

THE STATE OF THE FRATERNITY AND GREEK COMMUNITY

179TH GENERAL CONVENTION | BETA THETA PI



“University presidents and trustees, now more than ever, must constantly review, consider and evaluate the essential contributions of every single organization within their institution. It’s not enough to claim results, you have to prove them. Leadership is perennially the most predictable determinant of a chapter flourishing or failing. It is not what it may first seem to young men. Rather, it is the courage to say no and the confidence to show empathy.”

— Dr. Bill Fox, St. Lawrence '75, President, St. Lawrence University

GREEK COMMUNITY

- More than 40 campus-wide suspensions of Greek activities this year.
- Internationally recognized institutions like the University of Michigan and University of Southern California have now mandated deferred recruitment, prohibiting freshmen from joining a fraternity or sorority their first semester on campus.
- More than 360 fraternity chapters were closed in 2017-18, averaging more than one per day during the academic year.
- State legislatures continue to stiffen penalties for hazing and alcohol-related crimes within fraternities, including property forfeiture, and local municipalities are revoking zoning statuses for chapter houses.
- Campuses and major peer fraternities continue to implement reforms to make the fraternity experience safer. Beta cannot ignore the rapid rate at which the campus landscape is changing.

BETA THETA PI

RISK AND CONSEQUENCES

- In the last year, the Fraternity was forced to close three more chapters – Illinois, Washington & Lee and Central Florida – due to alcohol and hazing-related concerns.
- In the wake of Beta’s continued risk management incidents, the Fraternity’s recruitment dropped 11% this spring and more than 7% for the entire year.
- Two campuses rescinded invitations for Beta to expand given the Fraternity’s growing reputation for being high-risk. They noted the prominent Penn State incident, but also pointed to ongoing media coverage of hazing and alcohol related incidents in Beta chapters across the continent.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Based upon Beta's own 15 years of experience with substance-free housing, wet-housed chapters have proven to create a higher risk Beta experience. Our risk management loss data, which includes more than 200 incidents, confirms wet-housed chapters experience sexual assault, hazing, alcohol poisoning, assault and battery, bodily injury and falls from heights in dramatic fashion relative to our substance-free-housed Beta brothers.

CHAPTER PERFORMANCE

The following data summarizes performance of wet-housed chapters and their substance-free-housed brothers:

	Wet Chapter Houses	Substance-Free Houses
Numbers of Chapters	36	63
Average Chapter Size	81	83
Academics	3.249	3.258
Conduct and Accountability		
Closed Chapters (Since 2005)	38 (88%)	5 (12%)
Reorganizations (Since 2005)	15 (83%)	3 (17%)
% Not in Good Standing (current)	32%	14%
Insurance Payouts		
No. of Insurance Claims (2013-17)	25 (63%)	14 (37%)
Total Payouts (2013-17)	\$1,247,681 (95%)	\$69,839 (5%)
Average Per Claim	\$49,907	\$4,988
Total Payouts Since 1998	\$3,581,317 (94%)	\$232,032 (6%)

Of Beta's **top 20 payouts**, 19 have come from chapters that allowed alcohol in their homes and one was unhoused. The average cost of those 19 payouts was more than \$189,000 each. The cost of the unhoused chapter's incident was just under \$30,000.

Of Beta's **top 10 payouts**, all came from wet-housed chapters, totaling more than \$3 million.

UNDERGRADUATE FEES

With liability insurance premiums increasing more than \$500,000 in the last four years due to unsafe chapter events, and two 13% undergraduate risk management fee increases in a row (2017 and 2018), Beta is on a trajectory to move from mid-pack in terms of risk management fees among the 62 NIC fraternities to among the highest. Considering that all chapters pay an identical risk management fee per member, it raises the question of fairness to those chapters and brothers who are unhoused or working hard to maintain a substance-free home.

BETA'S COMMITMENT TO SAFETY MUST INCLUDE:

- Good Education regarding risk management, safe event planning and bystander intervention.
- Good Resources including cultural assessment, on-demand modules, new member program pilot, etc.
- Good Policies including a Good Samaritan and Substance-Free Housing policy.
- Good Partnerships with interfraternal peers, host institutions and every Beta chapter.