vice President of Recruitment **Ashton R. Demmer '27**
 Vice President of Ritual **Logan D. Jakubowski '27**
 House Manager **Jonathan W. Day '26**

Goals for 2025-26

1

Attain a significant new member class (20-25) for the fall 2025 semester.

2

Secure a Top 3 spot in the IFC GPA rankings.

3

Retain a healthy number of live-ins for the upcoming academic year, maintaining a good system of revenue for the chapter.



WE'RE PUTTING
OUT THE
WELCOME SIGN!

*Know Someone
Who Should Be Here?*

We're always looking for promising young men to bring into Beta Pi and would appreciate recommendations of men you know who would be a good fit.

Send their info to Vice President of Recruitment **Ashton R. Demmer '27** at demme029@umn.edu.

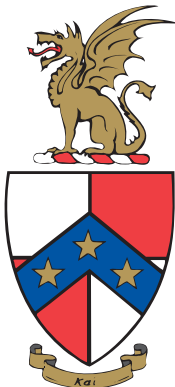
Thank You, Loyal Donors

We are exceedingly grateful to the generous alumni below who have contributed \$5,025 to our brotherhood in 2025 so far. Our chapter continues to thrive and grow stronger thanks to these dedicated brothers.

Ready to add your name to this list? Visit betapiannualcampaign.causevox.com to make a gift today!



Delmont M. Johnson '62
Jan F. Ebbert '63
Richard L. George '66
William L. Laakso '69
Jeffrey D. Ohm '70
James R. Curtis '86
William H. Madden Jr. '86
Liza and Nick Lampi '99
Ryan A. Marek '12
Drew Erickson '15



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THE BETA EXPERIENCE

Reflections from Our Class of 2025

"Beta has been the place where I grew into the man I am today. The lessons, laughs, and loyalty we share will always stay with me." —**Joseph A. Burgess**

"In a place where authenticity is celebrated and growth is constant, Beta helped me become someone I'm proud to be." —**Tyler J. Drew**

"Being a part of Beta taught me the value of showing up for others—and for myself. I'm proud to have been shaped by this brotherhood." —**Paul J. Goff**

"Beta shaped my college experience in ways I never expected. I leave this house with lasting friendships and a deeper understanding of what it means to lead with integrity." —**Tony T. Hanson**

"Beta has always been my home away from home. I found strength in the support, and I'll always carry that sense of brotherhood into the next chapter of life." —**Vincent T. Nguyen**

"This house gave more than just a roof; it gave me a family. I'm thankful for every memory made and every brother who stood by me." —**Chevy T. Post**

"Beta gave me more than I ever imagined—lifelong friends, countless memories, and the belief that together we can face anything." —**Owen B. Ratgen**