



Phi Sigma Tau National Alumni Chapter



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General Society News

This volume of *Dialogue* is volume 66; Phi Sigma Tau has been publishing student papers for more than half a century. Many who have published in our journal have gone on to be professors and teachers of philosophy, to become members of the legal profession, or to become productive members of society. We are very proud of those who have submitted work for publication. Not all those who have published have been US citizens or even residents of the US. We have had contributions from England, Canada, Russia, Iran, China, Nigeria, and other places. A complimentary copy of our journal is now being sent to over seventy schools that have chapters of Phi Sigma Tau, and several other schools have regular subscriptions to the journal. We also have a few individuals who receive complimentary copies as well as several private subscribers.

Several years ago, we went to a perfect binding of our journal. The previous copies had been stapled, a process that limited us to seventy-two pages per issue; we now have no such limit and are able to publish larger issues with a more professional look. Most of this is because of our editor, Dr. Steve Barbone. Through his work with the journal, Dr. Barbone has increased the size as well as the quality of the journal. In fact, his work has created a bit of a problem; he now has so many submissions that he has had to ask for help with the editing. Consequently, several other of our other Executive Council members have agreed to do a first reading of papers so that Dr. Barbone can concentrate on a smaller number of papers that will be published. We owe a great debt of thanks to Dr. Barbone for his work. (In the event that you do not know Dr. Barbone, he is

the chair of the philosophy department at San Diego State University, chapter advisor to the California chapter at SDSU, as well as editor of *Dialogue*.)

Though for several years we had a healthy income from membership applications, the last several years have been different. As you know, the culprit was COVID. Our new membership applications have not yet gotten back to pre-COVID numbers, though income from new memberships has continued to be about 95+% of our income; we do not advertise for new members, nor do we generate any income from sale of pins, stoles, or other items. Since Covid struck, many of our chapters have gone inactive, and in several cases, schools have simply dropped philosophy programs. This has been a special problems at smaller schools where philosophy departments were already small. And many of our chapters are at such smaller schools. While we still have applications for new chapters, last year was the first year we had new chapter requests in several years. COVID seems to be a smaller problem now. Many cases are fairly light (unless they aren't).

Supplies, printed forms, postage, and publications (*DIALOGUE* and the *PST Newsletter*) still make up the bulk of the Society's expenses (90+%); we continue to have no regular salaried officers or staff. The cost of supplies varies significantly from year to year; I try to buy in bulk when possible so many items are purchased only now and then. The percentage of expenses devoted to our journal has been our main expense for years. Several chapter have indicated that they would prefer an electronic version of the journal, and this would save money; however, a number of advisors have informed me that their students are delighted to have a journal in hand.

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NAC Membership

Membership in the National Alumni Chapter continues to be five dollars per year; we have no plans to increase that. [I became Executive Secretary in 2005, and the price for membership was five dollars; what other price has not increased in twenty-three years?] Since 2005, we have also added the possibility of email membership for the Alumni Chapter; email membership is at the amazing price of \$0.0. If you would like to change to an email membership, just let me know. All members will receive *Dialogue* for one year as well as Newsletters and the occasional NAC Bulletin. I will be able to contact you by email if you have given me your email address. However, I do not know when you move or change email addresses. Please let me know if your street address or email address changes so that I can update the PST files. I would like to be able to keep in contact with you. If you need to change an address, please feel free to contact me by email.

Email addresses for members who make them available are taken from both NAC renewal and registration forms. If you neglected to provide an email address [or registered using a registration form which did not contain a space for email information] and would like to be on the NAC email distribution list, you need only drop me a message [david.gibson@pepperdine.edu] from your email account with the Subject Line: "ADD TO NAC EMAIL." **The NAC membership database (including email listings) is not given or sold to any other organization (educational or commercial).**

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From the Executive Secretary

In previous issues of the Alumni Bulletin, former members have sent me information about their favorite professors, favorite classes, work experiences, and other things that are related to their study of philosophy. I would be very happy to get more of your stories to pass along to other Alumni Chapter members. If you have some

story to tell about your study of philosophy, your use of philosophical training, or something about your career that would be of interest to other Alumni Chapter members, please send them to me for inclusion in future Bulletins.

Best wishes to all for a great holiday season. May your holiday be peaceful and your New Year be happy.

Yours cordially,

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