

DELTA THETA TAU MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

1. THE PURPOSE OF DELTA THETA TAU SORORITY

The objective of this organization shall be the advancement of philanthropy and charity. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article II, Object.

2. MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Membership is based on general culture and character. Women who are high school graduates or have an equivalent education are eligible for membership. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article V, Qualifications of Members and Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article III, Membership, Section 1 and Section 2.

3. THE SEVEN DIVISIONS OF DELTA THETA TAU SORORITY

National Council, Board of Trustees, Provinces, Local Chapters, Alumnae Associations, Members-at-large, and Delta Home Directorate.

Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article IV, Divisions.

4. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP: LIFE, HONORARY, ACTIVE, ASSOCIATE, ALUMNAE, MEMBERSHIP-AT-LARGE, AND DELTA GOLDEN 50 CLUB. (Please note additional information is available for each type of membership under Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article VI, Memberships and Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article III, Membership.)

- a. Life Membership: Past national presidents shall automatically become life members. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article VI, Memberships, Section 1 – Life
- b. Honorary Membership: The title of Honorary Member, after the approval of the National Council and Board of Trustees, may be conferred on a member or nonmember in recognition of her outstanding philanthropic work and/or outstanding service to Delta Theta Tau Sorority, by a two-thirds (2/3) ballot vote at any national convention. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article VI, Memberships, Section 2 - Honorary
- c. Active Membership: Attend meetings as required in Chapter Standing Rules, pay dues and assessments, together with national obligations, and comply with all rules applicable to this type of membership as set forth in National By-Laws and Chapter Standing Rules. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article VI, Memberships and Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article III, Membership, Section 5.
- d. Associate Membership: Unable to retain Active Membership. Associate Membership may be granted to Active Members in good standing by a Chapter vote for a period up to one year and may be renewed by vote upon expiration. Associate Members may return to Active Membership at any time by assuming all responsibilities of such membership. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article VI, Memberships and Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article III, Membership, Section 6.
- e. Alumnae Membership: Members who have at least seven years active and/or associate membership and find it necessary to be relieved of active duties. Members must be in good standing at time of transfer to alumnae membership. National Council and Board of Trustees may, by ballot vote, permit a sorority member to become an alumnae member with less than the required qualifications under exigent circumstances. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article VI, Memberships and Article XI, Alumnae Association Charters.

Member-At-Large (MAL) Membership: Unable to retain Active, Associate and/or Alumnae Membership. MAL may be granted by the National Council to Active, Associate and Alumnae members who have seven years membership and who are in good standing and cannot maintain present membership but wish to retain fraternal recognition. A member may be granted Membership-At-Large without the required seven years membership if moving to area with no chapter, extended illness, or exigent circumstances. Request must be approved by majority vote of

- f. the chapter or alumnae association with which applicant is affiliated. The initial fee of thirty dollars (\$30), with name and address of applicant, is to be sent by the chapter or alumnae association to the Executive Secretary at the time of application. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article VI, Memberships and Article VII, Membership-At-Large.
- g. Delta Golden 50 Club: Any member who is Active, Associate, or Alumnae with fifty (50) years of service shall, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of her Chapter or Alumnae Association, become a member of the Delta Golden 50 Club. She shall have all the privileges of the membership – Active, Associate, or Alumnae – with which she is presently affiliated, may attend their meetings and social functions, but shall be exempt from all obligations of said membership, with the exception of national dues; national publication, GRIT; and Delta Home dues. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article VI, Memberships and Article VIII, Delta Golden 50 Club.
- h. Junior Affiliation: An alliance between a Delta Theta Tau chapter and a high school age girl who desires service hours and/or is interested in advancing philanthropic work in her community. Requirements include: General culture and character, Assist chapter in philanthropic projects. Junior Affiliates are non-members due to the lack of a high school diploma or its equivalency. Therefore, Junior Affiliates may attend a chapter meeting by invitation only. No dues are required. Junior Affiliates' philanthropy hours will NOT count on Form 52.

5. MEETING ATTENDANCE

- a. Active Members must attend all meetings as required by the Chapter Standing Rules.
- b. Active members shall attend a minimum of four (4) Chapter meetings per year and all scheduled visitations.
- c. Active members shall be excused from a chapter meeting or scheduled visitation for the following reasons illness of member, illness or death in the immediate family, absence from the city for more than twenty-four hours, attending school, and reasons not involving personal pleasure.
- d. Active members shall pay a minimum fine of one dollar (\$1) per meeting for an unexcused absence from a regular meeting.
- e. Chapters may assess other penalties for unexcused absences if those penalties are specified in the Chapter Standing Rules.
- f. Active members shall not be absent for more than three (3) consecutive meetings without valid excuse or be subject to forfeiture of membership.
- g. Members are required to notify their Chapter, in advance, if they are unable to attend a meeting.
- h. Appropriate attire should be worn to all meetings as required by the Chapter Standing Rules. Reference Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article III, Membership, Section

6. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

- a. Active members shall pay all chapter dues, special assessments as specified in chapter standing rules, national publication subscriptions, national sorority dues, and Delta Home dues.
- b. Active members who are delinquent for six months in dues and chapter obligations shall automatically forfeit membership after one notification by certified or registered mail. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of notification, a member may be reinstated by a majority vote of her chapter and by paying all delinquent obligations and a fine of at least five dollars (\$5). Reference Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article III, Membership, Section

7. MEMBER VOTING PRIVILEGES

Active members privileged to vote are those who are in good standing. Reference Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article III, Membership, Section 5 (b).

8. REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDING CHAPTER OFFICE

Only those members who have been continuously active for at least one year immediately prior to nomination shall be eligible to hold chapter office. Reference Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article XII, Chapter Officers, Section 3.

9. CHAPTER VISITATION BY A NATIONAL OFFICER
 Chapters are visited by a National Officer when they are in need of guidance. A Chapter or Member of a Chapter may request a visitation at any time if there are issues or concerns that cannot be resolved within the Chapter. National Council may also schedule a visitation if they see an opportunity for a Chapter to benefit from guidance. A new chapter shall be visited their first year, second year, and then again if additional guidance is needed. A fee may be imposed on each member not attending a visitation meeting. Reference Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article IX, Meetings, Section 3.
10. DELTA THETA TAU PIN
 Your pin is to be worn on your left side in a vertical position, over your heart. The four corners and center of the pin represent each of the founders of the sorority: Center, Nora Spurgeon Charman; Upper Center, Oliver Spurgeon Gage; Right Corner, Betsy Gordon Gibert; Left Corner, Ethel Busch Lesh; Lower Center, Charline Prutzman Rector.
11. DELTA THETA TAU CREST
 Our crest is composed of eight symbols
 - a. White Rose, symbolic of Purity, tops our Crest
 - b. Twisted ribbon of six loops lies just beneath the rose, used as an indication of educational requirements for admissions to membership
 - c. Letters Alpha and Omega, located at each end of the twisted ribbon - the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet, meaning the beginning and end
 - d. Olive Branch signifies the growth of our sorority
 - e. Crescent represents Innocence
 - f. Cross represents Purity or Religious Faith
 - g. Billet represents Fidelity
 - h. Skull and Cross-bone, a sign of mystery and secrecy
 - i. Leaf-like projections on either side of the shield and the ribbon below, with the Greek name Delta Theta Tau, complete the mantling of our Crest
12. DELTA THETA TAU MOTTO
 "Grit Wins"
13. DELTA THETA TAU FLOWER
 White Rose – Symbolic of Purity
14. DELTA THETA TAU COLORS
 Olive Green and White – The Green for Peace and the White for Purity
15. DELTA THETA TAU OFFICIAL SONGS
 Delta Song (to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne"), Delta Loyalty Song and Initiation Song
16. DELTA THETA TAU OFFICIAL KNOCKS
 To be used only on entering the Chapter or meeting rooms:
 Two knocks, a pause and two more; Answered by two
 Meaning: "May I come in?"; "You may."
17. DELTA THETA TAU GRIP (Handshake)
 The Grip is given by clasping the right hand of a sister with your own and placing the first finger on her wrist with a slight pressure.
18. FOUNDER'S DAY
 Founder's Day is October 16th – Delta Theta Tau was founded on October 16, 1903 in Muncie, Indiana. Each chapter shall observe the October 16 Founders Day on October 16 or on a regular October meeting date. Reference Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc. – Chapter Bylaws, Article IX, Meetings, Section 2.

19. CONVENTIONS

Unless serving as an Officer, Delegate or in another capacity, members are not required, but highly encouraged, to attend conventions each year.

- a. Province Convention - Each province shall hold an annual convention between September 22 and November 30 unless excused by the National Council and Board of Trustees. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article XIII, Provinces, Section 3.
- B. National Convention - A national convention of at least three (3) days duration shall be held annually during the first, second, or third week of July. Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article XXIII, National Convention, Section 1.

20. DELTA HOME

The Delta Home program assists Delta Sisters in need of financial assistance in their golden years. Each member pays annual Delta Home Dues as part of their national obligations. Recipients must apply for and be granted benefits. The names of recipients are kept confidential. To be eligible for financial assistance an applicant must

- a. Have been an active, associate or alumnae member of the Sorority for at least seven (7) years, members who were granted a membership-at-large prior to July 18, 1980, or other exceptions stated in these bylaws;
 - I. Members shall have the option at any time to pay one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in lieu of all future Delta Home Dues and, by so doing, shall maintain their eligibility for financial assistance from the Delta Home Fund.
 - II. If by reason of exigent circumstances, a member-at-large when not reaffiliating with a chapter or alumnae association, may, with the approval of the National President, be permitted to pay Delta Home dues up to date one time only.
- b. Have continually contributed to the Delta Home Fund by paying annual dues during her membership except under exigent circumstances.
- c. Have reached the age of sixty (60) years except under exigent circumstances.
- d. Have need of financial assistance for:
 - I. Residency in a licensed home
 - II. Living expenses in other situations
- e. Have submitted an application on the official Delta Home Program Form One (1) supplied by the President of the Directorate.
Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article XXVIII, Delta Home Program Directorate, Section 4

21. NORMA MONEY BENEFIT FUND

The Norma Money Benefit Fund is kept in reserve for eligible members who are in dire need, or in need of financial aid for medical care. This fund is fueled by annual national sorority dues, paid by active and associate and alumnae members. Donations may also be made to this fund at any time. Any active, associate, or alumnae member may apply for benefits. Any member who, because of illness, was granted a membership at large may also apply. Application must be made on an official form supplied by a chapter president or the Executive Secretary. Application must be submitted to the National President. The National Council and Board of Trustees will make the decision if application is to be approved. Disbursements from the Norma Money Benefit Fund may be granted up to five thousand (\$5,000). Reference Bylaws of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Inc., Article XXIV, Norma Money Benefit Fund.

22. GRIT

GRIT is our national quarterly publication, first published in 1917. Each member pays annual subscription fees as part of their national obligations. GRIT includes information on how to contact national officers and committees; articles and pictures from Officers, Provinces and Chapters; information on upcoming conventions; as well as other fun and important information.

23. DELTA THETA TAU WEBSITE

<http://www.deltathetatau.org/>

24. GREEK LETTERS

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25. All members are encouraged to memorize the Delta Song and Delta Prayer and to familiarize themselves with the National Bylaws, Chapter Bylaws, Province Standing Rules and Chapter Standing Rules.

26. All members are encouraged to ask questions and learn about Delta Theta Tau. Never be afraid to ask if you don't know or understand something.