

# THE Bulletin

OF Tau Beta Pi

December 2005

A Publication  
for the Collegiate  
Chapters

## 100th National Convention!



Work gets underway at the first business meeting of Tau Beta Pi's 100th National Convention.

**T**HE 100th Convention of Tau Beta Pi was held October 6-8, 2005, in Salt Lake City, UT. The Utah Alpha, Beta, and Gamma Chapters were official co-hosts. The hundreds of out-of-town attendees were housed in the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, where business meetings were held and four meals were served.

A total of 481 members of Tau Beta Pi participated in the business of the Convention, the fourth-highest total ever. Of these, 349 were student voting and non-voting delegates and host-chapter members; 40 were chapter advisors; 64 were national officials, Convention leaders, and Engineering Futures Facilitators; nine were alumnus chapter delegates; and 19 were alumnus visitors and petitioners. The attendees represented 213 collegiate and nine alumnus chapters. Most of the chapter advisors attended at the special invitation and partial expense of the national organization. In addition, at least 45 non-member petitioners, consultants, and guests attended some events.

Arrangements Chair Michele L. Holist, *UT A '04*, guided preparations for the

Convention and its extensive logistics. She and chapter Presidents Kara J. Stowers, *UT A '06*, Jeffery D. Christenson, *UT B '07*, and Spencer C. Wendel, *UT Γ '06*, managed such duties as technology, hospitality, publicity, transportation, souvenirs, and campus tours.

Early on Thursday, students met with representatives from companies and the graduate schools of engineering of universities listed on page 3. The Convention formally opened Thursday afternoon when President Matthew W. Ohland presented his annual report.

*(continued next page)*



Keynote speaker Stephen D. Bechtel Jr., P.E, (*l*) congratulates Distinguished Alumnus Dr. H. Vincent Poor.

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The three days were filled with business, committee, District and Engineering Futures meetings, Interactive Chapter Exchanges (ICE), and the model initiation.

In all, four Convention business meetings were held; Ronald M. Hickling, CA E '80, the Executive Council-appointed permanent chair, presided and was assisted by James W. Johnson Jr., NC A '77, the Executive Council-appointed parliamentarian. The Saturday awards banquet brought the Convention to a festive conclusion, and the Resolutions Committee made its final report.

The Chapter Development Program of the Convention, including the District and Engineering Futures meetings and ICE seminars, is reported on page 7 in this issue. These informal sessions are extremely valuable benefits of the Convention, providing delegates the opportunity to exchange good ideas with other Tau Bates from all regions of the country. On Saturday afternoon an excellent model initiation was conducted by a team of national officers and Rituals Committee members; the ceremony brought 20 students of Utah Alpha, 22 of Utah Beta, and four student members of Utah Gamma into the Society.

The initiation and awards banquet was held in the Three Seasons Ballroom of the hotel. The program included the presentation of Tau Beta Pi's 2005 National Outstanding Advisor and 2005 Laureate. Biographical sketches of Outstanding Advisor Sally J. Steadman, Ph.D., WY A '69; Distinguished Alumnus H. Vincent Poor, Ph.D., AL A '72; and Laureate Clara C. Shih, CA Γ '05; appeared in the Fall 2005 BENT.

In Tau Beta Pi's usual method, Convention business is handled by committees, except for those few items that

emerge during the meetings as new business. Seven standing committees are called for by the Constitution, and two ad hoc groups were also appointed.

Every collegiate-chapter voting delegate served on a committee, and a national officer advisor opened each group's initial meeting on Thursday afternoon and then stood with other national officials for consultation. Each standing committee selected fellow students as chair, vice chair, and secretary to present reports, recommendations, and proposals to the entire Convention. The following reports summarize formal business.

### Petitions

*John D. Cinnamon, OH H, Chair.*

After studying the petition, catalog, and inspection report and interviewing the petitioner's representatives, the group recommended that a new chapter be established at one institution. The



JOHN D. CINNAMON

school and leaders are: Rowan University; Gregory D. Webster and Dr. Steven H. Chin, P.E., NJ B '79, advisor.

The Convention granted the petition by unanimous vote. New Jersey Epsilon will be officially installed on January 28, 2006, which will raise the number of active collegiate chapters to 230.

### Constitution and Bylaws

*Meghan Desai, NY Δ, Chair.*

Three topics had been referred to the committee prior to the meeting for study and recommendation. The Convention adopted, by the required

vote, an amendment to Constitution Art. XVII, Secs. 3 and 6, to revise the responsibilities of the trustee; final approval of this change is subject to chapter ratification. The Convention also adopted, by the required three-fourths vote, changes to Bylaw V, Secs.



MEGHAN DESAI

5.01 and 5.03, to require initiation fees to be payable within two weeks instead of 10 days and to allow chapters to remove an elected officer for cause; these changes were effective immediately.

### Curriculum Review (ad hoc)

*Stephanie C. Thompson, GA A Chair.*

The committee reviewed 18 appeals by 16 chapters to include non-ABET/EAC curricula as eligible. The Convention approved 11 programs, denied five, and committed two to the 2006 Convention.



STEPHANIE C. THOMPSON

### Chapter/Association Financial Affairs

*Ryan D. Fontenot, LA A, Chair.*

The group had been given the 2004-05



RYAN D. FONTENOT

reports of the Association's auditor and Executive Director and the Society's budget for 2005-06. The committee reviewed the documents and concluded that Tau Beta Pi's

financial health is excellent.

The committee recommended, and the Convention adopted, specific allowable Convention expenses beyond those specified in the Bylaws for delegates to the 2006 meeting and set a limit of \$25,000 for the annual cost of the Secretary's Commendation Award Program before review by a Convention is required.

### Awards

*Michael Y. Fozdar, OK A, Chair.*

The committee spent long hours evaluating the chapters and selecting the 2004-05 R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter and



Handshakes and opportunities abounded as Tau Bates and professional recruiters networked.

## Take a Bow, Convention Donors!

Tau Beta Pi gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the 2005 Convention:

### Platinum Sponsors

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**Bronze Sponsor:** Hill Air Force Base, UT

## 2006-10 Council Elected



*The Executive Council-elect: Norman Pih, TN A '82, Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., SD A '69, Solange C. Dao, P.E., FL A '95, Jason A. Huggins, P.E., FL A '96, and Dr. Jonathan F.K. Earle, P.E., FL A '65.*

## GIG Grant Dollars

Your chapter may receive up to \$750 to conduct a project involving civic affairs and public policy issues. The cash is available and waiting under Tau Beta Pi's Greater Interest in Government program, to involve students in their communities and the political process. Maryland Beta was recognized at the 2005 Convention for its "Building a Refuge to Reconstruct Lives" project.

Send your chapter's proposal to national Headquarters. Application guidelines are in Section C-IV of the President's Book on the website. The deadline is June 1. [See *Chapter Projects* at [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org).]

## Member Discounts

Kaplan AEC Education is now offering Tau Beta Pi members a 30% discount on preparation materials for the FE/EIT and PE engineering licensing exams. To take advantage of the discount on exam prep materials, visit [www.tbp.org/pages/ForMembers](http://www.tbp.org/pages/ForMembers) and select the Kaplan link listed under "Member Benefits." Kaplan is also available to support TBP chapter fundraising. [A bulk discount for sample exam books is available from NCEES. Contact Mike Shannon at [mshannon@ncees.org](mailto:mshannon@ncees.org).]

**KAPLAN** AEC  
EDUCATION

R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter and honorable mentions. The winners are reported elsewhere in this issue, and special plaques for the awardees were delivered to them after the Convention.

### Rituals

*Matthew S. Henley, OH K, Chair.*

The Convention approved a recommended change in the Ritual to define a procedure to permit remote initiations. On Saturday, delegates were favorably impressed by the model initiation for 46 students of Utah Alpha, Beta, and Gamma, which the committee helped to organize.

### Convention Site

*Franklin D. Hartman, FL A, Chair.*  
This group reviewed invitations from California Alpha, Lambda, and Upsilon and from Massachusetts Beta to host the 2008 Convention. However, the Convention debated and then referred the bids to the 2006 Convention.

### Chapter Advisors (ad hoc)

*Yu-Han Chen, San Francisco Bay Area Alumnus Chapter, Chair.*  
The team studied ways to improve the development of advisors and made recommendations to make better use of the TBP website to provide advisors

with needed materials and training sessions at District spring conferences.

### Resolutions

*Grant A. Gary, VT A, Chair.*

This group prepared the appropriate resolutions for Convention adoption and revised routine letters and emails sent to chapters from the national Headquarters. At the final banquet, Mr. Gary presented resolutions of thanks to the host chapters, officials, sponsors, alumni, and others, whose support had been gratefully received by the Association.

## Convention

# \$9,000 in Scholarships

Eighteen chapters, each of which had won Chapter Project Awards for three consecutive years, won \$500 scholarships.

CHAPTER	INSTITUTION	DELEGATE
California Alpha	University of California, Berkeley	James W. Li
California Psi	University of California, San Diego	Tracy C. Becker
District of Columbia Alpha	Howard University	Colin C. Tidd
Florida Alpha	University of Florida	Franklin D. Hartman
Iowa Alpha	Iowa State University	Jeremy J. Meeks
Maryland Beta	University of Maryland	Ashley M. Korzun
Michigan Gamma	University of Michigan	Adam W. Tury
Michigan Epsilon	Wayne State University	Joseph D. Templin
Michigan Theta	Oakland University	Jamison C. Marchetti
Michigan Iota	University of Michigan-Dearborn	Michael E. Pierfelice
New Mexico Gamma	New Mexico Inst. of Mining & Tech.	Nathan R. Goulding
New York Delta	Cornell University	Meghan Desai
New York Kappa	University of Rochester	William J. Sauer
Ohio Beta	University of Cincinnati	Carrie A. Hathaway
Ohio Iota	Ohio Northern University	Michelle L. Bash
Tennessee Alpha	University of Tennessee	Andrew N. Wooster
Vermont Beta	Norwich University	Krenar Komoni
Wyoming Alpha	University of Wyoming	Jared Strube

## Graduate Fellowships

Tau Beta Pi's 73rd annual program of fellowships for graduate study in the 2006-07 academic year will close February 1, 2006, when applications must be in the hands of Director of Fellowships D. Stephen Pierre Jr., P.E.

Up to 20 cash awards will be given, each worth \$10,000, made on the promise of future development in engineering or related fields, and financial need. Winners will be selected by the Fellowship Board and notified in April.

All members of Tau Beta Pi are eligible to apply. Students and alumni should apply online at [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org).

Please send reference materials concerning either of the above two programs to the Director of Fellowships, addressed as follows:

## 50 TBPI Scholarships!

The Tau Beta Pi Association Scholarship Program for senior-year full-time study during the 2006-07 academic year will close March 1, 2006, when applications must be in the hands of Director of Fellowships D. Stephen Pierre Jr., P.E.

As many as 50 cash awards, each worth \$2,000, could be given in our fantastic, expanding program. They will be made on the basis of high scholarship, strong recommendations, extracurricular activities, and financial need. Winners will be selected and notified in early April. Junior members of Tau Beta Pi are eligible to apply online at [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org).

**D. Stephen Pierre Jr., P.E.**  
Alabama Power Company  
P.O. Box 2247  
Mobile, AL 36652-2247

## 2006 Spring Conference Schedule

The District Program provides a vital link between the national organization and individual chapters. Each year the Directors gather students for regional conferences to provide both retiring and new officers opportunities to discuss chapter operations and to socialize. All chapters are urged to elect new officers before their District conference. New and outgoing officers are encouraged to attend.

DISTRICT	LOCATION	DATE
1	Boston, MA	Feb. 25
2	Brooklyn, NY	March 4
3	State College, PA	Feb. 11
4	Blacksburg, VA	April 8
5	Clemson, SC	April 1
6	Memphis, TN	Feb. 25
7	Columbus OH	April 8
8	South Bend, IN	April 1
9	Fayetteville, AR	March 4
10	Houston, TX	Feb. 4
11	Minneapolis, MN	April 8
12E	Estes Park, CO	Feb. 25
12W	Pocatello, ID	March 25
13	Socorro, NM	March 4
14	Portland, OR	April 8
15/16	San Luis Obispo, CA	April 1

## 55 Chapters Commended

Executive Director Jim Froula presented commendations to these chapters for punctual Headquarters reports in 2004-05:

Alabama Epsilon	New York Kappa
Arizona Gamma	New York Nu
California Lambda	New York Pi
Colorado Alpha	North Dakota Beta
District of Columbia Alpha	Ohio Beta
Florida Beta	Ohio Delta
Florida Gamma	Ohio Zeta
Idaho Alpha	Ohio Iota
Idaho Beta	Ohio Kappa
Illinois Alpha	Ohio Lambda
Illinois Gamma	Ohio Mu
Indiana Beta	Ohio Nu
Indiana Epsilon	Oklahoma Alpha
Iowa Beta	Oregon Beta
Maine Alpha	Oregon Gamma
Maryland Gamma	Pennsylvania Eta
Massachusetts Delta	Pennsylvania Theta
Massachusetts Theta	Pennsylvania Kappa
Michigan Alpha	Pennsylvania Lambda
Michigan Theta	South Carolina Alpha
Michigan Iota	South Dakota Alpha
Michigan Lambda	Tennessee Alpha
Minnesota Alpha	Utah Gamma
Mississippi Alpha	Vermont Beta
Nevada Alpha	Virginia Beta
New York Gamma	Virginia Delta
New York Delta	West Virginia Beta
	Wisconsin Epsilon

PHOTO CREDITS: All Convention photographs in this issue were taken by Raymond H. Thompson, TBPI Systems Administrator.

## Convention

# Outstanding Chapter: Vermont Beta

**V**ermont Beta emerged from among its larger counterparts to win the 2004-05 R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award. The yearly honor goes to the chapter that demonstrates excellence above all others in every aspect of Tau Beta Pi's mission. Criteria include the number and quality of chapter projects, the ratio of actively participating members, and the number of those initiated compared to the number eligible.

Although Vermont Beta was one of the smallest chapters considered—with 10 members—it stood above all the rest in both quality and quantity. Not only did the group complete 22 projects, but it received a grade of *outstanding* for each one. The projects included an engineering showcase, an engineers week sled race, “engineering with the big kids” at Northfield Elementary, the Vermont State Science Fair, co-running a Vermont public television auction, and multiple Engineering Futures sessions. In the past year, the chapter's membership doubled.



Accepting the award from TBPi President Matt Ohland (second from right) is Chief Advisor Dr. Dennis J. Tyner (left), Delegate Krenar Komoni (second from left) and Advisor Carol E. Stephens.

Vermont Beta officers who presided during the award-winning period were President Jaime M. Colby, Vice President Patrick R. Colburn, Secretaries Maria J. Johnson and Derek C. Scherer, and Treasurer Jason R. Bedi.

Honorable mentions were awarded to **Ohio Iota** at Ohio Northern University and **New York Nu** at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

# Most Improved Chapter: Alabama Epsilon

**T**he R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award was established in 1971 to recognize major improvement in chapter development, including project work and reports to Headquarters. This year's recipient was **Alabama Epsilon**, at the University of South Alabama, which showed consistent and marked improvement in the quality and diversity of chapter projects. The chapter completed 19 projects—including organizing a best robot competition, assisting Boy and Girl Scouts with badge requirements, and hosting the District 6 conference.

Alabama Epsilon officers who presided during the award-winning period were President Melissa M. Caldwell, Vice President Alberto A. Chavez, Secretaries Thomas J. Powers and Delores A. Turner, and Treasurer Karman T. Richardson.

Honorable Mention went to the **Florida Gamma** Chapter at the University of South Florida which improved in every area, including the successful completion of 40 projects.



Dr. Sally J. Steadman, Alabama Epsilon Chief Advisor, (left) looks on as Delegate Delores A. Turner is congratulated by Vice-Chair Paul A. Waters, Texas Alpha.

## Convention

# 30 Chapter Project Awards

At the Convention, Executive Director Jim Froula presented Chapter Project Awards for outstanding performance during 2004-05 to the following 30 chapters:

Ray Thompson TBPI

CHAPTER / INSTITUTION	NO. PROJECTS	CHAPTER / INSTITUTION	NO. PROJECTS
AL E University of South Alabama • Helped host a play to raise money for poor children	31	MI E Wayne State University • Operated the Tau Beta Pi store • Welcomed students back with barbeque, games, & prizes	53
CA A University of California, Berkeley • Helped restore the quail habitat in San Francisco • Volunteered for "Rebuilding Together"	12	MI Θ Oakland University • Participated in kid's day at local daycare	21
CA Λ University of California, Davis • Wrapped gifts to raise money for a food bank	17	MI I University of Michigan-Dearborn • Assisted and judged Science Olympiad • Visited several senior citizen homes	39
CA Ψ University of California, San Diego • Participated in disciplines of engineering career fair	58	MO B University of Missouri-Rolla • Helped with Science Olympiad	49
CO B University of Colorado at Boulder • Tutored at Whittier Elementary School	40	NM Γ New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology • Held Dilberts Ethics Challenge • Maintained litter clean-up on one mile of I-25	17
DC A Howard University • Hosted luncheon at Iowa senior services • Helped pack food at local food bank	10	NY Δ Cornell University • Helped in chili cook-off to raise money	57
FL A University of Florida • Adopted a river • Assisted Habitat for Humanity	13	NY K University of Rochester • Held ultimate engineers challenge • Organized pizza party for freshman	24
FL Γ University of South Florida • Helped students in foundations of engineering class	32	NY N State University of New York at Buffalo • Helped beautify Main Street • Held a Relay for Life	31
GA A Georgia Institute of Technology • Provided some hands for "Hands on Atlanta" • Held Tau Beta Pie eating contest	15	OH B University of Cincinnati • Collected blood • Tutored high-school students in math	18
IL E Southern Illinois University at Carbondale • Participated in "The Bicycle Project" • Prepared lunch at a homeless shelter	15	OH I Ohio Northern University • Delivered food baskets at Christmas • Helped judge Ada High School quiz bowl	29
IN Δ Valparaiso University • Adopted a family • Held Tired Engineers Day Banquet	14	OR Γ University of Portland • Hosted the Pi Day party	9
IA A Iowa State University • Replaced catapult competition with roller coaster • Adopted a highway	40	TN A University of Tennessee • Helped with "Boo at the Zoo" • Adopted a spot on campus and kept it clean	8
LA Γ Louisiana Tech University • Recognized outstanding freshman	26	VT B Norwich University • Roasted engineers • Hosted "Engineering with the Big Kids"	23
MD B University of Maryland • Held 75th anniversary celebration as part of E-week • Volunteered several times with Compassion Center	54	WI A University of Wisconsin-Madison • Helped build a haunted house	23
MI Γ University of Michigan • Prepared and served meals in Ann Arbor community • Helped kids have science fair at elementary school	62	WY A University of Wyoming • Sponsored and hosted engineering honors banquet	46

## Chapter Development at the 100th Convention

## Chapter Growth Cycle: The Circle of Life

**W**hat is meant by the phrase “Chapter Development”? The first word, “chapter”, is a familiar one because you already belong to one of the 229 Tau Beta Pi chapters nationwide.

For the word “development” we must turn to our friend Webster’s:

**Development** (noun)—*the act, process, or result of developing.*

**Developing** (verb)—*to make active or promote the growth of.*

Thus, by combining all of the above, we can see that chapter development is *the act, process, or result of making a chapter active or promoting the growth of a chapter.*

Fostering chapter development is the purpose of ICE meetings at the Convention. And the center of ICE activities is the Chapter Growth Cycle (shown above). This cycle revolves around four key aspects of chapter operations and functions, comprising a circle of life for chapters.

To understand the cycle, you need to start with *Membership*. This is the foundation for Tau Beta Pi’s existence and is a chapter’s most important building block. All other actions begin with building a strong membership base.

From among its members, each chapter selects those who can provide necessary *Leadership*. Officers and advisors provide organization, continuity, and direction.

Then, the chapter can become involved in *Activities*. These are opportunities for service to your school, profession, community, and chapter. The quality and quantity of your activities distinguish Tau Beta Pi as an honor society and not simply an *honorary*.

Projects establish your chapter’s *Image*. This is your chapter’s personality—how it’s perceived on campus and in the community. This generates the momentum which keeps excellent chapters on track.

Increased membership improves a chapter’s leadership,



*What will make your chapter grow? The Chapter Growth Cycle is an essential tool for success.*

which leads to more projects and activities and an improved image, which strengthens your tradition, which increases your membership, which brings us full circle.

At the Convention, Chair Ron Hickling and Parliamentarian Jim Johnson instructed delegates in the use of parliamentary procedure. Jim reviewed some of *Robert’s Rules of Order*, a classic method for conducting orderly meetings. Chapter presidents were encouraged to learn and apply this system at home, then pass it along to others.

Later, committees met to select chairs, vice chairs, and secretaries. These leaders gained valuable experience guiding their teams and presenting reports. Non-voting delegates gained interpersonal,

team-building, and meeting-management skills at Engineering Futures sessions. District meetings gathered chapters in each of the 16 geographical regions to renew old friendships and begin new ones.

Committees met twice on Friday morning before the second business meeting. The business meeting provided ample opportunity to practice *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

After Friday’s dinner, Sherry Jennings-King and some friends again entertained delegates with skits that offered lessons in philanthropy.

Chapter advisors—priceless assets to growing chapters—gathered in a committee of their own to decide how they might better serve the Association and their chapters.

The enduring strength of Tau Beta Pi is you, the members. You will select the next members who will then improve and strengthen the organization. By learning and using the Growth Cycle, you continue Tau Beta Pi’s circle of life.

—Roger E. Hawks  
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer



*Tau Bates enthusiastically respond to the perennial question: “Does anybody have a napkin?”*



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### Important Deadlines

- **February 1** Fellowship Application
- **March 1** Scholarship Application
- **April 1** Laureate, Outstanding Advisor, McDonald Mentor, and Distinguished Alumnus Nomination
- **June 1** GIG Project Proposal
- **June 1** Convention Bid for 2009

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#### National Headquarters

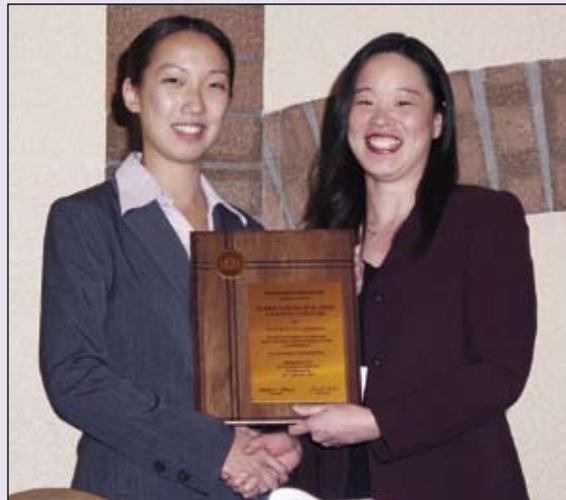
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#### Executive Council

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Councillor: Russell W. Pierce,  
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Councillor: Dr. Dennis J. Tyner,  
Massachusetts Epsilon '85, Northfield, VT

## The Laureate Program



*2005 Laureate Clara C. Shih (l) is congratulated by 1996 Laureate and Councillor Alison L. Hu during the award presentation at the Salt Lake City Convention.*

**E**xceptional Tau Bates are recognized annually at each Convention for their talents and contributions to society beyond the normal perimeters of engineering. This year, **Clara C. Shih, CA I '05** was recognized for her outstanding leadership and diverse achievements. She received a \$2,500 cash prize, a plaque, and publicity in THE BENT and on the web.

The Tau Beta Pi Laureate Program has been honoring collegiate members since 1982 and has recognized contributions of Tau Bates in the arts, athletics, diverse activities, and service. Chapters select nominees from their members; information on how to proceed is found in the President's Book (pp. C-29 & 30) and on the web at [tbp.org/chapters](http://tbp.org/chapters).

If someone extraordinary in your Chapter qualifies, submit a nomination package in triplicate to national Headquarters by April 1—to the attention of Secretary-Treasurer Froula.