

Sidney Ann Gilpin Lewis Memorial Trophy

Award for Community Service and Philanthropy



2017/2018 Application

About the Lewis Award

Named for the daughter of past Grand Chapter officer James G. Lewis, the Lewis Award was originally presented to the chapter that had made the most progress during the previous year.

Brother Lewis's tenure on the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity was a short one that started in September 1927 and ended with his resignation in November 1930 following the death of his young daughter, Sidney Ann. The original trophy was presented to the Grand Chapter as thanks for the outpouring of support and generosity shown to him and his family during his daughter's illness.

Rattle Editor George Starr Lasher wrote a column in the October 1930 edition about the significance of the trophy:

Circumstances out of the ordinary gave to Sidney Ann Gilpin Lewis a maturity of mind unusual in a child of ten and also knit more closely that is generally found the interests of this child and her father. Because he was so keenly interested in Theta Chi, she was keenly interested. She wore with a great deal of pride the pin her father had when he was first initiated, a pin he discarded when the open badge was made standard throughout the fraternity.

Last spring Sidney Ann was stricken with an illness that proved fatal after weeks of suffering. When spinal meningitis developed from an infection following a serious operation for mastoid desperate measures were deemed necessary to fight the disease. Twice her father gave blood transfusions; then doctors refused to use his blood again. It was essential that another person be secured whose blood would match the child's. Dr. Robert L. Irish, who was in constant contact with the situation, informed the officers of Upsilon Chapter [New York University], and the next day six or eight of the members were at the hospital offering their blood. Two more transfusions were made, but the fight was in vain. Sidney Ann died at midnight.

Then next morning the stricken father had to return to the hospital, go past the door of the room in which his elder daughter had died, and enter the room of his younger daughter, who had been operated upon for mastoid just two days before, and there, hiding his grief under a smile, do all he could to cheer that little girl.

What made it possible, he states, for him to play that part was a spiritual something brought by Theta Chi, the concrete expression of friendship and sympathy offered by another member of the Grand Chapter, Dr. Irish, and the consciousness that the expression was representative of what ten thousand other Theta Chis would have felt had they known his Gethsemane.

That is why the Sidney Ann Gilpin Lewis Memorial came to be.

In 2008, the award was repurposed to recognize chapters and/or individual brothers that exemplify the Fraternity motto of "An Assisting Hand" through outstanding service to the community. The award recognizes the true spirit demonstrated by Upsilon Chapter's desire to help Brother Lewis.

Beginning with the 2012/2013 academic year, the Fraternity allowed nominations and submissions from or for individual brothers. Consideration for this award is not limited to a chapter's activities-it can also apply to an individual's actions or contributions. There is no limit to the number of applications per chapter.

Application Procedures

Lewis Award

1. The time frame for this award is limited to service and activities between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.
2. Applications must:
 - a. Be submitted in either .doc or .pdf format; paper applications will **not** be accepted
 - b. Use standard 8½" x 11" paper with one-half inch margins, and 12-point Times New Roman font
3. Each nomination must have the following:
 - a. Nomination Essay: A short essay detailing why the chapter, colony, or individual being nominated deserves the award. Anyone can make a nomination:
 - i. **Example 1:** The Chapter President could nominate his chapter by submitting example(s) of the chapter's community service activities
 - ii. **Example 2:** A brother could nominate a chapter brother in recognition of his efforts to benefit a project he did on his own
 - iii. **Example 3:** A brother could nominate himself for the award based on his individual efforts
 - b. A minimum of three items from the supplemental supporting materials list
4. Questions concerning the Lewis Award application should be directed to Joel Wendland at the International Headquarters at 317-848-1856 or by email at awards@thetachi.org.
5. Applications must be emailed to awards@thetachi.org by **Tuesday, April 10, 2018**.
6. Late applications will be reviewed for evaluation and feedback but will not be considered for the award.
7. During non-Convention years, the Lewis Award will be presented during the Initiative Academies and will be given to the individual chapter representative in attendance.

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Part I- Basic Information

Please provide the following:

1. Name of nominee or chapter
2. Nominee's chapter and college/university
3. Name of person submitting the nomination and:
 - a. Chapter and college/university
 - b. Phone number
 - c. Email address
4. Contact information for nominee (if you are nominating a chapter, please provide the contact information for the Chapter President. Skip this line if it is the same as line #3):
 - a. Chapter and college/university
 - b. Phone number
 - c. Email address

Part II- Supplemental Supporting Materials List

In your application, please include a minimum of three of the items listed below in the Supplemental Supporting Materials list. There is no limit to the number of supporting materials in your application.

1. A letter of support from a representative of your Greek life or student affairs office
2. A letter of support from a representative of a non-profit agency that benefited from a group or an individual's actions
3. A letter of support from a community member or non-Theta Chi individual
4. A link to a video (hosted on YouTube or other video site) that supports your nomination
5. A report from your college/university that documents completed community service hours
6. Links to news articles supporting the nomination
7. Scanned news articles from newspapers detailing the nominee's contributions
8. Video clips as attached files or links
9. Photos as attached files or links
10. Facebook or social media page link that provides insight into nomination

Keep in mind: Community service and philanthropy are not done to win awards. This award is meant to honor the work of those being nominated and to provide an example to other members of Theta Chi Fraternity on how to better live the values of our founding fathers. The intent is to inspire action and recognize those who are going above and beyond to help those in need.