



The Advisor News



THE ADVISOR NEWSLETTER OF Alpha Phi Omega REGION I

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Editor: Andrew Braverman (advisors@apor1.org)

Announcements

This section of the newsletter will contain any announcements we have to make to you and a calendar of upcoming events. The only announcement for this newsletter is a reminder to make sure your chapters have fulfilled their annual obligations to the national office. As of November 15 every year, the chapter is required to submit, among other things, national dues, a roster of current members (including advisor information), and a signed copy of the risk management statement to the national office. Due to changes made in December, a few additional things are added to the list November, 2003. See **Convention Actions** on page 2 for more information.

Upcoming events include:

- 3/1 New initiation fees go into effect
- 3/8 Section 99 Conference @William Patterson
- 3/21-23 Possible CPW in Worcester
- 4/5 Section 97 Conference @ Polytechnic University
- 4/11-13 Section 94/96 conclave @ UNH
- 8/22-24 Region I Summer Staff meeting

All advisors are welcome to attend all listed events. If enough advisors attend an event, we will try to get you all together.

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of what we hope will be a regular addition to your mailbox. As advisors, we realize that you need more information from the fraternity than we have been giving you so far and hope that this newsletter will fill that gap.

We are currently planning to put out 3 newsletters per year. In general, the newsletters will be announced via email and will be available as an Adobe PDF file from our website. If you do not know how to read PDF files, instructions will be available on the web site. If you do not have access to the internet, or would rather have newsletters mailed to you, please let us know.

The announcement for this newsletter is being sent via email to all advisor email address that we know about and is being sent via regular mail to all advisory committee chairs. The editor is asking all chairs to make sure that we have the email addresses of all of the members of your committee. Chairs are asked to forward a list of contact information, including email addresses, of all of the members of your committee to advisors@apor1.org as soon as possible. In

addition, we would appreciate it if you could keep us up to date on any changes in members or their addresses.

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Convention Actions

As required in our national bylaws, we had our biennial national convention in December. The convention, which was held in New Orleans, LA broke attendance records with 2,256 attendees. There were 230 registered chapters in attendance. Congratulations to everyone for getting your chapters represented.

Though there is a lot that goes on at a national convention, the main purpose of the convention is to take care of the business of the fraternity. This year, there were many actions taken by the legislative body of the convention. The highlights are summarized in this article.

Many actions were taken to codify existing practices in the fraternity. For example, the bylaws now specifically allow national convention items to be submitted via email, though that has been the practice for the past few conventions. In addition, an official National History and Archive Committee has been established to ensure that our history is maintained in perpetuity. Though Bob Barkhurst, our national archivist, has been doing this for a long time, and has had people helping him, our bylaws now create an officially recognized committee to help. Sectional conferences are now explicitly permitted to make recommendations and/or submit items for consideration to a regional conference. A change in our national insignia now requires approval by a national convention.

Other actions help our national office operate more efficiently and track some of our ongoing projects. For example, chapters who owe the office money that is more than 90 days overdue will not be in good standing with the fraternity. Confirmation of submission of National Youth Services Day and National Service Week reports are now required as part of the annual charter reaffirmation.

For the first time in a long time, fees are going up. As of September, the pledge fee will be \$20 and honorary membership fees will be \$25. **As of March, initiation fees will be \$35. Make sure to have as many initiation forms and fees as possible submitted before March 1.**

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In addition, there were some actions taken to ensure the entry of the fraternity into the electronic age. For example, minutes of national board meetings must now be electronically reported to chapters within 30 days of the meeting. The Torch and Trefoil will be available electronically to those who request it.

The International Relations Director, who is our coordinator with the International Council of Alpha Phi Omega (ICAPO) can now serve as the “Regional Director” for international extension efforts. The National Alumni Relations and Internal Volunteer Development Committee has been given more responsibility and authority in dealing with alumni associations and has been asked to create an Alumni Relations Subcommittee.

Though this article will not mention specifics, some of our rituals have had wording changes to more closely reflect what we would really like the rituals to say. Many of them are in the ceremonies that are commonly used by chapters, but some are in ceremonies used by petitioning groups.

Other changes were also made in regard to rituals and their availability to petitioning groups. Since petitioning groups do not have access to our ritual books, some of the rituals that are usable by petitioning groups will now be available to them in a ritual book for petitioning groups. Also available in this book will be revisions of some of our other ceremonies that will make them usable by petitioning groups.

There were some actions that make extension efforts somewhat easier to deal with. These included an amendment giving more power to the membership and extension committee and a resolution to look into splitting membership from extension.

In addition to the changes made to bylaws and rituals, a number of resolutions were passed. These resolutions are not binding but do ask the national board or other fraternity groups or people to do something. The board of directors, for example, has been asked not to use a regional director as a region’s representative to a

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committee unless there are no other viable choices. The board has also been asked to come up with a way to remove inactive life members from the board. We should also be able to look forward to a guide to writing effective legislation, information on student representatives to the APO Philippines convention, a pronunciation guide in the ritual book, and an update to the CPPC as a result of resolutions. In addition, we will see our new Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and goals (all of which should be available on the national web site: www.apo.org) being used.

Our national service week program of emphasis is also defined via resolution from the national convention. The program of emphasis for 2002-2004 is "Building a sound mind and body." The project theme for 2003 is "Building a sound mind" to promote literacy and mental health and the project theme for 2004 is "Building a sound body" to promote personal and physical well-being.

As you can see, there have been some changes made this year. Changes like this are how our fraternity is able to continue to attract new Brothers in an ever changing world.

New Officers

Though most of you are aware of this, our fraternity has four administrative levels. At the top of the pyramid are the chapters and their members. They are the most important part of this fraternity. Without them, there would be no fraternity to give all the service that we give. You, as advisors, are involved at this very important level. If possible, you should try to get to know your chapter's president.

After our chapters come sections. Sections are led by a section chair, assisted by his or her staff, and are made up of a relatively small number of chapters. We have 4 sections in this region. You are in one of them. Short biographies of some of the section chairs can be found at the end of this article.

Section 94 is made up of chapters in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The chair of the section is Joe Hausmann. Section 96, chaired by Ellen Kranzer, covers the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Those chapters in Southern New York (New York City, Long Island, and Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, and Westchester counties) are in section 97 which is chaired by Paul Romain. The state of New Jersey, chaired by Jennifer Meehan, makes up section 99.

The next level of our fraternity is the region (we are in region I). Our newly elected region I director is Marilyn Mims Dow. Her biography can also be found later on in this article. She is also assisted by a staff of volunteers. You can find who is working on a specific committee on the web at www.apor1.org/index.php/staff.

The bottom of our administrative pyramid is our national board. Our newly elected president is Bobby Hainline. He is assisted by Vice President Maggie Katz. We have 6 directors at large. Each chairs a national committee. Our newly elected directors-at-large are:

Beth Tom	Marketing
Carla Moran	Service
Ed Richter	Membership and Extension
Julie Moore	Alumni and Volunteer Relations
Lisa Covi	Leadership Development
Keith Roots	Finance and Operations

The national board is rounded out by the regional directors for our 11 regions.

Biographies:

Region Director Marilyn Mims Dow

Marilyn, or Mims as she is often called pledged AΦΩ's Phi chapter at Syracuse University in the fall of 1991. She held several chapter offices including Recording Secretary, Pledgemaster, and President. Mims received a Chapter Distinguished Service Key in December 1995. She was a voting Delegate at the 1994 National Convention where she also sat on the Rules and

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Credentials Committee. Marilyn has attended every national and regional convention since 1993. Mims graduated from Syracuse University in 1995 with a B.F.A in Surface Pattern Design and again in 1996 with an MS in Art Education.

Mims continued her service to the fraternity after graduation. She has been Region II Service Chair and was a member of the National Service Committee from 1994 to 1998. In addition, Mims has designed all National Service Week logos since 1994. She served on Section 96 staff from 1997 to 1998 and was Section 96 Chair from 1998 to 2002. Marilyn sponsored Nu Alpha Chapter (Quinnipiac University) during the chapter's rechartering efforts and was named the first Chapter Pledge Class Namesake after the rechartering. Mims advised the Chapter Operations I reference committee at the 2000 national convention. She has served on various CPW staffs and has presented workshops at sectional, regional, and national conferences. Marilyn is a Life Member, a Torchbearer, and an APO LEADS presenter.

Outside of the fraternity, Mims is a Middle School Art teacher at Parthum School in Lawrence, Massachusetts and lives in Peabody, Massachusetts with her husband Mike (Phi Epsilon 1993). She also works with Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Section 94 Chair Joe Hausmann

Joe pledged AΦΩ in the fall of 1996 at the Omicron Iota chapter at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). After graduating in the summer of 2000, Joe moved to Maine. He served on section 94 staff from then until his election as chair in the spring of 2002. In addition to his AΦΩ work, he is an environmental engineer for Wright Pierce in Topsham, Maine. Joe can be reached at joehouse@maine.rr.com (preferred) or at (207) 828-0132.

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Section 97 Chair Paul Romain

Paul was born and bred in New York. He was raised in a Caribbean household and educated in Catholic and public schools. He attended New York University (NYU) where he led the effort to re-charter Beta Iota Chapter where he became an AΦΩ Brother. As an active, Paul was an officer and represented the chapter as a voting delegate at 2 National Conventions. His efforts were rewarded when he became the first recipient of the NYU Mother Hale Community Service Award. Paul graduated with a BA in History in May of 1993 and is currently a case manager in Infectious Disease Control for NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene. Since escaping from NYU, Paul has attended numerous conferences, worked on Sectional Staff and is one of Beta Iota's Community Advisors. He was the Chapter's Pledge Class Namesake for Spring 2002.

Outside of AΦΩ, Paul is active in Scouting. He is an Eagle Scout, a Vigil Honor Member, and Founders Award Recipient. Paul completed his Wood Badge Training and received the Silver Beaver Award. Currently, Paul shapes young minds as an Assistant Scoutmaster in his home Troop, and by assisting on various committees in his District. Paul is a member of the Board of the Directors for the Jack Kohler Campership Association which helps send Queens Scouts to summer camp. His hobbies include reading, various collections, movies, and working with computers.

Paul can be reached at teentitan@netzero.net or by phone at (718) 468-2217.

Welcome

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Newsletters will be supplemented with additional information on the region I web page (www.apor1.org) and our section of that page (www.apor1.org/index.php/advisors) as well as the national web site (www.apo.org).

Once again, welcome to our newsletter. We hope that it will be both informative and helpful. Feel free to send suggestions and comments to the editor.