

THE BROTHERHOOD BULLETIN

THE JOURNAL AND RECORD OF THE ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY

Number 1

October 22, 1993

Alpha Sigma Phi Unveils New Mission Statement

At the 1993 National Leadership Conference in Somerset, NJ, a new mission statement was unveiled to our brotherhood. And, in this mission statement, **brotherhood** was the main focus. The mission statement, printed on the back page of this "Brotherhood Bulletin," was presented after many hours of discussions, deliberations and deep thoughts by many of the Fraternity's leaders.

So far, undergraduate response has been favorable to the newly-formed statement. One common question that has arisen, though, is "What do we do now? What can we do to fulfill this mission statement?" This article will attempt to provide some ideas for you.

Some suggestions for "Creating and Perpetuating Brotherhood" are:

- * Naming shared expectations
- * Understanding one's self
- * Retreats
- * Regular sharing or "check-in"
- * Shared experiences
- * Use of games or experiential activities to facilitate personal sharing

* **Shared Expectations:** It is important to create boundaries and an environment of trust which will allow for appropriate sharing while respecting individual differences and limitations. This means that the

expectations, or ground rules, must be clearly understood. Four important expectations are **confidentiality, freedom, responsibility, and respect.**

The first is **confidentiality.** What is shared by the group should stay in the group. It should not even be discussed with brothers outside the chapter unless they give permission. This goes without saying, but this expectation should be restated with every new member. Confidentiality should not be assumed; chapters can become disappointed because one member did not know or did not agree with an assumed expectation.

The second expectation is **freedom.** Brothers need to feel that they can share what they wish without feeling pressured or judged for not "going as deep" as another. This doesn't mean brothers cannot challenge members to share what is bothering them. Often times people will communicate information in a passive-aggressive manner. For example, a brother comes to a meeting looking sad, arms crossed, and visibly withdrawn. He is communicating something to his fellow brothers. They have the right to ask what is wrong or even encourage him to share. He has the freedom to say, "nothing is wrong" or "I can't say." Of course, he should not expect any support from them if he does. He has to take responsibility for making his feelings known.

This leads to the next expectation, **responsibility.** Every brother needs to be responsible for his own feelings and his expression. You can't expect others to know how you feel if you don't tell them directly. Likewise, if you share that you have a problem with me, you must accept that it may be as much you, or completely you, who is the source of the problem. Thus, you may have to change or compromise.

Another important expectation is **respect.** Respect means behaving in ways that communicate to others that they have personal dignity and worth. Concrete expressions of this are attentive listening while another is sharing, accepting another's feelings as being genuine even if you don't understand them, and not belittling or joking about something that is serious or sacred to another.

* **Understanding One's Self:** The basis for effective dialogue or interpersonal communication is sharing on an emotional or feeling level. To share your feelings, you must first be able to know and articulate them. This is particularly difficult for young men. Yet, there are some things that may help us grow in the basics of self-understanding.

First is the Meyers-Briggs Personality Preference Inventory. The MMPI helps individuals better understand

Other resources and games may be helpful. A game, called the "Ungame," focuses specifically on sharing feelings. What is most difficult with a group of men is keeping their sharing focused on feelings instead of thoughts. Most men have been taught to share out of their head rather than heart.

* **Retreats:** Retreats can be the most helpful and effective tool to enhancing brotherhood and offering the most potential for developing powerful communication skills. A retreat's great advantage is that it can combine several objectives together and can allow for people to take time to get to know each other on a deeper level. A structured program and qualified facilitator is helpful. Also, retreats can incorporate some type of ritual.

* **Regular Sharing or "Check-in":** It is with regular sharing that relationships, and brotherhood, builds. Relationships are not static so they are either growing closer or drifting apart. Regular sharing can be incorporated in meetings, after meetings, or be scheduled for a special time. A "pass the gavel" once a week can allow for what's most important in regular sharing: allowing for brothers to have the time, permission, and listening ears to let their story be heard.

* **Shared Experiences:** hapters should not only enjoy shared experiences, but also develop structures for common reflection on shared experiences. These experiences, whatever they may be, bring people together, create bonding, and they provide a common ground to talk about feelings. Also, and equally important, common experiences provide a safe way to talk about feelings for brothers who are newer or more threatened by a deeper or more personal dialogue. For instance, if you and some fellow brothers volunteer for an event for Canine Companions for Independence, it would be helpful for you to take time together to discuss your experience.

* **Games and Icebreakers:** Finally, games and icebreakers. There are a multitude of games and icebreakers available that allow brothers to interact with each other. Different games also vary in level of maturity and seriousness, too, so you can choose icebreakers that fit your brotherhood.

These are just a few of many ideas that can help you and your brothers "To create and perpetuate brotherhood." The Fraternity Headquarters can help you by facilitating a retreat, assisting you to develop shared expectations, providing and facilitating different games and icebreakers, and assist in developing any one of these ideas mentioned above. If you are interested in receiving assistance, please call the Fraternity Headquarters or complete and return a newly-created Visit Request Form that you can find in this week's mail packet, sent to your HSP. The Fraternity Headquarters exists to help you; please use them to help your chapter "create and perpetuate brotherhood."

Chapter News

BETA DELTA CHAPTER, MARSHALL UNIVERSITY: We are now in our sixth week of school here at Beta Delta and everyone is really getting bogged down with homework and tests. But, we managed to take a little time off during the week to get some things done.

Last week we did our Adopt-a-Highway Service Project along Route 60. We had a turnout of 17 men for the project and acquired 34 manhours. This coming weekend our service chairmen **John Pennington** and **Merritt Davis** have planned another project in which we will participate in a 10K walk for Diabetes.

Jeff Owens, Director of Chapter Services for Alpha Sigma Phi, paid Beta Delta a visit last week to lead us in a chapter exercise on leadership. He did a wonderful job in helping us share ideas with each other and his visit was very much appreciated. Thanks again, Jeff! (cont'd on pg. 3)

►► DATES TO REMEMBER ◀◀

October

- 30 Delta Sigma Chartering Banquet, University of Coastal Carolina, Myrtle Beach, SC *
- 31 Virginia Tech Formal Pledging and Colonization Ceremony, Blacksburg, VA **

November

- 1 Chapter Fee Due
- 1 Final date to submit copy for fall issue of newsletter
- 25 Thanksgiving Day

December

- 1 Submit Winter Tomahawk report
- 6 Founders' Day
- 9 Happy Hanukkah
- 15 Submit copy for winter issue of newsletter
- 25 Merry Christmas

January

- 21-23 Presidents' Academy of Leadership (PAL), Pittsburgh, PA
- 31 Chapter Leadership Consultant Applications due***

- * If you are interested in attending, please feel free to call HSP Ed Danis at (803)347-2915.
- ** If you are interested in attending, please feel free to call Colony President Chris Vogelsang at (703)552-0659.
- *** If you wish to receive an application or more information regarding this position, please call the Fraternity Headquarters.



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Some of us took a little break last weekend when twelve members of Beta Delta went on a camping trip to Barger Springs, West Virginia. Those who attended had an excellent time just visiting each other without having to worry about anything. We made a lot of memories that weekend and as some would put it, had "great fun!"

It was announced late this summer that **Gary P. Trautwein**, Pre-Med major from Genoa, West Virginia was the first winner of the Henry E. Thornburg/Alpha Sigma Phi Academic Scholarship. This scholarship was made possible by a generous donation in the fraternity's name to the Marshall University Foundation by **Henry E. Thornburg**, Beta Sigma Delta/Alpha Kappa Pi. Mr. Thornburg established this scholarship to reward high academic achievers that are also members of Alpha Sigma Phi. Requirements for this scholarship are good standing in Alpha Sigma Phi, must be of sophomore standing and have a GPA of 3.5 or better. Gary was chosen from several qualified applicants by a committee chaired by a former Beta Delta HSP, **Brian Wilt**.

Mr. Thornburg has donated significant memorabilia to the chapter previous to establishing this scholarship. The chapter is very proud of this endowed scholarship and is pleased to be remembered by a friend and brother, Henry E. Thornburg.

Pledges

NU CHAPTER, University of California-Berkeley: Chris Sandoval, Jin Yu, Mitch Brown, Victor Svistoonoff, Bruce Chin and Edward Ayala on September 1, 1993.

ALPHA TAU CHAPTER, Steven Institute of Technology: Frederick J. Stuck IV, Felix E. Saratud and Christopher S. Kelsey on September 17, 1993.

GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER, Bowling Green State University: Blake Parkins, Brian Perry, James Martz, David Hampton, Scott Hartwell, Aaron McGreevy and Greg Lesinski on August 28, 1993. Also, John Holzhauser, Michael Duvall, Chris Strain, Steven Curry, Josh Schindler, Tim Swann and Dave Kreinkamp on September 17, 1993.

DELTA ZETA CHAPTER, University of North Carolina at Charlotte: Tristian Shane Crafts, David Ronald DiSabato, Bynum Eugene Ferguson, Shawn Michael Figart, David Benjamin Hack, Mark Goodman Harris, Patrick J. Helms, Patrick Andrei Keisler, Peter Lloyd Larsen, Jr., Tracy Allen Martin, Gary Ralph Matthews, David Andrew Mitchem, Jeffrey Lewis Schronce and Richard Joseph Sylva on September 17, 1993.

DELTA IOTA CHAPTER, Longwood College: Richard Stanley III, Brian Franklin, Dain Hammond, John Nagle, Hunter Martin, Robert Smith, Joseph Hearl, Brian Kent, Mark Waters and Robert Ratcliffe on September 14, 1993.

DELTA LAMBDA CHAPTER, Stockton State College: Joshua Comers, Matthew Photis, Stephen Symnoski, Ti-Jean Preston, Frank Olivo, Jason Morris and Patrick Meredith on September 27, 1993.

DELTA PI CHAPTER, University of Delaware: Donal Paul Fleming, Timothy Dale Janyario, John Andrew Binlocker, Louis Ferrando Racz, Phillip John Kim Campbell and Bryan Sean Leaman.

Initiates

ALPHA XI CHAPTER, Illinois Institute of Technology: Michael Enriquez Galvez and Gregory Paul Schnippel on September 3, 1993.

ALPHA OMICRON CHAPTER, Missouri Valley College: Tomas Reyes, Max Cardenas, Robert Lara Riojas and William Lee Dasti on September 12, 1993.

BETA EPSILON CHAPTER, Lehigh University: Scott D. Amsbaugh, David A. Angstreich, Benjamin G. Bonow, Adam A. Day, James E. Dello Russo, Joseph M. Gorla, Jr., Jonathan S. Hagler, Ryan Michael Hammersmith, Brian P. Kocsy, Stergios Milona, Jr., John D. Orsi, Mark D. Pasierb, Michael D. Policarpo II, Shawn M. Torbert and Marc Fried on September 23, 1993.

1994 National Leadership Conference & Convention

Theme and Logo Contest!!! The Fraternity Headquarters staff is seeking ideas for the theme and logo for our 1994 National Leadership Conference & Convention to be hosted at the O'Hare Marriott in Chicago, Illinois from August 18-21, 1994. The theme and logo for the conference should somehow incorporate the new mission statement, "To create and perpetuate brotherhood."

Recent themes have been: Brotherhood...A Point of Light (1993), Building Better Brothers (1992), A New Decade: Changes, Challenges & Choices (1991), Creating Our Future Today (1990). Prizes will be awarded for the theme and/or logo if chosen. Entries are to be submitted to: c/o Ed Lenane, Conference Director, Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity Headquarters, P.O. Box 838, Delaware, OH 43015-0838, **by November 3, 1993**. If you have any questions regarding the theme and logo contest please call Ed at (614) 363-1911.



THE MISSION OF ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY

TO CREATE AND PERPETUATE BROTHERHOOD

By Brotherhood we mean the development of lifelong human relationships based on mutual love and support.

Through the creation and maintenance of Chapters, Alpha Sigma Phi provides opportunities for its members to experience Brotherhood.

By experiencing Brotherhood, the members of Alpha Sigma Phi grow stronger intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually, thereby becoming more empowered to enrich society and improve the quality of life.

Alpha Sigma Phi recognizes that the social climate of today presents a formidable challenge to Brotherhood. The deterioration of family, the inclination toward instant self-gratification and the proliferation of violence, hate and prejudice are widely evident in our society.

In response, Alpha Sigma Phi actively works to create a family environment of mutual love and support in each chapter. Programs and services are provided that assist each member to:

- ▶ Seek a deeper awareness and understanding of himself and others.
- ▶ Recognize the qualities that make himself and others unique and needed.
- ▶ Demonstrate responsible leadership.
- ▶ Grow in relationship with his Supreme Being.
- ▶ Exemplify integrity, patriotism, and respect for the opinions, beliefs, actions, cultures and principles of others.
- ▶ Serve others.
- ▶ Pursue high scholarship.
- ▶ Invite without prejudice quality men for membership.
- ▶ Possess self-confidence.
- ▶ Be self-sufficient.
- ▶ Demonstrate behavior which exemplifies the Fraternity's Code of Conduct.

Alpha Sigma Phi will have succeeded when its members are successful in developing lifelong, meaningful relationships that enrich society and improve the quality of life.

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The Brotherhood Bulletin is published once a month during the academic year by the Fraternity Headquarters. It is distributed to all chapters, colonies, advisors and fraternity volunteers in an effort to keep all informed of their Fraternity's activities, plans and progress.

News items for *The Bulletin* may be sent to: Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity Headquarters, P. O. Box 838, Delaware, OH 43015-0838.