

2024 District 7 Conference – Tau Beta Pi

District 7 was in Dayton, Ohio, at the University of Dayton (UD) engineering campus for their spring District Conference on April 6th. The planning began several months earlier around the end of 2023, following the selection of Ohio Theta (OH-Q) as the host chapter by vote of the delegates to the 2023 District 7 Conference in Detroit, Michigan, earlier that year. It all came together starting on the evening of April 5th as most of the delegates arrived the night before to check in and enjoy an evening of games and social activities put on by OH-Q and the Dayton Alumni Chapter (DAYAC). These were held in the Kennedy Union on campus, which also served as the primary location for the Conference proper the next day.



Figure 1 – At the Friday night social, a SEMIAC delegate (left) visualizes his shot while receiving an enthusiastic thumbs-up from the MI-D delegate (left of center). The three MI-E delegates (center, right) observe while waiting their turn.

On Saturday, attendees received a warm welcome from Eric Spina (PA-G '83), President of the University, and Gul Kremer (IA-A '92), Dean of the School of Engineering at UD. They were also greeted by the District 7 Directors; Lauren Logan (OH-D '10), Tonya Whitehead (MI-E '17), Michael Ustes (MI-I '23), and Brock Stephan (SC-A '19), who then proceeded to kick off the Conference.



Figure 2 – On Saturday morning, delegates listen to welcoming speeches from representatives of the University of Dayton.

Throughout the course of the day, the student delegates learned about national programs like SAB & NEST, and Director of Alumni Affairs Tricia Gomulinski (SD-A '98) gave a presentation on how to stay involved after graduation through participation in a local alumni chapter. The students were also tasked with creating skits both educational and amusing to highlight typical events in the life of a chapter, such as initiation, chapter survey & project reports, ratification ballot, candidate process, and several more. Awards were given by the DD's for the best performances.



Figure 3 – A team of delegates presents their educational skit to the Conference.

Executive Director Curt Gomulinski (MI-E '01) was in attendance to share updates from HQ, and all four district directors were on deck leading activities. In particular, the DD's ran breakout sessions focusing on several key areas of concern for successful chapter operations: events & projects, member engagement, member recruitment & initiation, chapter image and advisor engagement, and alumni member activities, with the delegates divided across sessions based on the needs of the chapter that sent them. The Conference was well attended by alumni, who graciously volunteered to assist with 'speed mentoring' sessions organized around processional affinity groups to provide advice to students on different career paths available to them after graduation.

Later in the afternoon, the District Directors hosted a trivia competition testing the delegate's knowledge of the Association, which was handily won by Executive Director Gomulinski. It was then clarified that prizes would only be given to the leading *student* delegates. Finally, the event wrapped up with the selection of a host chapter for next year's Conference. After having OH-Q's bid for this Conference be uncontested last year, it was refreshing to see three chapters vying for the privilege.

The District 7 Directors extend their gratitude to all who made the event possible, especially the many volunteers from OH-Q and DAYAC who lent a helping hand during the Conference. We also extend congratulations to the winner of the 2025 District Conference bid: MI-K, with West Michigan Alumni Chapter (WMIAC) supporting. We'll see you all next year in Kalamazoo, Michigan!



Figure 4 - 77 attendees, including student & alumni delegates, chapter advisors, and Association Officials, gather in front of the Humanities Center for the group photo.