

President Simonson Reports to the 2013 Convention

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL leads the Association under the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and the acts of the Convention. It provides leadership to guide national programs through Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer Curt Gomulinski, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Roger E. Hawks, the Headquarters staff, District Directors, Chapter Advisors, and many additional outstanding volunteers. The Council receives guidance from and reports to the Convention.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

Prior to this Convention, Tau Beta Pi lost two great leaders: Doug Green and John Luchini. Doug Green served as Association President from 1998 to 2002 and passed away on September 29, 2013. John Luchini was an Executive Councillor from 1994 to 1998. John was instrumental in developing the Engineering Futures program, served as an EF facilitator for more than 22 years, and facilitated literally hundreds of sessions. He attended more than 30 Conventions and served as the Convention Chair in 2009, and as Convention Parliamentarian nine times including the Lexington Convention last year. John passed away on September 27, 2013...exactly one year after the first day of last year's Convention. As fate would have it, John encouraged us at last year's Convention to develop a succession plan for Convention Chair and Parliamentarian. John attended the initiations of his daughter, Katy, two sons, Tim and Mark, and his son-in-law, Dirk, whom John considered his son. John was very proud of his TBPI affiliation. The Luchini family has designated the Association to receive memorials in John's honor. His wife, Tamara, and Katy and Dirk, are with us tonight to recognize his many contributions.

THE CONDITION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Tau Beta Pi is the largest engineering society in the world with more than 545,000 initiated members. The number of active members is most important to the health of the Association. The 241 chapters had a very good year, initiating 9,207 members, a decrease of eleven initiates compared to the previous year, but an increase of more than 1,500 over that reported six years ago. Congratulations to all who have been involved with the initiation process. Your efforts are well recognized. I challenge you to allow me to report an increase in initiate numbers at next year's Convention in Spokane, WA. We still have a ways to go before we can match the all-time record of over 13,000 initiates in 1984.

We are a very active honor society, providing many member benefits. Your attendance at this Convention is an opportunity for you to be involved in conducting the business of TBPI. Your participation is important for the

future of our Association. Please accept your responsibilities and be actively involved. This Convention is funded from many sources, including a portion of each member's initiation fee, corporate sponsorships, career fair fees, contributions from over 11,000 members, and earnings from the Association's Trust Fund. Looking at the numbers, our annual budget is about \$3 million. This fiscal year, for the first time, alumni contributions exceeded \$1 million. The assets of the Association include more than \$23 million of portfolio investments. This Convention alone costs approximately \$500,000. With this half-million dollar investment, TBPI is counting on each of you to make sure that it pays huge dividends and that the momentum of our organization continues to move forward.

Our 12-member staff in Knoxville is talented, loved by the Association, and efficient. We are supported by hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors. Every year we are joined in our mission by several thousand top engineering students.

2012 CONVENTION BUSINESS

Each year the Convention has an opportunity to make changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association. The 2012 Convention approved fifteen packages of amendments, which were ratified by the chapters and reported in the Winter 2013 *Bent*. I expect that additional amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws will result from your work during the next two days.

In addition, the EC was asked by you to review the text voting system used at Convention. The EC has evaluated and tried many forms of digital voting and believes the current text method is the most efficient and cost effective method currently available to us.

After reviewing several additional recommendations from the 2012 Convention, the EC has not taken further action.

OTHER EC ACTIONS

The EC directed Executive Director Gomulinski to begin a search process for a Director of Alumni Affairs. After a committee review of the candidates, the EC has appointed Tricia Gomulinski to the volunteer position of Director of Alumni Affairs.

A Vision Development Group was created nearly three years ago to do "Blue Sky thinking" for Tau Beta Pi's future. A group of former corporate CEOs and other high level business executives, and professionals was assembled to provide guidance for our society. The group had their final meeting in New York one year ago and made a set of recommendations to the EC.

1. Review and approve the Vision, Mission, and Purpose statements. This task has been assigned to a 2013 Convention committee.

2. Form a pilot Young Engineer Organization in the New York/New Jersey area. Rodger Smith has spearheaded this pilot project and there are discussions to expand this program to other parts of the country. In addition, several alumni chapters have been chartered or re-activated.

3. Form an Executive Advisory Board and a Student Advisory Group. The latter has been formed and 7 out of the 9 members of the Student Advisory Group are here this weekend. Discussions to establish the Executive Advisory Group are scheduled this week among the four Vision Development Group leaders.

We hope for Tau Beta Pi to represent the Gold Standard for Engineering. A very important part of the process was the input received from delegates at the Convention two years ago. The focus group input was most valuable and has had a huge impact on the discussions to provide focus and to improve the operations of the organization. Student input has always been and will always be valued.

You will have an opportunity to meet four members of the Vision Development Group at this Convention. We are very fortunate to have Ralph Rockow deliver Saturday evening's keynote address. Ray Rothrock was our keynote speaker last year and will be here tomorrow night. Rodger Smith and Harry Lange will present a personal finance workshop tomorrow night as they did this afternoon as part of the Professional Development programs.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTION

The current Executive Council was elected for a second four-year term three years ago. The 2013 Convention will elect a new Executive Council and they will be installed at the 2014 Convention.

CHALLENGE

Let's have a great Tau Beta Pi year. I challenge you to convert the energy that you bring to this Convention into productive projects to benefit your chapter's members and to positively impact the future of the engineering profession. It is my hope that you will benefit personally from your experiences while you are in Ames and while

2006-14 PRESIDENT

Larry A. Simonson, South Dakota Alpha '69, Ph.D., P.E., received B.S., M.S., and doctorate in



electrical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and returned as a member of the faculty in 1976 after working for Texas Instruments for three years. He served as department chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering for five years and retired as Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer

Engineering in 2008. He currently works for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Foundation and makes efficient use of his time not only investigating new opportunities for his university, but to also visit Tau Beta Pi alumni individually and in groups.

He has served as Chief Advisor of South Dakota Alpha since 1986, District 12 Director during 1994-2006, and Engineering Futures Facilitator during 1990-2008.

working with your chapter throughout the year.

We have the privilege to be guests of Ames and Iowa State University for the next 2-1/2 days. Let's be responsible Tau Bates and represent our honor society and our respective universities well in all that we do. Each delegate is responsible for attending all meetings according to the very busy Convention schedule. Many of you attended the Career Fair earlier today. During the next 2-1/2 days, you will conduct the business of the Association, meet outstanding engineering students from chapters other than your own, and have the privilege of helping us honor the 2013 Tau Beta Pi Laureates, the 2013 TBPi Outstanding Advisor, the 2013 McDonald Mentor Award Recipient, and the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus. Enjoy the experience.

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