

1-1-2001

2001-2002 Annual Program

Phi Sigma

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2001-2002

Phi Sigma

$\Phi\Sigma$

1878

Phi Sigma

Founded in 1878

The Greek letters Phi and Sigma are the initial letters of the ancient admonition, "Love Thou Wisdom."

Phi Sigma is believed to be the oldest continuing society of its kind in Illinois. Its founders were young men who had been members of a high school debating club. They organized Phi Sigma to promote further serious discussion of the national and world issues and various other subjects of interest, and to gain enlightenment through study and discourse.

Phi Sigma continues today very much in the accordance with its long-standing traditions. Members and guests gather together in one of their homes to hear a paper presented by a member. This is followed by spirited questioning and a discussion of the subject. The evening is capped by a social hour.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month from October through May. The December and May meetings are occasions for festive parties.

Phi Sigma
2000-2001 Season

OFFICERS

President	Bill Browne
First Vice President	Virginia Cassin
Second Vice President	Betty Peaslee
Secretary	Anna Shepard
Treasurers	Bill and Barbara Furlong

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Officers and
Regina Kuehn and Diane Stephenson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Lyman Shepard 2000-2002

Carolyn Browne 2001-2003

Lunny Hall 2002-2004

HISTORIAN

Beth Robinson

2001-2002 Program
Theme: The Village Looks Back on 100 Years

- October ~~13~~
12 Presenters: Peter and Beverly Conroy
Title: Changes in Education
Hosts: The Brownes
Co-Hosts: The Stefanics
- November 9 Presenter: Lyman Shepard
Title: Wright and the Oriental Influences
Hosts: The Peaslees
Co-Hosts: The Peaslees
- December ~~9~~
14 The Christmas Potluck
Host: Pat Staszak
Co-Hosts: Everybody
- January 11 Presenter: Joan Gibbons
Title: International Connections
Hosts: Henry Kranz and Diane Stephenson
Co-Host: Pat Blevens
- February 8 Presenter: Bill Furlong
Title: History of the Oak Park
Conservatory
Hosts: Conservatory and the Furlongs
Co-Hosts: The Zobels
- March 8 Presenter: Barbara Ballinger, Guest Speaker
Title: History of Libraries
Host: Dole Branch Library
Co-Hosts: Oak Park Arts Center and
The Lykoses
- April ~~11~~
12 Presenters: Stan Davis and Tom Ferguson
Title: The Voice: Integration/
Disintegration
Host: Beth Robinson
Co-Host: Caroline Browne
- May 10 The May Party: Details to be announced

Phi Sigma Constitution and By-Laws

Revised 1987

Constitution

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be known as Phi Sigma.

ARTICLE 2. The Officers shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, and a Secretary/Treasurer. Officers may not succeed themselves. The duties of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretary/Treasurer shall be as described in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE 3. There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Officers and two others who shall be elected by the Society. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to prepare the annual program of the Society and to publish the Year Book. This shall be done for the ensuing year as soon as practicable after the April meeting. The Executive Committee shall also attend to such other matters as may be referred to it by the Society.

ARTICLE 4. There shall be a Membership Committee, which shall consist of three members. One three-year member shall be nominated and elected each year at the same time and in the same manner as the Officers. Retiring members shall not succeed themselves. Names of guests to be proposed for membership shall be submitted to the Membership Committee by active members within three months of their having visited Phi Sigma, whereupon the Membership Committee shall submit the proposed resumes by mail to all the voting members. If three written objections are received by the Membership Committee, the names must be dropped from any further consideration. If three objections are not forthcoming from the membership, the Membership Committee then votes. A majority is required for acceptance.

ARTICLE 5. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

ARTICLE 6. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed at any meeting of the Society. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing in open meetings and then referred to the Executive Committee, which shall report at the next regular meeting of the Society on the advisability of such changes. The amendments shall then be voted on by ballot, a two-thirds vote of all members present being necessary for adoption.

ARTICLE 7. Active members in good standing for a continuous period of twenty-five years shall be eligible for and may request automatic retirement from Active to Honorary Membership. No dues or duties shall be required of Honorary Members, and they shall not have a vote in the Society.

ARTICLE 8. Active members who resign because of removal from the Chicago area will, if they desire, be classified as Non-Resident Members. As such, they have a standing invitation to attend any meeting when in the vicinity and will automatically be reinstated to Active Membership should they again permanently return, subject to and as such openings occur in the Active Membership.

By-Laws

ARTICLE 1. Phi Sigma shall hold **meetings** monthly from October to May, inclusive, the December meeting being optional. The meetings shall be held the second Friday of the month, subject to temporary change by the Executive Committee. Extra meetings may be called by the President or Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 2. **Meetings** of the Society shall commence promptly at 8:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 3. At the March meeting the President shall appoint a **Nominating Committee of three members**, none of whom shall be Officers, to prepare a slate of candidates for the officers of the Society. Said Committee shall present its report at the meeting in April and election shall take place at that time. Other nominations may be made at the April meeting. If there is not more than one nomination for any office to be voted on, the Secretary shall cast a unanimous ballot for such nominee. Otherwise, election shall be by written ballot.

ARTICLE 4. The **annual dues** of the Society shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and presented at the October meeting. This shall be voted on and the dues shall be payable at that time.

ARTICLE 5. The Active Membership of the Society shall be limited to fifty.

ARTICLE 6. On the occasion of three consecutive absences or non-payment of dues by a member, the Membership Committee shall contact the member and make a recommendation to the Society for action.

ARTICLE 7. **Officers and Duties:** 1. The Officers shall consist of a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, and a Secretary/Treasurer. 2. The President shall preside at all meetings, shall chair the Executive Committee, and shall perform such duties as are incidental to the office. 3. The First Vice President shall exercise the functions of the President in the absence of the President and shall perform other duties as assigned by the President. The Nominating Committee shall give the First Vice President primary consideration for nomination to the succeeding presidency. 4. The Second Vice President shall arrange for meeting places and hosts and shall send notifications of meetings to the membership. 5. The Secretary/Treasurer shall record minutes, prepare such correspondence as is properly required, exercise general supervision over the receipt, custody, and disbursement of all funds, and make reports as are properly required.

ARTICLE 8. **Archives:** The President shall appoint a Historian, who shall be responsible for keeping the permanent records of the Society. Historians may serve successive terms. The permanent records of the Society include the secretarial records from previous years, copies of all papers that are presented as programs, copies of all Voice programs, and any other records which may have historical value. Records may be written, recorded, or filmed. It shall be the duty of each member who presents a program to provide a copy of that program to the Historian.

ARTICLE 9. **Robert's Rules of Order** shall govern the conduct of meetings.

ARTICLE 10. At meetings when guests for prospective membership are present, at the discretion of the President the reading of minutes and discussion of other confidential Society matters may be postponed or dispensed with.

The Voice

The six young men who founded Phi Sigma in 1878 were so dedicated to the love of wisdom that they volunteered to present two programs each in order to have twelve meetings a year. They quickly discovered that this was too demanding a schedule, so they cut the regular presentations to six and made the papers on alternate months more informal, consisting of essays of opinion, original poetry, and book reviews. These informal programs had assumed the name of "Voice" by 1883. One source suggests that the name may have derived from an early practice of introducing the program with the words, "Listen to the voice of the people."

The presentations of the Voice were soon reformulated so that a single "editor" was responsible for getting three or four other members to each prepare a short paper. Sometimes the subject was chosen by the editor; other times each presenter had a free hand. The only unchanging element through the years was that the Voice presentations required no academic research.

The number of Voice programs per year was eventually reduced to two for many years and then to one. Since the First World War it has usually been assigned the April meeting. The idea of an "editor" is revived from time to time, but more frequently one or two people are chosen to do the Voice in whatever format they choose. It has been common for the Voice to reflect on the theme for the year and, sometimes, to review the serious papers that have been presented during the year.

A sampling of the Voice through the years finds it to contain original short stories, poetry, plays, and essays. In the 1920s and the early 1930s, one member gained renown for his humorous verse. This was so well received that he was asked to perform yearly for more than a decade. He often shared the Voice with others, but the humorous tone pervaded most presentations—as it usually has since that time.

Host and Co-Host Duties

The Host provides the home, seating arrangements, plates, silverware, glasses, napkins, and so on, as well as coffee, tea, or other beverages, sugar, cream, and the like, and arranges for someone to pour the beverages.

The Co-Host provides and serves dessert. Before the meeting, the Co-Host informs the Host of the dessert that will be served.