

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

### Phi Sigma Kappa Association

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Martin Barbato

#### Vice President

Dave Hyland

#### Treasurer

Ben Jarmul '81

#### Secretary

Joe Mazziotti

#### Board Members

Bill Albertson '73

Steve Handwerk

Matt Rose

T. Jeff McGraw

Nick Sanford

#### Advisors

Fred DeCock

Mike Nassry

#### Chapter Advisor

Matt Flynn

## LOST?



### Are You on our Lost List?

Are you getting our monthly emails, packed with news, memories and more, straight in your inbox? If not, You're missing out!

Help us fill in the blanks and add your missing contact information to our database. You'll get great stories and updates like the ones featured in each *Kappa News* newsletter.

To sign up, just send a quick note to [connect@affinityconnection.com](mailto:connect@affinityconnection.com) and let our alumni partners know to add you to the Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State alumni emailing list!

# Kappa News

[www.phisigpsu.com](http://www.phisigpsu.com)



Kappa Chapter

Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

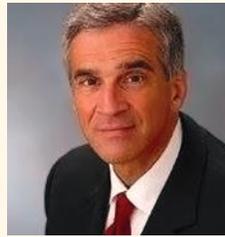
March 2019

Committed to Lifelong Learning

## CHAPTER UPDATE

### Letter from the President

3-2-19



Dear Brother,

I hope and trust that this letter finds all well with you and your family.

I am pleased to be writing to you as the new President of the Phi Sigma Kappa (Kappa Chapter) Alumni Association. This is a challenging time to take on this work, given the expected and unexpected challenges of the time. The expected challenges

include care of Kappa Mansion. The unexpected include the current (difficult) environment for fraternities in general. I believe that the Board and our Brotherhood are up to these challenges. Of course, meeting and exceeding these challenges will take proper planning and implementation. The Board looks forward to this work, and seeks your support and guidance as we move forward.

The goals/challenges we are seeking to address can be summarized as follows:

**For Alumni:** Identifying the best ways to enable and/or to support meaningful connection among Alumni, and then implementing those ways - connection being both away from the house at the various places we have scattered after leaving campus, and at the house itself.

**For Actives:** Identifying the best ways to attract new Brothers, and then implementing those ways. Attraction includes highlighting the positives of the fraternity experience, and addressing the "bad apple" impact, which has led to an increased importance on developing and growing strong community relationships (including with the University, State College, and the greater community).

**For all Brothers:** Identifying the best ways to maintain and preserve the House.

The Board has organized subcommittees to tackle these goals: Alumni, Actives, Finance, and House. Through these subcommittees, Brothers are participating in the work of Kappa Chapter without being on the Board. All meetings are held remotely, and having the input is very valuable to our efforts. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in participating on a particular sub-committee or project.

I close for now with a few words about some of our current projects. Thanks in large part to the efforts of Ben Jarmul, our Treasurer, we successfully closed on a refinance of the mortgage on the House. The balance is now below \$500,000 and we are working towards retiring this balance within the next 5-7 years. We have begun working with Affinity on improvements to the website that we think will enhance communications between the Brothers, both Alums and Actives. Lastly, the Board has taken control (☺) of the Card Room and are working on making it the Chapter Museum. We plan to store and display chapter memorabilia here, which we hope will develop into an additional reason for you to come back to visit your House.

We are all inundated with things to read. Hopefully you got this far through this message! Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in the future.

Faternally yours,

Martin

## CHAPTER EVENT

### Founders' Day Celebration is March 16<sup>th</sup>!

Join us at the Kappa chapter house for lunch, presentations and a roundtable discussion on the future of Phi Sig at Penn State.

Learn more about finances, house projects, our goals for a mentoring program and scholarship funding.

Festivities kick off at 12 noon. And we'll all learn who are the Men of The Year for 2019. Don't miss it!

Please email [fred.decock@comcast.net](mailto:fred.decock@comcast.net) to reserve your seat.

#### Other Upcoming Events

Blue-White Game – April 13 kicks off the Penn State football season. If you are up for the game, stop by the chapter house to meet the actives and run into old friends. If anyone is having a tailgate, let us know so we can meet up before and/or after the game.

#### Golf Outing in June?

We are planning to get our outing back on the books for a weekend in June, so if you want to join in the fun, let us know what weekends work best for you. Pick your weekend choices here:

<https://doodle.com/poll/yuqqvrgzbddwv37v>

#### Work Weekend - August

One of the most gratifying get-togethers is our annual Work Weekend

at 501 S. Allen St. Alums and actives prep the house for the Fall semester for a few days, and it always look great when we are done. This year's date in August is still being determined, but if you are interested in pitching in for a day or two or three, let David Hyland know ASAP: [dhyland@ecanet.com](mailto:dhyland@ecanet.com)

#### Local Kappa Meetings

Can't make any of the planned activities? We'd love to see more local events around the state and beyond held to get Kappa brothers together to keep the Bond strong. We're talking about helping to facilitate these get-togethers with "seed money" – so if that sounds intriguing, check in with Matt Rose, Jeff McGraw, Nick Sandford or Fred DeCock to learn more.

## IT'S MARCH MADNESS!

### We know you have stories to tell, so what are you waiting for?

Many of the fondest memories of our college days were following sporting events with our fraternity brothers. As the cold of winter gives way to a warmer spring, it's great to reminisce about the activities we enjoyed at this time of year during our fraternity years. March Madness was an event that united many brothers in following the contest to see who was college basketball's best team. If it was the home team, we were off the charts in rallying our support and if we didn't have a team in the hunt, we still enjoyed the games (and a pizza and an occasional beverage or two.) So many memories can crowd in at this time of year - March Madness and other spring sporting events, coping with the second half of the semester crunch and even prepping for graduation. As one school year came to an end, we remembered what we had experienced and what lay ahead.

We love to reminisce. It's great fun to remember all the memorable (and often hilarious) times we had together. To re-live those times now is to once again breathe in the sweet air of brotherhood and remember why our Kappa days were so remarkable. We often ask our members to share their stories and memories, and this time of year can conjure up



many unforgettable memories. Perhaps it was the time the whole Chapter gathered around a small screen TV to watch the Final Four (if the rabbit-ears were adjusted right); maybe it's about the all-night study session that ended in a 4 a.m. pizza run; or it could be about your last months in Kappa before graduation. With so many things to reminisce about, it is hard to decide what to share. That's why we have come up with a short set of questions to help us remember some of our best stories from this time of year and some of the things we learned and took away from our Kappa experience.

- What is your favorite memory from the Spring semester during your fraternity

years?

- What was your favorite Chapter event during the Spring semester?
- Do you still keep in touch with any brothers? Who?
- Tell us about memories tied to specific events (March madness, spring formals, graduation, etc.)?
- Do you have pictures from your fraternity days to share?

These days, thanks to our great alumni website [www.phisigpsu.com](http://www.phisigpsu.com), we can go online any time you feel like it and share your reminisces and pictures with your brothers. When you post your stories and updates to our alumni website, you may find yourself re-connecting with old friends you haven't been in touch with for years.

That's what this whole alumni program is about – engagement and connection with our oldest and dearest friends from some of the best years of our life.

Please take some time in sharing your response with us. You can email your answers and memories to [seth@affinityconnection.com](mailto:seth@affinityconnection.com) our managing editor. We want to hear from you!

# ANNUAL FUND UPDATE - A CALL TO ACTION

## Help Us Make the 2018-19 Giving Year Strong!

Our 2018/2019 giving year, which began on September 1, is half over with \$8,106.00 collected from 48 brothers. We want to thank those 48 brothers (you can find them under the Honor Roll tab at our website) who have already made a contribution to Kappa so far this giving year!

Our 2018-19 giving year goal was for \$14,000.00. Last year only 80 out of 1,026 alumni chose to make a voluntary gift. We have the potential to far exceed our goal—but we need your immediate help. Who will be next to join our 2018-2019 Honor Roll?

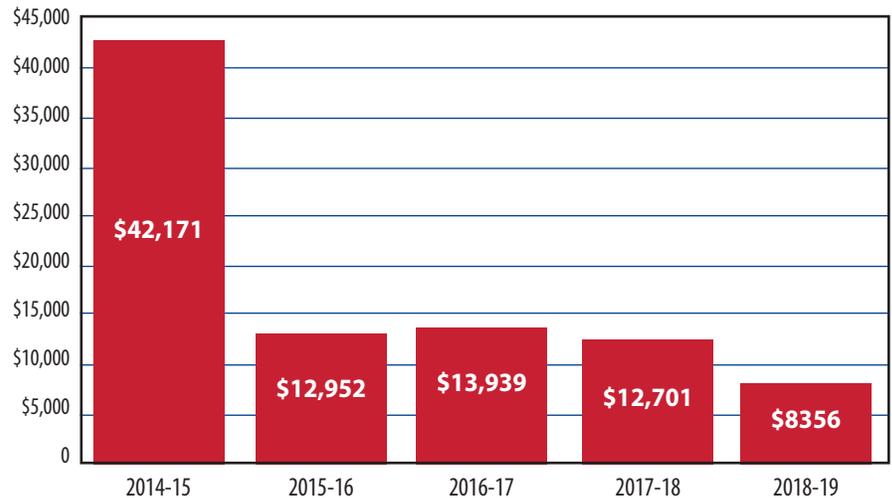
***“Many Kappa  
who graduated  
before me  
have contributed.  
Now it is my turn.”***

You can donate online by simply going to our website, [phisigpsu.com](http://phisigpsu.com) and selecting the Donate button at the top of the page. Donations can also be made through our toll-free Donation Hotline at **1-800-975-6699**, or by sending a check made payable to Phi Sigma Kappa—Kappa Chapter to:

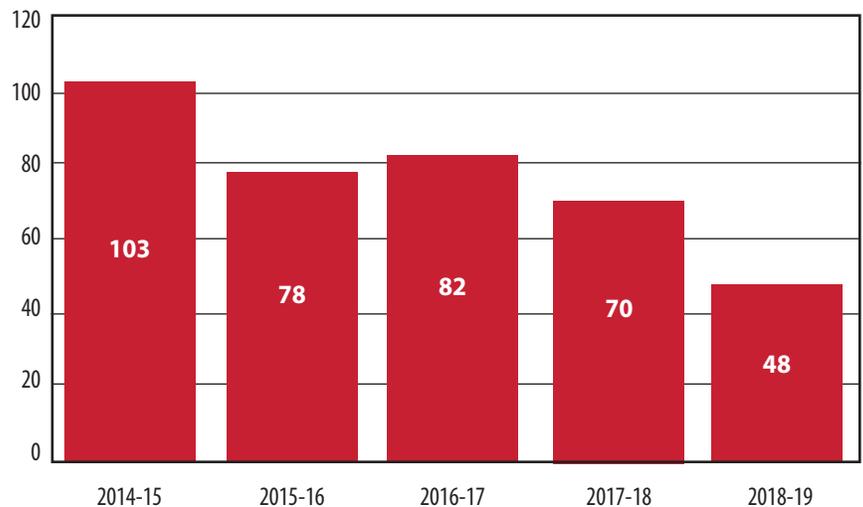
Phi Sigma Kappa  
Penn State University  
Alumni Relations Processing Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

Our college days came and went, but the real Kappa experience never ends. If you cherish those lasting friendships, if you appreciate the values that shaped your life, make your annual gift Today!

### Annual Fund Totals



### Annual Donor Totals



***“I cherish the  
gift of Kappa  
brotherhood and  
do what I can to  
contribute to  
continued  
success.”***



**To Get Current News,  
Share Memories,  
See the Honor Roll,  
AND TO DONATE!  
Visit our Website:  
[phisigpsu.com](http://phisigpsu.com)**



# Phi Sigma Kappa Penn State

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## INSIDE

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## GIVING IS JUST A CLICK AWAY!

### Online Donations are Safer and Simpler than you Might Think!

Use of the Web has become an everyday fact of life for most of us. Sometimes we aren't even aware of how dependent we are on it, until something goes wrong. We use it to correspond, to pay bills, make purchases and organize our daily lives. Organizations, from global corporations to the smallest start-up, depend on the internet to reach their clients and advance their objectives.

Like Phi Sig, all fraternities have their websites, which are invaluable tools for connecting our brothers, disseminating news and raising funds. The ability to donate online has been a boon for most fraternities. The ease of a few clicks to make a donation, as opposed to writing a check and mailing it – a process that can often delay or derail a donation – makes it the ideal method for collecting funds.

While most of our contributors do so online, there is a significant minority who don't. Statistics show that off-line donations tend to be "softer," with less per capita giving and more lapses in regular giving. We want to encourage all of our brothers to consider giving online and to do what they can to help those who aren't as tech-savvy, learn how to give online as well.

While the vast majority of our brothers, are online, evidence shows that many don't make full use of the internet, especially in financial matters. For some donors, technology can be intimidating, and its ever-changing nature only compounds the problem. Widespread stories of hacking and identity-theft further discourages cautious donors, who often don't understand or trust security settings. Some are simply too embarrassed to ask for help. Paradoxically, for many brothers who suffer from health and mobility issues, the internet is the most effective way to keep them in contact with our fraternity.

Here are some reasons for giving online that offline donors should consider:



**It's quick and easy** – Just use the "Donate" tab on the upper corner on our website, [www.phisigpsu.com](http://www.phisigpsu.com), and follow the easy one-step instructions. You can make a one-time donation or a recurring donation.

**It helps the chapter** – It removes the uncertainty of donating offline and allows us to process your donation in a timely manner.

**It's safe** – In all online donations, your identity will be protected and your information kept confidential.

**Assistance** – Got any questions? Contact us – we can help.

Our brothers are very generous in supporting our fraternity. We want to facilitate your generosity by letting you know that the easiest and most effective way to give is just a click away.

### Alumni Facebook

[www.facebook.com/Phi-Sig-PSU-Alumni-359163567869953/](http://www.facebook.com/Phi-Sig-PSU-Alumni-359163567869953/)



We've created a Facebook page for the Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State Alumni Association! Like our page to stay in the loop on the latest alumni and chapter news and event details.

Use the page to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones, and as a place to share your best fraternity stories, memories and photos.

Just search: Phi Sig PSU Alumni.