



Theta Delta Chi's 177th Convention Official Recap

The 177th Convention of Theta Delta Chi is in the books. Theta Deltis and guests from around the country assembled in Williamsburg, Virginia, on the first weekend of August. They gathered to conduct the business of the Fraternity, welcome Epsilon back to the active ranks, honor those in Omega, renew in union our social joys, and more. Check out the recap below for all the details, and follow [instagram.com/thetadeltachi](https://www.instagram.com/thetadeltachi) for more pictures.

Golf Tournament

The Golf Tournament kicked off the Convention with a competitive game of scramble! The event took place at The Green Course at Golden Horseshoe Golf Club. Theta Deltis of varying skill levels teed off starting at 8:50 am on Thursday. These groups consisted of members of the Grand Lodge staff, alumni, and undergraduates.

Awards for the tournament were presented later that night during the Indoor Golf & Dinner event. These awards included longest drive, shortest drive, closest to the pin, closest putt missed, most time spent in the woods, and the best team score.

Congratulations to the winners of the golf tournament, for skilled, and not-so-skilled golfers:

Longest Drive- Alex Johnson, Beta Deuteron '27

Closest to the Pin- Bill Hammond, Chi '73

Shortest Drive- Manouk Sargsyan, Psi Deuteron '26

Closest putt missed- Chase Terwilliger, Psi Tetraton '26

Most time spent in the woods-

Doug Johnson, Epsilon Triton '89

Best Team:

Doug Johnson, Epsilon Triton '89

Ken Henman, Epsilon Triton '89

Nick Carter, Tau Triton '24

Alex Johnson, Beta Deuteron '27

General Business Sessions 1 & 2

During the business sessions, the floor unanimously accepted the new changes to the Book of Rituals; these amendments will go out for ratification in September with a response due within 30 days. The new Grand Lodge was also elected and installed. Congratulations to the following new members of the **148th Grand Lodge:**

Manny Valdez, Mu Triton '21- Graduate Treasurer

Greg Wagner, Epsilon '84- Executive Member

Simon Ross, Sigma Deuteron '26-

Undergraduate Member at Large

Carter Bertsch, Upsilon Deuteron '26-

Undergraduate Member at Large

During the first business session, staff members Nick Flores and Drew Johnson presented 11 certificates of excellence. Congratulations to these winners!

Certificates of Excellence

Finance - Omicron Triton

Risk Management - Beta Deuteron

Programming - Sigma Deuteron

Inter-Charge Relations - Lambda Deuteron

Recruitment - Omicron Triton

Campus Involvement - Tau Tetraton

NME - Upsilon Deuteron

Hospitality - Iota Triton

Social Media Marketing - Mu Triton

Leadership - Sigma Deuteron

Joe Katusich, Development Coordinator for **Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism Partnership** presented to business session attendees. He discussed the partnership between Theta Delta Chi and their foundation and the role our Charges can play. He highlighted some of the fundraising accomplishments from our Charges during the year and challenged delegates to get their Charges to throw their first event or grow the past events in the coming year.

Indoor Golf & Dinner



The first day of the 177th annual Convention wrapped up with dinner and an indoor golf simulator at Revolution Golf and Grille. Conventioneers gathered to enjoy burgers, nachos, sandwiches, and more while having the opportunity to carry on their conversations over some virtual golf. The indoor golf simulator was a big success as brothers quickly hit the virtual range after dinner. While many spent their time golfing, others spent their time networking and becoming better acquainted with fellow conventioneers. After the first business session of the weekend, Revolution Golf and Grille was a great way to kick off the start of the 177th annual Convention.

Historical Tour

On Friday, delegates and convention registrants met in the lobby after breakfast to head into Colonial Williamsburg. The historical tour had guides from the local Epsilon Charge. Brothers walked attendees through six different sites and provided trivia, history, and challenges for the attendees.

The first stop was the Old Masonic Lodge, the site on Francis Street East was host to the 1856 Convention of Theta Delta Chi and where notable Epsilon alumni Mottrom Dulany Ball '1854 delivered a poem he had written, titled A Poem.

A short walk from the lodge was the Magazine, followed by Bruton Parish Church, Robert Carter House, Barnes



House, and the Wren Yard. The tour ended with lunch at the Art Museum Café.

A huge thank you to the following Epsilon Brothers for leading the tours:

- Will Gimpel '84
- Greg Wagner '84
- Alan Ashworth '85
- Evan Davis '07
- Mark Gleason '07
- Ed Walinsky '10

ASTP

During Friday's events, outgoing Charge Consultant Nick Flores, Beta Deuteron '22, facilitated the Alcohol Skills Training Program with undergraduate delegates. The purpose of this program is to help students who choose to drink make informed decisions about their alcohol consumption and to help them do so in a less dangerous way. Brother Flores facilitated conversations about safe drinking habits, risks of overindulging, expectancies, blood alcohol level, tolerance, and more. Undergraduates were engaged in their questions, responses, and overall attentiveness, as they played a vital role in the conversations during the session.

Omega Service

The Omega Service was held in the Wren Chapel. The Wren Building is the oldest academic building in the United States and is considered part of the ancient campus. Attendees filled the space to capacity. The traditions of the Omega Service continued with the service led by Epsilon Brothers Evan Davis '07 and Ed Walinsky '10; the Grand Lodge read the Omega Roll, and Love Cannot Die was sung—a special thank you to William Joyner, Epsilon '84, for leading us in song.

There were three Charge memorials where brothers shared words about someone who had entered Omega. David Strait, Delta Deuteron '77, shared words for Donald Peck, Delta Deuteron '71. Perry Lam, Epsilon



'79 and Brian Ledwith, Epsilon '81, shared words on Jim Ledwith, Epsilon '79. Brother Stephan Johnson, Gamma Triton '92 shared words about Stephen Wilhelm, Gamma Triton '90 among others.

Epsilon ReChartering Banquet

The Epsilon Chartering banquet, emceed by Greg Wagner, Epsilon '84, was a celebration worth the wait. Held in the Traditions restaurant at the Williamsburg Lodge, Theta Deltas and their guests were served dinner by people in colonial garb giving a historical feel. Adding to the reverence was the original handwritten Epsilon Constitution displayed for Brothers to see.

The night was all thanks to the hard work that the Epsilon alumni, CFO staff, and, most importantly, the active brothers of Epsilon displayed over the last two years. Drew Johnson, Beta Deuteron '20, Alan Ashworth, Epsilon '85, Stephan Johnson, Gamma Triton '92, and Andrew Finkelstein, Epsilon '26 spoke at the event. The Charter was presented to the Brothers of Epsilon to round out the night. Congratulations to The Noble Epsilon Charge at William & Mary on their rechartering.



Board Meetings

The Educational Foundation, Founders' Corporation, and Grand Lodge held their annual meetings in sequence before the Grand Banquet on Saturday night.

The Educational Foundation approved the scholarship winners, ratified the executive committee decisions, and started looking at their future planning. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible. To donate, go to vgdues.org.

The Founders' Corporation welcomed four new stockholders and elected two to open Governor seats. The regular business was conducted during their three smaller meetings. Any Theta Delt can become a stockholder with a one-time purchase of \$250. Interested in doing so? Email CFO@tdx.org. The Founders' Corporation is a 501(c)(2) that holds the assets of the Grand Lodge and supports its operations through yearly transfers from the investments. The Corporation also handles other investments, bridge loans, and lines of credit for individual alumni organizations.

The 148th Grand Lodge had its first meeting after the elections at the second general business session. The Lodge scheduled their next meeting, signed board member agreements, and started planning their monthly meetings throughout the year.

Holmes Murphy

Holmes Murphy, our insurance broker, offers a session on risk management for their clients. One of their consultants, Bobbi Larsen, led a critical conversation on liability, best practices, and more. Educational Consultant Larsen had come to many conventions to discuss the ART of Risk, thus being a strong voice to impact the undergraduate leaders of Theta Delta Chi.

NME Planning Minerva Session & Alumni Minerva Session

The Grand Lodge has a new offering to support New Member Education. After creating the 17th Edition of the Membership Handbook, the Central Fraternity Office started to work on new New Member Education Materials. The 2nd Edition New Member Education Materials are now being rolled out.

Usage of the materials is not required but highly suggested. Charges have a few options as they plan their New Member Education for the year. Charges can continue implementing their New Member Education Plan if it meets the standards. The program must follow the NME guidelines and format and have scripted lessons. These plans are submitted and approved annually. Charges may choose not to conduct a New Member Education Plan. In this case, they must still review the Preamble and policies with new members before initiating within one week of bid acceptance. Upon registering for both options, new members are

given new member pins and handbooks.

For groups who opt to use the 2nd edition materials, each new member receives the 17th Edition Handbook, a new member pin, and an NME workbook. These materials are free and can be used to guide new members through their process. The educators for the Charge have a curriculum guide that they can use to plan and facilitate critical lessons.

These materials were the focus of the alumni and one of the undergraduate Minerva Sessions. Both sessions focused on educating members on the new materials and their options throughout the year. The materials have a collective 14 lessons focusing on Charge and personal development. They range from Setting a Path for Academic Success, Breaking down a Project, Presentation Skills, Charge History, and more. The program empowers members to identify, connect with, and live the values.

PGL & Grand Banquet

The 177th annual Convention closed out with the PGL Reception and Grand Banquet on Saturday, August 3rd. Conventioneers were treated to appetizers and drinks prior to the main event, the Grand Banquet. With conversations flowing outside the banquet hall, they quickly transitioned into the Virginia room as the time had come for the program's start. President of the Educational Foundation, Jeff Horton, Nu Triton '90, and Annual Director of the Educational Foundation Corey Egler, Upsilon Deuteron '15, emceed the event. In addition, Nick Flores, Beta Deuteron '22, Judah Wolfe, Epsilon '25, and Greg Wagner, Epsilon '84, delivered speeches to the Convention floor. Between speeches, this year's award and scholarship winners were announced. A job well done to the following individuals and Charges:

Undergraduate of the Year

Carter Bertsch, Upsilon Deuteron '25

Alumnus of the Year

Chris Piso, Mu Triton '11

President of the Year

Simon Ross, Sigma Deuteron '25

Theta Delt of the Year

Greg Wagner, Epsilon '84, Alan Ashworth, Epsilon '85, Doug Kwikkel, Beta Deuteron '81

Bruce R. Trefz Service and Philanthropy Cup

Tau Tetraton

Charles P. Schmidt Loyalty Cups

(Highest number of donors & highest percentage of donors)

Rho Triton

Glen Marston Travel Cup

Upsilon Deuteron

Graduate Attendance Trophy

Epsilon

Douglas G. Southern Development Award

Epsilon Alumni Association

Guy C. Pierce Improvement Cup

Sigma Deuteron

Dr. Richard E. Wood

Ritual Improvement Cup

Nu

Preident's Cup

Beta Deuteron

Victory Cup

Upsilon Deuteron

Scholarship Winners

Davenport: \$4,000

Lucas Rizzo, Beta Deuteron 2025

Jeremy Giglio, Delta Deuteron 2025

Trevor Smick, Alpha 2025

Braden Potters, Upsilon Deuteron 2026

Abdi De Leon, Mu Triton 2025

General: \$1,847

Andrew Dever, Upsilon Deuteron 2025

Carson Wirtz, Upsilon Deuteron 2026

Ethan Czyzewicz, Beta Deuteron 2026

Porter: \$1,250

Carter Bertsch, Upsilon Deuteron 2026

Larsen: \$5,000

Simon Ross, Sigma Deuteron 2026

Spencer Callaway, Sigma Deuteron 2026



Larsen: \$1,500

Seth Krosin, Sigma Deuteron 2027

Charlie Dentz, Sigma Deuteron 2026

Nicholas Balthazor, Sigma Deuteron 2025

Noah Lurie, Sigma Deuteron 2025