

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Kip A. Nalley
4633 Dapple Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043
gma@alphachisigma.org
(240) 205-5581

January 1, 2021

Annual Report of the Grand Master Alchemist

Overview:

2020 was a challenging year for Alpha Chi Sigma and our members. Fraternal operations were significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the activities our chapters do over the course of normal operations were either scaled-down, moved online, or cancelled entirely. Recruiting members, conducting chapter meetings, initiation, and outreach were all adversely affected by the inability to meet in person in significant numbers. Despite this, through the hard work of our collegiate chapters, District Counselors, Professional Representatives, and Supreme Council members, the Fraternity continues to provide the brotherhood and support for the chemical sciences as we have always done. Alpha Chi Sigma members have met the challenge of a generational disruption and we have moved forward. From adversity comes great opportunity and as we look forward to 2021 the lessons we have learned during this last year will serve us well into the future.

Activities:

Through the pandemic the Supreme Council has endeavored to use our digital communication tools to maintain the connection with the Fraternity. Monthly Zoom hangouts and Ask Me (Almost) Anything events on Facebook and Instagram attempted to connect the leadership with our members. While attendance varied significantly between events, the efforts of both the participants and the attendees was very much appreciated. The reach of each of these events is somewhat difficult to measure although the number of brothers who viewed these events after the fact made them worthwhile.

In addition to social events, informational webinars were also presented. These ranged from the GMC meetings with chapter leadership to go through virtual ritual presentation to budget and career transition to the meta-webinar "how to give a webinar". In addition, the GCA with DCs and some PRs continued the COVID-19 discussion groups started during Conclave. These discussion groups have connected chapters in a way we have never done before and it is my hope that they will continue into the future.

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Kip A. Nalley
4633 Dapple Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043
gma@alphachisigma.org
(240) 205-5581

One of the best events of the year was the Founders Day Zoom meeting hosted by the Grand Historian, Mitch Levings. The event was well attended and the combination of Fraternity History and social interaction among brothers was well received.

Financials:

Difficulties in recruitment have led to significantly less collegiate members initiated in the last year. Subsequently, we only initiated ~60% of our expected numbers. While this is disappointing, it is also remarkable that our chapters have been able to maintain this level. However, this has had a dramatic impact on our budget for 2020. Effects of COVID-19 on membership numbers are anticipated to continue into 2021 until vaccine levels and normal operations can resume.

Fortunately, some of the decreased revenue from collegiate operations was offset by several factors. First, professional donations were up this year over last. Our professional members have stepped up and helped the Fraternity financially. Professional donations are important to our operating budget so additional donations from the annual solicitation, Giving Tuesday, and Founders Day events. Also, the virtual Conclave was much less expensive than an in-person event. While none of us wish for future Conclaves to be virtual it did positively impact the budget.

This is just a brief overview of the results for 2020. Details are in the report of the Grand Recorder with specific numbers.

Health and Safety:

After the massive changes to the Alpha Chi Sigma Health and Safety procedures installed during Conclave the Supreme Council has been monitoring how the implementation of the Health and Safety policies, procedures, enforcement and education is going. With most chapters not able to have in-person events we have not had many issues to resolve. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of our Health and Safety program going forward.

Conclusions:

I am very proud of the work my Brothers in Alpha Chi Sigma have done to get us through this difficult time. While it may be easy to look back and lament what could have been, we now shall start looking toward the future. Changes made during this time in the way we communicate as chapters, between chapters, and between Brothers

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Kip A. Nalley
4633 Dapple Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043
gma@alphachisigma.org
(240) 205-5581

will serve us well as
we build Alpha Chi Sigma as a Fraternity for the modern world. The need for
community will never be stronger and more welcome than it is now. While we will
always have challenges to overcome, as we look forward to reinventing and
reinvigorating ourselves I see a bright future ahead for Alpha Chi Sigma.

Yours in the Double Bond,



Dr. Kip A. Nalley, Alpha Sigma 1990
Grand Master Alchemist
Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity