

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

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It was 27 degrees when nearly 30 Sigma Tau Gamma Staff and volunteers arrived at Eagle Creek Park, located northwest of downtown Indianapolis, IN, to volunteer for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge.

The 2020 Polar Plunge took place on Saturday, March 7, 2020, benefitting Special Olympics Indiana. Sigma Tau Gamma was a volunteer partner, participating in every aspect of the event, including registration, the welcome area, the drink and snack area, the apparel station, the college tent, and of course, those who took the plunge. The official mascot for Special Olympics Indiana, Pawl R. Bear, the Polar Bear, was even a member of the Sig Tau Staff.

Seven brothers took the plunge including Headquarters Staff members Zack Kearney, UNC Charlotte and Michael Priolo, Buffalo; Trustee Matt Rea, St. Louis; Trustee John Barger, Murray State; Trustee Jeff Russo, Carnegie Mellon; Director Joe Gallo, Michigan Tech.; and National

President Jim Johnston, Carnegie Mellon. This was the first Polar Plunge Zack had participated in, and he said it was an experience he will never forget.

"Plunging was honestly the coldest thing I have ever experienced in my life. The only way I would jump into a cold lake at 9 A.M. is to support the athletes of Special Olympics with my fellow brothers," Zack said.

"It's important for all brothers to support this cause because when we rally as a brotherhood, there's nothing that can stop us. After the plunge was over, I was happy to be freezin' for a reason!"

Fraternity Board of Directors Member Joe Gallo also made the plunge into freezing waters. He said that every brother, from the newest associate

member to the most seasoned brother, should support Special Olympics.

"Having the opportunity to volunteer for Special Olympics Indianapolis was an incredible experience. The best way Sigma Tau Gamma Headquarters and the leadership team can promote Brotherhood and Citizenship to our undergraduates is by leading by example! It is such a special opportunity to participate with our national philanthropy in any situation. Still, having it on the home turf of both of our organizations, in our community, you just can't beat it! A big thank you goes out to Special Olympics, the first-responders on-site, and fellow participants."

In total, \$1,715 was raised from Sigma Tau Gamma to support Special Olympics, helping to support over 18,000 Special Olympics athletes across the state of Indiana.

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SIG TAU THIS MONTH

1

BROTHER OF NOBILITY

Society of Seventeen Inductee and 12th National President W.T. "Bill" Hembree, Pittsburg State, '42 entered Chapter Eternal on Sunday, March 22, 2020. Visit the [SAGA Blog](#) to read more about Bill's 60 plus years of national volunteering and monumental impact on Sig Tau.

2

MEMBER SUPPORT

During this unprecedented time, Sigma Tau Gamma Headquarters is here to support our members. The health and safety of our members is the utmost priority. We have provided a list of frequently asked questions surrounding [COVID-19](#) and its impact on the Fraternity.

3

NOMINATE A WORTHY BROTHER

The [application](#) and nomination process are due by **11:59 P.M. EDT on Tuesday, March 31, 2020**. Help us recognize individuals and brothers for going above and beyond to ensure the Fraternity continually endeavors forward!





On leap day, February 29, the Zeta Omega Associate Chapter from Ohio State University made the drive down I-70 West to Sigma Tau Gamma Headquarters to initiate their spring, 2020 associate member class. This initiation was the first Ritual of Initiation to take place at Sig Tau HQ.

Zeta Omega Associate Chapter President Noah Burton, Ohio State, had the idea when he took a tour of Headquarters during Webb Academy.

“The idea of holding initiation came about after Webb Academy when Angel Gonzales, Washington State gave us [Ben Stubbs, Reginald Ginyard III, Evan Mitelman, and myself] a tour of HQ. On the drive back to Columbus, OH, from Indianapolis, IN, we discussed how we were logistically going to plan and make this vision a reality. We all had fallen in love with the idea of having a truly immersive initiation experience while also being able to offer graduating seniors a chance to visit the new headquarters facility before they become alumni.”

ZETA OMEGA ASSOCIATE CHAPTER HOLDS FIRST-EVER INITIATION AT SIG TAU HEADQUARTERS





While this initiation was one Noah will never forget, he said it was quite the task trying to put everything together to make this experience happen for the associate members. He said because this was the first initiation at Headquarters, that it added even more pressure to make sure it was done correctly.

“Their [the associate members] reactions at first were a bit confused about why we were driving to another state to initiate them. However, as the Executive Cabinet collectively explained the significance of being the first class ever to be initiated at the facility, they all began to warm up to the idea and quickly realized that they were going to have a truly unique and once in a lifetime experience,” Noah said. “Looking back now, I would not change anything about my first initiation experience as president. I was able to offer the spring 2020 associate member class a fully immersive experience that gives them a strong foundation to grow as SigTau’s for life. The anxiety and nervousness that I had at the beginning of the experience quickly shifted into pride and honor because I had the realization that I would be a link between our Founding Fathers and our new brothers.”

Having the initiation at Sig Tau HQ provided direct support to the Zeta Omega Associate Chapter during the entire process. Recruitment & Growth Coordinator Zack Kearney, UNC Charlotte, and Collegiate Services Coordinator Alex Hart, Nebraska Kearney, were able to handle any logistics and lent a helping hand during initiation. The newest initiated men of the chapter were able to see the history on display and were able to see and read about our Founders and what they started nearly 100 years ago.

LEADERSHIP