

The Rho Chi Society's 102nd Annual Meeting

Report of the National President

March 2026

It is my privilege to present this year's report summarizing the Society's activities and accomplishments. Over the past year, the Rho Chi Society continued to build upon the momentum created by the adoption of our 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. Through the work of our committees, task forces, and National Office, the Society has advanced initiatives that strengthen member engagement, promote scholarly inquiry, and enhance communication across our chapters and alumni network.

This report highlights several initiatives and developments from the past year that align with the Society's mission to recognize intellectual achievement, cultivate critical inquiry, and develop lifelong intellectual leaders within the pharmacy profession.

I would like to highlight key achievements, updates, and opportunities for member engagement that align with and exemplify our strategic plan:

1. Expanding Opportunities for Member Engagement

One important advancement during the 2025–2026 cycle was the introduction of a more intentional process for recruiting volunteers for national committees and task forces. A formal call for volunteers was distributed to chapter advisors and members, encouraging broader participation in Society initiatives.

This effort supported recruitment for several key groups, including the Communications Committee, the Member Engagement Taskforce, and the Critical Inquiry Taskforce. By openly inviting participation, the Society created additional pathways for students, faculty advisors, and alumni to contribute to national initiatives and to engage more directly with the work of the Society.

This initiative reflects the goals of the Strategic Plan by fostering communication and collaboration across the Society while also creating opportunities for members to develop leadership skills through national service.

2. Annual Rho Chi Recognition Event

The Rho Chi Recognition Event continues to serve as an important opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our chapters and members. This year's virtual recognition event highlighted innovative chapter activities and acknowledged the many ways Rho Chi members contribute to scholarship, leadership, and service within the profession.

By showcasing the work of chapters across the country, the recognition event provides a platform for sharing ideas, celebrating achievements, and inspiring continued engagement throughout the Society.

Attendance: 61 registered, 42 attended

This event supports Strategic Plan Goal 1 (Recognizing Intellectual Achievement) and Goal 5 (Fostering Communication and Collaboration).

3. Town Hall Series – Preparing Members for Postgraduate Opportunities

The Society continued its Town Hall programming focused on preparing members for postgraduate training and professional development. The 2025 Town Hall brought together experienced professionals to discuss residency training, fellowship opportunities, and other postgraduate pathways available to pharmacy graduates.

These discussions provide valuable guidance to student members as they prepare for the next stage of their professional careers while also encouraging thoughtful dialogue about the many directions available within pharmacy.

Attendance: 180 registered, over 150 attended

This initiative supports Strategic Plan Goal 3 (Developing Lifelong Intellectual Leaders) by equipping members with knowledge and mentorship related to postgraduate education and professional development.

4. Promoting Critical Inquiry Across the Society

A major focus of the current strategic plan is strengthening habits of critical inquiry and analysis among our members. The newly established Critical Inquiry Taskforce began its work during the year by reviewing its charge and exploring ways to support chapters in developing scholarly activities.

The National Office compiled examples of intellectual inquiry activities submitted in chapter annual reports from the 2024–2025 academic year and shared them with the task force to help identify best practices. These examples will help inform future programming and provide chapters with practical models for promoting scholarly engagement.

The task force is also working toward developing a catalog or repository of tools and guides that will assist students and faculty advisors in implementing critical inquiry activities within their chapters.

These efforts align with Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Instilling Habits of Critical Inquiry and Analysis) by promoting scholarly engagement and evidence-based thinking throughout the Society.

5. Strengthening Alumni and Member Connections

The Member Engagement Taskforce has been working to expand opportunities for connection between current Rho Chi members and alumni. A central focus of this effort is the development of a longitudinal mentorship program designed to connect students with alumni mentors across a wide range of professional interests.

In addition to establishing mentor–mentee relationships, the task force is exploring ways to support these partnerships through shared professional development opportunities, including attendance at national meetings such as the APhA Annual Meeting or the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

These initiatives aim to strengthen long-term connections within the Rho Chi community while supporting the development of future intellectual leaders within the profession.

6. Enhancing Communication Across the Society

The Communications Committee, led by National Secretary Jelena Lewis, continued to strengthen communication and visibility for the Society. Over the past year, the committee focused on improving digital engagement and ensuring that members remain informed about Society initiatives and opportunities.

Key accomplishments included the redesign of the Society’s website landing page, the publication of two editions of the Rho Chi newsletter, and continued engagement across the Society’s social media platforms.

In addition to promoting events and chapter activities, the Communications Committee has highlighted examples of intellectual leadership within pharmacy by featuring interviews and profiles of Rho Chi members who are leaders in the profession.

These initiatives support Strategic Plan Goal 5 (Fostering Communication and Collaboration) by improving transparency and strengthening connections between chapters, alumni, and the National Office.

7. Recognition of Excellence Through Awards and Scholarships

The Society continues to recognize outstanding contributions through its awards and scholarship programs. Several committees including, the Scholarship and Fellowship Committee, the Faculty Advisor Award Committee, and the Lecture Award Committee, completed their review processes during the year.

These programs highlight the many ways Rho Chi members contribute to scholarship, mentorship, and leadership within the pharmacy profession. Detailed reports from these committees, including the announcement of award recipients, will be presented during the annual meeting.

These initiatives directly support Strategic Plan Goal 1 (Recognizing Intellectual Achievement) and Goal 3 (Developing Lifelong Intellectual Leaders).

8. Society Events and Professional Collaboration

The Rho Chi Society continued to strengthen connections with the broader pharmacy community through national meetings and collaborative events.

The Society once again co-hosted a reception with Phi Lambda Sigma during the APhA Annual Meeting, providing an opportunity for students, alumni, and faculty advisors to network and build professional relationships.

Attendance: 211 registered, over 150 attended.

In addition, the Society hosted a new reception for chapter advisors during the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) Annual Meeting in Chicago. This event recognized the essential role advisors play in mentoring students and supporting chapter success across the country.

Attendance: 26 registered, 10 attended

These events support Strategic Plan Goal 5 (Fostering Communication and Collaboration) by strengthening partnerships across pharmacy organizations and encouraging engagement among members and alumni.

For a complete record of the Executive Council's work, please refer to the archived approved minutes on the Society's website, rhochi.org.

The continued progress of the Rho Chi Society is made possible through the dedication of our members, chapter advisors, regional councilors, and Executive Council. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the National Office and to my fellow officers for their leadership and commitment throughout the year.

I would especially like to thank Immediate Past President Lucio Volino, President-Elect Amanda Stahnke, Executive Vice President Karen Farris, Program Manager Julie Seeger, and the members of the Executive Council for their continued support and collaboration.

Your efforts help ensure that the Society continues to recognize excellence, promote scholarly inquiry, and develop the next generation of intellectual leaders in pharmacy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew J. Smith

Andrew J. Smith, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS, BCCP

National President 2024 – 2026

The Rho Chi Honor Society



2025 National Treasurer's Report – February 22, 2026

Calendar Year 2025 was another stable year financially for the Rho Chi Society. A summary of these events is outlined below.

- **Operating revenue exceeding operating expenses by \$16,847.92.**
 - Of particular significance from the revenue and expense report was that *new member* revenue **decreased** year-over-year in 2025 (compared to 2024) by \$14,384.17 (6.42% decrease) because of a decrease in the number of new members (the per member national dues, certificate costs, and jewelry costs remained the same at \$100). This decrease in new members parallels a decrease in college and school enrollment nationally for pharmacy and was somewhat planned for in the 2025 budget forecast (although the decrease was slightly larger than anticipated). The timing of payments by Chapters to the National Office adds to the complexity of predicting new member revenue. Initial indications for 2026 suggest that new member revenue will remain approximately the same in 2026 compared to 2025 and this is reflected in the 2026 budget forecast.
 - Revenue from royalties for Rho Chi merchandise **increased** from the previous year by \$8,367.45. This follows a decrease in revenue in 2024 compared to 2023 of \$10,428.45. This difference in royalty revenue in 2024 and 2025 is somewhat explained by the fact that Spirit Recognition, one of our vendors, missed a payment for 2024; this was rectified in 2025. The budget forecast for 2026 reflects approximately the average in Revenue from royalties in 2024 and 2025. Announcements to chapter advisors and chapter presidents about the availability of honor cords and other Rho Chi merchandise will continue in 2026.
 - For the sixth consecutive year, the Society had a major reduction in expenses due to the National Convention being held virtually instead of at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting & Exposition. This has become the new normal for this annual event looking forward. The Society did co-host (with Phi Lambda Sigma) a reception at the 2025 APhA meeting costing \$7,495.75 (including travel costs for the national office and national officers), which was under the budgeted amount of \$8,500 (note that the APhA Meeting Expenses in 2025 include a deposit of \$1,500 for the 2026 reception). The 2026 budget includes plans to co-host this event again (budgeted at a total amount of \$10,000, \$1,500 of which was paid in 2025; the increased budgeted amount compared to the previous year is because the APhA meeting is being held in Los Angeles in 2026).

428 Church Street
Ann Arbor MI 48109
734-615-4898
www.rhochi.org

National Officers

Andrew J. Smith
President

Amanda Stahnke
President-elect

Lucio Volino
Immediate Past President

John P. Bentley
Treasurer

Cynthia M. Phillips
Historian

National Office

Karen B. Farris
Executive Vice President

Julie Seeger
Program Manager



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- The Society hosted a reception for advisors at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting in July, 2025 (in Chicago, IL). Total expenses, including travel costs for the national office and national officers, for this event were \$5,924.97, well under the budgeted amount of \$15,000. This was the first time such an event has been hosted at AACP in many years, so our initial budget estimate was high, and attendance was somewhat lower than expected. This event is planned for every other year and thus is not included in the 2026 budget forecast (will next occur in 2027 and we will accordingly adjust the budgeted amount).
- In 2025, the Society increased the amount for the Rho Chi-AFPE First Year Graduate School Fellowship (the total amount of this award is \$12,500, half of which comes from Rho Chi and the other half comes from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education). This will remain the case for 2026. The Rho Chi Society Clinical Research Scholarship is currently budgeted at \$7,500 for 2026, all paid by the Society. The Society will seek to increase the amount of this scholarship in the future and possibly add additional scholarships.
- One minor change should be noted for Calendar Year 2024 reported last year. A check written by Rho Chi to Olde Attleboro Jewelers for \$926 that was cashed on 12/31/2024 did not show up on last year's (2024) revenue and expense report. That has now been accounted for and properly shows up under 2024 expenses. Thus, total expenses in 2024 were \$201,279.97 as stated in the 2025 Income/Expense Comparison by Category Report for 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2025 and not \$200,353.97 as stated in the 2024 Income/Expense Comparison by Category Report for 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2024.
- Midwest Trust Company continued to manage the Rho Chi Society investments in compliance with the Rho Chi Investment Policy contained in the Society's Statement of General Financial Management approved by the Executive Council in 2024.
 - The long-term investment account's market value was \$750,573.92 on January 1, 2025. On December 31, 2025 (one year later) its market value was \$842,498.48, representing a total increase in the market value for the Society's holdings of \$91,924.56 in 2025 (note that this increase takes into account dividends, interest, fees, realized gains/losses, and market changes in the value of the holdings).
 - The Statement of General Financial Management has a spending policy to govern disbursements from the long-term investment account. Given that sufficient funds are available through normal operating funds from 2025 to fund all of the Society's proposed initiatives in 2026, a decision was made to not take a disbursement



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(i.e., funds remain in the long-term fund to support future growth).

This decision was made in January of 2026. Furthermore, no funds were transferred from the Bank of Ann Arbor accounts into the long-term investment account in 2025 (this situation will be re-evaluated later in 2026).

- In 2025, we proposed a budget where revenues essentially equaled expenses, a true balanced budget. Our actual revenue for 2025 was slightly higher than predicted (actual: \$228,100.32; predicted: \$225,300) and our actual expenses for 2025 were lower than predicted (actual: \$211,252.40; predicted: \$225,188). This led to a surplus in 2025 (actual operating revenue exceeding operating expenses by \$16,847.92), which was added to operating reserves (as of now, mostly in the Bank of Ann Arbor checking account). We have once again proposed a budget forecast for 2026 where revenues essentially equal expenses. Given indications for new members in 2026, planned activities, and past performance, we think that this is a reasonable budget. However, we will continue to monitor new membership numbers throughout the spring term, when many chapters nationwide initiate new members, and make adjustments to the budget as needed. We are confident moving forward because of the availability of operating reserves.
- Successful audit of the 2025 Rho Chi Society financial records by the Rho Chi Audit Committee in their letter dated February 20, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Bentley, Ph.D.
National Treasurer, The Rho Chi Society



February 20, 2026

The Rho Chi Society National Office
University of Michigan, College of Pharmacy
428 Church Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 49109-1065

RE: Report of the Audit of 2025 Rho Chi Financial Records

Dear National Office,

The Rho Chi Audit Committee consisting of Susan Skledar (Chair), Jeffrey Sherer, and Lauren Angelo, was charged to review the 2025 financial records of the Society. Julie Seeger, Program Manager, provided the Society's Financial Records to the Committee's members.

The National Office has maintained the same checking and Money Market savings accounts with the Bank of Ann Arbor and the same EIN and IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. The Society continued to work with the Midwest Trust Company to manage investments, with annual decision to take (or not take) a disbursement from the long-term fund, depending on financial soundness, following the Rho Chi Investment Policy.

The Committee finds all financial records to be in good order and did not note any major discrepancies on the DRAFT 2025 Treasurer's Report. Notable findings include:

- Overall, Rho Chi operating income exceeded expenses for CY2025 (\$16,847.92), as was the case in CY 2024 (\$33,069.63).
- The breakdown of revenue vs. expense is similar for CY2024 and CY2025, with the following findings noted between the two years:
 - Income from new members (i.e., dues, jewelry, certificates) was notably decreased from CY2024 (-\$14,484.17 for these three elements), due to continued declining enrollment (\$224,600.42 CY2023; \$224,273.17 CY 2024; \$209,889.00 CY2025). New member income continues to comprise most of the annual income.
 - Royalty income nearly doubled from CY2024 to CY2025 from Spirit Recognition (honor cords) and Award Concepts, by \$8367.35; however, it is noted that this was partially due to a missed royalty payment from CY24 of approximately \$3881.25. The proper budget forecast number for royalties is anticipated at \$12,500, which is closer to the CY2024 royalties that would have occurred if the payment had occurred at the proper time. The promotion of honor cords will continue in CY2026, as noted in the Treasurer's Report.
 - Shipping is included as an income for both CY24 and CY25. This could be considered an expense in next year's income/expense comparison. Funds are appropriately accounted for in both years' reports.
 - Expenses (\$211,252.40 CY2025) are comprised of national office expenditures (66%); member expenses (i.e., jewelry; 18%); meeting expenses (APhA and AACP meetings, 10%);

and awards (5%). These percentages are similar to CY2025 compared to CY2024 (and CY2023).

- Although Rho Chi continued to experience reduced expenses due to the national convention being held virtually, the Society co-hosted receptions at APhA (with increased budget for this since in Los Angeles 2026), and AACP, with actual expenses for the events coming in under budget in CY2025.
- The Midwest Trust Portfolio Summary reports an increase in the long-term investment account market value of \$91,924.56 from CY24 to CY25, which is an increase \$18,839.45 from CY23 to CY24. A decision was made to not take a funds disbursement since sufficient funds are available from the Rho Chi operating accounts.

To that end, the Committee views the following items as important for future budgeting and financial projections:

- Continuing the national/regional meetings on the virtual platform continues to be cost-effective. As the in-person events are hosted, adjust the budget forecast to more accurately reflect the actual expense once each event is held multiple times (AACP, 2027).
- The CY2025 new member dues most likely reflects the declining student enrollment as the new (more stable) predictive revenue number.
- The funds budgeted for the AFPE First-Year Graduate Fellowship and Clinical Research Scholarship award roll over each year, depending on applicant numbers, and we encourage Rho Chi to re-allocate funds as they can between awards, if the applicant pool declines for a particular award.
- We appreciate that the Amount Difference column has been added to the Budget Forecast spreadsheets to compare projected income and expenses to actuals from the prior year.
- The Midwest Trust Company continues to create the opportunity for increased income and growth in assets (and appropriate management of reserve funds). With the decision each year to take a disbursement (or decline) from the LT investment account, we suggest that the documentation of each year's decision reside not only in the Treasurer's Report, but as a line item in the Banking Summary and Income-Expense Comparison. This will allow ease of tracking year over year.

The Committee recommends for subsequent years that the Draft Treasurer's Report, banking summaries, and the Income/Expense Comparison by Category, containing values for the current year and previous year continue to be included in the base documents made available to the Audit Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to serve Rho Chi in this capacity.

Sincerely,



Sue Skledar, RPh, BS Pharm, MPH, FASHP, Chair, Rho Chi Audit Committee

cc: Karen Farris, Executive Vice-President
Julie Seeger, Program Manager
John Bentley, Treasurer
Lauren Angelo, Audit Committee Member
Jeffrey Sherer, Audit Committee Member



Karen B. Farris, PhD, Executive Vice President
The Rho Chi Society
2026 National Convention
February 18, 2026

1. Number of chapters

At present, we have 138 active chapters and 148 chartered chapters historically.

2. National Office has a new address

The University of Michigan College of Pharmacy is pleased to continue to host The Rho Chi Society National Office. ***The Rho Chi Society national office has a new building and office location.*** Our new address is:

The Rho Chi Society
University of Michigan College of Pharmacy
1007 East Huron Street, Room 2628
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1628

3. Rho Chi Society National Office staff

Julie Seeger is our Program Manager in the National Office. We also work with Brian VanDerziel as he supports our website updates. We can be reached at rhochisociety@umich.edu.

4. 2025-26 National Office Priorities

- Support the work of the Rho Chi elected officers, Executive Council, committees, and task forces
- Manage new member enrollment and chapter queries
- Manage agenda, technology, and voting for National Convention
- Hosted *two* Rho Chi Society Recognition Events on January 29, 2025, and September 18, 2025, to highlight activities of our award-winning chapters, learn results from funded chapter proposals, and we highlighted our Advisor of the Year.
- Hosted the National Convention on March 15, 2025.
- Hosted a Rho Chi Society Advisor Reception at AACP in Chicago on July 20, 2025. Next advisor event will be in 2027 AACP in Toronto.
- Hosted the Rho Chi Town Hall on October 22, 2025, where we shared post-graduate opportunities as well as tips on interviewing.
- Hosted Rho Chi/PLS reception at APhA last March, and it was a success. We look forward to seeing you on **Sunday, March 29, 2026, from 6:00-8:00pm** at [Lazy Dog](#) (Student/Alumni Event).

5. Increasing bylaw enquiry about Pass/Fail and eligibility

If your school has Honors/Pass/Fail versus letter grades, the Rho Chi Society bylaws provide information on how to manage this for Rho Chi eligibility. Alternatively, your school may be able to unmask those H/P/F designations to calculate GPAs.

In addition, we have a mechanism in the bylaws to use an application process, and we will have additional guidance for chapters on criteria that you could use.

6. Updates on the Rho Chi Strategic Plan

We have reviewed our strategic plan and provided an update on the website for each metric we established.

Goal 1 *Recognize intellectual achievement.*

- We have modified your upcoming chapter report with more drop-down selections. This will allow us to produce a dashboard about Rho Chi chapter activities for our webpage. For example, we can report x% of chapters provide academic support/tutoring to their schools/colleges, affecting x,xxx students across the country.
- The Member Engagement Task Force report is forthcoming in 2026.

Goal 2 *Instill habits of critical inquiry and analysis.*

- Critical inquiry defined and posted.
- The Critical Inquiry Task Force report forthcoming in 2026.
- Critical inquiry activities of chapters are being captured in chapter reports to add to our dashboard.

Goal 3 *Contribute to the development of lifelong intellectual leaders.*

- Highlight achievements of Advisor of the Year (Recognition Event).
- Provide information about post-graduate opportunities (Town Hall).
- Profiling pharmacy leaders on SM and website (completed two).
- We increased the AFPE scholarship to \$12,500 and it will increase to \$15,000.
- We are increasing the amount of the Clinical Research Scholarship as well.

Goal 4 *Demonstrate and promote highest ethical and professional standards.*

- Our first AI webinar is being planned and will be held in Fall 2026.

Goal 5 *Foster communications and collaboration of the Society.*

- About 50% of members now submit personal email for membership.
- Expect Member Engagement Task Force report in 2026.
- Attendance at Rho Chi/PLS reception is ~80, and we would love to see this increase. We will track chapter attendance this year as FYI for us in the national office.

7. Social Media

Our Rho Chi Society social media groups continue to grow. We encourage sharing your chapter content on your chapter social media pages, tagging Rho Chi, sharing on our Rho Chi national group pages, and following other chapters. We use LinkedIn (increasingly), Instagram, and Facebook. [#rhochiforlife](#)

8. Update on Financials

The financial viability of The Rho Chi Society is positive, and the Treasurer and Audit reports attest to this status. The EVP works with the Treasurer and Executive Council to determine what financial resources should be reinvested in the Society.

9. Virtual National Convention

We continue to host our National Convention virtually. This approach allows every chapter to attend the National Convention as the cost to travel to the APhA meeting is avoided. As well, a

virtual meeting is a positive budget decision for us, as costs are significant and in excess of \$50,000. We do host an *in person* reception at the APhA meeting each year in partnership with PLS.

10. Thank you!!

I want to thank President Andrew (Andy) Smith for his leadership over the past two years. He has helped us move forward strategic initiatives via charges to the Member Engagement and Critical Inquiry Task Forces. We will receive their reports this year, and it will be invaluable to our future work. Andy initiated our Rho Chi Society Recognition Event, and we enjoy highlighting the successes of our chapters.

I also want to thank Andy, Amanda, Lucio, (our past, current, and incoming presidents) and Julie for their commitment to the Society. Most weeks, we hold virtual one-hour executive leadership meetings where we discuss strategic plan activities, chapter or member concerns, and plan upcoming virtual or in-person events. We enjoy inviting other officers or committee chairs for reports and to learn about their possible projects, programs, and/or budget requests. We have been meeting weekly since Lucio initiated it in 2022, and it is an important part of the National Office to keep our Society moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen B. Farris, Ph.D., Charles R. Walgreen III Professor of Pharmacy Administration
Senior Associate Dean
Director of Research, Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education
Executive Vice President, The Rho Chi Society



The Rho Chi Society

Communications Committee

2025-2026

Committee Members

- Chair:* Jelena Lewis (Secretary, Chapman University)
- EC Members and Staff:* Julie Seeger (Rho Chi National Office, University of Michigan)
 Beth H. Resman-Targoff (Region VI Councilor, Oklahoma)
 Bradley E. Hein (Region IV-E Councilor, University of Cincinnati)
- Faculty Members:* Kari Janes (Ferris State University)
 Kim Cathon (University of the Incarnate Word)
- Student Members:* Haley McKeefer (Fellow, Rutgers)
 Elijah Vito (Chapter Achievement Award Winner, Rutgers)
 Mari Roman Sotelo (Most Improved Chapter Award Winner, Creighton)
 Christina Tarasidis (East Tennessee State University)
 Lauren Z. Isaacs (Thomas Jefferson University)
 Tan Vo (Ferris State University)

Committee Meetings

August 2025
 January 2026

Task Force Actions

Charge	Actions
Monitor the development of the Society's website and maintain structure, functionality, and accessibility of website content.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-Designed website landing page • Continued review of website and social media outlets
Review, evaluate, increase awareness of and provide support for social media platforms and content, social media posts, and alumni/member highlights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media accounts remain active (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram) • Social media posts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meetings, award application submission deadlines, award winners, and new chapter highlights. • Current followers of social media accounts are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LinkedIn: group - 1118 ○ Facebook: group - 576 ○ Instagram: profile - 553
Rho Chi National Office email frequency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails are now sent on at least a monthly basis.
New Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revamped and published two editions of the Rho Chi Newsletter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Plan Goal 3.3 – Interview and profile Rho Chi members how are leaders in pharmacy, association officers and staff, academic leaders, government leader. Use Social Media, website and newsletter to share their profile. – Interview with Betty H. Dennis completed!• Second interview with Amanda Stahnke completed!
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The Rho Chi Society

Scholarship/Fellowship Committee Report

February 25, 2026

Task Force Members

Chair: Dana Strachan (Palm Beach Atlantic University) – Term: 2022 – 2028

Members: Amanda Stolarz (University of Arkansas) – Term: 2023 – 2029

Amy Pasternak (University of Michigan) – Term: 2025 – 2031

Ellen Woods (AFPE President) - ex officio

Review of Charges

It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to promote the availability of all Rho Chi Scholarships and Fellowships, review applications and determine recipients for scholarships, the number and amount of which, if any, is determined by the Executive Council.

Activities

The Scholarship and Fellowship Committee reviewed application submissions throughout the year. Councilors conducted their work remotely and submitted evaluations electronically.

Clinical Research Scholarship for 2025-2026

- One application was received.
- The committee reviewed that application and unanimously awarded the fellowship to, Stormmy Reigh Boettcher, PharmD an Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Fellow at Wayne State University and Henry Ford Health.

American Foundation of Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) First Year Graduate Fellowship 2025-2026

- Five applications were received.
- The committee reviewed that application and unanimously awarded the fellowship to Philip Baily, PharmD, PhD student at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Rho Chi Society

2026 Lecture Award Committee Report Executive Council February 25, 2026

The 2026 Rho Chi Lecture Award recipient, Dr. Sarah Spinnler, will deliver the lecture, “Get Out and Mingle” on Saturday, March 21, 2026, during the 2026 Rho Chi Annual National Convention. Chapters are encouraged to join others across the country to attend this inspirational lecture.

The work for the 2027 Lecture Award is progressing as the initial call for nominations occurred in the Fall semester of 2025. Rho Chi Chapters received routine e-mails during the fall semester of 2025 and the spring semester of 2026. Communications targeted Rho Chi Chapters, Chapter Presidents, and Advisors. The initial date for submission of the dossier was January 15, 2026. The Lecture Award deadline will be extended until March 15, 2026.

The tentative Lecture Award Committee to be appointed for the 2027 Lecture Award includes Dr. Sarah Spinnler, 2026 Rho Chi Lecture Award Recipient, Dr. Frank Romanelli, 2025 Rho Chi Lecture Award Recipient, Dr. Sean Sullivan, 2024 Rho Chi Lecture Award Recipient, Dr. Micheal Smith, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Cynthia Phillips, Rho Chi National Historian. In her role as National Historian, Dr. Cynthia Phillips serves as Ex-Officio Committee Chair. The committee will review the dossiers and will provide the results to the Executive Committee at the summer 2026 Executive Council Meeting.



The Rho Chi Society

Chapter Awards Committee Report

February 25, 2026

Task Force Members

Chair:	Amanda Stahnke (President-Elect, University of Missouri-Kansas City)
EC Members:	Maria Kostka-Rokosz (Region I, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy)
	Daniel J. Canney (Region II Councilor, Temple University)
	Cathy Worrall (Region III-E, Medical University of South Carolina)
	Courtney Watts Alexander (Region III-S, Auburn University)
	Kelly Covert (Region III-W, Tennessee State University)
	Bradley E. Hein (Region IV-E, University of Cincinnati)
	Lucio Volino (Region IV-W [sub], Rutgers University)
	Linda Sobeski (Region V, University of Nebraska)
	Beth H. Resman-Targoff (Region VI, University of Oklahoma)
	Angela Stewart (Region VII, Washington State University)
	Paul J. Wong (Region VIII, University of Southern California)

Review of Charges

According to the National Bylaws of The Rho Chi Society, the Awards Committee is charged with “selecting recipients for the Rho Chi Chapter Achievement and Rho Chi Chapter Project Proposal Awards”.

Activities

The Awards Committee reviewed Chapter Reports and Project Proposal Award submissions throughout the year. Councilors conducted their work remotely and submitted evaluations electronically.

Chapter Achievement Award Review Process Overview*

Round 1

- Councilors review and score reports from other regions.
- Top two chapters from each region (total of 22) move on to the next round.
- 20 chapters moved on to the second round (one region did not have eligible reports).

Round 2 (Top 10 Selection)

- Each Councilor reviews and scores 8-10 new reports for round two.
- Each report is scored by at least 5 councilors.
- The top 10 ranked reports based on average scores move to Round 3.

Round 3 (Winner Selection)

- Councilors review and score all reports not previously scored by that Councilor in Round 2.
- Top scoring report is selected as the Chapter Achievement Award Winner.

**Note: Report scores are averaged in each round to determine rank, progression to the next round, and winner.*

The Most Improved Chapter Award material distribution, review, and winner selection occurs in conjunction with the Chapter Achievement Award. The most improved award will not be judged in regions, all chapters submitting for the award will be evaluated equally. This year there were only eleven eligible entries, so ranking started with Round 2.

Most Improved Chapter Award Review Process Overview**

Round 1 (Top 10 Chapter Selection)

- This round was not required this year (only eleven eligible entries).

Round 2 (Top Chapters Ranking and Selection)

- Councilors review and rank top region reports.
- There was a clear winner, so no further voting was needed.
- Top ranked report selected as the Most Improved Chapter Award Winner.

***Note: Report scores are averaged in each round to determine rank and progression to the next round if needed.*

Chapter Report and Project Proposal Award Review Summary 2024-2025

Chapter Report Submission

- 2025: 123 Chapters submitted a report for their work conducted in 2024-2025.
- 43 Chapters did not submit a report by May 15 for award consideration.
- 15 active Chapters did not submit a report.

Chapter Achievement Award

- 47 Chapters met eligibility for the Chapter Achievement Award.
- 33 Chapters submitted on time but did not meet all required eligibility criteria.
- Reports were distributed to the Committee for review on July 15, 2025.
- Councilors reviewed and scored chapter reports for the Chapter Achievement Award Round 1 review by August 15, 2025.
- Top 20 chapters were selected as Round 1 Finalists and sent to the Committee for Round 2 review and scoring on September 16, 2025, with evaluations due by October 10, 2025.
- Top 10 chapters were selected as Round 2 Finalists and sent to the Committee for Round 3 review and scoring on October 27, 2025, with evaluations due by November 21, 2025.
- Top scoring chapter was selected for the Chapter Achievement Award in December 2025 and will be announced at the Rho Chi Virtual Annual Meeting on March 21, 2026.

Most Improved Chapter Award

- 15 Chapters indicated an interest in being considered for the Most Improved Chapter Award, but 4 chapters were not eligible.
- A total of 11 Chapters were eligible and reviewed for the Most Improved Chapter Award.
- Reviewed started in conjunction with Round 2 of the Chapter Achievement Award.
- Councilors were instructed to rank the ten chapters. Materials were provided September 16, 2025, with evaluations due by October 10, 2025.
- The ranking showed a clear winner, so no further voting was required.
- Top ranked chapter was selected for the Most Improved Chapter Award in December 2025 and will be announced at the Rho Chi Virtual Annual Meeting on March 21, 2026.

Chapter Project Proposal Award

- Submissions Summary
 - Summer 2025: 7
 - Spring 2026: 6
- Committee members reviewed and approved or ranked proposals they deemed worthy of being evaluated and accepted in July 2025 (Summer Cycle) and February 2026 (Spring Cycle).
- Two proposals were accepted for the Summer Cycle and two will be accepted for the Spring Cycle.

Rho Chi Chapter Award Finalists and Recipients Summary

Chapter Achievement Award

Top 10 Finalists – In order by region

Region	Chapter Name	University/School Name
III-East	Gamma Iota	Campbell University
III-South	Chi	University of Mississippi
IV-East	Alpha Chi	Wayne State University
IV-East	Beta Mu	Ferris State University
IV-West	Delta Beta	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
V	Alpha Alpha	Creighton University
VI	Nu	The University of Texas at Austin
VI	Gamma	University of Oklahoma
VIII	Epsilon Rho	Chapman University
VIII	Theta	University of Southern California

Most Improved Chapter Award

Finalists – In order by region

Region	Chapter Name	University/School Name
II	Epsilon Omicron	Fairleigh Dickinson University
II	Alpha Eta	Rutgers
II	Alpha Tau	Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia COP
III-E	Alpha Iota	Medical University of South Carolina
III-E	Lambda	Virginia Commonwealth University
III-S	Zeta	Auburn University
III-S	Gamma Chi	Palm Beach Atlantic University
IV-E	Beta Mu	Ferris State University
IV-W	Phi	University of Illinois
VI	Nu	University of Texas
VIII	Epsilon Rho	Chapman University

Chapter Project Proposal Award Recipients

- *Summer 2025*
 - Alpha Iota (Medical University of South Carolina) “In Rhythm: A Pharmacist's Guide to Beating Atrial Fibrillation.”
 - Alpha Xi (University of Kentucky) “Equipped to Respond: Combating the Opioid Epidemic Through Training and Outreach.”
- *Spring 2026*
 - TBD
 - TBD

The Rho Chi Society

Nominating Committee Report

February 25, 2026

Committee Members

Chair: Lucio Volino (Rutgers, Immediate Past President)
Maria Kostka-Rokosz (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy-MCPHS; Region I Councilor)
Cathy Worrall (Medical University of South Carolina-MUSC; Region III-E Councilor)
Kelly Covert (East Tennessee State; Region III-W Councilor)
Courtney Alexander (Auburn; III-S Councilor)
Linda Sobeski (Nebraska; Region V Councilor)
Angela Stewart (Washington; Region VII 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 President-Elect**
 - Thomas Franko (Wilkes)
 - Unopposed
- **National Treasurer**
 - John P. Bentley, Incumbent (Mississippi)
 - Unopposed
- **Region II Councilor**
 - Daniel J. Canney, Incumbent (Temple)
 - Lindsay Brust-Sisti (Rutgers)
- **Region IV-W Councilor**
 - Dan Majerczyk (Roosevelt)
 - Unopposed
- **Region IV-E Councilor**
 - Bradley E. Hein, Incumbent (Cincinnati)
 - Kari Janes (Ferris State University)
- **Region VI Councilor**
 - Beth H. Resman-Targoff, Incumbent (Oklahoma)
 - Unopposed
- **Region VIII Councilor**
 - Paul J. Wong, Incumbent (Southern California)
 - Unopposed



The Rho Chi Society

Faculty Advisor Award Committee

2026

Committee Members

Chair: Susan J. Skledar (University of Pittsburgh) 2023 Recipient

Members: Daniel J. Canney (Temple University) 2024 Recipient
Sara Wettergreen (University of Colorado) 2025 Recipient

Awardee

Faculty Advisor Award 2026

- Jeanne Franzel, advisor of the Kappa Chapter at the North Dakota State University

Five outstanding candidates were nominated for the 2026 Rho Chi Faculty Advisor Award. After review of the nomination materials, nominees were ranked by the committee members. Based on these rankings, Jeanne Franzel, advisor of the Kappa Chapter at the North Dakota State University was selected to receive the Rho Chi Faculty Advisor Award for 2026.