

ASF *AP Chapter*



Meeting of the Members
2004

Welcome to the 2004 Meeting of the Members!

This year's Meeting of the Members will be hosted at a new venue! Instead of most of us heading southbound to get to the meeting, most of us will now be heading northbound. The site of the meeting is going to be Dave & Buster's in the Palisades Center of West Nyack, NY. The date of this year's meeting is Saturday, June 5th. The meeting and the day's events will begin at 9:30am.

Attendance at meetings in the past has been hindered for a couple of reasons and recently that reason has been weather. No one wants to bring the family down to the Jersey shore when it's raining. Changing the venue this year will make having a good time a sure thing rain or shine.

Hopefully this change will inspire more brothers and their families and girlfriends to attend. If you're not familiar with the Palisades, it is, or will soon be, the largest mall in North America. Yes, larger than that one in Minneapolis and also bigger than that one in Edmonton. Besides shopping, it also includes attractions to keep the young ones busy such as an ice rink, carousel, Ferris wheel, and train ride.

If you're not familiar with Dave & Buster's, it's a restaurant and bar packed with state of the art video games, shuffleboard tables, and billiards tables. For more information on both the mall and D&B's, please visit the following websites:

www.palisadescenter.com
www.daveandbusters.com

If you plan not to attend, I suggest not telling your wives, girlfriends, and/or kids about the venue change. Telling them that it's at Dave and Buster's and then telling them you're not going could lead to disappointment because Dave and Buster's is an entertaining place.

Attached in the remainder of this packet are the following:

- The Itinerary for the day's events & **RSVP form!**
- The Meeting of the Members Agenda
- Directions to Dave and Buster's / The Palisade's Center
- Summaries of the Minutes from monthly Board of Director's Meetings
- BOD Member Reports
- The proposed 2004-2005 Budget
- The voting/proxy ballot including the list of BOD position nominees

Please also remember that attendance at the meeting is not required to vote. We encourage everyone to vote. If you are unable to attend, please vote by submitting the proxy ballot found within this mailer. Instructions on where to mail the ballot are located on the ballot.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope to see you on June 5th!

Dave Barker – Corresponding Secretary '93

Directions to Dave & Busters (and the Palisades Center mall)

From Route 287

Take Rt 287N to just across the NJ/NY border.

Get on the NYS Thruway South (87S) towards NYC and Tappan Zee Bridge.

Stay on this for about 11 miles and take exit 12 to Rt 303/West Nyack

This will put you right at the mall. D&B's is on the 4th floor

From the GSP

Take GSP North across the NJ/NY border until it becomes the NYS Thruway North

Take exit 14-1 for I-87/I-287 South towards NYC

Stay on this for about 4.3 miles and take exit 12 to Rt 303/West Nyack

This will put you right at the mall. D&B's is on the 4th floor

Things to do at the Palisades Center Mall

- Enough Mall Stores to keep you shopping for a month
- 40+ eateries
- Carousel
- Ferris wheel
- Train ride
- Dave & Buster's
- Ice Rink: Typically 3 open skating sessions on a Saturday. Cost is \$7 for Adults, \$3 for children less than 10, and rentals are \$3. If we get enough RSVPs so that we can guarantee a party of 10 or more, we will arrange to get a group discount at one of the mid afternoon sessions.

For additional info and directions, please visit:

<http://www.palisadescenter.com/>

2004 Meeting of the Members Day's Itinerary

- 9:30 – 12:30pm** **The Meeting of the Members**
Free for paid Alumni Association Members
\$5 charge for all others
- 12:30 – 2:00pm** **Lunch – Buffet offered at Dave & Busters**
Cost will be \$12 per adult and \$10 per child
Kids under 5 eat have the option to order from a kids' menu
Buffet includes: Club sandwiches, salad, potato chips, coffee, tea, & soda
- 2:00 – 6:00pm** **Enjoy Dave & Busters, shopping, and/or Ice Skating**
- 6:00 – 8:00pm** **Dinner will be arranged at either The Cheesecake Factory or Romano's Macaroni Grill. This will be pay as you go. The Cheesecake Factory can not accommodate parties greater than 20 so the venue will be based on the number of RSVP's.**
- 8:00pm - ???** **Hang out at D&B's, any of the local bars, or wherever!**
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PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO RSVP!

Sending your RSVP will be a great help to making the 5th a successful day! This is critical for us to best plan for lunch and dinner arrangements as well as for potentially getting us a group discount at the ice rink.

Please RSVP not only for your attendance at the Meeting of the Members, but also for the events listed above.

You can E-Mail your RSVP to Dave Barker @ puckhead519@yahoo.com, or

You can tear off the bottom half of this sheet, fill out the answers, and mail it to:

Dave Barker

73 Buckland Dr

Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Please include the following in the RSVP:

1. Will you be attending the meeting?
2. Will you be joining us for the buffet?
3. If yes to #2, how many other adults & children will be with you?
4. Will you be joining us for the open skating session?
5. If yes to #4, how many other adults & children will be joining you?
6. Will you be joining us for dinner that evening?
7. If yes to #6, how many other adults & children will be joining you?

2004 Meeting of the Members Agenda

9:30 – 10:10	Gather and take Roll Call
10:10 – 10:25	Update on Reports*
10:25 – 11:00	Voting for Elections and Budget
11:00 – 12:00	Goal Setting for the Upcoming Year

* To facilitate the “Update of Reports” part of the meeting, attached below are minutes summaries from the BOD meetings since last year’s BOD meetings along with reports from the BOD members. Please take the time to review them prior to the meeting.

BOD Meeting Summaries

August

BOD Vote Results: Received 60 ballots; JF read off listing of all voters
Bryan Chua, Keith Kooistra, and Chris Strauss won the 3 BOD spots.
Bryan Chua won the President spot and Chris Vakulchik won the VP.
Amendment 1 – Quorum Rule. Passes. 37-For, 16-Against, 7-Abstain
Amendment – 1 Year BOD Eligibility Rule 44-For, 8-Against, 8-Abstain
Budget 42-For, 9-Against, 9-Abstain
Undergrads want help from BOD with debt collection.

October

Close to finishing paperwork on non-profit status will not be able to get approval for tax-deductible donations for 2003.
Still looking for quotes for installation of fire sprinkler system.
Joe Fass working on new room contracts, parlor fee contracts, and debt acceptance letters.

December

The Alpha Sigma Phi Corporation was dissolved due to renewal forms sent to expired P.O. box.
Currently 32 paid members of Alumni Association.

February

Need \$220 filing fee to get corporation reinstatement. Vote 4-0 for reinstatement of corporation.
Need sprinkler installed by July 1 to avoid possible fines.
NJIT has talked about implementing a new Greek System evaluation process that would require access to detailed chapter information.

March

Need to file tax forms for Undergrad Housing Corporation.
All treasurer records have been converted to Quick Books.
Need to find new place for Meeting of the Members.
Joe Fass has finished new room contracts, parlor fee contracts, and debt acceptance letters.
Newark redevelopment on Fraternity row is a minimum 5-7 years away.
NJIT Greek System evaluation passes IFSC vote.

April

Meeting of the Members will be at Dave & Busters in West Nyack, NY. Mailer out soon.

BOD Member Reports

President's Report – Bryan Chua '91

The purchase of the Chapter House has increased the number of responsibilities of the Board of Directors. The shift from tenant to owner has some challenges but in the long term is one of the biggest accomplishments of the Board of Directors. The Alpha Sigma Phi Undergraduate Housing Corporation is officially recognized by the Federal Government as a not for profit corporation. The next step is applying for a real estate tax exemption with the City of Newark.

The Alumni Association Corporation is currently being reinstated. I'm concerned about this because it seems we don't learn from our past mistakes. I'm currently taking steps to resolve this issue once and for all. After the reinstatement of this corporation, I have two additional tasks, applying for not for profit status and in addition making sure there is some continuity in maintaining both corporations. We have to learn from our mistakes and do two things: improve and remember.

I was very impressed with the membership's feedback / response to the year's Black and White. Keith Kooistra and Chris Vakulchik's efforts are superlative. My thanks also go out to those who helped in this effort. This type of initiative and drive can only be rewarded by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from all attendees. Well run events lift both the Board of Directors and the general membership. I think they have set the standard by which all events will be benchmarked.

The current concern is financing the needed fire sprinkler system for the Chapter House. Current estimates value the system at \$30,000 to \$40,000. The system has to be in by July 31, 2004 or else the Chapter House will be shut down by the NJ Dept of Fire Safety. We are currently pursuing several avenues to gain financing. I will definitely update the status of this by the time we meet at the Meeting of the Members.

Vice President's Report – Chris "Smooch" Vakulchik '91

Well, 2003-2004 has been quite a challenge from a board perspective. My role this term has been multi-faceted. I have been to the house quite often and been kind of a liaison between the undergrads and the BOD. The undergrads have called me at home, to help them with problems and issues, and I've done my best to help them.

Also, I worked with Keith Kooistra to plan and execute one of the more successful and fun Black and Whites we've had in recent memory. We made a really good impression on the hall, and they would really like to have us back next year.

Another project that I am now involved in is the Greek Relocation program. A little background on this, there is a construction company (the Hilliard Group) charged with a renovation program. One of the locations mentioned is near NJIT, including Fraternity row. NJIT has formed a committee to look into developing land to be used to build new fraternity houses, and a Greek village in case the fraternity houses are demolished in 5-7 years. There is nothing set in stone, and these committees have been formed on a fact-finding basis only for the time being. I am on the finance committee, charged with determining how other schools have financed such a project for their own Greek villages when put in a similar situation. I hope to keep on top of this, and keep working with this committee over the next few months and years.

Lastly, I made a commitment to the Undergrads that we will have a sprinkler put in by July. I intend to keep the commitment. I have made securing financing (about \$30K) my top priority, as has the rest of the board. We are looking into bank loans and state loans to pay for the sprinklers. As of this writing, we have a couple of good leads.

That's all...here's to a great 2004-2005!

Corresponding Secretary Report – David Barker '93

The dues letter was mailed out in a timely fashion this year. The hope there was that this would lead to more brothers submitting their dues by the deadline than in year's past. This did not happen as still most checks were sent in after the due date. Alumni database has been kept up to date all year long. Chris "Smooch" Vakulchik's e-mail plea to made to the brotherhood to send in any information or address changes was very successful as it resulted in at least fifteen updates. Please if you're reading this and even think that your address/phone/e-mail information may be out of date on our records, please contact me with your current information. (puckhead519@yahoo.com)

Finally, the last main item under my responsibilities is organizing this Meeting of the Members. The last few MOMs have had sub-par attendance. The BOD has requested and received reasons from across the brotherhood to determine how to act. The reasons received for them have been numerous, varied, and inconsistent.

To address as many of the excuses as possible, the determination was to change the venue of the event to Dave and Buster's in West Nyack. The goal here is that it should combat following major reasons (among others) for low attendance at past MOMs: rain, "my family will have nothing to do", and "Point Pleasant is getting stale". Please note Dave and Buster's was chosen during a BOD meeting where 4 venues were proposed for the meeting including returning to the Point Pleasant VFW.

The decision was made to transform the event from a weekend long convention with poor attendance to one long kick ass day that includes the meeting as the kickoff to the kick ass. If the location of the MOM is something that hits home with you, please feel free to discuss with any member of the BOD or better yet, come to the MOM and bring it up as a topic of discussion under New Business.

Grand Chapter Advisor – Brian Feuer '95

A lot of my job this year was making sure the undergraduates understood what new things national required them to do. I attended the National GCA conference on the weekend of January 10th 2004. All in all it was a worthwhile trip. There were 10 chapters represented, most from Mississippi, North Carolina and New Jersey. We shared ideas while getting trained by national as to what they need the GCA's to do to support Alpha Sigma Phi as a national organization. I brought this information back to Alpha Rho and set some new goals I had for them. For example there is a new insurance deduction if the undergraduates take an online test about the abuse of alcohol on www.alcohol.edu, and sent them information to receive national awards for things they already do but don't get recognized for. There were a few other things like dates to send in forms and other trivial things along those lines.

Other than that I just tried to help out when I could and give as much guidance and presence as my schedule allowed. I helped in fall rush with move in day and dorm storming. I held monthly exec board meetings with prudential members to see how they are progressing. I also went to all fall rituals and one chapter meeting a month for the entire year. I helped Keith Kooistra run the brotherhood lock-in during the fall semester. I went to the Sig Bust in December.... a great event if anyone missed it. All thanks go to Keith for both of these events.

There are two things I helped in during the past year that I will explain more about at the MOM if anyone is interested. They are the NJIT accreditation process and the NJIT redevelopment meeting. Briefly the accreditation process is something NJIT came up with to keep the fraternities and sororities in line and service oriented. It is a points system a lot like the attendance points system but they want us to send in financial records and meeting minutes as well as documentation of service projects. The NJIT redevelopment meeting actually came from the city of Newark. They want to fix up the area and possibly relocate fraternity row to a sort of greek housing community. NJIT has expressed that they don't want to own the houses or kick anyone out but just facilitate meetings and comply with what the city is doing. Chris Vakulchik and Bryan Chua know more about this as well.

I gave each undergrad a copy of the most current constitution. I got all room contracts signed, and new parlor fee contracts signed as well as debt acknowledgement sheets filled out and signed. I also got the Vernon O Drake Scholarship Application posted to the website and got some interested applicants to apply for the scholarship for the first time since 1999.

Lastly and the most important goal which never got done fully is get the alumni and undergraduate debt to zero. The alumni debt is almost at zero and the undergrads were making significant strides in the debt in the fall semester, significantly fell off during this past semester. To help accomplish this I worked out with the company Creditors Financial Services, LLC. to have anyone in debt to the corporation sent to collections.

Director of Law Department Report – Joe Fass '93

- Marty posted the constitution on the Alumni website (www.alphasig.org)
- Three forms are now available on the website:
 1. Room contract
 2. Debt Acknowledgement
 3. Semester Fees Agreement
- Brian Feuer (GCA) handed each Undergraduate a copy of the constitution
- Brian (GCA) with handle getting all undergraduates to sign the new room contracts and forms.

Director of Alumni Report – Keith Kooistra '99

Last fall started off on a good foot, with the annual Sig Series picnic and softball game on September 27th. Fourteen brothers attended along with three wives. We BBQ'd by the river and then enjoyed an action packed softball game in the beautiful weather. The next event was the Sig Series Volleyball game held on NJIT's campus. Sixteen brothers met this time for a great afternoon in the sun along with another great BBQ. Afterwards alumni brothers went back to the chapter house to spend some time getting to know the undergraduates.

December 13th was the first Alpha Rho Sig Bust. It was held in the new student center in the beautiful faculty dining hall. Twenty-five brothers along with girlfriends and even the president of the Rutgers colony came together to enjoyed some great catered food and celebrate our 158th anniversary. Thirty-five brothers had originally signed up for the December 6th date, which was canceled due to a blizzard. The Sig Bust is planned to become an annual event, and planning for next year's bust is already underway. Numerous other chapters in the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania & Maryland area have been contacted and have expressed excitement about coming to next year's bust. I hope you will all join us for that! (If you're looking for an excellent brotherhood event to bring your girlfriend or wife and even your kids too, this is it!)

January 24th was the highlight of the year with the 22nd annual Black & White. It was held at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance in Scotch Plains. The DJ service was the best it's been in years with an excellent selection of music both current and older. Numerous brothers have all said "for most of the evening *everyone* was on the dance floor. Nobody was sitting at the tables". The bartender was equally as excellent, with a superb selection of alcohol and beers. The most remarkable thing was how he remembered everyone's face and who was drinking what. He literally began pouring your drink as you approached the bar. The room was absolutely beautiful and not at all like your average carpeted rectangular ballroom. The food was also very good with a great selection. Attendance has dropped off in years past but this year had a great showing, especially of undergraduates. If you missed it, don't miss next year's! A huge thanks to Chris Vakulchik for all his help in putting together such a wonderful Black & White. Without his help I never could have gotten it all organized like it was.

The spring did not however operate nearly as well. The spring semester proved a busy one for the undergraduate chapter and as a result events through April never materialized. Casino night was canceled when the Undergraduates could not attend. Sig Series Basketball was torpedoed by NJIT when they vetoed our gym reservation because of their freshmen placement tests. And lastly, the Somerset Patriot's baseball game trip was canceled because the membership showed little interest in attending. I look forward to another successful fall and putting these spring troubles behind us.

As director of Alumni, I have been trying to both hold events that you will enjoy attending, as well as plan sufficiently to make each event special and well organized. Those of you who couldn't make these events this year truly have missed out, and I would hope that you'll make an effort to join us next year. Ralph Burns once said you can never experience true brotherhood without giving back to the brotherhood. You won't regret attending these events, or the opportunity to spend time with your brothers, both old and young.

Director of Housing Report – Matthew Greimel '92

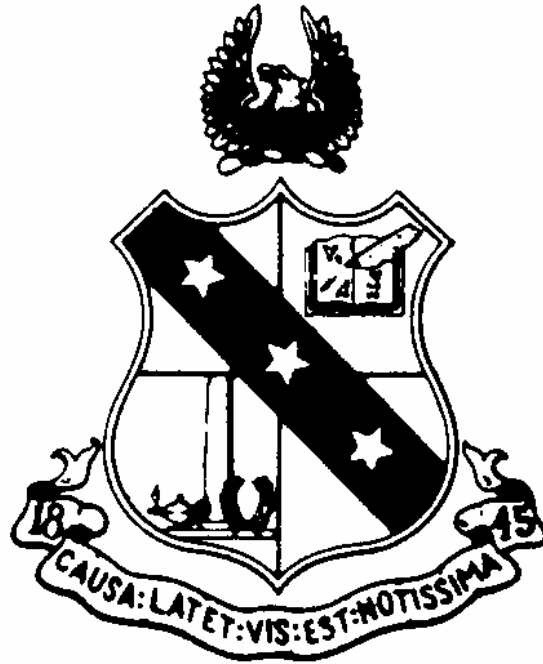
Projects completed in the past year at the house include:

1. 2nd floor bathroom repair – floor and pedestal sink.
2. Repair of the interior staircase from the 1st to 2nd floor.

Pending Projects:

1. 3rd Floor bathroom repair
2. Repair of the exterior stairs

Proposed Budget Needed to Cover the Pending Projects = \$750 to cover: paint, concrete, materials to fix the 3rd floor shower, and cleaning supplies.



Proposed 2004 – 2005 Budget

Category	Proposed
Corresponding Secretary	985.00
Convention Letter	92.50
Dues Letter	92.50
Convention	800.00
B&W Mailer	92.50
Misc.	
Recording Secretary	0.00
Misc.	
Law	420.00
Recovery Mailings (cert'd letters)	25.00
Invoice Mailings	25.00
Non-Profit Corporate Filing	150.00
Refiling Corporation	220.00
Misc.	
Alumni	435.00
Newsletters via Email	-
Website Charge	35.00
Alumni Events and Food	400.00
Misc.	
HUD	-
Scholarship Award	200.00
Misc.	
Finance	-
Admin Expense	-
Misc.	
Sub-Total	1,840.00
Misc. 10%	184.00
PayPal 3%	30.36
Total	2,054.36

Highlights
- Dues will cover the entire cost of the Meeting of the Members including the cost of lunch for dues paying members and their families
- Dues will cover the cost of food at all Sig Series events and Casino Nights
- All Dues paying members contribute to the Vernon Drake Scholarship
- The anticipated price for the Black & White this year is \$125/couple. With prepayment, the cost will be \$95.

Standard Membership Dues
\$80

Dues + Prepaid Black & White
\$175

Number of Paid Members to Reach the Targeted Budget Amount
26

