

Fall 2011

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President's Message

Jared Riel, P1045
RCAA President

It's hard to believe, but it is that time of year again! A new school year has begun and the Rho Chapter Alumni Association (RCAA) has set some ambitious yet attainable goals. There are many exciting things happening in the TKE world this year and we are happy to bring them to you.

First and foremost, the new house has been fully operational for quite some time and it is a sight to behold. A lot of alumni have already seen it, but if you have not it is definitely worth checking out. The active brothers have expressed their willingness and want for alumni visits and interaction, so feel free to make a trip to Morgantown and enjoy/indulge yourself.

The RCAA will be working with the active brothers to plan numerous events this year giving alumni multiple opportunities to get together. In addition to RCB and our annual Homecoming tailgate festivities (see below for details); we will be adding a number of other events so stay tuned in the upcoming months!

The active chapter has continued its success with regard to recruitment and campus awards. However, they are not yet satisfied and are

working hard to reach even higher heights. The new school year has also started well for the alumni association and we plan to continue that trend. We have redefined some goals and are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead of us. Much of our success this year will rely on you, the alumni, so please get involved!

Check out the RCAA website (www.rhotkealumni.org) for more information about the active chapter, alumni association, and homecoming plans. As always, I look forward to seeing you all at Homecoming.

Let's Go Mountaineers!

Active Chapter Update

Eric Bechtel, P1149
Active President

Dear Fraters,

Rho chapter is going to have a highly successful 2011-2012 school year. The active officers have already been working hard to set goals, as well as create a positive overall morale within the fraternity. There is no doubt that we will be able to succeed as a chapter in accomplishing the following goals:

- Increase alumni involvement, participation, and events.

- Recruit at least 15 good men in the Fall and at least 8 in the spring
- Raise enough money to decorate the new TKE house
- Cut chapter accounts payables in half by end of Fall semester
- Leave chapter with a minimum \$5,000 going into next year

For every goal, we have a specific plan of action that will be carried out by the officers and the chapter. We have created new techniques and ideas that have not been implemented in Rho chapter in recent years. The excitement is palpable.

While the school year is still young, it is already proving to be successful. On August 20th, we held our annual Beach Party. We had well over 1,000 people in attendance and a line that stretched down the street (luckily, it blocked our view of Sigma Chi). Frater James Brunet was able to acquire sponsorships from companies such as Captain Morgan, Bookholders, Student City, and Karmaloop.com.

Rush is right around the corner. Between the 61 active brothers, we have created a list of rushes, and will probably end up with approximately 15-20 pledges on September 23rd. One of the

potential rushes is a legacy as he is the great grandson of past Grand-Prytanis Tex Flynt!

Homecoming is also only a few weeks away, and we are preparing for alumni arrival. The TKE hotel will be open for business! This program is great for helping many actives pay their dues and benefiting the fraternity as a whole. I highly recommend signing up as there are limited spaces and most Morgantown hotels are already booked. Also, there will be a special announcement during the Homecoming alumni meeting regarding this year's RCB! Hope to see you there!

Housing Update:

Matt Brady, P945, Housing Chairman

Status, Improvements and Call To Action

In my last housing update I outlined that the TKE House at 692 North High Street had been sold to Mike Pinion, a real estate broker and business owner in Morgantown. In addition to the change in ownership, I shared that the new landlord was in the process of executing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with West Virginia University to manage the day to day operations of the property. An MOU means the University would be responsible for all rent collection, property

maintenance and residential services. If you missed the last update in the Winter/Spring Newsletter it can be found here:

<http://www.rhotkealumni.org/home/bin/view.cgi/Alumni/LatestNewsletter>

Status Update:

Since the house changed ownership earlier this year things have been going well. No major landlord-tenant or university related concerns have arisen. Although the MOU with the University has yet to be finalized, the new landlord made improvements to the main gathering area of the house (ground floor) including completing the laundry room areas, adding new washers/dryers and painting hallways and walls. Finishing touches were put on the exterior of the house including improvements to the porch and walkway in front of the property. The chapter seems to be accepting the change in ownership quite well which says a lot about the current group of young men we have in our active chapter!

Improvement Opportunities

Anyone that has been to the TKE House in recent years knows the creation of our 33 bedroom property was a huge undertaking. Justin Byers P967 went above and beyond in building the residential

foundation for the future of Rho Chapter. There is still more work to be done though.

The currently landlord is looking to partner with the alumni association to maintain and enhance 692 North High Street. As of now, the four level property doesn't have a chapter room to display composite pictures, awards or Rho chapter memorabilia. The landlord is willing to build the walls, doors, flooring necessary to create a chapter room and TV lounge area on the main level of the house if alumni and chapter can furnish both areas. Currently the main floor of the house is one large, semi-finish room with no real functional purpose.

Required furnishings include items such as tables, chairs, couches, book cases, trophy cases and benches. The estimated value of funds and new goods required is \$5000. If you interested in donating money, new goods or services in support of furnishing a chapter room/TV lounge please reach out to Gary Bass P775 (wbaspp775tke@msn.com) or Matt Brady P945 (mattbrady7@gmail.com).

If you recall when the new house first opened, thanks to generous alumni donations, we successful raised \$2000 to provide the chapter with 75 folding chairs and 3 folding tables so the chapter could hold meetings under roof instead of

at the Mountainlair. The chapter is still using those chairs and tables today!

Call To Action: Housing Corporation Creation

Many of us don't have Facebook accounts but those of us that do and are members of the Rho Chapter Alumni Association Facebook Group, or those who read the recent email I sent regarding a [Rho TKE Facebook Group Discussion](#) started by Gary Bass P775, are aware of an RCAA initiative to form a Housing Corporation. The goal of the initiative is to scope, define and form a cross-generational Rho Chapter Housing Corporation to take ownership of the current TKE House at 692 North High Street. Below is summary of Facebook discussion:

[Gary Welch-Bass](#)

"I had dinner tonight with WVU officials and other Greek Alumni and it was a good time. Private issue about the TKE house: According to our landlord's accountant the landlord is in over his head. Ron Justice (WVU Dir. of Student Orgs) told me that the landlord has approached WVU about buying the TKE house, but that's not really what WVU wants to do. WVU would like us to form a serious Housing Corporation that would buy the TKE house. Ron Justice said that WVU would finance the Housing Corporation in this matter. So it

would be nice if we could all talk about this and even better if we could get some input from older alumni prior to the 1980's. YITB"

Subsequent conversations with the landlord revealed there are no current plans to sell 692 North High St. and he is actually looking to partner with alumni to maintain and enhance the house. He stated if he was to sell the property he would approach the alumni first before doing so. Comparing the comments of the landlord with those of the accountant/university there should be cause for concern around our chapter's residential stability.

Whether purchasing the house is a mid or long term goal, having an alumni housing corporation in place TODAY makes a lot of sense. Responsibilities of the housing corporation would include: Assisting the chapter with leases negotiations, landlord-tenant issues, university relations and future purchase planning.

CALL TO ACTION: We are looking for alumni seasoned in the business, legal, financial and/or commercial real estate professions to collaborate, create and own a cross-generational Rho Chapter Housing Corporation!

There have been various levels of public and private interest so far. If you are interested in participating and/or have

thoughts to share feel free to reply all or reach out to Gary Bass P775 (wbasp775tke@msn.com) or Matt Brady P945 (mattbrady7@gmail.com).

Alumni Homecoming Events

*Eric Dinger, P1047
Events Chair*

Friday

8:00pm All-Alumni Meeting
TKE House

9:15pm TKE BBQ TKE House

11:00pm After Hours High
Street

Saturday

10:00am TKE Alumni Tailgate
WVU Blue Parking Lot Near The
Residence Inn. Look for a TKE
and WVU Flags

3:30pm Game WVU-Bowling
Green Mountaineer Field

10:00pm After Hours TBD

Alumni Meeting and BBQ

All TKE Alumni are invited to join the RCAA Semi-Annual meeting on Friday night 8:00pm at the TKE house at 692 North High Street in the basement. Following the meeting we'll join the actives for a BBQ. Join us.

Homecoming Tailgate

Following the success of last Homecoming's Alumni Tailgate, TKE Alumni and Parents will conduct a catered tailgate close to the stadium and away from the mayhem of the Active Chapter's one (although if you're into mayhem, you're welcome to attend the Active Chapter's tailgate too). Find the TKE alumni in WVU's Blue Lot before the game. Look for TKE colors being displayed (crimson lake cherry red and pure silver gray). Alumni, parents and families are welcome.

TKE Hotel

The TKE Hotel Fundraiser is an opportunity for you to stay at the TKE house for homecoming weekend. If you haven't seen the new house, it a nice set-up and each room has its own bathroom. The actives are sponsoring the TKE Hotel fundraiser and the funds go toward the individual brother's dues and the Chapter. If you would like to participate please contact Dan Long (rldlong0051@hotmail.com).

There are limited rooms available, and reservations are "first come, first serve". You are not guaranteed a room until reservation is made with Frater Long and he receives your payment. Preferred payment methods are by check or Paypal. No Saturday or post-game payments will be accepted, if paying in person, Friday September 30, is the last day for

payment. Please remember to be respectful of the rooms so this program can continue in the future. Actives have right of refusal based upon alumni actions in past years of the program.

Levels:

1. Single Room for Weekend (2 nights, guest permitted) \$200
2. Shared Room for Weekend (2 nights, Alumni paired with Active) \$100

Treasurer's Note

*Dan Long, P1065
Treasurer*

Alumni Association dues are at \$25 for 2011 -2012 Year with the option to donate more if desire:

Benefits Include:

- Special Rate to the annual Red Carnation Ball
- Homecoming Tailgate with Food in the Green Lot (Tailgate spot in Green Lot for all other Home Games, see Gary Bass to coordinate)
- Cookouts at the New TKE House prior to Homecoming and RCB
- Newsletters from Assoc with Chapter/Event updates

Three Funds:

General Fund – This pays our National Alumni Assoc Fee plus other fees, Events, Active Chapter improvements (Rush Banner, Chair/Tables, Paint), website, and newsletter costs.

Scholarship Fund – This goes to Rho Chapter General, Robert Butcher Memorial, or Phillip Tennant Memorial Scholarship Fund and each year two active Fraters are awarded.

House Fund – These funds are strictly used to help the actives make improvements to the House. Even though they have a new House there are a lot of things that still be done.

One of the main things the alumni can help is furnishing the Basement since currently bare and open.

To pay dues please visit the site below for instructions:
<http://www.rhotkealumni.org/home/bin/view.cgi/Alumni/DuesAndDonations>

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Membership

Bill Lude, P990

Membership Chair

As the seasons change and the years rolling we get preoccupied with a lot on our minds. We have careers and businesses to run, families with wives and kids to

attend to, and many other activities take up all of our time. However wouldn't it be nice to have a temporary escape of our daily lifestyles for only 2 weekends per year? One in the Spring (RCB) and one in the Fall (Homecoming). We understand if you can only make one per year or every other year if that. Remember your days when you were an active TKE. The carefree days of living when your few concerns were when your next test in class was, what your girlfriend was doing, or where you're going to party on any given day. Ah, the good old days. Although we cannot turn back the clock but we can surely wind it up again.

Fellow Fraters we are only asking for an average of 7 cents per day (\$25.00 per year) to keep your annual membership in the Rho TKE Alumni Association. A budget will be broken down of where your dollar goes too. Our alumni support is vital to the current status and future status of our chapter. Just think back when you were an active and put yourselves in our actives shoes you were preached TKE IS FOR LIFE. Weather or not you can attend the semi annual alumni functions in Morgantown; your support is needed and well appreciated from your fellow TKE's active and alumni. Just only \$25 per year is all we are asking. We understand that not all alumni will be able to make every function, but when you're

wrapped up in your daily life routines think about your opportunity to escape and experience the good vibrations of Morgantown for a weekend or 2 per year.

Scholarship Report

Gary Bass, P775

Scholarship Chair

First of all thank you to those Fraters that donated to our scholarship fund either at the local level or by going through Internationals for the 2010-2011 year. We now have over \$10,000 in the Rho Chapter Scholarship Fund at Internationals and a small reserve at the local level. This year at RCB we again were able to give out two scholarship awards, and makes 11 years of doing that. The undergrads that receive them are always very happy.

This year so far our donations are down so I'm asking you to step up and when you pay your alumni dues you also kick in another \$25.00 to the scholarship fund. We need to carry this program on for years to come. Last year we had 24 alumni send in donations and they will have their names and scroll #'s engraved on a plaque that will hang at the TKE house in the future. Currently I keep the plaque at my house. This year 2011-2012 lets try to bet the 24 Fraters that donated last year.

You can either send in your donations to Dan Long (alumni treasurer) by either check or paypal, or send a check to me. If sending it, contact me first so I know and I will send you my address information.