

**Name:** Valerie Henninger Steltzer  
**Pledge Class:** Fall '69  
**Officer Position:** Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer

**As a prospective officer & leader of the ODPAA, what do you consider your greatest strengths? Weaknesses?**

I believe some of my greatest strengths that would continue to benefit the ODPAA are honesty, compassion and being a hard worker. The experience of being a member of the board of the ODPAA will also be a strength to the organization as we redirect our vision to be alumni centered.

**If elected or re-elected to the position you seek, what is your commitment to serving out the full term?**

I am committed to the full term.

**Please describe accomplishments in your career and personal life that would benefit the ODPAA.**

My career in the bookkeeping part of businesses is in direct line with the requirements of a CFO. Working as THE person in a one person office of small companies, I have dealt with everything except the actual hands-on production of products. Time management and organizational skills are crucial to be successful in this type of situation. I have also worked as the CFO of this organization for the past 6 years.

**What is your vision for the future of the ODPAA? What changes would you advocate and why?**

I believe that the ODPAA needs to come together by inviting ALL of our alumni to become involved in the organization to reach out and help sisters in all aspects of their careers and personal lives. It is past time to revive the mentorship program that was previously established within ODPAA to share valuable assistance through professional experience. It is also time to reach out to help students in our colleges in Potsdam and "give back" for all the experiences that were afforded us, possibly through a scholarship program.

**If elected or re-elected, please describe what you seek to accomplish:**

If reelected, I would seek to accomplish what my vision for the future of the ODPAA as described above.

**What does Omega Delta Phi mean to you? Please describe your experience as both an active member and an alumni.**

To me, Omega Delta Phi means love, friendship, warmth...

On hell night, when I was asked why I wanted to join Omega, I said something about having 3 sisters, but we were all away from home in different directions, and I felt the need for sisters. In reality, I really liked the ODPAA sisters, and simply wanted to be a part of it all and accepted for who I was. And... that's exactly what I got. I had lots of fun experiences, starting right with the pledging. For those of you from small pledge classes, you can only imagine the experience of getting to know 24 pledge sisters in addition to the many active members. It was a great start. I did indeed feel the acceptance that I sought back then.

As an alumnus, it has the same meaning, but on a much larger scope. Our numbers are greater, our experiences are more diverse, and the joy we can share and caring we can offer one another is priceless.

I would like to continue to work for the members of the association where I believe I can still be useful to the organization.

**How would your sisters describe you?**

I believe my sisters would describe me as caring, honest, helpful and friendly.

**Please describe your approach to communicating and working with the ODPAA membership.**

Of course, the easiest way to communicate and work with the ODPAA membership is through participation at the annual reunions in Potsdam. WE all know that is not an easy thing to do for most of our sisters, especially those who have young families. For those who I don't see personally, I try to keep up with the FaceBook page and "get to know" other sisters. I find emails and group chats are helpful to work together and share ideas.

**How do you deal with difficult people & situations? Please describe a situation in which you took a position that upset someone else, and explain how you handled it.**

Difficult people and situations are certainly a challenge. At times I will have a discussion with myself to ease any frustration that I may feel about the situation. Then, I do whatever I can to discuss the situation with the other person in an effort for us to see each other's side. An example is below:

A few years ago, there was a very upsetting situation regarding a sister expressing her feelings on a topic that others felt was too negative.

She was attacked for what was perceived as poor timing, being negative and a whole host of other worries. I stood up for her since she had every right to express her feelings. I made a few comments and I, too, was then personally attacked on the post. The offending post was removed rather quickly. I then private messaged the sister who posted it. We proceeded to have a conversation about respecting other's right to express their opinion without being attacked, even if it does differ from our own. The conversation was an opportunity to explore each other's feelings and come to a mutual understanding.

**How do you motivate others?**

I believe it is important to recognize what strengths each person has that can contribute to a particular situation, and encourage participation from there.

**How do you handle criticism?**

Most of us don't always like to hear criticism, but when I do hear it, I sit back and evaluate what was said to me. If I feel it is valid and I need to make changes, I do my best to make them.

**What top 3 qualities do you think a leader should have?**

Patience/understanding, listening/compromising skills, and the ability to motivate are all important qualities for successful leaders.

**Would you rather be liked or respected? Why?**

I would prefer to be respected, without a doubt. Respect speaks of one's character, such as honesty and compassion, which is earned over a period of time. Being liked is great too, but it is possible to simply be a fun person without being respected for good character traits.

**How do you spend your free time?**

Bruce and I split our time between the Adirondack Mts in the summer, Florida for part of the Fall and again from February and May, and then our home in Lockport in between the rest. When location permits, I play in our church bell choir as well as participate in various other Church activities. We visit our 13 grandchildren, which thanks to the US Army, has taken us from Europe to various places on the east coast, and most recently, to Hawaii. I also sew and do various kinds of needlework and read.

**For Fun: What's your 'superpower' or 'spirit animal' and why?**

What drives me and keeps me focused is my faith in God and my upbringing that control what I do and how I treat others.

**Is there anything else that we haven't already covered/asked that you would you like to share with your sisters?**

It has been an honor to work with other board members over the past 6 years for our ODPAA. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue in the roll of CFO for the coming term.