



TAU KAPPA EPSILON
RHO CHAPTER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

West Virginia University

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Newsletter



Rho TKE Alumni Newsletter

August 2006

Message from the President

Brothers,

I imagine you've been busy-- work's crazy, kid's sports schedules, and just *life*. Maybe you've been hanging back, waiting to see what would happen with the Alumni Association, waiting to see if the Association would take root. Well there is no longer a need to hold back. After just six short months, the Rho TKE Alumni Association has done some incredible work to set the foundation for a strong future. We've established:

- A highly motivated group of alumni officers who have met bi-weekly since April.
- A Board of Trustees; 30 elected alumni who meet semi-annually.
- An Alumni website with a searchable alumni database.
- An Association budget and bank account, with PayPal to accept online payments.
- Organized events like the Red Carnation Ball, Lakeview Golf & Spa Weekend, and the TKE WVU Homecoming Tailgate.
- Scholarship funds to support active TKE's who work hard and need assistance.
- A house inspection and monitoring process to ensure the actives have proper living conditions and good relations with the house owner.
- On-line TKE composite pictures, 100s of photo archives, little and big brother family trees, and on-line discussion forums.

The Rho TKE Alumni Association has been established to operate as a long-term business, and is designed for busy professionals like us. It aims to reunite old friends, bring brothers and significant others together, and support the active TKE's with a force stronger than many of us had as actives.

I'd urge you to take three actions: When you finish reading this newsletter, follow the link to the Alumni website at www.rhotkealumni.org and:

1. Search for your big brother and little brothers(s) on the site. Click the [Alumni Search](#) link on the top right of the screen. Either send them a "What's Up?" email right now or pick up the phone and give-a-call. If you have fresher contact information than the database, update the database with their new information.
2. Pay your low annual Alumni Dues. On the Alumni Site you'll find a PayPal icon that will help with on-line payment. If you prefer more traditional methods of payment, mail a \$20 check to "Tau Kappa Epsilon Rho Chapter Board of Control, Inc." care of Sam Cross, Treasurer, 4104 Valleyfield Drive, Unit. #5, Silver Spring, MD 20906
3. Make plans to attend an Alumni Event with three of your closest TKE friends. WVU Homecoming (October) and Red Carnation Ball (April) are two certain events, and look for other events in upcoming announcements.

The Association is well-formed, it's easy and inexpensive to join, and doesn't take too much time from your busy schedule (unless you want it too). There's nothing to it, and it would be great to see you and your old crew at the next event.

Yours in the Bond,

Scott Chatelain P693

Alumni Association President

Budget & Finance

We, the officers of the Rho Chapter Alumni Association, feel that it is fundamentally important to fully disclose the goals, operations, finances, and other workings of the Rho Chapter Alumni Association. We feel that this is important in establishing our organizational legitimacy and in gaining the faith of all Rho Chapter Alumni. We are, after all, all members of "The Fraternity For Life."

With that said, the following is a summary of the Alumni Association's operating budget for the 2006 fiscal year through 8/15/06. As we are starting from a zero balance in the first year of our "re-organization" the main focus of the budget is the establishment of the defined funds. This year's budget is skewed to route a larger percentage of the donations into the Associations Operations Fund and the Social Fund so that we can make a better showing and push for membership. Just as with the undergraduate chapter, recruitment is the lifeblood of the alumni association. Future budgets will skew the larger percentage of the donations to other funds such as Housing, Scholarship, or Chapter Donation.

You will also find a listing of all donating Fraters along with a ranking of their generosity. Think of this as the Rho Chapter Alumni Association Wall of Fame.

Budget & Wall of Fame

<http://www.rhotkealumni.org/dues/budget.xls>

Please feel free to contact me at tkep1001@hotmail.com if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns regarding the finances of the Rho Chapter Alumni Association.

Yours in the Bond,

Sam R. Cross, P1001

Alumni Association Treasurer

Scholarship

The scholarship is a great way to recognize the recipient's hard work and dedication, and is a great tool that our chapter can use to bring in top pledges and win support from their parents. Since 2001 a few alumni have gotten together and started issuing two memorial scholarships. One named for Robert Butcher and the other named for Phillip Tennant. Some alumni have volunteered to donate out of their pockets at each RCB so we can give these scholarships. Other alumni have been sending donations to nationals so we can establish a "named" scholarship fund.

In December 2005 the scholarship fund at Nationals finally reached \$5000, which is minimum account balance before distributions are allowed, so we now can begin to give out awards from the fund in the names of the recipients.

Thanks to alumni donations, as of August 28, 2006, we had reached a balance of \$6000. Our goal for this year is to raise an additional \$2000 by July, 2007 bringing our fund total to a little over \$8000. To see a list of past scholarship recipients and scholarship fund donors, check out the link below.

In terms of what this means to our Active TKE's, over the past six years we awarded each recipient \$150.00. But I'd like to be able to give a more substantive amount in future years. I have a goal to give \$250 awards to two recipients at the RCB in April 2007, and eventually giving two \$500 awards. One of the requirements of the national's scholarship fund is that we can only give out 10% of what is in it each year, so to reach the goal of two \$500 awards we need scholarship donations. We as alumni should take pride in supporting scholarship and creating something that is long lasting and meaningful to current and future Teke's.

The \$2000 April 2007 goal is an easy target to meet if each Rho TKE Alumni donates just \$10 or \$20. As Scholarship Chairman, I can assure you that your scholarship donations are going 100% to Rho TKE scholarship, and nothing else. For your assurance, you can send your donation directly to nationals, at Tau Kappa Epsilon, 8645 Founders Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Mail your check out to "The Rho Chapter Scholarship Fund". Alternatively, you can pay on the www.rhotkealumni.org website using PayPal, or you can send a check to Sam Cross, the Rho TKE Alumni Treasurer.

Scholarship Recipients & Scholarship Fund Donors

<http://www.rhotkealumni.org/scholarship/scholarship.xls>

To sum this report up, lets all as alumni step up and make this project happen.

Yours In The Bond,

Gary Nolan Welch-Bass II, P775

Scholarship Chairman

P.S. If you wish to mail a donation to the fund at Nationals, print out the donation slip at the end of the newsletter, detach it, fill it out and send it to nationals.

House & Chapter Update

Rush starts the last week of August and the actives anticipating 25-30 pledges based upon informal rush meetings held so far. If 25 pledges were to go through, it would bring the total chapter active count up to 65, which is a very solid number (ranking us in the top 5 largest out of 16). There are approximately 16 actives living in the house currently. Actives and alumni alike worked together on a beginning of the year housing clean-up that culminated in an almost week long effort to improve both the interior and the exterior of the house.

In an effort to play a more active role in current and future chapter housing needs the alumni association has assisted in the lease review and revision process, coordinated house renovations and started a preliminary housing committee consisting of Joe Janosik, Bill Lude and Matt Brady. Discussions on solidifying and scaling the housing committee will take place at the next alumni meeting at the house, scheduled for Homecoming weekend. See details regarding dates and times in the events section below.

The alumni association has been very active in facilitating many renovation projects at the House. In particular, Joe Janosik P.891 has made numbers trips to Morgantown to work with the chapter and the landlord to insure that needed repairs are being completed in a timely manner. The most recent renovations to the house include remodeled bathrooms on both the 3rd Floor and the 2nd Floor, where the main living quarters are. New showers, sinks and toilets have all been installed. The alumni association was instrumental in facilitating this work with the landlord and demonstrates the importance of a good working relationship between all parties involved.

We will continue to work on upcoming projects such as repairs to the roof and drive way. We are currently in the process of assessing needed smaller repairs to the house that the alumni can help to fundraise for and repair. Updates on future projects will be posted in the next newsletter.

The Alumni Association is planning a "House Improvement Day" on Friday Oct. 13th of Homecoming weekend. Alumni and Actives will be working on projects around the TKE house including repairing walls, painting, putting shelves in closets, etc.. The goal of the event will be to complete projects which require minimal time, but have high impact. House Improvement Day will start at 9am Friday morning and will continue until the Alumni Association BBQ at the house at 5pm. If you are interested in participating or have old supplies around your house that you could donate for the event (i.e. old gallons of paint, brushes, trays, rollers, spackle, 2 x 4's, etc..) or would like to participate in the event, please email Joe Janosik (joejanosik@hotmail.com) and/or Matt Brady (mattbrady7@yahoo.com). Also, if you would like to donate funds to help purchase supplies, please contact Sam Cross (tkep1001@hotmail.com) or make a donation online at <http://www.rhotkealumni.org/dues/dues.htm> and specify "Home Improvement Day" in the memo section.

Upcoming Events

Homecoming 2006

Homecoming will be the weekend of October 13th-15th. The West Virginia Mountaineers will be taking on Syracuse on Sat. Oct. 14th, 2006 at noon. Below are the events planned:

Friday Evening:

5pm to 9pm - Alumni Association hosted BBQ at TKE House (692 North High Street).

9pm to 11pm - Alumni Association meeting and Fraternity for Life Ceremony. For those that can't attend the meeting in person, you can join via conference call by dialing 1-641-297-5800 and using access code: 692692.

Saturday Morning:

7am to 12pm - Alumni and Chapter tailgate behind the student section side of Mountaineer Field on Willow Rd. At gravel lot near Chateau Royal Apartment entrance (where old Tailgater's/Press box bar was located).

Click to see [Tailgate Lot Location](#).

12pm - Kick Off.

So that we can have an accurate headcount for the cookout at the house on Friday and the tailgate Saturday, please fill out the survey below and let us know if you will be attending.

<http://www.rhotkealumni.org/survey/index.php?sid=6>

Please contact our Events Chairman Jon Auch at jonathonauch@hotmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions for upcoming events.

Regional Gatherings

Events Chairman Jon Auch is in the process of coordinating regional alumni get-togethers in West Virginia,

Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. area in the coming months for folks meet and watch WVU football games with old friends and families. If you are interested in working with Jon on hosting or attending events, please email him at jonathonauch@hotmail.com. Announcements regarding future events will be coming soon.

Bowl Game 2006/2007

Hopefully we didn't just jinx the Mountaineers by writing this, but the alumni association will be involved in the coordination of any TKE events related to the bowl game (hmm..hmmm...National Championship Game) that the Mountaineers will be playing in.

RCB 2007

The alumni association and the actives have agreed upon the date of Saturday April 21st for RCB 2007 in Morgantown, WV. We highly encourage everyone to attend as it has become truly and alumni and active event. With more than 25 alumni from before and after recolonization attending the 2006 RCB with 100+ alumni and actives spanning 4 decades, we are anticipating an even larger turnout in 2007. Last years successful event was hosted and catered by Justin Byers P.967 in the private banquet area of his establishment on High Street in Morgantown. We are in the process of assessing the need to change venues to host the additional people for RCB 2007, so updates on the exact site will be provided in the next newsletter.

Fundraising

Another strategic effort underway by the alumni association is the formation of a fundraising committee. The fundraising committee will work on implementing programs to support current and future housing needs, scholarship, rush and the like. The committee will work closely with the Treasurer Sam Cross and the rest of the alumni board to set goals and meet fundraising milestones.

We have already had commitments from Adam Morman and Jose Simonelli to be members of the fundraising committee and we are looking for 3-4 more alumni to step up and help out. If you are interested in being a committee member or taking a lead role and heading up the committee, please send an email to board@rhotkealumni.org.

Family History Project

It has always been a project of the Histor to keep track of the family trees of the alumni and actives alike. We have been working closely with the active officers to permanently capture this information online for everyone to access. In an effort to help our catalog of family history grow, we request that you please fill out the

Family History Form

<http://www.rhotkealumni.org/familyhistory/Family-History-Form.doc>

You can track the progress of the Rho TKE Family History Project by going to our homepage at <http://www.rhotkealumni.org> and clicking on the Family Tree logo or by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.rhotkealumni.org/familyhistory/familyhistory.htm>

Alumni Association Meetings

On a bi-weekly basis, the officers hold a conference call to address alumni association business. All minutes from past meetings can be reviewed at the link below.

<http://www.rhotkealumni.org/board/board.htm#minutes>

Spread The Word

We are currently only distributing this newsletter by email only, so we could use everyone's help in spreading the word about the Rho TKE Alumni Association. Please forward this e-newsletter on to any Rho TKE's that you have email addresses for. In addition for those who keep in contact with non-internet/non-email reachable TKE's, we could use your help in sending out this newsletter to three or more of your closest TKE friends. If they don't have email, please print and send via US Post. I bet they would appreciate hearing from you and from the Rho Chapter Alumni Association.

If you do receive this newsletter and have an email address we would love to hear from you. Please send us an email at alumni@rhotkealumni.org and we can get you signed up to receive future announcements and newsletters. If you don't have an email address, but updated contact information to pass along or would like to get involved by joining

the alumni association please reach out to the fraters below via phone.

Scott Chatelain – Alumni Association President (703-728-9381)

Joe Janosik – Alumni Association Membership Chair (412-855-2324)

So make plans to attend an Alumni Event with three or more of your closest TKE friends by spreading the word!

Online

- Alumni Site: www.rhotkealumni.org
- Forum Site: www.forums.tke-rho.com
- Alumni Email: alumni@rhotkealumni.org

I _____, am making a donation to "The Rho Chapter Scholarship Fund" in the amount of _____.

Mail to: Tau Kappa Epsilon
TKE Educational Foundation
8645 Founders Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46268

I _____, am making a dues and/or housing donation to "Tau Kappa Epsilon Rho Chapter Board of Control, Inc." in the amount of _____.

Mail to: Samuel R. Cross, Treasurer
14104 Valleyfield Drive
Unit. #5
Silver Spring, MD 20906

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