

10/1/17

## Pledging Ceremony

PRESIDENT — \* *(Pause while meeting comes to order.)* Brother Recruitment Chairman, is all in readiness for the Pledging Ceremony?

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN — Yes, the candidates are assembled and await further instruction.

PRESIDENT — *(To assembled guests, if any. Omit if no guests are present.)*

I welcome our guests to this ceremony by which we formalize the commitment between our chapter and our candidates for membership. We are pleased that you are here to witness this special event. As these men begin their journey with us, we will ask them to state their commitment, we will declare our support for them and we will celebrate their decision to join us.

*(Pause.)*

Brother Recruitment Chairman, please escort the candidates into the room.

*(Recruitment Chairman retires to bring the candidates into the meeting room, assembled in alphabetical order by last name, facing the head table. More than one line may be used depending on the number of candidates. Candidates will remain standing throughout the ceremony.)*

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN — *(Addressing the candidates.)*

Candidates, I am pleased to present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity.

PRESIDENT — *(Addressing the candidates.)*

We welcome you to this moment in the history of Theta Chi Fraternity and express our happiness that, on this day, you have chosen to follow in our footsteps. It is a lifetime journey on which you embark, but let me assure you that you will not walk alone, nor will you walk in darkness. You will walk with all the men of Theta Chi Fraternity who believe in and exemplify the values of our brotherhood.

We are a brotherhood bound together by a sincere desire to grow in excellence in every aspect of our lives. The environment of this excellence is a personal development of honor and integrity. It is a brotherhood that cares for its members. We will call on you to give well of your talents and gifts, and we expect you to call us to that same challenge. In this we live our brotherhood's motto of "The Helping Hand."

This is a day to rejoice, for once again we begin the process of adding new strength to our membership. Brother Secretary, please call the roll of the men who first offered their pledge to our Fraternity and those who come before us today.

SECRETARY — *(reading slowly and deliberately.)*

Frederick Norton Freeman, Claremont, New Hampshire, April 10, 1856;  
Arthur Chase, Bellows Falls, Vermont, April 10, 1856;  
Edward Bancroft Williston, Norwich, Vermont, April 11, 1856;  
Lorenzo Potter, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, April 11, 1856.

These were our first brothers. On this day, those who will follow are asked to take one step forward as his name is called.

*(The Secretary reads the list of candidates, including their full name and hometown.)*

PRESIDENT — Gentlemen, there are purposes to this Fraternity in which you seek membership. Many can be found in our Creed. Listen carefully as my brothers join me in reciting the Creed of Theta Chi.

\* \* \*

*(Pause, then lead recitation of the Creed of Theta Chi.)*

ALL BROTHERS — I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance and Tolerance, extols virtue, exacts harmony and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow man.

PRESIDENT — *(Pause.)*

Thank you, brothers.

*(Pause, then address candidates.)*

Candidates, I understand that each of you have expressed your desire to join Theta Chi Fraternity at \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name of institution)* If so, answer, "I have."

CANDIDATE(S) — I have.

PRESIDENT — The use of the term “pledge,” as derived from the word, means a promise or oath. You will now be asked to make a solemn pledge as to your desire to join Theta Chi Fraternity and to your future conduct as a pledged candidate. I can assure you that this will not restrain you in any manner from serving your alma mater loyally, or living as a valued citizen and honorable gentleman. With this assurance, are you willing to make this pledge? If so, answer, “I am.”

CANDIDATES — I am.

PRESIDENT — The Chaplain will now administer the pledge.

CHAPLAIN — For your understanding, I will first recite the pledge in full.

**I, (name in full), will accept my candidate emblem of Theta Chi Fraternity, and all those things, consistent with honor, for which it stands. I agree to wear it at all appropriate times until such time as I may be allowed to wear the Badge of Theta Chi. I agree to abide by all of the rules of this Fraternity in the same manner as a member; to conduct myself at all times as a gentleman, and to honor my country, my alma mater and this Fraternity.**

Candidate(s), please repeat after me:

**I, (name in full), / will accept my candidate emblem / of Theta Chi Fraternity, / and all those things, / consistent with honor, / for which it stands. / I agree to wear it at all appropriate times / until such time / as I may be allowed / to wear the Badge of Theta Chi. / I agree to abide by / all of the rules of this Fraternity / in the same manner as a member; / to conduct myself / at all times as a gentleman, / and to honor my country, my alma mater and this Fraternity.**

ALL BROTHERS — We are witnesses to this, your solemn pledge.

PRESIDENT — In consideration of the solemn pledge you have made, it is my pleasure and privilege as President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, duly constituted under the Constitution and Bylaws of our International Fraternity, to accept your pledge to honor Theta Chi Fraternity. Therefore, in the name of this chapter and by the virtue of my authority as chapter President, I hereby present you with your candidate emblem as a symbol of your acceptance as a pledged candidate of Theta Chi.

The candidate emblem is worn over the heart in the same location as is the Badge of Theta Chi. The candidate emblem should be worn only at appropriate times and on an appropriate shirt, sweater or more formal garment. Unlike our Badge, the candidate emblem may be worn on the lapel of a suit coat or blazer.

*(The President, assisted by the Marshal, affixes the candidate emblems.)*

PRESIDENT — \* Please be seated. *(pause.)*

Full membership in Theta Chi is for life. It is therefore customary that alumni participate in many of our activities by contributing their experience, talents and knowledge. Our Chapter Advisory Board will consult with us in many of our chapter affairs. Brother \_\_\_\_\_, you will address our candidates.

*(This following section should be presented by the Chapter Adviser. If this is not possible, another adviser or alumnus may do so.)*

CHAPTER ADVISER — During your time as a candidate for membership, and later as an initiated member of our Fraternity, much will be expected of you. I charge you to be cognizant of your obligation to your alma mater, upon which this Fraternity depends. Be diligent in your studies that you may bring honor to yourself and to your chapter. Learn about our Fraternity and the principles for which it stands. The brothers of Theta Chi Fraternity are here to teach, guide and assist you. Call upon them. Their actions will demonstrate to you the true meaning of brotherhood.

PRESIDENT — It is also incumbent upon us all to protect one another from harm, be it by intention or coincidence. Brothers and candidates, please give your attention to the Vice President of Health and Safety.

VICE PRESIDENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY — I would charge you to commit to the continued welfare, health and safety of our brothers and friends, ensuring that we protect each other from anything that would bring us harm. The enemies of this Fraternity are not our rivals in the halls of academia or on the fields of competition; rather, they are the influences, attitudes and actions that may endanger our brothers, our Fraternity and our friends. We must stand guard against those who seek to abuse our hospitality. We must also remain watchful of our brothers who fail to understand or meet their obligation to protect themselves and those around them.

PRESIDENT — We must also guard against any person who acts in direct contradiction to Theta Chi Fraternity's traditions and ideals by hazing, demeaning or purposefully creating harm or discomfort toward another. Any who purposefully engage in such activities are not worthy of association with our Fraternity. *(Pause.)* Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer. \*\*\*

CHAPLAIN — Gracious and loving God, we ask Your blessing on our candidates, their families and our brotherhood. Guide us on this journey we have begun together. Grant us vision and hope, patience and accountability, and give us insight to the tradition of brother helping brother in mind and heart and spirit. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

PRESIDENT — You are now pledged candidates of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. The success or failure of the goals of this chapter depends upon the effort and conduct of each of us. You may rest assured that the Helping Hand of Theta Chi will always be available to you. Welcome and congratulations to each of you.

"There is a destiny that makes us brothers. None goes his way alone. All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own."

As President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity and on behalf of all its members, I wish to acknowledge and thank our brothers, candidates and guests for witnessing this ceremony. Each candidate made choices that brought him to this campus and to this Fraternity. The initiated members of this chapter made the same choices. I wish to assure those assembled here today that it is our avowed purpose to enhance the dignity of those choices.

*(Pause.)*

"Alma Mater First and Theta Chi for Alma Mater."

This concludes the work of the Pledging Ceremony. Please join me in welcoming our candidates. \*

*Finis, Pledging Ceremony*

*(If prepared to do so, the chapter may proceed with the Big Brother Ceremony at this point.)*