



The Phi Kappa

Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho

News

A CROW MAKES HIS MARK

The Phi Kappa Board of Directors is happy to announce a generous donation of \$100,000 from Bob 'Turtle' Weiss recently. After a thorough building assessment was completed, and growing momentum of re-chartering occurring with the University and IFC, this donation comes at a critical time. With this donation, we have discussed needed improvements to the house to be completed in phases which will begin summer of 2020. Bids are currently being taken and reviewed.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The Coronavirus has led to cancellation of the entire spring semester at the University. There will be two DKE students who remain at the house through May 17. All other students have left campus and will not return this semester.



RE-CHARTERING MOMENTUM

We are excited to announce that the UIUC Board of Fraternity Affairs (BFA) has very recently approved Alpha Chi Rho's petition for permission to pursue the RSO registration process at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign!! This approval lifts the revocation of recognition by the University and paves the way to allow Phi Kappa to begin recolonizing on the UIUC campus.

(Con't on page 2)

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RE- CHARTERING MOMENTUM

Over the past several months, our Re-chartering Initiative team has been working hard on creating a petition to present to the BFA, which focused on our new strategy to prevent our past mistakes by leveraging support from our fellow Brothers and the National Fraternity. On April 6, 2020, we met with the BFA, and subsequently got the good news. According to Jay Anhorn (COO of AXP) "This was by far one of the best efforts I have seen by graduate Brothers in my career. Now the real work begins!"

GRANDFATHER CLOCK RETURNS

The grandfather clock that sat in the foyer of 311 East Armory for so many years has been restored to new condition! The clock works were taken out and the clock face completed restored to new condition by a place in Georgia. The clock mechanism was completely gone over and received a few new bushings and a good lubrication. The gongs have been cleaned up and the weights repaired. The clock cabinet itself was completely refinished and repaired. There were several broken pieces and several missing pieces that were reproduced and it looks like NEW!

2019 BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

(5 Seats up for election in 2019)

Brad LaPayne, President

Jason Luksis, Treasurer

Tom Fifer, Secretary

Kevin Anetsberger

Randall Von Ryan

Returning board members

Tim Bextel, Vice-President

Gary Schmitz

Jon Lippner

See note regarding elections on page 4



Leasing Update

DKE Fraternity continues to lease the house from the Phi Kappa Board with all payments going through the online legfi system which allows online payments of rent, late fee assessments, and easy communication. Our tenants have been taking good care of the house and continue to be model tenants. They have indicated they are interested in leasing for the 2020-2021 school year and such a lease is being finalized to ensure another year of significant income.

Although many other fraternity tenants have had difficulty collecting the final few months of rent, our tenants have dutifully paid their rent on-time.

Capital Improvement Phase 1

New first floor patio doors – French Doors are 30+ years old and in need of full replacement.

3 New Rear Security Door Replacements - Rear Kitchen door, rear hallway door, and basement door all need modern security door and hardware upgrades

Phase 1 improvements to the 3rd floor dorm (Insulation, re-orientation of doors on north and south dorm rooms and electrical in the attic to eventually support phase 2 next summer of 3 new rooms in the dorm area.

Water Tank replacements

Bob Weiss's generous gift will make these needed improvements possible. Initial plan is for these to be done Summer of 2020 with Phase 2 improvements of the additional dorm rooms in summer of 2021

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Phi Kappa Building Association

Statement on 2019 Elections:

The 2019 elections did not occur without controversy. A large portion of the 2019 Bylaws restatement concerned the nomination and election process for the board of directors. Unfortunately, because the National Council did not approve the bylaws changes, the PKBA was left with the election process outlined in our existing bylaws of nominations from the floor/ voting in person at our annual meeting.

Because of the need to be present at the annual meeting to vote, several brothers worked to solicit participation via proxy. Through this process, almost 200 total brothers participated in voting, even though attendance at the meeting was less than 20.

Our organization should feel proud of multiple members competing for limited positions on the board of directors, and the participation in voting via the proxy process. The board of directors will of course welcome the help and support of the brothers who were nominated as directors but not elected.

Three elections occurred based on the staggered terms for the 5 open director seats. The first election, for a 2 year term ending in 2021, ended with Brad LaPayne as the only nominee and therefore the winner of the term. For the second election, 4 brothers were nominated for 2, 3-year terms ending in 2022. This election resulted in two clear majority winners, Brothers Jason Luksis and Tom Fifer.

The third election was again for 2, 4-year terms ending in 2023. There were 4 nominations from the floor. The voting was incredibly close, but after ballot counting at the meeting two victors were declared, William (Bill) Yontz and Randall Von Ryan. A question arose of a brother who had responded to one brother for proxy representation and then changed to another brother. This adjustment was included in the original results, but the election results remained the same. After the meeting was adjourned but while most attendees were still present, it was identified that a brother who voted on the floor had previously given a proxy, voiding his inclusion in the proxy vote. This issue made the results even closer, with a two way tie between 2nd and 3rd place out of 4 and no majority victor for the 8th seat. Given the situation, the board discussed and decided a detail recount of all the votes / proxies was required.

Upon reviewing the ballots and proxy lists, it was discovered that 3 additional brothers who had sent a proxy earlier in 2019 had more recently given their proxy vote to a different brother, meaning their vote had been counted twice. After these changes to the vote tallies, there were two clear majority winners, but unfortunately a change had occurred from the original victors announced at the meeting, with the ending winners being Randall Von Ryan and Kevin Anetsberger.

The board of directors is not satisfied with the election process at the 2019 annual meeting and the disappointment it causes in the ability to conduct business, but we are at this time confident with the results, and would be happy to field questions or share source data for review.

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- We want to send a special thank you to the Phi Kappa Rechartering Initiative team, and everyone else who supported them, for the hard work it took to get us one step closer to bringing Phi Kappa back to the Illinois campus!
- The Phi Kappa Rechartering Initiative team is comprised of:
 - Brian Schmidt (class of 2009) – President & National Fraternity Relations
 - Kevin Anetsberger (class of 1984) – Vice President & Building Association Relations
 - Dale Marquart (class of 1982) – Secretary/Treasurer
 - Andy Kosowsky (class of 1987) – External Relations & Alumni Events
 - Matthew Reardon (class of 2016) – University & Undergraduate Chapter Relations
 - Robert “Phish” Bartlett (class of 2005) – Communications & Alumni Relations
 - Shane McGoey (class of 1988, IUP, Zeta Phi Chapter) – Phi Kappa Crow Coach

The Next Steps

- Phi Kappa must work with Fraternity & Sorority Affairs and the Interfraternity Council on a specific timeline for initial organization recruitment and RSO registration.

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Our current desired timeline is:

Spring & Summer 2020 – Recruitment of re-founding fathers, fundraising, alumni event & homecoming planning, interviewing & hiring the National Expansion Consultant that will oversee the Chapter's formative year, negotiating timeline and strategy with IFC

Fall 2020 – Form the Interest Group, transition the Interest Group to a Colony recognized by the National Fraternity, develop the operations playbook for the Chapter, recruit the initial class(es) of Brothers

Spring 2021/Summer 2021 – Register as an RSO, transition the Colony to function under its own leadership, with the Expansion Consultant transitioning to an advisory/mentoring role, continue recruitment and Colony operations, petition the National Fraternity for Chapter status and the return of the Charter to Phi Kappa

Fall 2021/Spring 2022 – Transition the Expansion Consultant off campus and the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter into the advisory/mentoring role for the Chapter leaders, secure adequate interest in renting the Chapter house to the undergraduate Chapter members, complete IFC's probationary period

Fall 2022 – Move back into 311 E. Armory Ave and continue building on the revitalized Phi Kappa legacy!

You can help!

We want to maintain momentum... and there is more than enough work to go around!

If you are interested in having fun and supporting our Rechartering effort, contact Brian Schmidt at bschmid3@gmail.com.

We also are looking for current and future students attending the UIUC campus who possess the qualities of a Phi Kappa brother who could be part of our founding class. If you know of anyone, please let us know!