

1-1-2011

2011-2012 Annual Program

Phi Sigma

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$\Phi\Sigma$

2011–2012

Since 1878

What's on Your
Mind?

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 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 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 discussion of the evening's 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 the occasions of festive parties.

Phi Sigma
2011-2012 Season

OFFICERS

President	Christine Davis
First Vice President	Todd G. Main
Second Vice President	Bonnie Burns
Secretary	Carole Ferguson/Henry Kranz
Treasurer	David McNary

Executive Committee

The officers and
Don Peaslee and Sunny Hall

Membership Committee

Barbara Furlong	2009-2012
Diane Stephenson	2010-2013
Marguerite Bloch	2011-2014

Historian: Peggy Saecker

Archives Committee: Virginia Cassin, Carole Ferguson, Henry Kranz, Diane Stephenson

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 be 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 offices 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 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 1920's and the early '30's 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, etc., and coffee, tea, or other beverages, sugar, cream, and the like, and arranges for someone to pour the coffee and tea.

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