

Heir greate

Return to the Founders' Vision After the war, the GI Bill gave many veterans the chance to attend college. With an influx of new students, many of the dormant chapters of the frat[<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????] nity were quickly re-activated. Another consequence of the GI Bill was the establishment of many new public universities. With more institutions that were open to fraternities, Delta Sigma Phi, along with many other Greek organizations, experienced their greatest period of growth in the Post-World War II era. [<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????] [<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????]

In the late 1940s college administrators across the country began to refuse expansion to fraternities which restrictive rules on membership. In response to the new rules the fraternity leadership amended the constitution of the national fraternity to remove all references to race or religion. However, the line "the belief in God is essential to our welfare" in the preamble was untouched and remains so to this day. [<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????] [<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????]

In a compromise to several southern chapters in the 1949 Convention, the amendments to the constitution were approved while language which barred the initiation of [<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????] f non-white and non-Christians were inserted into the fraternity ritual. Since the ritual was a private document and the constitution was a public one, this compromise appeased those who resisted integration of the fraternity while allowing it to expand to new universities. [<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????]

The 1950s were a turbulent time for fraternities and sororities in general. While most of the national Greek organizations still had rules restrict[<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????] ing membership, a few chapters bucked those rules and initiated Jews and African Americans. Some of those chapters were suspended by their national organization while others disaffiliated from their national organizations and "went local." In 1957 the California Legislature threatened to pass Assembly Bill 758 which prohibited state universities and colleges from recognizing any student organization [<http://www.adsmc.com/ftmcc.htm> ??????] that "restricts its membership on the basis of either race, color, religion or national origin." Two years later the regents of the University of California passed a regulation that required all fraternities and sororities to sign a certificate stating that the organization does not have any discriminatory policies or face the loss of recognition.

The fraternity faced these issues in the 1959 Convention. While the fraternity was interested in maintaining their California chapters, there was opposition to any plan to integrate the entire fraternity. Several southern chapters passed resolutions against and relaxation of racial and religious restrictions and threatened to withdraw from the fraternity. A compromise was again reached where the current rules were not to be changed but exemptions were granted to chapters in danger of losing their recognition due to fraternity policies. The California chapters were immediately given exemptions.