

Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity®
Board of Directors/President-Elect
Declaration Form

Name: Michael L. Ray, Jr. Chapter: Beta Gamma
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Biographical Information

Candidate For (choose one or both)

Age: 37

Board of Directors President-elect

Profession of Business with Title: Elected Official - Councilman for the City of Youngstown;

Sales & Customer Service – Environmental Testing – Marketing / Customer Service Coordinator

Fraternity Information

Collegiate: (Include chapter offices held and years, national and regional meetings attended, IFC offices, campus organizations, awards)

Chapter Offices Held

- Founding Father
- Vice President of Programs 2000
- Charter Banquet Chairperson

Meetings Attended

- 39th Grand Chapter (2000)
- Three Rivers Regional Conclave 2001

Campus Organizations

- Pete the Penguin - College Mascot 1998 – 2001
- Student Government, Secretary of University Relations 2000 -2001
- Chairman, Diversity Conference Planning Committee 2000
- Internal Coordinator, Up 'til Dawn 2000
- Resident Assistant 1997 – 1998

Alumni: (Include national/regional offices held/years & meetings attended, alumni assoc & chapter actives, awards)

National / Regional Offices

- Director of Chapter Development, Headquarters Staff 2001 – 2004
- Development Director, Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation 2004 -2005
- Erie Shores, District Director, Three Rivers Region 2006 – 2008
- Regional Vice President, Three Rivers Region 2008 – 2010
- Director, Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity Board of Directors 2010 - Present

Meetings Attended

- National Conclave 2001, 2003
- 40th Grand Chapter (2002)
- Three Rivers Regional Conclave 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
- Great Lakes Regional Conclave 2003, 2004
- 41st Grand Chapter (2004)
- Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation Meeting 2005, 2006
- Strategic Leadership Conference 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013
- 42nd Grand Chapter (2006)

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- 43rd Grand Chapter (2008)
- 44th Grand Chapter (2010)
- 46th Grand Chapter (2012)
- Atlantic Coast Regional Conclave 2012
- Great Plains Regional Conclave 2013

Alumni Association & Chapter Activities

- Host, Beta Gamma Alumni Homecoming Tailgate Hospitality Tent 2001 – Present
- Host, Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner 2000 - Present
- Alumni Advisor, Beta Gamma Chapter 2004 – 2010
- The Beta Gamma Corporation (Housing Corp), Managing Director 2005 – 2010
- President, Beta Gamma Alumni Association 2005 – 2009
- Member, Beta Gamma Chapter Alumni Association 2005 – Present
- Member, Alpha Kappa Chapter Alumni Association 2004 – Present

Awards

- Beta Gamma Chapter Alumni of the Year 2005, 2006, 2009
- Youngstown State University, Gregory M. Gulas Outstanding Greek Advisor Award 2009-2010

Religious, Civic & Professional Information

- Trustee & Scholarship Dinner Chairman, Danielle Marie Hodge Memorial Scholarship Fund, 2002 - Present
- Trustee, J. Ford Crandall Memorial Foundation, 2009 – Present
- President Pro Tem, Youngstown City Council, 2011 – Present
- Chairman, Legislation Committee, Youngstown City Council, 2011 – Present
- Chairman, Public Utilities Committee, Youngstown City Council, 2011 – Present
- Chairman, Housing, Community & Economic Development Committee, Youngstown City Council 2011 – Present
- Vice-Chairman, Education Committee, Youngstown City Council, 2011 – Present
- Board Member, Organizacion Civica y Culture Hispana Americana, Inc., 2013 - Present

I certify that I have the time, means and interest to serve in the office indicated above, and if nominated and if elected I will accept the office and serve in the best interests of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity.

/s/ Michael L. Ray, Jr.
Signed

January 31, 2014
Dated

Please use this space to answer the following questions. Your answers will be distributed with the Call of the Grand Chapter and will be available for review by all registered delegates.

1) *What is your principle reason for running for the Board/President?*

I am running for President to ensure that the voices of *all* our membership are heard. My experience with Sigma Tau Gamma is as extensive as it is broad. I've been a founding father, an advisor, a regional officer, a staff member, and now a director. I have a deep understanding and passion for our organization. My experiences have given me an honest and holistic knowledge of how the fraternity works at the local, regional, and national level. Serving on the Board of Directors has been a great privilege, and has allowed me to take the next step in my continued devotion to Sigma Tau Gamma as president. The opportunity to serve the organization I love and hold dear was the easiest decision I've ever made. If elected President, a longer term will allow me ample time to continue to work toward creating a better future for our fraternity, including values-based programming that exemplifies our principles and provides services to all of our undergraduate chapters in addition to alumni associations. Chapter expansion has proven critical in the growth of Sigma Tau Gamma over the past few years. Nonetheless, we need to provide support services and housing as needed to the great pre-existing chapter base. We must implement a plan that devotes the

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necessary resources towards chapter service as well as growth.

We stand at the edge of an exciting time for Sigma Tau Gamma. We are an industry leader in recruitment and expansion. Our Path of Principles is an excellent member-education program that is steeped in our rich tradition and heritage. But most importantly, this Grand Chapter marks the beginning of new Executive leadership among the headquarters staff. Brother Bill Bernier will be transitioning out of his position as Chief Executive Officer after 40 years of diligent service. This is a defining moment, an opportunity that must be seized to forge new relationships with new leaders both inside and outside of our fraternity. Our centennial is around the corner, and I am dedicated to working with our new CEO to ensure another 100 years of success.

- 2) Sigma Tau Gamma, as a campus organization, competes in a crowded market for potential members; name two things Sigma Tau Gamma does well and two things we could do better?

It is no secret that Sigma Tau Gamma has quickly become the inter-fraternal leader in chapter expansion and membership recruitment. Partnering with Phired Up was a progressive and forward-thinking decision that resulted in a historical increase in chapters and membership. Expansion and recruitment are two areas where Sigma Tau Gamma has set the industry benchmark. However, this success cannot and should not come at the expense of existing chapters. We need to bring balance back to our operations as we move forward.

Consequently, the areas where we must strive to improve are continued chapter support and programming. We need to provide the necessary guidance and support to our chapters so they can operate more efficiently. Dedicating the necessary manpower and resources to chapter service is a necessity; because chapter service succeeds when carried out by professional headquarters staff members in conjunction with *trained* alumni volunteers. Further, with the founding of larger chapters at prominent Greek schools, the need for quality member housing is a growing concern. We must develop procedures to ensure that once chapters are established, they can be maintained with not only with personnel support but also built infrastructure. Integrating cutting-edge programming like Phired Up recruitment seminars and the Path of Principles into chapter support and expansion will result in fuller, more robust chapters that exemplify and practice the values of Sigma Tau Gamma.

- 3) *What is the most important strategic priority for Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, Inc.?*

Undoubtedly, the most important strategic priority for Sigma Tau Gamma is expansion. Over the past few years, we have reaped the benefits of a successful expansion program, and we continue to do so to this day. It has been said that a rising tide lifts all boats. I believe our hardworking and tireless expansion efforts benefit everyone. There is no secret formula for creating a successful organization. Sigma Tau Gamma does not need another grand idea or program. We must stay true to our ideals and ourselves. Another new governance model, grand vision, management craze may yield results, but only fleeting and unsustainable ones.

Continuing to grow Sigma Tau Gamma – in chapter number and chapter size – will provide the necessary capital resources to improve programs and services at all levels. Expansion leads to more revenue, which opens the door to investment in staffing. This in turn builds our personnel base for future expansion, freeing other personnel resources for service to existing chapters where needed. Increased income through growth will afford us the additional resources needed to tackle challenges that we face with chapter housing needs, alumni engagement, enhanced chapter involvement, and philanthropy. With successful focus on continued growth, we will have the ability to invest in various levels of organizational infrastructure, from provisional

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chapters to alumni associations and everything in between.

4) *What personal and professional experience do you bring to the Board of Directors?*

As Director of Chapter Development for the Headquarters staff, I spent three years on the road working directly with our chapters, and conducted more than 120 chapter service visits. After leaving the Headquarters staff, I immediately seized the opportunity to become the part-time Development Director for the Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation and worked with alumni to launch the EBE Capital Campaign. Following my professional service to the fraternity, I was eager to embrace other opportunities as an alumni volunteer. I first served as Erie Shores District Director for four years before having the pleasure of serving as the Three Rivers Regional Vice President.

In addition, I also had the opportunity of serving for several years as the Alumni Advisor to my chapter as well as the Housing Corporation Director. Working closely with undergraduate members from my home chapter has kept me grounded. It also allowed me to stay in touch with the true needs of our undergraduates. Over the past four years, I have had great honor of serving on the Board of Directors, which allowed me to bring my broadly informed perspective to the table. My vast fraternal experience is deeply rooted in working with and providing service to our undergraduate membership. My perspective is one that is needed on our Board.

I have parlayed my fraternal experience into success in my personal, professional and political life. The knowledge that I've gained from working with the many stakeholders in our fraternity has prepared me well for my work as an elected official. In addition to serving as a City Councilman, I also serve as a trustee for two charitable foundations. In all these roles, I continue to draw from my values-based experiences in our fraternity. I love our organization; I strive each day to exemplify our Six Principles and the belief of "Sig Tau for life."