

# ΦΑΘ NEWS

AUGUST 2022



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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In last month's newsletter, I wrote about the research that History scholars, both professors and students, typically conduct during our summer "vacation", and this month I will address another vital chore many of us undertake in the summer: cleaning up and clearing out. During the regular academic year, I typically pile up articles, books, documents gathered for a project, and scribbled notes to myself, placing them somewhere on my desk or in my office—fully intending, at the time I piled them up, "to get to them when I have time". Some of you will have had a similar experience, I imagine. The "when I have time" can stretch out to an indefinite date across the horizon, when the pressing matters of a busy semester have to be attended to immediately—or, as often happens in my own case, should have been addressed a few days ago!

However, while I was busily piling up all these items for a future date, fate had other plans. While I was away from the office doing Advanced Placement scoring in European History (I may write about this annual, wonderful experience in a future newsletter), the managers of our campus facilities decided to strip out the carpeting from our offices and replace them, adding a new paint job to each one. While I was grateful to have this work done—I've been in the same office for 16 years, and this was the first renovation to our campus since it was built—I wish I could have been there to help. Since I could not meet with students in my office during the

pandemic, I'm ashamed to admit that I let my office space go to seed. Stacks of books, loose papers, and random boxes were piled up on every square inch of floor space—and the workers must have had to remove all of those items, piece by piece, pull up the carpet, and then reinstall them, in some order, into my office.

So I returned to a pretty unholy mess in my office—but one that still looked much better than it originally had, pre-intervention! I have spent much of the past month sorting through, throwing away, and reorganizing that office—finding many forgotten projects, but also deciding that I could, like Marie Kondo advises, do without a lot of things that were not “sparkling joy”. As it happens, this unforeseen project coincides with two others I've had to undertake at the moment. I plan to put a house, in another city in which I used to live, up for sale soon—and a great deal of very old furniture had to be thrown out (including a bed my parents bought for me when I was in high school, circa 1986!). Moreover, I am the executor of the estate of a very close friend who passed away this April, leaving behind the many wonderful books, photographs, and personal items he and his husband had accumulated throughout their many decades together. As they were teachers in my own field, I want to keep many of these items, but I will have to find new homes for many others.

In any event, I hope this will give you a sense that cleaning-up projects can fall upon one unexpectedly—and yet they can provide a solid sense of satisfaction once they are taken up... if not quite put down satisfactorily yet. Can you think of something you have been meaning to do, one that may involve throwing something out or finding a new “temporary” resting place? If so, try to find some pleasure in that process, and take advantage of what may be a “slower” period to do that? Please contact me if you have words of wisdom along these lines, or if you just want to commiserate!

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# REGIONAL CONFERENCES

NEW ENGLAND - Keene State College - October 27-28 - Virtual

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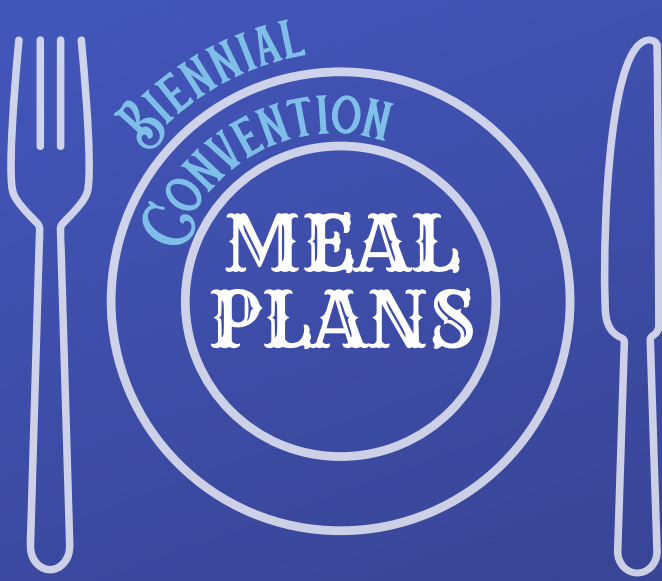
[phialphatheta.org/biennial-convention-2023/](http://phialphatheta.org/biennial-convention-2023/)



January  
4-7, 2023

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You must be a PAT member to present  
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by faculty advisors via our website  
[phialphatheta.org/call\\_for\\_papers/](http://phialphatheta.org/call_for_papers/)



Plan out a few of your Biennial Convention meals before you even arrive in Albuquerque! [myphialphatheta.com](http://myphialphatheta.com) to choose between the complete meal plan, or pick individual meals to fit your needs .

## ΦΑΘ activities

The Tau Beta Chapter at Baylor University raised \$1544.68 at a one-day book sale this past semester. All funds were donated to UNICEF to provide aid for the children of Ukraine!



## Pin Your Membership

Show off your PAT membership with a pin! Get 25% off all pins this month.

[MyPhiAlphaTheta.com](http://MyPhiAlphaTheta.com)

(Excluding the jeweled badge)



# Coming Soon...

Zip-up hoodies and PAT stickers will soon be on MyPhiAlphaTheta.com!

You can help us bring even more merch to the store by voting for your favorite below: [surveymonkey.com/r/P6DRF9C](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P6DRF9C)



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