



TAU KAPPA EPSILON

RHO CHAPTER



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Rho TKE Alumni Newsletter First Quarter 2009

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RCAA Enters New Phase

December 2008 marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one; the historic Rho TKE house was razed. The chapter continues to thrive without a house, but by fall, Tekes will be back on the hill to maintain our 85 year history and legacy at West Virginia.

This is a fantastic time of rebirth as the Rho Chapter Alumni Association (RCAA) approaches its third year of incorporation and our active chapter adds 19 new names to our Scroll from fall rush. RCAA has been able to support chapter success by providing scholarship funds, rush banners, website design and hosting, and co-funded events.

In 2009 you'll notice a shift in RCAA objectives. We will leverage the foundational infrastructure we've built for our non-profit organization, and layer on aggressive goals for fundraising to support the active chapter.

There are several simple, but important, ways you can support RCAA in 2009: Pay dues, donate generously, and participate actively in RCAA leadership and activities. We'll outline how below. I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in 2009!

YITB, Ben Peoples, P1076, Alumni Association President

Chapter Housing



The historic TKE house is gone, long live TKE! On December 10, 2008, bulldozers and backhoes began the demolition of the TKE house at 692 North High Street to make room for a new house to be built on the site. At the moment, you'll find dirt and fencing where the house used to be.

Plans are under way to build a new facility to house 33 Tekes. It is projected that the unit will be erected between January and July 2009, and will be ready for occupancy by the start of school this August.

The specifications are as follows:

- Located on similar footprint as old property except 8' wider
- 33 bedrooms
- Individual bathroom in each bedroom
- Individual heating / AC in each bedroom
- New sprinkler and fire safety systems
- Kitchen and laundry facilities
- Expanded outside patio area in the front

Active Tekes have already begun signing leases, along with their parents, and are on track to have full occupancy in the house for next year. There will be no University involvement in the operations of the property but the chapter and alumni association, via the Board of Advisors, will work in concert to address any payment issues, disciplinary issues, review and monitor the chapter budget, and enforce monthly house inspections.

The construction has been privately funded and RCAA is establishing concrete monetary goals and strategies to purchase the TKE house within five-years. The chapter needs your help! Please see the fundraising section of the newsletter for more details on how you can support the housing project.

[Click to see more demolition photos](#)

Share your favorite memory of living (or partying) in the TKE house. Click to go to TKEbook.com

As more details and progress photos become available I will pass them along.

YITB, Matt Brady, P.945, Housing Chairman

Donation Campaigns

We have two sets of financial goals for the next few years: The “5-year goal” and the “quicker turn-around”.

The TKE house under construction is funded and owned by TKE alumnus, Justin Byers. Justin has stated his intention to transfer ownership, and sell the house to the Rho Chapter Housing Association within five years. Our “5-year goal” is to raise \$100,000 for the down payment of a house for the active chapter. We will aspire to collect \$20,000 per year between now and 2014.

At the same time, Tekes will be living in a new house this fall that needs furnishing for the common areas. RCAA will be raising money for lower cost items with a shorter goal-date. The first goal will be stackable chairs and folding tables to give every member a seat in the chapter room for chapter meetings. This goal, for example, has a \$3800 price tag, and we hope to raise the money by Red Carnation Ball in April.

Look for an email in early February to launch the campaigns. After that, we’ll send twice-monthly updates on progress toward goals.

Donate Toward Goals

Financial donations can be made easily through [Paypal](#) in the same manner that dues are paid. There you will have the opportunity to earmark where you would like your donation to be applied.

To donate now using Pay Pal or Check, click “[Dues & Donations](#)” to go to the Rho TKE Alumni website.

Donate Skills, Connections, or Décor

An alternative way to help is by donating your services, experience, product discounts, or gently-used furniture.

- Skilled wood-workers: Help build a pub bar, benches, or furniture.

- Furniture or electronics professionals: Offer discounts or find clearance bargains.
- Decks and patios builders: Volunteer services and/or materials for the new house.
- Landscapers: If you are a skilled landscaper, have access to plants, or just love the outdoors, TKE will need landscaping services.
- Furniture owners: If you have furniture you'd consider donating, hold on to it! We'll need it at the end of the summer when the house is complete.

There are many ways to donate skills, connections, or décor – only a few which are mentioned here, but all are greatly appreciated.

To offer services, skills or discounts, send an email to: officers@rhotkealumni.org.

Donate Leadership: Run for Office

In the coming years, RCAA's greatest asset will be continued effective leadership. Your small donation of time will keep the alumni association running strong. You will benefit from the experience of running an emerging non-profit organization.

Nominations for RCAA officer positions begin in February for the April 2009-2010 term. A voting ballot will be sent to all alumni in March, and election results will be revealed in early April.

- All officer positions are available
- All Rho Chapter TKE Alumni (and transfers) are eligible.
- No experience necessary and no geographic restrictions (virtual team).

Filling the positions of: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Events Chair, Fundraising Chair, Housing Chair, Membership Chair, and Scholarship Chair.

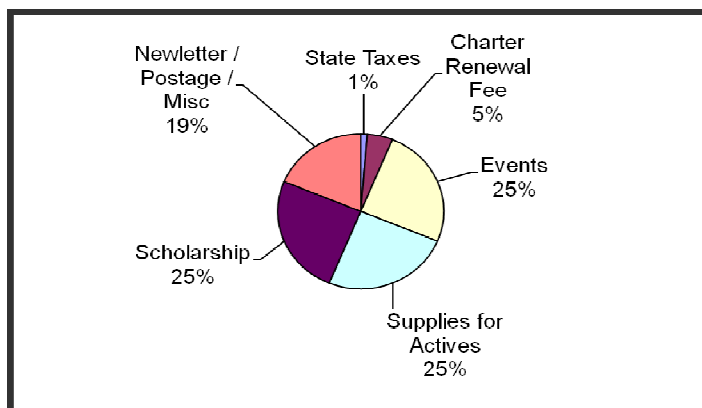
Nominate yourself or other TKE leaders to be on the 2009-10 officer ballot. Send an email to: officers@rhotkealumni.org.

Officer [roles & responsibilities](#) are posted on the Rho TKE Alumni web site.

Pay Dues in April

Just \$20 a year helps RCAA sponsor events and keeps the organization running. April is the month all annual dues are collected for the fiscal year of April 2009-2010.

If you are a WVU TKE alumni or transfer, please consider becoming and RCAA member this year by sending your \$20 donation. Your membership pays for: alumni events, the scholarship funds, chapter support, alumni communication and mail campaigns to find alumni.



While joining or renewing your membership, add a \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$1000 donation to your dues payment to help RCAA reach its housing and scholarship goals.

To pay dues now using Pay Pal or Check, click "[Dues & Donations](#)" to go to the Rho TKE Alumni website.

* For Paypal add 1.25 for services charge.

* For checks, make out "Tau Kappa Epsilon Rho Chapter Board of Control, Inc." and send to Daniel Long, 2565 Cornelia Rd. Apt. 403, Herndon, VA 20171

Next Alumni Event: RCB

All Rho Chapter Alumni are encouraged to attend the Red Carnation Ball (RCB) on April 18, 2009 held in downtown Morgantown at De Lazy Lizard. Three years running we've had tremendous alumni turn out and look forward to another special event.

Registration and cost information will come in February. In the mean time, here are the answers to some frequently asked questions:

Q: *I'm not so into the debauchorous bar scene anymore (not like I was). Is RCB that?*

A: No. Dinner is served in a refined reception hall. Drinks are served throughout the evening. Debauchery is optional and historically has been very limited. It's a class act.

Q: *Will I be "the old dude" among 100 college kids?*

A: Slim chance. The pattern has been half-alumni, half-actives. You should feel right at home amongst the other "old dudes". Odds are 250:1 that *someone else* is the oldest and you are the median.

Q: *Will my college-buddies be there?*

A: Maybe. Why not invite them and make it happen? And even not, you will walk away from RCB knowing ten other brothers that you like so much more than your college friends.

Q: *Where will I stay?*

A: Hotel Morgan is steps away, and the Waterfront Place is nice and only a short walk. Contact Hotel Morgan at 304-292-8200 and Waterfront Place at 304-296-1700 for rates and availability. I'm sorry, but the couches at the TKE house are not available for you to "crash" at this time.

Online Social Networks

The West Virginia Rho TKE Alumni Association has one of the most searched "TKE Alumni" websites on Google, and has a well-kept alumni address database.

Here are several ways to connect with your alumni TKE brothers:

Rho Chapter Web site

www.rhoTKEalumni.org

Find alumni association news, find brothers' addresses, pay dues, view pictures, get event information, read past newsletters, and more.

TKE Book

www.tkebook.com

Register free on this Rho TKE-built social networking site. This site provides community forums, party and rush schedules, a career board, housing information, and other great networking tools to help you navigate your undergraduate career, and beyond.

Facebook

www.facebook.com

Register free on this social networking site to keep up with your friends, including TKE alumni. Post pictures, tell people what you've been up to, and invite friends to join your network.

Linked-Inwww.linkedin.com

Register free on this professional networking site to promote your professional experience, search for friends or jobs. Invite friends to join your network. While there, join the “Rho TKE Alumni” group list.

Regional Emails

Send emails to all Tekes in your regional area using one email address to; organize local events, build local membership, support your local NFL, NBA, NHL teams, organize road trips to Morgantown events.

Morgantown.alumni@rhotkealumni.orgGreaterwv.alumni@rhotkealumni.orgDC.alumni@rhotkealumni.orgBaltimore.alumni@rhotkealumni.orgPhillynyc.alumni@rhotkealumni.orgPittsburgh.alumni@rhotkealumni.orgSoutheast.alumni@rhotkealumni.org

Happy 2009, and see you in April at the Red Carnation Ball.