

President's Pen

Let me begin by wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We will get 2012 off to a quick start with Conclave. It's been decided to implement regional Conclaves in order to save some money while attempting to increase attendance. This decision is one emanating from the survey responses we've received, so I'd like to thank those who responded to the two surveys the staff sent out earlier in the year. The first will be hosted by Drexel on Jan 21, followed by RPI on Feb 11, and then by Robert Morris on March 10. Each will be preceded by an alumni reunion. Please stay tuned to the website for details for these reunions.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the newest Chapter to the Chapter Roll, the Alpha Phi Beta chapter of Alpha Chi Rho at the University of Cincinnati! The institution was held on November 5th, and I'm glad we have another chapter to join the ones in the region. The Chapter is led by Kyle Neyer, a senior from Cincinnati, and he is also a legacy. His father David is an Alpha Phi Brother from Purdue. The Chapter starts off on a good foot with 30 new brothers and a small house where 10 of them live. Hopefully sometime soon they will have a new Chapter house to call their own, but for now they are doing well by getting good grades, contributing to the community and paying their bills on time.

Like everyone else, the economy has impacted us as we continue to provide the services and programs that our Chapters expect from us. Therefore, for the first time in eight years, we have re-instituted graduate dues of \$75 per year to aid in providing these programs. The fact remains that every worthwhile organization, whether it's professional or social, collects dues from its members. Relying just on the resident Chapters dues is not realistic. Our \$500,000 a year budget struggles to break even and it's difficult to address emergencies and un-budgeted needs that come up unexpectedly. One of the goals I set for the Fraternity was to do everything possible to place it in a better financial situation and while our Treasurer, Josh Brodsky is implementing ways to improve collections and increase revenue from other previously untapped methods, all alumni should support the Fraternity in whatever way they can. We could theoretically support the entire Fraternity's budget if we had 50% of all alumni pay graduate dues. I know times are tough, budgets are stretched thin and you have many financial demands, but I ask you to make every effort to budget \$75 a year for your Fraternity. It's a great way for those who can't volunteer time to do something for the Fraternity. Besides, it's tax deductible.

As part of our efforts to communicate better and more effectively we have instituted a fact sheet, a parent mailer and a national bid card. The fact sheet is a one page double sided fact sheet of AXP. It can be used for rush to expose potential new members and their parents to our history and what we are about. It can also be used for marketing purposes. The national bid card is an attempt to formalize and consistently offer bids to new members. The parent mailer will be sent to new postulants parents and expose them to the Foundation and what it offers. These forms will be available on the web portal.

Once again, I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and good health and fortune in 2012!

In the bond,

Vic