



The Sig House

A Newsletter from the Board of Grand Trustees

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Better Together

The Grand Trustees teach the importance of house corporations partnering with the university to showcase the positive aspects of fraternities. If you ask your university president the question "Is it true that Greek organizations provide the most donations and volunteers to the university of any alumni?" you will likely get the answer "There is no doubt about it."

What this means is that in spite of undergraduate bad behavior, when they grow up, they become loyal and generous to their alma mater. It seems that some university administrations miss the big picture: Greeks are the best friends that the university has. Below are excerpts from an article penned by a university administrator that reflects this understanding.

"The national news has been replete with examples of institutions of higher education grappling with the effects of alcohol and hazing culture in their fraternity communities. There have been an increasing number of chapters that have been mandated to cease and desist all activities due to investigations and incidents related to hazing and high-risk alcohol behaviors.

I would like to commend our fraternity leaders for the work that you do to ensure a thriving and successful fraternity community. Higher GPAs, significant amounts of money raised for various philanthropies, and noteworthy hours of service to the community are but a few examples that keep us moving along a positive trajectory.

It is important to pay attention to the bad news about the fraternity

experience on some college campuses. To think that it couldn't happen here would be naïve. We must band together and provide a counter-narrative to what we are hearing. Fraternities are still very relevant and vital components to the college experience. The values of brotherhood, service and scholarship remain salient frameworks of the fraternity experience. It is up to you to live these values!

We must take proactive steps to eradicate detrimental behaviors like hazing, alcohol and sexual misconduct which erode our ability to shine like we should. Each member of a fraternity must ask themselves why they chose to become a member. If your answer is not aligned with the values of the organization, you are in it for the wrong reasons.

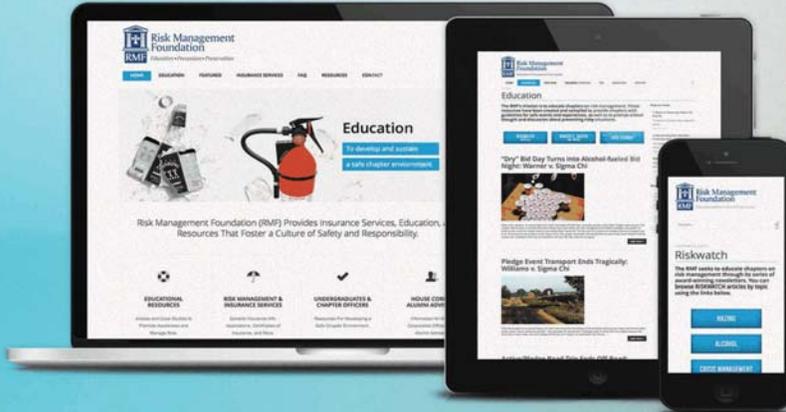
We must address these crucial issues in order to survive. Know that you are not alone in this. You have access to advisors, to your headquarters staff and countless faculty, staff and administrators who stand ready to assist you in becoming your best selves. Use these resources to your advantage and to the benefit of the Greek community. We become better together.

Lamar R. Hylton Ph.D.
Dean of Students
Kent State University"

The message is clear: The house corporation should establish a positive partnership with the university administration either one-on-one or, even better, with other greek organizations. There is strength in numbers.

By Grand Trustee Rich Thompson IHSV

Announcing our new website...



RMFEducation.org

- ✦ Watch Risk Management Videos
- ✦ Read RISKWATCH Articles
- ✦ Download Checklists & Safety Tips
- ✦ Search RMF Archives

Know the Risks, Be Proactive, Develop a Plan



Alumni Engagement Progress Report

At Grand Chapter, the Grand Consul charged the Grand Trustees with improving alumni engagement. Six Grand Trustees were appointed as team leaders with two other Grand Trustees on each team. Each Grand Trustee can appoint area volunteers to assist in contacting local alumni using the alumni database supplied by Sigma Chi International. The goal is to identify a point person in each of 1500 geographical areas where four or more Sigs live. That point person will seek the email addresses of other alumni brothers in his area. To date, nearly 500 cities and towns have been assigned to Grand Trustees to begin the initial communication.

The plan has five phases: Identify, Engage, Cultivate, Formalize and Certify. The latter phases will include support from the Sigma Chi Alumni Services Committee and Headquarters staff. The objectives are to:

1. Evaluate the strength of current

alumni chapters

2. Assist those alumni chapters that request it
3. Revitalize inactive alumni chapters
4. Create alumni groups in cities and towns where active chapters are located, and
5. Create alumni groups in 1500 potential locations.

We will be reaching out to over 33,000 Life Loyal Sigs, members of the Order of Constantine, Significant Sigs and members of the Grand Council and committee members. Chapter Advisers and House Corporations will help establish alumni groups in the areas that lack them.

The following areas are identified Active Contact and Reactivation Status: Rochester NY, Buffalo NY, Syracuse NY, multiple groups in New York City NY, Schenectady NY, Albany NY, Americus/Albany GA, Valdosta GA, Savannah GA, two groups in Columbus OH, San Jose CA, Bakersfield CA, 3

areas in Phoenix AZ, Prescott AZ, Sedona AZ, Naperville IL, Mankato MN, Kansas City MO/KS, Tallahassee FL, Ocala FL, The Villages FL, Gator Sigs FL, Tampa FL, Gainesville FL, New Orleans LA, Grand Junction CO, Hilton Head SC, Greenville SC, Columbia SC, Plateau group in NC, West Point MS, Victoria TX. There are two alumni groups that communicate primarily electronically because the members are not in the same location.

By Grand Trustee Bill Robinson IHSV

House Corporation Training Webinars

On November 8th, 40 brothers attended a no cost training webinar hosted by the Grand Trustees titled **Chapter House Maintenance - Standard Operating Procedures** presented by Grand Trustee Joe Beers. Thanks to headquarters staff Dakota Neff and Bill Scott for coordinating the logistics.

This is the third in a series of webinars to educate and energize house

Sigma Chi Fraternity's



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For more information, contact
Ed Rammrath
eramrath@rammrathrealty.com
Phone 832.483.8676

corporation members. The next is planned for March 2018.

Connecting the Dots

Being a member of an organization like Sigma Chi that emphasizes “life long commitment” is an anomaly in a transient world. Those men that heeded that call enjoy the fruits of life long friendships and business relationships that are the envy of those that didn’t. This life long benefit doesn’t happen by accident. Sigma Chi teaches principles upon which to build mature and healthy relationships.

However, as life experiences steer brothers in various directions, fraternal connections can be strained and broken by time and distance. The busy-ness of career and family can crowd out brotherhood. But for most, these are only temporary conflicts. As brothers grow older, many find an urge to reconnect with fraternal relationships that were started long ago. Time brings

richer meaning to college experiences and the friendships planted there.

House corporations are a natural mechanism to help provide these connecting points the brothers seek. While the house corp’s main purpose is to maintain the chapter house in safe and livable condition for the actives, it can’t be done without the support and contributions from loyal alums. To ensure the greatest success, every house corp needs to develop a comprehensive contact list of all chapter alums. That contact information should include email addresses since 90% of the brothers have them. Communicating by email is efficient and free.

Sigma Chi Headquarters can assist with the process by providing the chapter contacts it has. Checking address accuracy with www.whitepages.com should be the next step. WhitePages.com also provides phone numbers which can be used to garner email addresses. Getting email

addresses cannot be understated. Paper newsletters are very expensive to produce and mail. The same newsletter can be emailed for free in PDF (Portable Document Format). Email can save thousands of dollars that would be better spent on chapter house renovation or scholarships. Even if you have to hire someone to do the database work, it will pay off big time over the years as fund raisers are developed and launched.

And one of the side benefits of this contact information is that it can be posted on the chapter/house corp’s website so that the brothers can reconnect with each other. When these connections are made, they often lead to a reunion at homecoming and the chapter house. It’s like playing “connect the dots”.

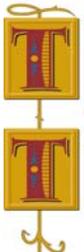
By Grand Trustee Rich Thompson IHSV

We're Here to Help

Board of Grand Trustees is here to assist Sigma Chi house corporations in a myriad of ways. Besides many years of service to Sigma Chi in various capacities, there is over 700 years of combined expertise in such things as real estate development, property management, project administration, politics, maintenance, renovation, insurance, tax planning, accounting, construction, fund raising, legal, education, housing, risk management and more.

While each Grand Trustee is assigned specific provinces to oversee, this combined expertise is available to all house corporations. The key to tapping this gold mine is to contact your province's Grand Trustee with a specific request for assistance. If your request is out of your Grand Trustee's specific area of expertise, other colleagues will assist in providing real solutions. Give us a try.

The Jordan Standard



The confidence of the Founders of Sigma Chi was based upon a belief that the principles which they professed and the ideal of the Fraternity which they sought were but imperfectly realized in the organizations by which they were surrounded.

The standard with which the Fraternity started was declared by Isaac H. Jordan to be that of admitting no man to membership in Sigma Chi who is not believed to be:

- A Man of Good Character.
- A Student of Fair Ability.
- With Ambitious Purposes.
- A Congenial Disposition
- Possessed of Good Morals.
- Having a High Sense of Honor and
- A Deep Sense of Personal Responsibility

CCI Corner

Constantine Capital Inc. (CCI) is Sigma Chi's mortgage provider for qualified house corporations. It can finance a variety of renovation and upgrade projects up to \$250,000 such as:

Chapter House Purchase

Life & Safety Upgrades
New Construction
Renovation Projects, and
Loan Guaranty

CCI recently provided \$125,000 financing for the Zeta Nu chapter house at Western Michigan University.

Does your house corporation have a chapter house financing needs? Contact Ed Rammrath at Ph 832.483.8676 or eramrath@rammrathrealty.com

House Corporation Resource Directory

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Greek House Resource 361.450.0818
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Missing: JB Allen, Jim Carroll, Jeff Murison

