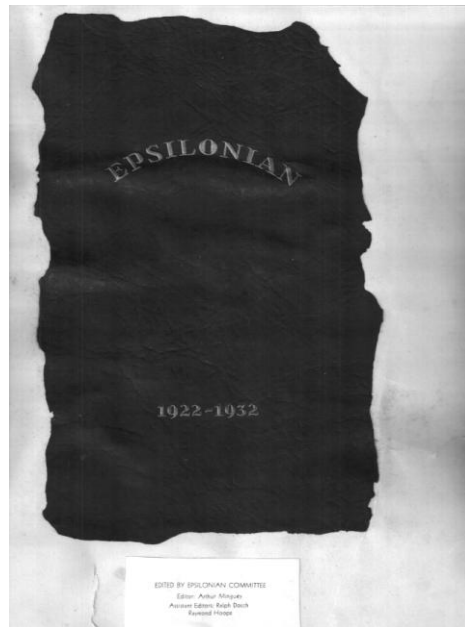


(MOD 5) THE VALUE OF A LOCAL

***“COME GOOD OR COME EVIL, PHI CHI EPSILON WILL ALWAYS STAND FOR THAT WHICH IS HIGH & NOBLE, AND DO ALL IN IT’S POWER TO HELP ALL THOSE WHO COME UNDER ITS INFLUENCE”.***

***THOMAS T. GOFF, BROTHER/FACULTY SPONSOR, 1932***



Our Fraternity has lasted almost a Century. Phi Chi Epsilon, its founders, Advisers, Alumni, and the Active Chapter moved it along in the 20<sup>th</sup> and now into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As a Local, our Brotherhood counted on the inventiveness of members and pledges to pave the way. Over and over, EACH generation rose to the occasion.

**Unity, Brotherhood, and Achievement** echoed in the ears of the leaders throughout our history. Early, our Founders and subsequent members, evaluated a national affiliation, and made the decision to remain as a local. Without a National offering advice, our Founders mapped out our own Independent course. There would be restarts later because of world events; WWII, returning Vets from that war, later the Korean, and later the Nam war. Thus new actives were paired with battled tested mentors retuning to college realizing the value of an education. Both Vet and newbie thus melded into a cohesive unit. The order would re-group and produced a uniquely updated brand of Fraternity.

It was the goal of the Revered Founders to launch a lasting entity. It would thus be flexible to the times, yet rigid in its ideals over time. It would have governance closest to home. The following excerpts indicate their give and take in our first 20 years. (Lost until 2012, these are the original minutes inscribed by our Revered Founders, early Member meetings).

## TWO MAJOR DECISIONS

### UNDECIDED EARLY, LEFT TO FUTURE MEMBERSHIPS

Almost from Day 1, the minutes record serious discussions on two topics one of which one is not determined even to this day. The other was important at the time, and over the first ten years occupied considerable time during Fraternity meetings. To assure our history has depicted what were the Brothers concerns, we record the following:

#### DECISION 1

#### JOINING A NATIONAL FRATERNITYYY

1/20/24 Minutes

*“A letter from the Secy-treas. of Pi Omega Pi fraternity, of Missouri State Teacher's College of Kirksville, Mo. was read, regarding their fraternity, which they are endeavoring to establish as a national teacher's fraternity, based on scholastic ability and professional attitude.*

No other comments recorded.

12/18/23 Minutes

*“An article was read from the 'Balance Sheet' regarding 'Pi Omega Pi' fraternity organized at Central Missouri Teachers College.”*

The Epsilonions had the courtesy to hear out POP from CMTC, as Fraternal Brotherhood's.

6/3/31 Minutes

*“We discuss the idea of joining a National Fraternity. Very few in favor.*

*Brother Cockerill says that we are putting something over on the Alumni.*

*Bro. Loomer suggests that we are enjoying all the advantages they have to offer.*

*Brother Heine says we would then have to be recognized by the school.*

*Brother Patrick informs us that the Alumni intended us to join a good National.*

*It was moved and Seconded that we do not join a National. Seconded and carried”.*

**EDITOR:** *When the first Active Chapter Fraternity pins were designed and ordered they came complete with a guard on a gold chain for a letter "A" for 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter. The pin would give credence to Brother Patrick's remarks. As feisty as the founders were, it stands to reason that might have been thought of as they designed the baby emerging on this remote campus.*

The fact that they never acted on that thought is an indication that once underway, little or nothing could be gained by creating a National or joining one. Bro. Loomer correctly sized up the situation during those times.

It appears that the early members were serious with the college experience thru massive participation on every phase of Campus activities, but had every aspect of a clear path emerging for the future as a local entity.

*As Historians we should point out: there would have been a chance early to establish a National, or Consortium of local chapters, as other Normals were rapidly being established throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. Since they did not grant Bachelor degrees, just diplomas, there was a major cleft between the Ivy League and Land Grant Colleges and the Normals. The new Normals might have been open to such an arrangement. When Normals began offering Degrees, that moment passed.*

## DECISION 2

### RECOGNITION OF FRATERNITY BY THE CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION

12/4/23 Minutes

*"Committee on Recognition to invite Pres. Hyer to a meeting of the Fraternity for discussion on recognition"*

12/11/23 Minutes Special Meeting at 4:10 PM

*'Meeting of fraternity with Pres. Hyer, regarding recognition.'*

No notations on how the President reacted. Since the Fraternity continued and later minutes discussed the matter. It must have been inconclusive.

2/19/24 Minutes

Report heard from Incorporation Committee. Knowles, Zemple, Redfield instructed to carry on the work During Summer School. Motion carried.

10/20/24 Minutes

*Suggestion made by Brother Knowles that we write a letter to our alum's members to encourage the matter of official recognition. (Committee appointed)*

11/11/25 Minutes

*“Bro. Allen brings the subject up of recognition by the school. (..... much discussion...) Bro. Carlson gives history of the question which started in 1921. Bro. Hoene makes the motion that we be recognized by the school. Bro. Green amends the motion to read that we petition Pres. Hyer for recognition. Amendment carried. Motion lost”.*

Nary has a year passed for Phi Chi Epsilon without some major Chapter wide decision having to be decided. As we read the above, it seems fair to believe that Phi Chi had some sort of provisional authorization to exist, but not full approval.

With Bro. Paul Carlson, as Sponsor, and his 9 year Advisor tenure, it appears the Administration was satisfied that the Fraternity existed on grounds, it had won approval. It also seems from the above, that members were worried in the early years of the Administration having second thoughts. That no such crisis happened, dictated that the membership not rattle the status quo. 'Let the matter lie' was a wise course of action. Asking for trouble yields more trouble – not good! As the Fraternity grew, and matters of everyday concern presented themselves, there was little time for side issues. A side step here and there was the better point of valor. With the establishment of the Inter-Fraternity Council, the matter became moot.

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE 11/27/2012:**

As a Local, Phi Chi Epsilon is Unique, as demonstrated by its longevity. Changing as necessary, adjusting and meeting the needs of current decades; Phi Chi has been a successful experiment and a fine Shepard for young men thru all its years.

#### **UNITY, BROTHERHOOD, ACHEIVEMENT**

#### **RECOGNITION OF OUR FACULTY SPONSORS:**

Brother Paul A. Carlson

Brother Thomas F. Goff

Brother Morrie Green

Brother Donald Koeppen

Brother Leon Hermesen

Dr. Clayton Drouillard

Dr. Glen Bowen

Brother James Trier

Dr. Linda Reid

Dr. LaMont Weaver

Dr. T. Rowand Robinson

Our thanks to those that accepted the challenge of guiding generations of Phi Chi Epsilon.

Additions, corrections or amendments to our list are requested.