

AN OVERVIEW OF

# PHI ETA SIGMA

FOR CHAPTER ADVISORS



# What is Phi Eta Sigma?

- Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that encourages and rewards academic excellence among freshmen of all disciplines in institutions of higher learning, promotes campus and community service, and provides national leadership opportunities.



# About Phi Eta Sigma

- A scholastic honor society, that recognizes first-year students who excel academically among their peers.
- Collegiate students invited to become members based on scholastic achievement (minimum GPA of a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale) at the end of any full-time curricular period of freshman year. Membership is by chapter invitation only.
- Black and gold graduation regalia including cords and medallions are used to indicate membership in Phi Eta Sigma.



# Important Phi Eta Sigma Dates

- March 1923 Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society is founded at the University of Illinois
- Spring 1927 National officers were elected, Thomas Arkle Clark grand president
- November 1928 The first national convention was held at the University of Illinois
- February 1931 Forum of Phi Eta Sigma volume I, number I was published
- 1975 Phi Eta Sigma membership was opened to female students
- 1992 The Phi Eta Sigma national office was transferred from Auburn University to Western Kentucky University
- 2009 Membership reached one million members
- 2019 the Phi Eta Sigma national office was transferred from Western Kentucky University to the Tuscaloosa, Alabama on the campus of the University of Alabama
- 2023 will mark 100 years of Phi Eta Sigma. The centennial celebration will kickoff at the 2022 National Convention in Birmingham, Alabama.





# Organizational Structure



# Executive Committee

- Elected by voting delegates of national convention
- Officers serve 4-year terms, advisor members serve 4-year terms, student and alumni members serve 2-year terms
- Attend off-year meeting and national convention
- Discuss & vote on Society business, approve budget, approve new charters
- Assist with planning & conducting convention
- Stay in touch with national office
- No financial obligations
- Made up of National President, National President Emeritus, National Vice President, National Historian, Executive Director, three advisor members, three student members, and two alumni members.



# Scholarship Committee

- Reviews scholarship applications and selects recipients
- Governed by Phi Eta Sigma Constitution & Laws
- Appointed by the National President



# Phi Eta Sigma Fun Facts

- Phi Eta Sigma was founded March 1923
- University of Illinois was the founding chapter
- The Phi Eta Sigma motto is Knowledge is Power
- The official pin is a key scroll with the Greek letters ΦΗΣ
- The official colors are black and gold
- Number of chartered collegiate chapters to date is 380



# National Office

- Located in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on the campus of the University of Alabama
- National Headquarters staff includes the Executive Director, 2 Coordinators of Chapters and Membership Services, Bookkeeper, and student workers



# National Office Staff



Dr. Mary Lee Caldwell  
Executive Director



Brett Hudson  
Coordinator for Chapters  
and Membership Services



Jaylin Goodwin  
Coordinator for Chapters  
and Membership Services



Jo Hebson  
Bookkeeper



# National President, Molly Lawrence



The University of Alabama





# National Leadership : 2020-21 Executive Committee

National Vice President:  
Tim Lemper, Indiana University

National Historian:  
Mary Jo Custer, Syracuse University

Advisor Committee Member:  
Tony Kemp, Mercer University

Advisor Committee Member:  
Jennifer Miller, McKendree University

Advisor Committee Member:  
Lisa Ruch, IUPUI

Student Committee Member:  
Lindsey Jorgensen, Brigham Young University

Student Committee Member:  
Sydney Helgeson, The University of Alabama

Student Committee Member:  
Unnati Nayak - IUPUI

National President Emeritus:  
John Harrell, Indiana University

Alternate Advisor Committee Member:  
Golam Mathbor

Alternate Student Committee Member:  
Preston McGee, The University of Alabama





# Active Chapter Practices

- Have at least one advisor.
- Enlist registrar's office to provide eligible members in accordance with established criteria.
- Invite eligible members and notify parents.
- Decide on deadline for registration and collect national fees for membership. Submit membership names and chapter fees to the national office.
- Hold induction ceremony.
- Elect new chapter officers. Outgoing officers & advisors should orient new officers.
- Hold regular and frequent meetings.
- Establish a participation policy.
- Submit an annual report, including a financial report, to the national office.
- Send a student delegate to national convention.
- Develop programs related to the ideals of scholarship and service.
- Develop programs related to the national philanthropy of Literacy Promotion.



# Advisor Annual To Do List

- Submit Annual Report to National Office
- Set chapter goals
- Become familiar with all chapter bylaws and policies
- Stay in contact with the national office
- Read the monthly advisor newsletters and follow Phi Eta Sigma on social media platforms
- Train future leadership
- Recruit & Induct New Members





# Online Enrollment System

## Benefits:

- Send electronic invitations to eligible students (templates available).
- Accept credit card payments for membership fees.
- Send email communications to all members.
- Build a digital member database.
- Update chapter contact information.
- Maintain chapter officer information to build an officer database.

Contact the national office to find out more and enroll in My Honor Society!



# What Can Phi Eta Sigma Do For Members?

1. Distinct honor with a Lifetime Membership
2. Recognition - - membership certificate, jewelry, honor cords
3. Connections, networking, sharing ideas
4. Philanthropy & service
5. Scholarships
6. Participation on national level
7. Leadership development
8. Opportunity for national leadership role



# Phi Eta Sigma recognizes academic excellence, so make new inductees feel honored.

- Make induction ceremony a special event
- Invite family members of inductees
- Invite faculty & university officials - consider recognizing some of these individuals with an honorary membership.
- Have a keynote speaker who can encourage, motivate, inspire
- Arrange for a reception or banquet
- Order materials from Phi Eta Sigma national in a timely manner so that certificates, keys or tie tacs, and other induction items can be distributed at the ceremony
- Arrange the ceremony venue and rehearse the program



# Phi Eta Sigma Founders Fund Scholarships: Overview of 2020 Awards - \$297,000 TOTAL



- \$10,000 Thomas Arkle Clark Graduate Scholar-Leader of the Year Award – 1
- \$10,000 Foy-Sagabiel Undergraduate Scholar-Leader of the Year Award – 1
- \$7,000 Graduate Scholarships – 6
- \$5,000 Undergraduate Scholarships – 36
- \$1,000 Scholarships - 55



# National Philanthropy Focus: Literacy Promotion



Announced in January of 2020, the Phi Eta Sigma Executive Committee voted to adopt the promotion of literacy as our national philanthropic mission. Literacy is not only the ability to read and write, but it also represents a competence or knowledge in a specific area. As the largest and oldest honor society recognizing first-year college students, Phi Eta Sigma is positioned to make a significant contribution to literacy efforts as our philanthropic mission. Through work at the chapter, regional, and national levels, we will be extending our motto of “knowledge is power” in meaningful ways.





*It's nice*  
TO HAVE YOU IN  
**BIRMINGHAM**

ALABAMA

2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION LOCATION:  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA





# Constitution & Scholarship Committee

The governance of the honor society is the focus of this committee. The Committee is comprised of only one member per chapter if interested in serving in this noteworthy effort. Members will consider the Society's governing document, the Constitution and Laws. Amendments to the document may be proposed for presentation to the full convention. The Committee will also examine the current scholarship program and consider opportunities for enhancing or expanding the monetary rewards available to outstanding Phi Eta Sigma student leaders. Participants on this committee come away with a strong sense of accomplishment and motivation for the remainder of the academic year.



# Nominations Committee

- This committee functions with a maximum of seven (7) student members; however, no student from a chapter with a candidate for position will be allowed to serve on the committee. Open positions rotate based on the year.
- Members of the Nominations Committee should be persons of high integrity, character, and dedication. Committee members interview candidates for open positions, select the best candidates for each position, and present a slate of candidates to the convention at the final business session for election.

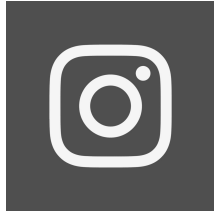


# Publications

- The annual *Forum Magazine*
- Digital advisor newsletters – First working Monday of each Month
- Induction Ceremony Booklet
- Information brochure
- Constitution & Laws
- Website: [www.phietasigma.org](http://www.phietasigma.org)

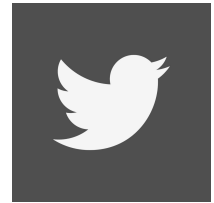


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