



Delta Delta Property Association of Sigma Nu Fraternity
19 Colonnade Way, Suite 117 #239
State College, PA 16803
www.sigmanu-psu.org

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

SUPPORT FOR RE-COLONIZATION

Based upon its agreement with Penn State, the General Fraternity (aka National) expects the re-colonization process to begin as soon as the 2021-2022 academic year. The General Fraternity will be largely responsible for this effort supplying a full-time project manager and a team of recruiters on campus for an extended period. Support of Delta Delta alumni will be needed.

To this end, Brothers Bob Nelson, ΔΔ916, Lane Kintigh, ΔΔ1156, and Mike Sweeney, ΔΔ1220, held an initial planning meeting on November 17, 2018. The first order of business will be the formation of a new Alumni Advisory Board (AAB). The results of this meeting were forwarded to the General Fraternity.

Our support of re-colonization will not come without a price tag. We urge you to consider donating to this cause. By contributing to Delta Delta, you're investing in a new future, a future where Brothers of the highest caliber will be able to enjoy and benefit from the same Sigma Nu experience you once enjoyed. Think about the lifelong lessons, friends, and skills you obtained at Sigma Nu, the ones that made you who you are today. It's a future worth investing in, and we appreciate your consideration as we move forward. It only takes a moment to make a gift and, large or small, its impact will be felt immediately as we continue to work toward a new and bright future for our beloved Sigma Nu.

Our re-colonization fund now stands at \$5,250 with the following donations since May 2018:

<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Number (ΔΔ)</u>	<u>Level</u>
Mike & Karen Sweeney	1220	Founder Level (\$500+)
Gary Gleason	1247	Founder
Lane & Margaret Kintigh	1156	Founder
Robert Brunner	1077	Legion of Honor (\$250 - \$499.99)
Bob & Becky Nelson	916	Legion of Honor
William Hibler	721	Knight (\$100 - \$249.99)
Jeffery York	1074	Rock Club (\$50 - \$99.99)

Using the form at the end of this newsletter, please send your donations to

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All those who donate a cumulative amount of \$50.00 or more will be commemorated on a plaque to be mounted in the foyer after we re-populate the Chapter House.

IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR THE CHAPTER HOUSE

Our new tenant, the Evans Scholars Foundation (ESF), has been meeting with contractors to finalize its plans for renovation. All ESF improvements require prior Association approval. We met with ESF and its contractor on April 9 to discuss these plans. Because these plans haven't been finalized, we'll include specifics in our next newsletter. In addition, new furnishings purchased by ESF have begun to arrive. As for Association funded improvements, the renovation of the third-floor bathroom has been completed. In addition, we have an estimate for replacing the nine 1925-vintage windows in the kitchen and commissary. Association funded summer work includes cleaning out the House Mother's Suite and some interior storage closets, painting the remainder of the roof trim, repairing the exterior front flood lights, and scoping additional exterior lighting to enhance security.

ANNUAL ALUMNI MEETING

The annual meeting of the Association, required by our bylaws, was held by telephone conference at 7:30 PM on October 7, 2018. Agenda topics included the approval of an amendment to our bylaws to incorporate administrative changes needed as a result of the suspension of the Collegiate Chapter's charter, officer and director elections, and a brief report by Brother Nelson. A meeting report was prepared and distributed. Please contact Brother Nelson at nelsonnittany@aol.com if you want a copy.

ALUMNI BOARD OF RECEIVERS

As previously reported, the General Fraternity established an Alumni Board on Receivers (ABR) in February 2017, with a term originally extending to May 31, 2018. The General Fraternity later extended the ABR's term through May 31, 2019 or sooner, should the ABR determine that dissolution of the receivership is appropriate. After supervising the payment of remaining Collegiate Chapter bills and resolving other Collegiate Chapter financial commitments, approximately \$2,550 remained in the Collegiate Chapter's account. With the General Fraternity's concurrence, this amount was transferred to the Property Association's savings account with this amount added to the re-colonization fund. Acting on the ABR's recommendation, the General Fraternity dissolved the ABR on February 4, 2019.

ARE YOU ON OUR LIST?? – SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

HOW TO REGISTER AT OUR ALUMNI WEB SITE: Engage with your oldest and dearest friends, send us your news that we can share, and keep abreast of developments impacting the future of Delta Delta. To add your contact info to the Delta Delta alumni database and keep in touch with all that's happening: (1) Go to www.sigmanu-psu.org (2) in the upper right-hand corner of the site, click on the blue "Help" button; (3) on the Contact Support page, enter your name (no nicknames, please) and your e-mail address; (4) for the drop-down Category menu, select "New Member Registration"; (5) under Message, state that you are an alum of the Penn State chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. We strongly suggest that you also provide your grad year, initiate number, and US Postal Service address. Finally, Complete the Anti-Spam Security and click send. After verifying your membership, web site support will send you login info by e-mail. Then, you can login and complete your profile. Hope this helps!

GET CONNECTED

We have restricted membership groups on both Facebook and LinkedIn to which we routinely post updates. If you use either of these social media platforms, search for "Sigma Nu Delta Delta Chapter" on Facebook or "Sigma Nu, Delta Delta Alumni" on LinkedIn and request to become a member of the group(s).

STATUS OF GREEK LIFE AT PENN STATE

The following assessment was developed from on-line sources and input from, and interviews with, individuals closely involved with Greek life at Penn State.

There are 43 fraternities (3 Co-ed), with 36 in the Inter-Fraternity Council and 27 sororities consisting of 12% of the undergraduate student body. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) has 11 staff positions in OFSL with two posted vacancies; the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Compliance (OFSC) has eight positions. OFSL has implemented many new programs including mandatory pre- and post- recruitment training in alcohol abuse, hazing, sexual assault, bystander intervention, mental health and good citizenship. OFSL conducts mandatory new member (i.e., pledge) program reviews with 68 evaluated in fall 2018. Optional training, open to the public, is also offered. OFSL will sponsor a four-hour workshop on April 28 for Alumni House Corporation members and advisors. Two Delta Delta alumni will attend to cover both tracks.

OFSL is encouraging fraternities to meet with first semester freshman to build a prospect list for immediate use when the spring formal recruitment period begins. Although fraternities still can't "rush" first semester freshman (i.e., freshmen with less than 14 completed credits), they are free to schedule open houses and other similar informational and familiarization activities to inform anyone of what they have to offer. Fraternities are being encouraged to do so early in the fall semester before housing commitments are made for the next year.

OFSC had a very rocky start in the beginning and we saw chapters getting into conduct issues that probably never should have escalated to that point. Now that they have established themselves and have a set of best practices to operate from, we are seeing less issues. We have noticed an increase in their willingness to work with chapters to resolve issues without resulting to sanctions. Minor infractions are addressed but not punished unless they become a reoccurring problem. Four fraternities have a suspension ending this spring and one extends through the spring of 2022. The house corporation of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, with its chapter's suspension ending this spring, has chosen to rent its house (corner of Pugh & Beaver) to a sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma, for a three-year term with alumni use of the first floor during the summer break. In January, OFSL reported a 22% decrease in incidents cited by the Borough.

Recruitment is improving. Summary: Fall 18: Average of 10 bids accepted per 36 IFC chapters, average GPA of new members was 3.2; Spring 19: 16 and 3.3.

The all fraternity GPA for fall 18 was 3.13 compared to 3.11 for all independent men.

Other developments: Pi Lambda Phi recently has sold or is selling its house with the first right to rent it for its residence. Phi Kappa Tau is recolonizing this semester and will start anew in Fall '19 in their house. IFC held a spring brunch at Lambda Chi Alpha on March 31 as part of its neighborhood outreach program.

Today's Greek recruits continue to see the advantages of membership, such as:

- Finding a support group that helps with adjusting to college life
- Gaining access to resources that help students achieve their academic goals
- Learning leadership skills through hands-on experience
- Gaining confidence to get involved in other campus organizations and activities
- Dedicating time to philanthropy and community service projects (e.g., the Inter-Fraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (aka THON) raised over \$10 million this year)

Continuing concerns: (1) Delayed recruitment and push for students to move into apartments has hurt house occupancy. Living in the house is not a priority and is not as appealing as the apartments. Alumni constantly sell new members that living in a fraternity is actually less expensive than the variety of apartment options. Some houses report buy-in by their actives. (2) As long as the party and underage drinking culture is the principal focus of fraternities, seniors have little motivation to remain in fraternity houses when they can party downtown with little restriction and live in a higher quality residence. (3) In order for a chapter to be sustainable

long term, there needs to be a consistent alumni presence to hold the chapter accountable for their actions and to maintain the chapter's standards. (4) Many freshman do not see the fraternity has a life-long commitment. They plan on being involved in the fraternity primarily as a sophomore and some of their junior year. Seniors have been checking out.

Overall, the system is improving. This academic year has been viewed by some as a rebuilding year with many of the former party – party – party culture moving on or graduating. The keys to keeping upperclassmen in the fraternity houses are providing meaningful (non-alcoholic) brotherhood experiences/activities and providing a well-maintained property with good quality common area furnishings/amenities. The university and the chapters need to come to the table to decide what they would like our Greek System to look like and commit fully to achieving that vision. Both parties are making progress on this but another incident could easily undo this hard work.

IN MEMORIAM

The “In Memoriam” section of the recent *Penn Stater* magazine listed the following passings to the Chapter Eternal:

Gary F. Pauline, ΔΔ748, 10/15/18

Ted H. Wiedenman, ΔΔ558, 10/25/18

Yes! I want to support Delta Delta's Re-Colonization

Please accept my contribution of: Founder (\$500 or more) Legion of Honor (\$250 - \$499.99) Knights (\$100 - \$249.99)
 White Rose (\$75 - \$99.99) Rock Club (\$50 - \$99.99) Other (Up to \$49.99)

Total amount \$ _____

Gifts are not tax deductible.

My check is enclosed payable to: **Delta Delta Property Association**

Mail to:

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