

Minutes of the Alpha Rho Chapter Association Meeting
October 26, 2002

The Alpha Rho Chapter Association held its first meeting on Saturday, October 26, 2002, at 10:00 am in the Beeghley Library Common Area. Present (with year of graduation): Sualeha Ansari '04, Hilary Dunham '00, Lindsey Godwin '00, Robbi Helser '99, Alissa (Tweddle) Hoover '00, Sonya Kench (housemother), Traci Kennedy '01, Rebecca Kessler '01, Carrie Lippert '94, Molly (Baker) Meister '98, Karla (Chipelo) McClain '99, Mollie McCready '00, Betsy Jo Pentiuik '01, Kristen Reigler '03, Denise Sabo '00, Margaret Sullivan '03, Glenda Wucher '00.

Welcome and Introductions

Reports

- Traci Kennedy
- Purpose of the Chapter Association
 - Difference between the Chapter Association and general regional Alumnae groups
- Sualeha Ansari
- Thanked alumnae for coming and extended invitation to visit the house at 136 W. Winter St.
 - Update on Alpha Rho
 - 2 new members from informal recruitment
 - Formal recruitment is January 16-19, 2002
 - State Day is being held at Ohio Wesleyan this year on April 15, 2003 and alumnae are encouraged to attend and help where needed
- Karla McClain
- What the chapter association can do for Alpha Rho
 - Dining room curtain fundraiser went over very well; curtains are hanging in the dining room
 - Donating directly to Alpha Rho rather than Ohio Wesleyan allows you to see exactly where/for what your money is going
 - Other ways the Chapter Association can contribute to Alpha Rho include scholarships, networking, and mentoring programs
 - Scholarships could be annually or specifically in time of need
 - Contributions do not need to be monetary and alumnae can still contribute while far away
- Carrie Lippert
- Alpha Rho's stove is in very poor condition
 - Stove is a necessity:
 - Housemother uses this stove
 - Annual Panhellenic Council "Progressive Dinner" requires an efficient stove
 - Size of the stove is problem – replacing a 40" stove would cost upwards of \$1300
 - Consensus to replace stove with a standard 30" stove and extend counter/cabinet space – cost is approximately \$400 for 30" stove
 - Option – Best Buy 12 months same as cash

- Option – social/fundraiser dinner in Columbus and/or dinner gathering at the house after new stove is purchased; “shower” format reunion/fundraiser with a registry listing needed kitchen utensils could be held in conjunction
- Carrie Lippert pledged \$100 toward the new stove

Denise Sabo

- Alpha Rho website is located at www.owu.edu/~deltazee
- New website was launched recently – site was developed through www.geocities.com
 - Pros: More convenient for updating and data storage - housed on Geocities server and can be accessed from any computer with Internet access
 - Cons: Pop-up ads and limits on amount of data storage and transfer
- Option to eliminate pop-up ads and expand data storage and transfer – upgrade to \$4.95/month service
- Collegiates will look into a campus group that provides website access and support

General discussion regarding Formal Recruitment (formerly Formal Rush)

- With the growing number of Alpha Rho alumnae, too many alumnae in the house during recruitment could become a problem
- Robbi Helser volunteered her Delaware home as a gathering place for alumnae during formal recruitment; many other local alumnae also volunteered their homes for guests
- Chapter Consultant suggestion was to place alumnae in the rooms as fillers
- Alumnae responsibilities must be explained more clearly
- Chapter Association should assign an alumna to be an alumnae coordinator – coordinator would act as a liaison to the Vice-President of Recruitment and coordinate alumnae to complete specific tasks assigned by the V-P Recruitment – this would minimize alumnae/collegiate interaction so that all involved can complete their respective tasks more efficiently and without distraction
- Robbi Helser volunteered to act as the alumnae coordinator
- Suggestion – younger alumnae may be a good option to volunteer at recruitment – younger alumnae are more familiar with the active sisters and recruitment procedures, and are also closest looking in age to Potential New Members (formerly Rushees)
- Discussion regarding regulations on alumnae/potential new member interaction – only restriction is alumnae must obey strict silence rules that apply outside of the sets

General discussion regarding 150 West Winter Street

- House 3 doors west of the Alpha Rho house is on the market
- Recent chapter consultant advised that a new house is likely not an option due to low numbers and the possibility of a 6th sorority being brought to the OWU campus
- General consensus that the above factors should encourage Delta Zeta Headquarters to look into the option of purchasing a new house – building numbers is important and remaining competitive on campus is a high priority
- Current house does not compare to any of the other 4 sorority houses in size, décor, or appearance; first impressions are important and Delta Zeta consistently struggles and ranks lower in First Set return rates in comparison to all 4 other houses

- Current house is in need of many costly renovations/upgrades; Delta Zeta Headquarters has helped somewhat but Alpha Rho alumnae and the housemother have been forced to contribute both time and money to make many improvements, repairs, and purchases – ie: sidewalk, dining room curtains, stove, chapter room curtains, landscaping
- Although there have been numerous problems with the sewage system in the house, Headquarters has chosen not to make the full \$3000 repair that would end the problem for good
- Current interest rate on the mortgage may be extremely high
- General consensus that the Chapter Association should look into the situation further
 - Contact realtor for tour; look into whether house is conducive to chapter meetings, recruitment, ritual, etc.
 - Get appraisal of the current Alpha Rho house
 - Look into and compare property values and the interiors of the 4 other sorority houses
 - The situation must be approached from a financial standpoint; how would a new house be more cost-efficient for Delta Zeta Headquarters?
 - Mortgage interest rate would be lower
 - 150 W. Winter includes central air conditioning, dishwasher, side-by-side refrigerator, new stove and microwave, less than 5-year old furnace, large deck, 2 car garage/barn with loft, finished concrete driveway, and partially finished basement, all of which the current Alpha Rho house does not have
 - 150 W. Winter needs nearly zero renovation – theoretically this would allow Alpha Rho alumnae to contribute to Delta Zeta Headquarters and/or the Delta Zeta Foundation rather than specifically to Alpha Rho chapter
 - Look into Alpha Rho chapter past alumnae – big donors, past consultants, past award winners – reinforce the importance, accomplishments, and contributions of Alpha Rho chapter and alumnae

General discussion regarding forming committees

- Consensus to organize committees/committee structure through a mailing or the Alpha Rho alumnae yahoo group so that all alumnae have the ability to become involved
- Committees:
 - Recruitment
 - House Improvements
 - Fundraising
 - Special Events

Next meeting will be during Formal Recruitment Weekend – Saturday, January 18, 2002, with time and place TBA.