

The Rho Chi Society

Nominating Committee Report

February 26, 2025

Committee Members

Chair: Lucio R. Volino (Rutgers University, Immediate Past President)
Daniel J. Canney (Temple University; Region II Councilor)
Bradley E. Hein (University of Cincinnati; Region IV-E Councilor)
Melany P. Puglisi-Weening (Chicago State; Region IV-W Councilor)
Beth H. Resman-Targoff (University of Oklahoma; VI Councilor)
Paul J. Wong (University of Southern California; Region VIII Councilor)

Charge (as stated in the Bylaws)

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Immediate Past-President, who serves as Chair, and the Regional Councilors. Councilors from the even-numbered regions shall be appointed to the Committee in even-numbered years and those from the odd-numbered regions shall be appointed to the Committee in odd-numbered years. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to provide nominees for the office of President-elect and Councilors for the even-numbered regions in odd-numbered years and for Secretary, Historian, and Councilors for the odd-numbered regions in even-numbered years. The Committee shall develop a slate of new officers and Councilors by October when the Committee will present the slate for review by the full Executive Council.

Tentative Slate

- **National Secretary**
 - Jelena Lewis, Incumbent (Chapman)
 - Kimberly A.B. Cauthon (University of the Incarnate Word)
- **National Historian**
 - Cynthia M. Phillips, Incumbent (South Carolina)
 - Kari Vavra Janes (Ferris State)
 - Kristy Wahaib (Belmont)
- **Region I Councilor**
 - Maria Kostka-Rokosz (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, MCPHS)
 - Unopposed
- **Region III-E Councilor**
 - Riley Bowers, Incumbent (Campbell)
 - Cathy Worrall (Medical University of South Carolina)
- **Region III-W Councilor**
 - Kelly Covert, Incumbent (East Tennessee State)
 - Lauren Ladd (South College)
- **Region III-S Councilor**
 - Courtney S. Watts Alexander, Incumbent (Auburn University)
 - Lan Bui (Palm Beach Atlantic University)
- **Region V Councilor**
 - Linda M. Sobeski, Incumbent (Nebraska)
 - Unopposed
- **Region VII Councilor**
 - Angela Stewart, Incumbent (Washington State)
 - Unopposed

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Nominating Committee

National Secretary

National Secretary

- **Jelena Lewis, Incumbent (Chapman)**

Bio: Dr. Jelena Lewis is an Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Director of Residency and Fellowship Programs at Chapman University School of Pharmacy in Irvine, CA. She is also a Board-Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, and she holds a California Advanced Practice Pharmacist license. Dr. Lewis received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and completed her PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at the University of Southern California (USC). Upon completion of her residency, she worked as a clinical pharmacist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Care Foundation where she managed patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia. She is currently a faculty in residence at Providence Medical Foundation where she works as a clinical pharmacist in team-based care with a primary focus on diabetes management.

In 2022, Dr. Lewis was elected to serve as the Rho Chi National Secretary. In this role she helped revise the national Rho Chi strategic plan goals for 2024-2028. She also became chair of the National Rho Chi Communications Committee. During her tenure as chair, she helped revamp and re-establish the Rho Chi national newsletter and launch a new initiative that profiles Rho Chi members and their achievements. If re-elected for the Rho Chi National Secretary, Dr. Lewis plans to continue working on fostering collaboration among all Rho Chi members to contribute to the development of intellectual leaders and to maintain active communication with collegiate and alumni members.

Dr. Lewis was inducted into the Rho Chi Theta Chapter at USC in 2007 and Phi Kappa Phi All-University Honor Society in 2008. In 2018, Dr. Lewis and her faculty colleagues submitted a petition to establish the Rho Chi Society Chapter at Chapman University School of Pharmacy. In Spring 2019, the Epsilon Rho Chapter was the 129th to be organized and approved by all other member chapters. Upon approval of the Epsilon Rho Chapter, Dr. Lewis took on the faculty advisor role at the school and in July 2019, she helped induct the inaugural Rho Chi Epsilon Rho Chapter class. With Dr. Lewis's guidance Rho Chi Epsilon Rho Chapter won the Spring 2024 Project Proposal Award, was a Top 10 Finalist for 2022-2023 Chapter Achievement Award and Top 9 Finalist for 2022-2023 Most Improved Chapter Award. Over the next few years, Dr. Lewis hopes to continue working with the student members to develop the chapter further with community outreach services that align with the mission and vision of society.

Her research interests include population health management and implementation, and outcomes of a pharmacist run chronic disease management program in team-based care.

- **Kimberly A.B. Cauthon (University of the Incarnate Word)**

Bio: Kim Cauthon was inducted into the Beta Kappa Rho Chi chapter at St. Louis College of Pharmacy as a pharmacy student and has served as an advisor for two Rho Chi student chapters. First, she was advisor for Gamma Nu from 2007 to 2012 at Midwestern University College of Pharmacy-Glendale. During this time, the Gamma Nu chapter was selected for a Rho Chi chapter project proposal award in 2011. She served as Regional Councilor for Region VIII from 2010 to 2012 and helped to plan and facilitate a Rho Chi advisor workshop at the AACP annual meeting in 2010. In 2012, Kim Cauthon moved to the University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy and served as APhA-ASP chapter advisor from 2013-2023. In 2023, she transitioned to the current Delta Eta co-advisor role. She enjoys working with the national Rho Chi office and believes the variety of Rho Chi service and advising experiences will be beneficial in the national secretary communications. Thank you for your consideration.

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Nominating Committee

National Historian

National Historian

- **Cynthia M. Phillips, Incumbent (South Carolina)**

Bio: Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Cynthia M. Phillips obtained her B.S. in biology from the University of Tennessee at Martin, received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in Memphis and trained at University of Alabama Birmingham for her pharmacy practice residency.

Dr. Phillips currently serves as National Historian for the Rho Chi Society. As part of these responsibilities, she chairs the Rho Chi Lecture Award Committee and has been privileged to work with past Lecture Award recipients. She served as Rho Chi Regional Councilor (2014-2019). During her tenure with Rho Chi, she has served on the Rho Chi Bylaws Committee, Communications Committee, Collaborative Task Force for the Development of the Advisor Guidebook, and the Centennial Task Force.

As a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy, she serves as course coordinator, instructor, and preceptor. She teaches throughout the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum with areas of focus and research in diabetes, nutrition and obesity, dyslipidemia, and drug interactions.

She is passionate about advancing the scholarship of pharmacy trainees. As faculty advisor for the Beta Alpha Chapter (1996-present), Dr. Phillips collaborated with Rho Chi student members to develop the Rho Chi Tutoring Program which improved student attitudes and academic skills in first professional pharmacy students. Through this service opportunity, she has worked with Rho Chi members to develop their intellectual leadership skills. Her research interests include exploring the role of peer mentors in tutoring and improving outcomes for patients with diabetes.

Dr. Phillips currently practices as an Ambulatory Care Pharmacist with Prisma Health Medical Group where she works with a multi-disciplinary team to provide care for a variety of patients. As a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist, she focuses on improving the quality of life and outcomes for her patients.

- **Kari Janes (Ferris State)**

Bio: Kari Janes, PharmD, BCPS, is a professor of pharmacy practice at Ferris State University and she practices in inpatient general medicine at Corewell Health in Grand Rapids. She has held this position since 2010. Kari graduated from Ferris in 2009 and completed a pharmacy practice residency at Sparrow Health System in 2010. In her current role, she co-coordinates and teaches in the integrated pharmacotherapy course, precepts a general medicine rotation, and precepts pharmacy practice residents.

Kari has served as a co-advisor for the Rho Chi Beta Mu Chapter since 2013. She attained Rho Chi membership in 2007 and served as Rho Chi Beta Mu President from 2007-2008. She has also been actively involved with committees at her university since 2010 (progressions, professional development, continuing education, Timme travel grant). She is currently the chair of the Pharmacy Education Development and Lecture Series, a teaching and learning curriculum for pharmacy residents. She is also actively engaged in scholarly activity and research. Her research interests include teaching and learning curriculums, practice-based projects, and student and resident wellbeing. Recent professional development includes completion of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Wellbeing Ambassador Program and the Wellbeing Elixir Course through Magna Publications.

Kari has been an active member of the Michigan Pharmacists Association, participating in the Young Practitioner Leadership Academy in 2012, serving on the new practitioner committee in 2014, and representing the house of delegates from 2013-2016. Kari has been involved with the Western Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists, serving as board member from 2012-2014 and president in 2015. Kari has also been involved with the Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists, serving as board member in 2015 and treasurer from 2018-2020 plus various committees since 2013 (residency, organizational affairs, publications, informatics & technology). At the national level, she is involved with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, serving on the Chalmers

Distinguished Pharmacy Education Award Committee, serving as an abstract/scholarship reviewer, and serving as a mentor for the Women's SIG.

- **Kristy Wahaib (Belmont University)**

Bio: Kristy Wahaib is a graduate of Butler University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences in Indianapolis, Indiana. Following graduation Dr. Wahaib completed an ASHP-accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency at Missouri Baptist Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri as well as a Specialty Residency in Internal Medicine with University Medical Center Brackenridge and The University of Texas in Austin, Texas. She joined the Belmont University College of Pharmacy faculty during the summer of 2010 and became a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist (BCPS) in 2012.

As Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Wahaib teaches courses related to clinical science, such as Pathophysiology and Therapeutics, Therapeutic Case Studies, and Clinical Pharmacokinetics, and she offers an elective course in Cardiology each spring semester. Additionally, she is coordinator of the Belmont University Teaching Certificate Program offered each year to area pharmacy residents. Dr. Wahaib's practice focus is Internal Medicine. She has established a practice site at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where she provides direct patient care on a daily basis and precepts students completing their APPEs during the fourth year of the pharmacy curriculum. Dr. Wahaib has received numerous teaching awards at Belmont, including Preceptor of the Year in 2012, 2013, and 2021, and Faculty of the year in 2015. It is evident that her passion lies in the student-educator dynamic in both the didactic and clinical setting.

Dr. Wahaib is actively involved in many college committees and student organizations, including The Rho Chi Society. She has served as advisor for Belmont's Rho Chi chapter since its inception in 2013 and has worked with members, year after year, to expand the activities of the organization – most notably, establishing a Rho Chi led tutoring program that serves the needs of the college. Additionally, she previously served as Regional Councilor from 2021-2023 and is looking forward to the possibility of serving for an additional term.

The Rho Chi Society

Nominating Committee

Region I Councilor

Region I Councilor

- **Maria Kostka-Rokosz (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, MCPHS)**

Bio: My name is Maria Kostka-Rokosz. I am the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Academic Support and Professor of Pharmacy Practice at MCPHS University, School of Pharmacy-Boston. I graduated with my BS and PharmD from MCPHS University and completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY. I also completed the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Academic Leadership Program.

I teach in our Drug Literature Evaluation course and coordinate the Personal and Professional Course series and the NAPLEX preparation course. My primary research focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning, student academic success, and teaching with technology.

I have served on various AACP committees and am a member of Phi Lambda Sigma. I have been the faculty advisor for the Rho Chi Academic Honor Society, Psi Chapter since 2008. I would be honored to serve as the Region I Councilor (2025-2027) and become more involved with the society on a national level.

- **Unopposed**

The Rho Chi Society

Nominating Committee

Region III-E Councilor

Region III-E Councilor

- **Riley Bowers, Incumbent (Campbell)**

Bio: Dr. Bowers is an Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice with Campbell University. He also serves as the Residency Program Director for the PGY2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency at Cape Fear Valley Health. At Cape Fear Valley, he serves as a clinical specialist in adult internal medicine and heart failure, and precepts Internal Medicine I & II APPE rotations along with multiple residency rotations. Dr. Bowers completed a pharmacy practice PGY1 residency with Harnett Health and Campbell University, followed by a PGY2 residency in Internal Medicine at Duke Regional Hospital. His research interests include the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Dr. Bowers has served as the faculty advisor for the Gamma Iota Chapter of Rho Chi for the last 6 years, and the Region III-E councilor for the last session. He is the advisor for the ASHP student organization and is a fellow of the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists. Dr. Bowers is also a graduate of AACP's Academic Leadership Fellows Program Cohort 19. In his free time, Dr. Bowers enjoys traveling with his wife, Elizabeth, playing golf, and is a self-proclaimed fly-fishing enthusiast. "Thank you for considering me for reelection to the Region III-East Councilor position. During my time in the Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society as a student and faculty advisor, I have had the opportunity to be involved with the implementation and continuation of our walk-in tutoring led by Rho Chi students at Campbell University. Through this experience, I have learned the impact this can provide on an institution and the broader impact we can have as a Society. It would be my honor to extend my service as a Region Councilor."

- **Cathy Worrall (Medical University of South Carolina)**

Bio: Dr. Cathy Worrall is the Associate Dean for Admissions & Student Affairs and a Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Pharmacy. Formerly a critical care registered nurse, Dr. Worrall earned her PharmD at the University of Florida, then completed a residency in adult critical care and nutrition support therapeutics at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. Following residency training, Dr. Worrall worked as a critical care clinical pharmacy specialist at the Mayo Medical Center in Rochester, Minnesota, where she started Mayo's Critical Care Pharmacy Residency Program. She later accepted a position at MUSC where she specialized in adult burn, trauma, and nutrition support until she transitioned 16 years ago to the Dean's Office at the College of Pharmacy. Dr. Worrall served as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs & Experiential Education for 10 years prior to serving in her current role. Her current research interests focus in the areas of student pharmacist personal and professional development, including self-awareness, leadership development, emotional intelligence, wellness & resiliency.

Dr. Worrall is an active member of AACP, APhA, Phi Lambda Sigma, and Rho Chi and has served in numerous leadership roles in these organizations. She was inducted into Rho Chi as a student at the University of Florida. She has served as Chapter Advisor at MUSC since 2017 and is a recipient of the Faculty Advisor of the Year Award. Dr. Worrall is a former Region III-E Councilor and has served on the Communications Committee, Town Hall Task Force, Nominations Committee, and Awards Committee. She currently serves as Trustee-at-Large on the APhA Board of Trustees. She is an APhA Fellow and a past recipient of the Procter & Gamble National Leadership Award, APhA's Distinguished Achievement Award in Hospital/Institutional Practice, and South Carolina Pharmacy Association's Kenneth Couch Distinguished Mentor Award and Pharmacist of the Year Award.

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Nominating Committee

Region III-W Councilor

Region III-W Councilor

- **Kelly Covert, Incumbent (East Tennessee State)**

Bio: Kelly L. Covert, PharmD, BCPS is an Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the East Tennessee State University Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in 2014 and then went on to complete a 24-month Pharmacotherapy Residency at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Covert currently practices as an inpatient Family Medicine specialist at Johnson City Medical Center and serves as a preceptor for IPPE, APPE, PGY1, and PGY2 Internal Medicine Residents. Dr. Covert has been involved in the Tennessee Pharmacists Association, the Tennessee Society of Health-System Pharmacists, ACCP, and AACP, in addition to several college committees. Further, Dr. Covert has served as co-advisor of the Delta Epsilon chapter of the Gatton College of Pharmacy's Rho Chi chapter since 2016. Dr. Covert's current teaching and research interests include gastroenterology, nephrology, infectious disease, and post-graduate development and training.

- **Lauren Ladd (South College)**

Bio: Dr. Lauren Ladd, PharmD, is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at South College School of Pharmacy and serves as the Director for the Hybrid/Online Educational Pathway. She received her Bachelor of Science in Food Science at the University of Tennessee prior to completing her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with Bernard J. Dunn Collaborative Ambulatory Care Clinics in Winchester, Virginia. Following residency, Dr. Ladd took her current position where she established pharmacy services in an outpatient cardiology clinic and serves as a full-time faculty member. Dr. Ladd's prior clinical responsibilities included comprehensive disease state management, assisting with transitions of care, and patient education. Dr. Ladd coordinates the Introduction to Pharmacy in the Healthcare System course for first year students. She serves as the Rho Chi Chapter Advisor for the Epsilon Eta Chapter at South College School of Pharmacy. In addition, Dr. Ladd has served as the Chair for the Curriculum Affairs Committee for South College School of Pharmacy. She is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) and the Tennessee Pharmacist's Association (TPA). Dr. Ladd currently serves as the AACCP Continuing Professional Development Section Chair and has served in various leadership positions with AACCP. Lastly, she currently serves as the TPA Tennessee Society of Pharmacists Secretary/Treasurer- Elect.

The Rho Chi Society

Nominating Committee

Region III-S Councilor

Region III-S Councilor

- **Courtney S. Watts Alexander, Incumbent (Auburn University)**

Bio: Courtney S. Watts Alexander, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCOP, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Auburn University, Harrison College of Pharmacy. Dr. Alexander has been serving as the Regional Councilor for III-S for the past two years and is eager to continue her service for a second term.

Dr. Alexander was initiated into The Rho Chi Society as a pharmacy student in 2011 at the Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy. She has served as the Faculty Advisor for the Zeta Chapter at Auburn University since 2022. Her dedication to The Rho Chi Society is exemplified by her involvement in the Rho Chi Executive Council as the Region III South Councilor since 2023. Through this appointment, she has served on the Nominating Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and the Chapter Awards Committee.

Dr. Alexander's educational background includes a B.S. in biology from The University of Alabama, a Pharm.D. from the Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy, and a M.S. in Pharmacy with a concentration in Personalized Medicine from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. Her professional journey includes clinical and academic roles at various institutions, including The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Prisma Health Children's Hospital – Upstate, and Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy. Dr. Alexander's clinical and research interests include pediatric and adult pharmacogenomics, personalized medicine, and oncology, as well as the implementation of precision medicine in clinical practice. In addition to The Rho Chi Society, Dr. Alexander is actively involved in several professional organizations, including the Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium (CPIC), American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), and Alabama Pharmacy Association.

- **Lan Bui (Palm Beach Atlantic University)**

Bio: I am an Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the Gregory School of Pharmacy, Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, FL. I earned my PharmD from Texas Southern University and completed a pharmacy residency and fellowship at Houston Methodist in Texas. I am a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Pharmacist and holds a Master's in Public Health from Texas A&M University. Previously, I served as an Assistant Professor at Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy from 2018 to 2023.

My research interests include managing pain and agitation, managing delirium in adults, and preventing healthcare-associated infections. Some highlights of my scholarship accomplishments include co-authorship of a clinical trial on sedation in mechanically ventilated adults with sepsis, published in The New England Journal of Medicine (2021; 384:1424-1436. Doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2024922) and being the recipient of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Foundation's 2021-2022 Future Grant.

I am also actively involved in the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). I served as the secretary of the Gamma Delta Chapter from 2014 to 2015 and was selected as the Rho Chi Faculty Advisor for the Gamma Chi Chapter in 2024. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role in recognizing and fostering academic excellence in pharmacy education at my pharmacy school, and I am eager to deepen my involvement at the regional and national level.

If elected as Regional Councilor, I promise to be a dedicated advocate for the Rho Chi Society's mission of promoting academic excellence and professional development among pharmacy students. I will work collaboratively with fellow members to enhance outreach initiatives and support innovative programs that foster leadership and scholarly advancement within our community.

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to volunteer to serve on the Rho Chi Executive Council.

The Rho Chi Society

Nominating Committee

Region V Councilor

Region V Councilor

- **Linda M. Sobeski, Incumbent (Nebraska)**

Bio: Linda Sobeski is Associate Dean for Kearney Campus and Clinical Associate Professor with Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She received her PharmD degree from UNMC in 1992 and completed a PGY1 residency in Pharmacy Practice at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, CO. She joined the UNMC faculty in February 2005. She also served as Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Drake University from 1993-1994.

Dr. Sobeski was inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Rho Chi National Honor Society as a student in 1990. She has served as the Rho Chi Alpha Epsilon Chapter Advisor at UNMC for 14 years. She has twice served as Rho Chi Region V Councilor from 2010-2013 and 2023-present.

Dr. Sobeski is a member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacists, American Geriatrics Society, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, American Pharmaceutical Association, and the Nebraska Pharmacists Association. She was inducted into the Beta Xi Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society in 2022. Dr. Sobeski was recognized with the College of Pharmacy Impact Award in 2023, the Chancellor's Council Silver "U" Award in 2023, and the COP Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award in 2020. She was honored with the Outstanding COP Faculty Recognition Award by the graduating classes of 2022 and 2024.

- **Unopposed**

The Rho Chi Society

Nominating Committee

Region VII Councilor

Region VII Councilor

- **Angela Stewart, Incumbent (Washington State)**

Bio: Dr. Stewart received her BS in Pharmacy from the University of Washington and her PharmD from the University of Texas, Austin and University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio (UTHSCSA). She completed a general residency at St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma, WA and a specialty residency in Adult Internal Medicine at the UTHSCSA and Bexar County Hospital in San Antonio, TX. She is a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist with more than 20 years of acute care experience leading clinical pharmacy services, providing direct patient care, teaching, and directing an accredited residency program. Dr. Stewart joined the faculty of the WSU College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2014 and is a Scholarly Professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy. She serves as operations director of the college's extension campus and is the Associate Dean for Rural Health and co-leader of the Rural Health Initiative in the CPPS. Dr. Stewart is the Rho Chi faculty advisor for students on the extension campus since 2016 and has served three years on the national Rho Chi executive council including participation in the nominations and communications committees.

- **Unopposed**