

## Message from the Vice President

After serving as the National Ritual Officer for a year and as Vice President for the last two year term, I am delighted to be running for the position of National President at the 101<sup>st</sup> National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa. During the last three years as a Council member, I have had the opportunity to visit many chapters, charter several and re-charter the Robert Morris Chapter (Pi Phi). As a Council, we have instituted the new e-Garnet & White and discussed the Ritual at length. I've also had the opportunity to review the past six years of finances in detail with Scott Carlson and subsequently with the Council. This report will lay out my take on things and provide you with some of the items the Council has been working on, and I will continue to focus on should you decide to elect me as National President.

We trust most of you are pleased with the introduction of the new e-G & W. We've received some feedback after the launch in late January. These suggestions are being worked on and we want you to know the Council will continuously update the web portal to provide all our members a useful experience. It is the Council's goal to improve communications. I'd like to continue to facilitate the best possible means of communications between our members. Lack of it leads to misinformation and I endeavor to minimize this. Please use the web portal and provide us with any feedback and ways to improve it.

Another aspect of the Fraternity that has been discussed at length is improving the Ritual. Note I said improve and NOT change. We've found some Chapters are encumbered with, don't emphasize it or plainly don't understand it. Don't get me wrong, a great many Chapters are bound by the Ritual and what it stands for. It's no coincidence that Chapters who practice the Ritual "in word and deed" are the more organized and successful Chapters. I'd like to increase the number of Chapters that are successful and improving the Ritual will benefit chapters in more ways than one. No one that I talk to wants to change the Ritual, just improve upon it. It's probably best to discuss this in subsequent reports and in the meantime avail myself to anyone who has an opinion concerning the Ritual. Call me or e-mail me and we'll discuss it further.

Perhaps, the most important issue facing us is improving the financial health of the Fraternity. I first got involved on the National level in 2006 by volunteering time on the finance committee of AXPEF. This was before I got involved on the Council. Scott Carlson and I have also spent many hours analyzing costs vs. revenue and discussing the finances of the Fraternity. So I'm not bashful in saying there is room for improvement. We are exploring how to improve revenue including raising dues for resident Chapters and the reinstitution of Graduate dues. Trust me when I say I'm not in the camp that believes raising dues to offset costs is the solution. We're looking for ways to streamline costs as well but the simple fact remains that costs have not gone up measurably. Scott does a yeoman's job keeping our costs down. Our problem is on the revenue side NOT the expenditure side. We on the Council will continue to focus on improving our finances.

Before I conclude my report as Vice President, I'd like to say that I'm running for President of Alpha Chi Rho because I want our Fraternity to be a First Class organization. A First Class Organization has among other things great communication and finances. I believe if we strive to be great at these two not simply good at them, then we've done the best we could for the Fraternity. Lastly, I'd like to thank our National President, Brother Gerry Brill for his leadership and encouragement. While most guys his age would be retired, he not only still maintains a law practice; he has led us through some trying times over the last three years. Thank you, Gerry.

Respectfully submitted,

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Phi Lambda '91

