

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

2021 Annual Report of the Grand Master Alchemist

January 13, 2022

State of the Fraternity

As we end 2021 Alpha Chi Sigma is weathering the COVID-19 pandemic but not without issues. Many of these issues are discussed in individual SC reports but these are the things that I feel need additional mentions:

1. Pledge and initiation numbers: Although numbers rebounded a bit from 2020 we are still far from our peak initiations in 2015. This long-term trend of contraction must be turned around for the Fraternity to survive. Hopeful numbers from 2021 include more initiates than 2020 and higher than normal percentage of pledge to member conversion. However, continued pandemic conditions will most likely suppress pledge and initiation numbers into 2022.
2. Chapter Contraction: We lost several chapters in 2021 and several more are in bad shape. Extraordinary efforts by GCA Cole and the district counselors have helped many of our chapters weather the pandemic so far. Continued loss of chapters will contribute to additional loss of pledges and initiates and we must do everything possible to help our chapters survive.
3. Budget: The budget for 2021 was better than expected. However, this includes several extraordinary items that have skewed the numbers somewhat. PPP loan forgiveness and catching up on past-due invoices from 2020 have inflated the budget a bit. That said we were close to revenue neutral even without these items and with the pandemic headwinds that might be as good as we could've expected. With Conclave expenses in 2022 the budget does not look nearly as good. Increases in revenue will be needed to balance the budget for 2022.
4. Professional Member dissatisfaction: One of the themes of 2021 was complaints about the Fraternity – how volunteers are treated, loss of active professional members, and questions about the value of Alpha Chi Sigma to our professionals. While there are no easy answers, we have heard the comments and we have several initiatives in place to address many of these issues. Unfortunately, these initiatives take time to yield tangible results and sometimes the process isn't as visible to our general membership.

Even with these issues we also have had many successes this year as we learn what Alpha Chi Sigma looks like going into the future:

1. Professional donations continue to be strong. Events such as Giving Tuesday and Founders Day have served as cornerstone events to increase visibility into our financial needs and invigorate some donors. Continued work on increasing donations to alleviate the necessity of increasing lifetime membership fees is ongoing. While we don't know where this will take the Fraternity, we are committed to providing a stable donor base for Alpha Chi Sigma.

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

2. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Work by the conclave resolution mandated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee is ongoing and the committee report on ways Alpha Chi Sigma can do better in these areas is expected at Conclave.
3. Volunteer engagement: Working with volunteer coordinator, Helen Webster, we are in the process of identifying ways to engage our current volunteers and expand our volunteer base. Helen will report at the winter SC meeting and will be given additional direction as needed.
4. Student Advisory Committee: In 2021 we formed the Student Advisory Committee based on input at the Summer SC meeting. Throughout the fall we identified candidates to serve on the committee and held a preliminary organizational meeting with the committee. I hope to utilize this committee for important Fraternity decisions throughout 2022.

Summary

2022 looks to be another challenging year for the Fraternity. An ongoing pandemic will affect almost all aspects of fraternal operations throughout the year. My goal is to set Alpha Chi Sigma on a path of sustained growth through the rest of my time as GMA. This will be a challenging goal to achieve but I have confidence in the abilities of the Supreme Council, GR, AGR, office staff, and the rest of our volunteers and Brothers to grow Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity.

Yours in the Double Bond,

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