

Zeta Pi Alumni Association 8/25/26 Meeting Minutes

Masonic Lodge + Google Meet		Meeting Time: 7:05p - 8:28p	
25% Quorum: 10 of 38 total members Attendance: 20 of 38 (+ 8 non-voting) = 52.6%			
Mike Szettella (Chair)	Eric Berger	Shawn Pence	E. Craig Porter (virtual)
Jeff Waite (VP)	Chuck Surinck	Rob Pankau III	Justin Doescher (virtual)
Ted Maier (Treasurer)	Rob Waters	Tyler Reynolds	Ryan Elisei (virtual)
Mike Hoskins (Sec)	Greg Crain	Rob Charlton (late)	Jeff Johnson (virtual, late)
Cory Heck	Mike Grant	Mike LaFerle (late)	Josh Bischoff (A)
Drew Waite	Jordan Keil (A)	Jack Garlinghouse (A)	Jacob O’Kronley (non-ZPAA)
Dave Spezia (non-ZPAA)	Cross Annoya (A)	Andrew Amentier (A)	Michael Decacche (A)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 7:05p. Quorum met with 17 present in-person/virtually. Others arrived late.
- [7/28/26 minutes](#) approved by consent

II. Officer Reports

- **President Mike Szettella:**
 - National affiliation report/discussion with Bill Basinger ETA for next mtg.
- **VP Jeff Waite:**
 - Received post-OB40 feedback form from Cory Heck; waiting on post-baseball form from John Hendley.
- **Secretary Mike Hoskins:**
 - Michigan LARA reports are due by October 1.
 - Membership stands at 38 active members, the highest ever, with a goal of reaching “40 in our 40th” goal.

- **Treasurer Ted Maier:**
 - Admin spending is consistently under budget.
 - Treasurer will update the budget spreadsheet from a 30-member to a 38-member model for estimated allocations (based on 38 members):

Checking: \$14,710.87	
Scholarship: ~\$2,280 for the year	Housing Fund: ~\$3,700 (including last year's carryover)
Available for Events/Other: ~\$8,000	

- Member Rob Waters noted that this is what he, Scholarship Committee, other ZPAA members want to see presented by Treasurer at each meeting.

III. Committees/Updates

VP Waite: All committees asked to begin taking formal minutes to document decisions.

Events

- **Golf Outing:** Saturday, Oct. 3rd, first tee time at 10:50 am. Pricing remains same as prior year (\$65 ZPAA' \$70 Undergrads; \$125 for non-ZPAA alumni). Gift to be included in pricing. Cory & another alumni covering 50% of their cost for the first 2 Undergrads who pay. Deadline for payment and team info is Sept. 25th.
- **Holiday Party:** A couples/family holiday potluck party scheduled for Sat, Dec. 12, 2026 at Masonic Lodge. ZPAA will provide chicken. Hoskins will circulate a sign-up list/Google Form for dishes.

Ritual

- **When:** Nov. 21, 2026 (Saturday before Thanksgiving) at Masonic Lodge.
- **Schedule:** Setup at 3:30p, arrivals at 5:00p, doors lock at 5:50p, ritual ceremony begins promptly at 6:00p.
- **Other details:** Cast is in place, volunteers still welcome. Jeff will be creating an Amazon wishlist that alumni can use for donations. Read-through dress rehearsal TBD, but plan for the week before.

Chapter Updates

- **Pig Roast:** Scheduled for Welcome Week Friday, Sept 4th (yes, before Labor Day). Same location (P37 lot on far southside of OU campus). Discussion on Pig Roast future tabled for future ZPAA meeting in Dec 2026/Jan 2027.

IV. New business

Proposed Bylaw Amendments (First Readings)

Hoskins introduced 3 proposed bylaw amendments at the meeting, as submitted and presented 8/10/26 per [current bylaws](#).

1. **Motion 2026-0001 (Proxy Voting):** Housekeeping change to align bylaws with existing practice allowing proxy voting, as unanimously approved during 8/2024 mtg.  Motion 1 -Proxy Voting
2. **Motion 2026-0002 (Membership & Voting):** Clerical revisions to emphasize the March 16 annual dues deadline for all membership, clarify the 50% dues discount for recent grads.  Motion 2 - Members
3. **Motion 2026-0003: (New Membership Tier):** Aimed at better aligning membership value. A new 'Connection Tier' for geographically distant members who have principal residency outside of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, at a proposed cost of \$180 (75% of full dues), which covers baseline costs but excludes the 30% of subsidized event/event-related costs. Initial feedback suggests 7 members are definite to join and 8 are interested.  Motion 3 - New Tier  Financial Impact Statement

All were read with initial questions and [financial impact](#) discussed with membership. All motions and financial impact statement attached to minutes. Voting to take place at the next meeting, dependent on the 50% bylaw amendment quorum being met.

Undergraduate Rush Support

- **Funding Undergraduate Rush:** A motion was submitted by Chuck Surinck to reimburse from ZPAA general fund up to \$1,200 for the fall 2026-2027 undergraduate rush. 2nded by Cory Heck.
 - **Not a Blank Check:** This differs from the August 2025 vote to give "blank check" to Chapter for Rush; instead it's a receipt-dependent reimbursement not to exceed that amount. Based on Undergrad's Rush plan, budget presented to Surinck and shared with ZPAA at mtg.

- **Undergrad Budget:** The \$1,200 request will cover 6 events (4 at the house, 1 on campus, 1 bid dinner) and is part of a ~\$2,000 total rush spend. It covers food, beverages, transportation, and supplies, but not t-shirts or banners.
- **Rush Goals:** Chapter aims to double its numbers (22 Actives), handing out 40-50 bids to secure around 30 accepted, with a target of initiating at least 15 new members. Their strategy follows Rush Retreat in June 2026 to host more effective, house-based retention events, moving away from less cost-effective events like Top Golf.
- **Recruitment Metrics:** The Chapter's name list has 103 prospects, and a recruitment video on [Instagram/Facebook Reels](#) has gained ~8,000 views.

Motion passed by acclamation. Funds will be reimbursed from the general fund upon submission of receipts or invoices to Szettella/ZPAA. Reimbursements are due by late September 2026, or before initiation (11/21).

- **Future Chapter Support:** Treasurer suggested creating a dedicated budget line item for ongoing chapter support, but the discussion was tabled to a future meeting.

V. Closing

- No open discussion topics.
- Ritual pinning of 2 Prospective New Members to follow this mtg at Masonic upstairs.
- Undergrad's ritual pinning planned for Saturday Sept. 26, 2026 at Masonic Lodge.
- Next ZPAA meeting is virtual on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026.

Meeting Closure: 8:28p meeting closed. Moved by Cory, 2nd by Szettella.

Action Items

- ☐ Ted: Complete Michigan LARA reports by October 1 deadline.
- ☐ Ted: Update budget spreadsheet for 38 members and post with this month's minutes.
- ☐ Ted: Transfer housing allocations to housing fund before next meeting.
- ☐ Hoskins: Create and distribute a sign-up list/form for the Holiday Party Potluck.
- ☐ JeffW: Get post-event feedback form on Baseball 2026 from Hendley.
- ☐ For Sept meeting agenda: Szettella and Bill to discuss affiliating with National for a \$1,000/year. Benefits include liability insurance, tax-exempt status, and National voting rights.
- ☐ Bischoff will submit Rush expense receipts/invoices (up to \$1,200) to Szettella by late September 2026.
- ☐ JeffW: Finalize cast for initiation and schedule a read-through/dress rehearsal.
- ☐ For year-end/year-start: Add to agenda item to create standing budget line item for Chapter Support; consider possible revision to dues allocations for Chapter Support.
- ☐ For December/January agenda: Table the broader Pig Roast decision for next-year planning.

PROPOSED ZPAA BYLAW AMENDMENT 2026-0001

Move to amend: This adds Section D to Article Eta to formally authorize proxy voting, resolving the conflict between the current bylaws and existing organizational policy. Housekeeping, no policy change. Insert as follows:

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING
Article Eta – Voting (No explicit language for proxy voting currently exists in Article Eta.)	Article Eta - Voting. Section D – Proxy Voting. <u>Voting Members may vote by proxy at any scheduled or special meeting of The Organization. The Secretary shall publish and maintain the official Proxy Voting Form in accordance with any policies enacted by The Organization, consistent with these bylaws.</u> <u>a. A Voting Member represented by a valid Proxy Voting Form shall be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum only for those matters authorized by that proxy.</u>

Intent: To formally codify into the bylaws the proxy voting practice adopted by unanimous vote of the membership in July 2024 and implemented through the official Proxy Voting Form first published in August 2024, thereby establishing permanent bylaw authority for proxy voting going forward.

How Does This Motion Support ZPAA’s Primary Purpose? This amendment provides a consistent and transparent method for eligible Voting Members to participate in the governance of The Organization when they are unable to attend a scheduled or special meeting virtually or in-person. It authorizes the Secretary/et al to publish and maintain the official Proxy Voting Form in accordance with these bylaws. It also specifies how proxy voting affects meeting and voting quorums.

Rationale: This amendment formalizes an established organizational practice, promotes consistent administration of proxy voting, protects members' voting rights, and ensures uniform procedures for future meetings while maintaining compliance with the bylaws.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

- **Submitted By:** Mike Hoskins | (248) 930-0782 | MHoskins2179@gmail.com | **Submitted:** 08/10/26
- **Date of 1st Reading:** 08/25/2026
- **Date of 2nd Reading/Vote:** 09/29/2026, quorum dependent

PROPOSED ZPAA BYLAW AMENDMENT 2026-0002

Move to amend: Housekeeping amendment to clean up Article Gamma Section 2, by moving the March 16 dues deadline to the main section and creating a new subsection to clarify that monthly pro-rating applies only to the recent graduate tier. No policy change. Strike and insert as follows:

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING
Article Gamma Section 2 - Voting.	Article Gamma Section 2 - Voting.
Members shall be classified as “Voting Members” and “Non-Voting Members.”	Members shall be classified as <u>either</u> “Voting Members” <u>or</u> “Non-Voting Members.” <u>All annual dues for all membership categories are due on March 16 annually.</u>
A) Voting Members – Shall be defined as any alumnus of The Chapter who pays annual dues in full per year, unless the alumnus is within his first two years of graduating from Oakland University while in good standing with The Chapter, whereby the amount of dues is lowered to one half of the annual dues, to become due on March 16 annually, and can be pro-rated monthly. Voting members will be eligible to vote on all general matters brought before the assembly.	A.) Voting Members – Shall be defined as any alumnus of The Chapter who pays annual dues in full. Voting members are eligible to vote on all general matters <u>properly</u> brought before the assembly. <u>a.) Recent Graduates: An alumnus within his first two (2) years of graduating from Oakland University while in good standing with The Chapter shall pay one-half (50%) of the regular annual dues rate, which may be pro-rated monthly.</u>
B) Non-voting Members – Shall be defined as any alumnus of The Chapter who does not meet the financial criteria outlined in Section 2, Subsection A of Article Gamma – Membership.	B.) Non-voting Members – Shall be defined as any alumnus of The Chapter who does not meet the financial criteria outlined in Section 2, Subsection A of Article Gamma – Membership <u>this Section.</u>

INTENT: To clarify and clean up ambiguous structures. Establishes a universal annual dues deadline for all membership categories at the section level, eliminates run-on sentence structure in Subsection A, and clearly specifies that monthly pro-rating applies only to the recent graduate tier.

HOW DOES THIS MOTION SUPPORT ZPAA’S PRIMARY PURPOSE?

Establishes a single, unambiguous payment deadline for the association while ensuring governing language is clean, logical, and enforceable.

RATIONALE: Moving the March 16 due date to the top of Section 2 sets a clear standard for all current and future membership tiers, eliminating redundancy. Restructuring Subsection A resolves grammatical ambiguity regarding who qualifies for pro-rated payments without changing existing policy.

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- **Date of 1st Reading:** 08/25/2026
- **Date of 2nd Reading/Vote:** 09/29/2026, quorum dependent

PROPOSED ZPAA BYLAW AMENDMENT 2026-0003

Move to amend: This policy change amendment adds Subsection A(b) to Article Gamma Section 2, establishing a new "Connection Tier" with reduced annual dues for alumni residing outside Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Insert as follows:

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING
Article Gamma Section 2 A(b) - Voting. (No current text)	Article Gamma Section 2 - Voting. <u>A(b). Connection Tier Members – Shall be defined as any alumnus of The Chapter whose principal residence is outside the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (in which the Zeta Pi Chapter is located), who elects this membership classification. The annual dues for this tier shall be an amount not to exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) of the regular annual dues. Members of this tier shall be Voting Members and retain all rights, privileges, and responsibilities afforded to Voting Members under these bylaws.</u>

Intent: To establish a distinct voting membership tier for those alumni whose principal residence (6+ months) is outside of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, so that their geographic distance may limit their ability to attend physical ZPAA events. This better aligns membership value with their practical level of participation.

How Does This Motion Support ZPAA's Primary Purpose? Promotes broader, long-term alumni engagement and retention by providing a proportional membership structure for distant brothers who wish to remain actively invested in chapter governance but may not see the same benefits of event participation and event-related gifts.

Rationale: Because alumni residing outside the Lower Peninsula can face geographic barriers to attending physical ZPAA events in the same capacity as local members, full local dues do not accurately reflect the in-person value they might receive. Establishing this tier better aligns membership value with physical event accessibility while ensuring distant brothers retain full voting privileges in association affairs. Payment timing remains governed by the universal March 16 date in Section 2. It also doesn't prohibit them from choosing the regular annual dues tier, or from attending local events if they're able and paying non-discounted pricing to accommodate budget.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

- **Submitted By:** Mike Hoskins | (248) 930-0782 | MHoskins2179@gmail.com | **Submitted:** 08/10/26
- **Date of 1st Reading:** 08/25/2026
- **Date of 2nd Reading/Vote:** 09/29/2026, quorum dependent

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

BYLAW AMENDMENT 2026-0003

Addition of Article Gamma Section 2 A(b) – Connection Tier Membership

Overview

★ The Connection Tier is an optional \$180 annual membership for alumni residing outside Michigan's Lower Peninsula, the geographic location of our Zeta Pi Chapter. It realigns the cost ROI for those geographically limited from accessing subsidized local events, maintaining full ZPAA connection while supporting residence diversity. This values-based structure aims to strengthen long-term engagement and financial sustainability by demonstrating ZPAA's responsiveness to changing member needs. ★

Budget estimates (2024/2025/2026) show an average **30% of dues (\$72 per member) typically go to events & event-related gifts**. Our basic operating cost per member is \$168. Even when removing local event and gift subsidies, the ZPAA still nets \$12 extra per Connection Tier member. These members simply pay non-discounted prices separately if they attend any local events.

(Note: Event-related costs would alternatively be higher for 2026 dues if the atypical OB40 event cost was included and if Golf 2026 expenses do not remain identical to the previous year.)

🔑 Key Financial Impact 💰

- **New Revenue Opp:** Not a dues reduction/discount measure. Instead, it's a value proposition realignment for members. The tier creates a dues-paying option for geographically distant alumni who may otherwise not maintain membership because they cannot reasonably access local benefits.
- **Optional:** Eligible alumni choose whether to elect the Connection Tier. No existing member is automatically moved to the reduced rate.
- **Baseline Costs Covered:** \$180 covers the \$168 baseline operating cost, meaning we're still getting \$12 extra from each person for the ZPAA budget. → We lose no money as a result.
- **Risk Prevention:** Eligibility is based on "principal residence" outside the Lower Peninsula, rather than temporary absence or event attendance. Michigan law recognizes a 183-day residency standard for determining residency for state income tax purposes, which can serve as an objective administrative eligibility criteria.
- **Administrative Impact:** Minimal administration, tracked through existing records and dues collection. No separate payment systems or significant infrastructure are needed; members simply pay à la carte for local events they choose to attend.
- **Potential Adoption:** Of ~45 non-Michigan alumni identified, 7 are categorized as "Yes/Likely" prospects and 8 others have expressed interest. If all 7 "Likely" choose the tier, they represent **\$1,260 in new annual dues revenue that we likely wouldn't otherwise receive**.

🏠 Financial Conclusion 🏠

The Connection Tier is projected to have a positive financial impact on ZPAA. At \$180 annually, each Connection Tier membership is expected to cover its attributable baseline operating costs, eliminate associated local event and 🎁-related costs from their membership dues, and contribute additional 💰 toward ZPAA reserves and general organizational purposes. This doesn't affect existing members or create any financial loss, but creates a financial incentive through varying member values and perceived ROI by different groups within our collective alumni.