

Zeta Alpha Alumni Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc

Board of Directors Meeting

**February 1, 2026
Zoom Call Meeting**

President Kevin Krepinevich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time via Zoom. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Present: Mike Bariski, Douglas Bull, Cooper Collins, John Farrar, Kevin Krepinevich

Non-voting Members Present Eric Lehman

Absent: Andrew Auth, Brody McKenna, Gary Perdue

Additions and Corrections to the agenda

Final additions and/or corrections to the agenda were made.

Secretary Report

Motion by John Farrar

The minutes of June 29, 2025, Zeta Alpha Chapter Alumni Board Conference Call Meeting to be approved.

Second by Doug Bull and passed without dissent.

Motion by John Farrar

That the 7/21/24 minutes be amended as follows:

Under the Treasurer's Report the following sentence needs to be amended:

A total of ~~\$1171.01~~ \$1171.90 was raised from the 2024 golf outing and deposited in to the Alumni Board general fund.

Correct the spelling of brother as printed from ~~Bob Badoex~~ to Bob Baudoux in the list of donors.

And that the 9/18/24 minutes be amended as follows:

Under the Treasurer's Report the following sentence needs to be amended:

Since our last meeting on July 21, 2024, the funds raised ~~from from~~ this 31st Annual Golf, \$600.00 from the sale of "T" sings and the balance of monies raised from the outing \$571.90 representing a total of ~~\$1,171.01~~ \$1,171.90 was sent to the SRU Foundation to be deposited in the "Helping Hand Scholarship Fund.

And that the 2/16/25 minutes be amended as follows:

During the months following the June 30, 2024 accounting from the Foundation there has been additional deposits made into the Interest account in the amount of \$2,332.79. There was the ~~\$1,171.01~~ \$1,171.90 in proceeds from last year's golf outing, \$1,121.78 in additional interest income and \$40.00 in direct donations from Brothers.

Second by Doug Bull and passed without dissent.

Treasures Report as of 2/1/26

Treasurer Doug Bull reported the following financial information and activity to the Board

General Fund Activity

Opening balance **\$ 4,409.54**

Income

Date	Item	Amount
6/30/25	From Brick Fund	\$ 100.00
7/1/25	Donation Sandra Farrar	\$ 1.00
7/17/25	Donation Mike Young	\$ 200.00
Total		\$ 301.00

Expense

Date	Item	Amount
6/28/25	Tee Sign Printing	\$ 40.00
7/22/25	Brick for Terry Colatriano	\$ 100.00
8/13/25	Website Hosting Fee	
	K. Krepinevich	\$ 276.39
11/3/25	Homecoming Expenses	
	ZA Chapter	\$ 323.23
11/24/25	Slippery Rock Golf Course	
	Deposit for Golf Outing	\$ 250.00
Total		\$ 989.62

General Fund Balance **\$ 3,720.92**

Brick Fund Activity

Opening balance **\$ 1,831.00**

Income

Date	Item	Amount
None		\$ 0.00
Total		\$ 0.00

Expense

Date	Item	Amount
6/30/25	Brick for Terry Colatriano	
	Moved to General Fund	\$ 100.00
Total		\$ 100.00

Brick Fund Closing Balance **\$ 1,731.00**

Scholarship Fund Accounting - The Helping Hand Scholarship

Opening Balance	Amount
	\$ 35,530.86

Endowment	\$ 25,150.00
Interest Account	\$ 10,380.86

Income

Date	Item	Amount
None		\$ 0.00
Total		\$ 0.00

Expense

Date	Item	Amount
7/9/25	Grant to Matt Rybolt	\$ 500.00
Total		\$ 500.00

Closing Balance	\$ 35,030.00
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The General Fund is a checking account and the Brick Fund is a savings account. When brick(s) are purchased, money is moved from the Brick Fund savings account to the General Fund checking account for payments.

Interest earned by the Helping Hand Fund between 7/1 and 6/30 each year is normally deposited by 7/31.

Interest for 7/1/24 – 6/30/25 totaled \$1,555.51 and is included in the above totals.

President Report

President Krepinevich reported that the Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity is in the best shape it has been since the recolonization. This is demonstrated by the growth, programming and awards earned by the chapter supported by our dedicated Alumni.

He stated he is constantly reminded of the concept shared many times with him in training sessions, for those of us who have followed the journey for decades and some more recently, we are members and mentors of the Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. There is a weight on our shoulders to provide the “assisting hand” necessary from alumni whether it be time, talent or treasure when needed or requested. But the overriding principle, clearly and regularly reinforced, is the Chapter and its Executive Board are the FINAL SAY in any fraternity matter related to the Zeta Alpha Chapter and its alumni. Our job is to be there as a resource.

That reason alone is enough to reinforce the idea that the role of all alumni is to respect that authority and always lead with, “How can we help?” It is our job to provide the institutional memory for the organization and make suggestions when we see issues of concern or provide help when asked, but not to tell the chapter what to do.

Additionally, our role as elected leaders of the Alumni Association is to put procedures and processes in place that are clear and easy for all alumni brothers to understand and follow. These are put in place for a reason and are always discussable and potentially revised based on the needs of the chapter and alumni.

As with any successful organization one can say we need to, "Makes sure everyone is rowing in the same direction." Otherwise, there is confusion, misrepresentation and a waste of time, talent and treasure that could be used for better purposes.

We along with the collegians have helped build one of the outstanding chapters out of over 160 chapters of Theta Chi Fraternity.

Krepinevich further stated, the chapter members are proud, he is proud and he would hope that each brother shares that pride of accomplishment. But we cannot live in the past. The members of the chapter are dedicated not to be a "one and done" but are ready to take the next step to sustain a proud legacy. It becomes our job through mentorship to help them achieve their goals of brother development, campus leadership and community involvement.

To share a brief story that occurred recently.

This spring, one of the chapter's brothers, who had earned and was awarded a PHEAA grant to attend SRU for the spring semester, had been checking regularly on the progress of the deposit of his grant. The issue arose because Pennsylvania did not pass a budget that was to be approved by June 30 until November and ALL PHEAA grants were delayed.

Three days before classes were to resume, this brother had still not received his grant and was told by the university he could not attend classes until the bill was paid. The university refused to allow this brother to register and begin classes even knowing a grant was pending. He was told to pay, get someone to co-sign a loan, put it on a credit card or stay home!

This brother was distraught, panicked and felt alone!

He reached out to Chapter President Jake Levy. President Levy also sought guidance by contacting the Chapter Advisor and to the Alumni President,.

The reason the story is being shared is that within about a 6-hours, the Chapter's Executive Board created a plan and agreed to coordinate with Alumni and the Chapter to make sure this brother could get at least the \$2,400 needed to start school. They came up with the following plan:

1. Since there was no time for money to be obtained over a weekend to be paid the following week, outside sources would be impossible to immediately pursue. The Chapter officers agreed to issue a check for \$2,400 to the University in this brother's name to get him registered and attending classes.

2. They began crafting to the Alumni Board, planning to meet on February 1, 2026, an award in the amount of \$2,400 to the brother under the clause in the fund procedures that a special request would need to be presented to the Alumni Board for consideration. Only if approved, would the money be put in the brother's university account. This would trigger an overpayment in the account and the brother could then immediately take the funds from his account to reimburse the chapter in full.
3. When the grant finally arrived and was deposited to his university account, hHe would then turn around, and make a \$2,400 donation to the Helping Hand Fund replacing the funds disbursed.

This would in effect make sure all parties were paid in a timely fashion and lower the stress level. This seemed to be a very efficient, thoughtful and well thought out plan.

Fortunately, as the chapter was going through the process of getting checks written, a Helping Fund grant request prepared and getting checks from the bank, the brother notified the chapter that his PHEAA grant came through on the first day of classes and the plan did not need to be implemented.

President Krepinevich commented that it was an incredible combination of aiding a brother, creating a creative solution, utilizing skills they would not use normally in a college situation and prevented compromising the chapter or the Helping Hand Fund.

We tell prospective members and even current brothers, "Being a member of a fraternity will provide opportunities not found anywhere else in school." These brothers demonstrated their commitment to each other and learned life skills at the same time.

They acted in a way that any Theta Chi Fraternity brother would be proud. This is what we have spent 10 years working building.

He stated he looks forward to the deliberations during this meeting and continues to support the chapter, its development and its members and hopes that we can continue to set an example for the chapter.

He welcomed any questions or comments and stated as is regularly displayed by the members of the chapter, "Horn Down."

Chapter Advisor Report

Chapter Advisor Eric Lehman reported activities of the chapter from last June until November were covered in the November Alumni Newsletter. The Chapter finished 2025 strongly with the election of its 2026 Officers. Several brothers competed for the positions, to which they were elected, demonstrating the enthusiasm to continue their success. A list of officers can be found on the website at https://zachapter.com/?page_id=1377.

Resolute Man - Brother Kaan Ozdemir earned his Resolute Man designation by attending the Theta Chi International Marketing Experience held September 9-6, 2025 in St. Louis MO. Brother KJ Meek earned his Resolute Man designation by participating in the Theta Chi Fraternity Sports Management Experience held at the Indiana Pacer facility November 13-15, 2025. For more on recognition the chapter and brothers have been receiving can be found on the website at https://zachapter.com/?page_id=1381. There are now 12 Zeta Alpha Chapter members who have achieved the resolute Man Designation.

Interfraternity Council - Chapter President Jake Levy was elected President of the Interfraternity Council and Brother Mark Rose was elected as the Interfraternity Council Vice President of Education for 2026.

Academics - Finals concluded on December 13, 2025. The Fall 2025 GPAs were recently released and the results are:

- There are 5 brothers who earned a 4.0 GPA - Zachary Bickel, Cole Clary, Johnny Grimm, Luke Jordan, Logan Pfaff.
- In addition to the above 5 brothers the following 13 brothers also made the Dean's List (3.5 to 4.0 GPA) - Evan Andrews, Daniel Babinsack, Adam Fisher, Connor Haney, Caleb Hankee, Nate Murrin, Blake Naeger, Jack Nalavenko, Michael Niness, Kaan Ozdemir, Thuta Htun, Nate Wagamen, Glenn Wilcox
- There were 14 other brothers who earned between a 3.0 and 3.49 GPA. That means out of 47 brothers 32 had a 3.0 or better!

The average GPA for the Zeta Alpha Chapter for the Fall of 2025 - 3.084

- The all-men's student GPA average for Fall 2025 - 3.17, the all-fraternity student GPA average for Fall 2025 - 3.086.
- The all-women's student GPA average for Fall 2025 - 3.43, the all-sorority student GPA average for Fall 2025 - 3.482

All undergraduate average - 3.31

Theta Chi Fraternity in Fall 2025 held the 5th highest fraternity GPA with only a 0.216 point difference between 1st and 5th. This Fall Theta Chi was tied as the largest fraternity on campus with 47 members and stands only second to Pi Kappa Phi in academics with 47 members. The next largest fraternities on campus range from 9-24 members.

Training

The Chapter President, Vice President, Health and Safety Vice President, Recruitment Chair and Marshal attended the January Officers Training Conference held in Indianapolis, IN, January 9-11, 2026, obtaining insight into their responsibilities, sharing information and networking with fellow brothers from all over the country bringing back ideas to the chapter.

Spring Semester

- Classes were scheduled to begin again on January 20, 2026. However, as with many of you, experienced as well, Slippery Rock University closed for a couple days because of the snowstorm. Advisor Lehman met with the brothers on January 17th to check in, talk through a few behavioral items, hold a brief executive board meeting, and help map out the semester.

This visit happened just before the snow hit campus. With several classes moving online, the brothers leaned into the moment and stayed connected through some casual snow activities around the dorms and near the ski lodge.

- The chapter is expecting a large group of seniors preparing to graduate (approximately 10) which has naturally led to a bit of the “usual” senior disengagement. That said, the chapter remains tied as the largest organization on campus and continues to have a strong presence. To visit the current activities of the chapter on the website at https://zachapter.com/?page_id=5723.
- Recruitment officially kicked on February 1st. The chapter has planned seven events over the next two weeks, with a goal of bringing in between 10 and 20 new members.
- The chapter is planning to host a Founders Day Event on April 12 at 11:00 a.m. including a cookout, yard games and a variety of other activities. The chapter is enthusiastically inviting alumni brothers to attend.
- The initiation of the Pi pledge class is scheduled for April 19, 2026. All initiated brothers are invited and appropriate suits and ties are required for admission. Time and location will be shared once everything is fully finalized.

President Krepinevich added to help all Board members understand the issues facing recruitment and membership.

Theta Chi Fraternity Fees

A Theta Chi initiation fee is \$389

Once initiated the semi-annual fees for a brother are:

Programming and benefit fee - \$281 per semester (this includes liability insurance)

Greek Bill Fee for payment processing - \$18

Chapterspot Fee for chapter information management - About \$8 a member

Total - \$315 per semester

The chapter also charges local fees to cover programming, and other administrative responsibilities of approximately \$200 a semester.

It is clear the commitment the current collegians have made to be a member of the Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity is obvious and some may say appropriate for the time. But from what we can see, it is the value the members perceive from those fees.

It is important that we are aware of and encourage their commitment.

Committee Chair Reports

The Committee Chairmen Brody McKenna and Gary Perdue were not in attendance. There were no reports.

Old Business

2024 990-N Form

The Zeta Alpha Alumni Board 990-N Form was completed and submitted in February 2025 and was finally able to be viewed in early November 2025 demonstrating we have fulfilled our tax-exempt commitments for 2024.

Passing of Amendment to the Alumni Corporation Bylaws

Between August 1 and August 16, 2025, a proposed amendment to the Bylaws was proposed and passed with 95.24% approval.

The approved amendment is as follows:

Bylaw Article VI Section B - After each election, once elected, ~~between April 25 and April 30~~ by May 15 the newly constituted Board shall meet by conference call and the Directors shall elect three (3) officers from amongst themselves.

The bylaws as amended were placed on the website.

New Business

Chapter 2024-2025 Recognition

Though shared in a newsletter during the Fall Semester it was shared with the Board that the Zeta Alpha chapter received 3 awards from Theta Chi International in July 2025 for their efforts in 2024-2025.

- Howard R. Alter, Jr Award for Chapter Excellence
- Phil L. Randall Success in Recruitment Award
- Henry B. Hersey significant increase in membership Honorable Mention

The Board commends the chapter on these outstanding achievements.

Amendment of Current Board Banking Policy

Motion by John Farrar

To amend the current banking policy as follows:

Beginning June 1, 2026 start the process of opening 2 checking accounts one for the general fund and one for the brick fund at the First National Bank of Slippery Rock-Plaza with ~~all board~~ the President and Treasurer ~~members~~ being signatories and move the funds from the First National Bank in Sharon to the new bank accounts to be completed by June 29, 2026 and that no funds shall be distributed without approval of the Board and all approved income and expense items, shall be processed and reported at the next Board meeting. Originally Adopted (4/27/25)

Second by Doug Bull and passed without dissent.

Authorization of Memorial Bricks

Motion by Doug Bull

To authorize Memorial Bricks for:

- Donald F. "Doc" Hannon 240-26

It was learned that someone else recently purchased a brick for Brother Hannon to be placed. It is not in the normal format of all others that have been placed. A duplicate will not be ordered and whomever did this will not be compensated.

- Glenn R. Jones – 240-205
- Richard C. Rowlands – 240-308
- Timothy C. Aldom – 240-321
- David M. Grabosky – 240-360
- Theodore F. Disalvo – 240-364

With a final financial authorization by the Board by May 15, 2026 and purchase by deadline set by Alumni House.

Second by Mike Bariski and passed without dissent.

Brick Memorial process changes recommendations from Brother Ron Burke

Brother Ron Burke made recommendations related to the overseeing, purchasing and placement of memorial bricks. The Board discussed the recommendations in detail and took the following action

Motion by Mike Bariski

That the current "Brick Fund" policy listed here:

Memorial Brick Fund Policy

The money currently in the "Brick Fund" be a separate restricted fund and only used for the purchase of bricks for the memorialization of initiated brothers who have passed.

Adopted (8/20/17)

Brothers are encouraged to inform a member of the Alumni Board of the passing of initiated brothers of the Zeta Alpha Chapter.

When the Board is aware of the passing of an initiated member of the Zeta Alpha Chapter, a motion shall appear in the minutes, noting that Brother's passing.

No later than June 1 each year the Secretary shall review the previous twelve (12) months of minutes and compile a list of all Brothers who have passed and present that list to the Board with a funding request to be made from the Brick Fund to approve a brick to be placed in memorial for each Brother at the Russell Wright Alumni House at Slippery Rock University.

Once approved, the Treasurer shall send a check to the Secretary. The Secretary shall then send the check along with an order form for the bricks to be ordered to the SRU Alumni Association.

Adopted (1/16/22)

Shall continue to be the policy of the Board and that President Krepinevich shares the results of the decision of the Board to Brother Ron Burke, who asked for the policy to be reviewed, with the following amendment.

That a link will be placed under the Chapter Eternal page on the website include a form where brothers may notify the Board of the passing of any initiated brother.

(Adopted 2/1/26)

Second by Doug Bull and passed without dissent.

Adoption of a policy on "Official Events" and adoption the official events for 2026.

In accordance with the Liability Insurance carrier the Alumni Corporation is required to identify "Official Events" for coverage of those events. A policy has been proposed to comply.

Motion by John Farrar

It shall be the policy of the Alumni Board, in compliance with recommendations from Holmes Murphy, the company that provides Theta Chi Fraternity's liability insurance for the alumni and the chapter, that an official list of events shall be designated by the

Alumni Board for any official alumni events each year at the first meeting of each new calendar year.

Second by Cooper Collins and passed without dissent.

Identification of “Official Events” for 2026

Motion by Mike Bariski

That the official events for 2026 shall be identified as:

- The 2026 Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity “Welcome Event” and Golf Outing June 12-13, 2026.
- The Zeta Alpha Chapter hosting of 2026 Homecoming activities October 9-10, 2026.
- Any further activities shall be approved by the Board if necessary and applicable.

Second by Cooper Collins and passed without dissent.

Authorization of the Alumni Corporation Application 2026 Renewal and codifying of policy

Motion by Cooper Collins

That the Board authorizes the submission of the 2026 Theta Chi Alumni Corporation Application for 2026 and that the following policy be codified in the policies of the Board:

It shall be the policy of the Alumni Board to actively complete the requirements of the Theta Chi Fraternity Alumni Corporation Recognition Program and submit the application in a timely manner (normally April 1) every 2 years to guarantee the rights and privileges associated with that recognition. Currently including but not limited to:

- License to us Theta Chi Fraternity name and trademarks.
- Access to current roster and contact information for alumni and collegians.
- Waiver of nomination fees for certificate-based awards.
- Coverage under the general liability and Officers and Directors policies.
- Ability to send an alumni delegate to the International Convention.

Second by Mike Bariski and passed without dissent.

Theta Chi Citation for Past Chapter President Joe Hemple

Brother Joe Hemple served for two years as the Chapter President of the Zeta Alpha Chapter. During that time, the chapter grew from 18 members to 48 members and the Chapter attained the Howard Alter, Jr. Award for Excellence, its first in the overall history of the chapter. He built a strong team of brothers dedicated to these achievements. The Board wishes to honor Past President Joe Hemple’s commitment to the organization.

Motion by John Farrar

That the Board authorizes the obtaining of a Theta Chi Fraternity Citation of Honor recognizing Brother Joe Hemple for his accomplishments serving as Chapter President for terms 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to be presented during the Golf Outing Award ceremonies in June 2026.

Second by Doug Bull and passed without dissent.

2025 – 990-N Form

The Board discussed the completion of the 990-N Form for the 2025 tax year with the IRS as soon as possible to be in compliance with the tax law and so the information can be included with the Alumni Corporation Recognition Program Application forms. Treasurer Bull will spearhead this effort.

2026 Theta Chi Convention

The Board discussed the 170th Anniversary Theta Chi Convention to be held July 10-14, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas. All brothers, alumni or current, are encouraged to attend.

As a recognized Alumni Association, one Alumni member may be designated as the voting member at the business sessions of the convention.

Motion by John Farrar

That Brother Kevin Krepinevich be appointed as the designated Alumni representative to the 170th Anniversary Theta Chi Fraternity Convention.

Second by Doug Bull and passed without dissent.

Zeta Alpha Website

President Krepinevich discussed the updates Zeta Alpha Chapter web site <http://www.zachapter.com>.

Information has been updated to include the basics of the 2026 golf outing and homecoming on the home page. Over 800 items including pictures appeared on the 2025-chapter news page. A 2026-chapter news page is available and being updated. Normal updates such as Alumni Board contacts, chapter officers, policies and other maintenance items including Chapter Eternal, minutes of Board Meetings, Awards and Recognition were completed. All updates that need to be made have been completed. The database was updated with the most recent pledge class.

The 33rd Zeta Alpha Golf Outing

The board discussed the progress of arrangements for the golf outing.

- A signed contract and a \$250 deposit have been completed and confirmed as of January 2, 2026, to confirm the reservation at the Slippery Rock Golf Club and Events Center.

- Golf fees will be \$55 but with a credit card it will include the processing fee of 3% for a total of \$56.65.
- Brothers will be encouraged to write a check or use their Bank's "Bill Pay" for payment only.
- A hot dog and drink have been arranged for all attendees and will be provided at no charge by the Alumni Board. (\$3.50 each)
- A closest to the pin and longest drive competition will be available for \$10.00. Entries need to be in cash.
- The chapter will be hosting a "Welcome Event" at the chapter house at 115 Keister Road in Slippery Rock at no cost to attendees.
- The Chapter will host the after-golf awards ceremony, food and beverages for \$20 per attendee.
- Assignments were discussed and President Krepinevich will distribute a list to the Board of items that assistance will be needed and encouraged Board members to identify those with which they can help. Additional suggestions of regular attendees, like Brother Steve Pennell, who would be willing to help is encouraged.

Preliminary Assignments

- Secretary John Farrar offered to work with Brother Perdue for the outing fundraising to support the Helping Hand Fund and to support chapter activities.
 - Brother Mike Bariski volunteered to obtain awards for the outing.
 - President Kevin Krepinevich will offer a golf bag for the outing raffle and will be working with Kelly Bailey the SRU Director of Alumni Engagement concerning obtaining SRU gift bags for attendees.
 - Treasurer Doug Bull will coordinate payment processing and accounting.
 - Advisor Lehman will coordinate with the Chapter.
- Information will be shared in the February newsletter and a registration form with payment options will be distributed by February 10, 2026.

February Newsletter

The February 2026 newsletter is scheduled to be distributed by February 10, 2026

Misinformation being shared with only a select portion of the alumni membership and disregard for Board Policy

The Board discussed communication, activities and apparently fundraising that continue to occur related to what has perceived to become a “shadow Zeta Alpha Alumni” and action that needs to occur.

Motion by Doug Bull

That a letter from the entire Board of Directors be sent by the Alumni Board Secretary to individuals involved in counterproductive communication, activities and apparently fundraising to cease and desist. These actions create confusion, distribute misinformation, compete with and continue to attempt to work counter to the Chapter and the Alumni Association. The Board is prepared to take appropriate action to remove those from the roster who persist.

Second by Mike Bariski and passed without dissent.

Nominations for Election of Board members for 2026-2028

President Krepinevich reminded the Board that nominations for the 2026-2028 Board terms are due to Secretary Farrar by April 1, 2026. Those nominations and a ballot be distributed by April 10, 2026, with a deadline for voting being April 25, 2026. Current Board member John Farrar has indicated his interest in running for another term. Brothers Cooper Collins and Andrew Auth will not be running for re-election. This creates at least 2 guaranteed vacancies for which needs to be recruited and/or nominated.

For the Good of the Fraternity

Each Board member was offered the opportunity to speak for the Good of the Fraternity.

Next Board Meeting

To review and finalize arrangements for the 2026 Golf Outing and all necessary materials have been provided for the Board Ballot, the next scheduled board meeting shall be March 29, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time by Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
John Farrar, Secretary