Constitution

Article I: Statement of Purpose

Phi Alpha Theta is a national history honor society that maintains a presence at the Ohio State University by means of the Zeta chapter. The purpose of the Zeta chapter of Phi Alpha Theta is to recognize outstanding historical scholarship among Ohio State University students who have demonstrated a clear interest in studying history. In addition to honoring fine historical work, Phi Alpha Theta offers activities to the OSU community meant to foster enthusiasm for history among all students and faculty. Our purpose and objectives have been aptly defined by the Society’s web site:

“We are a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. We seek to bring students, teachers and writers of history together for intellectual and social exchanges, which promote and assist historical research and publication by our members in a variety of ways.”

It is important to note that Phi Alpha Theta adheres to a strict non-discrimination policy. *We do not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or Vietnam-era veteran status.*

Article II: General Membership and Removal Process and Requirements

The national Phi Alpha Theta organization sets the membership requirements. In addition to a vital interest in history, the following requirements have been adapted from the National By-law for use by the Ohio State University:

An undergraduate student may become a member of the Phi Alpha Theta when she or he has completed fifteen semester hours of college-level history, with a minimum grade point hour ratio of 3.1 in his or her history courses. In addition, the student must have earned a cumulative grade point hour ratio of 3.0 overall, and rank in the top 35% of his or her class.

The dues for joining are $55.00. This sum includes a lifetime membership in the honor society and in the Zeta Chapter. It also includes a one-year subscription to *The Historian*, a prominent historical journal.

Expulsion from the organization must be made by formal request from the chapter to the national honorary under regulations presented in the national by-laws. Any member of the Society may be expelled by formal action of the Phi Alpha Theta national organization, after opportunity for due process. Grounds for such expulsion might be plagiarism, malfeasance, etc.

The Zeta Chapter conducts an initiation ceremony according to the guidelines of the national organization.

Article III: Officer Titles and Duties

There are four permanent leadership positions among the undergraduate population of the Zeta Chapter: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Social Chair.

The President will act as the diplomat of the club and oversee the organizational Executive Committee, which is comprised of all chapter officers. The president will be responsible for organizing meetings, delegating organizational duties and serve as the liaison between Phi Alpha Theta and faculty. The president will complete training as mandated by the Ohio State University Office of Student Life.
The Vice President: will assist the president and other members of the Executive Committee as needed. In addition, the vice president will assume the president’s responsibilities when the president is not able to be present.

The Social Chair: is responsible for communicating important items to members of the Zeta Chapter and assisting with event planning and membership engagement.

The Treasurer: is entrusted to handle the organization’s finances, and complete requests in a timely fashion and report on all financial matters to the Executive Committee. Additionally, the treasurer will complete training as mandated the Ohio State University Office of Student Life.

All leaders will assist in the production of events for the year. All terms are for one academic year, beginning Summer Term.

The selection process for officer positions will be through application and necessary follow-up interviews. The existing Executive Committee will then select and vote on candidates for the upcoming year. Applications are typically due during late April, after initiation.

Removal of leaders will be done through vote of the executive committee and with consultation from the faculty advisor. Current leaders must reapply for positions at the end of each academic year.

If an officer should be unable to complete a term of office, a special election shall be held at the next meeting of the members. Vacancies in offices shall be filled by nomination and voting by quorum of active members.

Article IV: Faculty Adviser

Phi Alpha Theta’s adviser must be a full-time member of the University faculty or Administrative and Professional staff. There can be more than one adviser, but one of them must meet the requirement listed above. Advisers are expected to maintain close communication with the club’s Executive Committee and to fulfill all obligations necessary for the club to maintain active status.

Article V: Meetings

Meetings of the Executive Committee should be held at least twice per semester and should be called whenever new activities need to be planned or the club needs to take care of other business (Clio Awards, initiation preparation, etc.).
Article VI: Amendments

Amendments to this constitution can be proposed by any member of the Zeta chapter, but they must be proposed in writing. A two-thirds majority of the students present at a meeting should be required to pass amendments. The constitution, while still a work in progress, should not be amended too frequently.

Article VII: Dissolution

If for any reason the organization must be dissolved, the Ohio Union must be contacted by the club’s adviser or President to learn the proper procedure.