

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the
ASSISTANT
GRAND RECORDER



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Friends,

It is my pleasure to provide this report at the conclusion of the 56th biennium. This biennium, Alpha Chi Sigma has weathered many challenges, but our Brotherhood continues to survive and thrive again as the pandemic most to endemic. While it is discouraging the pandemic has resulted in the inactivation of several chapters, it is very heartening that the Fraternity has installed an additional chapter and is able to gather the Brotherhood together at an in-person conclave at Gamma Iota. In addition, our professional brothers have been particularly generous and responsive to innovative fundraising efforts spearheaded by the national office staff and GPA Pawlowski. Our national office staff has been fantastic and diligent in performing their duties during this difficult time of transition, Erin Goodwin, Jennifer Showerman, Amy Posavac-Osborne, and Allison Wisher have rendered noteworthy and innovative service as employees of the fraternity. The beginning of 2022 was a challenge for me personally given a major career transition and major family medical issues. I am truly grateful for our Brothers understanding while these matters were resolved, it reminds me of the enduring strength of our Brotherhood. Rather than duplicate what Grand Recorder John Stipp will discuss in his report, I will provide highlights on a few projects.

Finances—As GR mentions in his biennial report, the fraternity has been facing stiff headwinds caused by declining initiation numbers and rising costs. We have worked tirelessly to be good stewards of the fraternity's resources, but there in terms of additional cost reductions, we have reached the point of diminishing returns. For the long-term financial, and social, health of the fraternity, it is important to continue to provide innovative support of our collegiate chapters to help them grow in number. Likewise, it is important to grow engagement with the professional members and continue to nurture a culture of giving. Finally, it is important to diversify revenue streams for the fraternity, though increased sales and other thoughtful initiatives.

2022 Conclave—The 56th biennium required a bit of flexibility in the conclave bid process due to uncertainties of whether universities would be open and collegiate's access to bid information from their respective institutions. GMA Nalley provided a five month extension where chapters could seek guidance and prepare bids. There were several inquires, though ultimately only one chapter, Gamma Iota, submitted a completed bid, which was awarded. While this was an experiment in more flexibility in terms of bid submission and timing, necessitated by the pandemic, it is important to note the amount of effort that goes on behind the scenes by the National Office Staff and SC. The compressed timeline for preparation for conclave presented a challenge, hopefully not to be repeated.

Online Platforms—Throughout the biennium, GMA Nalley and I provided administrative upkeep of Alpha Chi Sigma's online Zoom and GSuite platforms and administrative support for Facebook.

Database review: In fall of 2020, at the request of GMA Nalley, a review of competing products, with quotes, was performed to compare against Alpha Chi Sigma's current database

provider. This was for file if the event were to arise that the fraternity would need to change database providers.

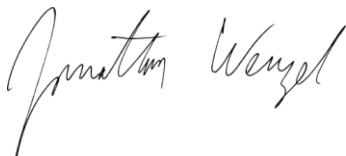
Supreme Council Meetings—The AGR handles budget and site recommendations to the GMA, as well as lodging and on-site logistics for guests of the Grand Chapter for Supreme Council Meetings once the Supreme Council sets the meeting. The winter 2021 and summer 2021 Supreme Council meetings were held virtually on zoom. For in-person Supreme Council meetings, the GMA provides a set of desired locations and the AGR provides a cost analysis for each location. The Winter 2022 Supreme Council meeting was hybridized with an on-line participation within an in-person meeting held nearby the Cleveland International Airport, a geographically weighted location to save in travel costs.

IRS Group Exemption—Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is required to file group exemption paperwork with the IRS annual. This is to maintain subordinate chapter's tax exemption under Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity, Inc tax status determination. A few years ago, the IRS began a review of group exemption procedures and recognition of exemption from federal tax exemption status under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. This includes potential revisions to Publications 4573 and 557 which contains procedures that the fraternity uses to maintain its group exemption. At the conclusion of 2018 the IRS stopped sending group exemption paperwork that the fraternity uses to maintain its group exemption but failed to inform the fraternity, and all other not-for-profit corporations of this change in procedure. With the assistance of the National Office Staff, Supreme Council, District Counsellors, and our subordinate chapters, the fraternity completed the effort of reviewing and revising its group exemption list culminating in a revised listing to the IRS. This will hopefully maintain our group exemption status.

Misc— Early fall 2020 the HVAC system at the national office failed. Following a review of quotes, a new system was selected and installed. Fortunately, the fraternity budgets for unforeseen capital-intensive projects by maintaining a CAPEX fund, though this incident has significantly diminished that balance. Fortunately, the Supreme Council had the foresight a couple of biennia ago to establish this in the budget. Other individual and collective efforts included review of office policies, such as document retention policies, budgetary review, and providing aid to chapters with financial and IRS questions. Additionally, I have attended monthly Supreme Council huddles and National Operations calls and have provided my input and advice as not only the Assistant Grand Recorder, but as a member of the Order of Altotus.

As we begin to open to more in person experiences as a fraternity, we need to be sure to fully experience and appreciate the Three Objects of the fraternity, letting the best interests of our order guide us. It is a privilege to serve the fraternity as Assistant Grand Recorder, we have a wonderful team of people working for us. It is important for our Brotherhood to continue to look to the stars and working towards strength.

Yours in the Double Bond,



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