



The Advisor News



THE ADVISOR NEWSLETTER OF Alpha Phi Omega REGION I

Volume 2 Issue 1

<http://advisors.apor1.org>

October 2003

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Editor's Corner

Welcome to the second issue of *The Advisor News*. The articles in this issue range from what happened over the summer to what needs to be done by November 15 to a few things that are going to be happening in the near future. We hope that it is helpful and ask that you send any comments that you have to advisors@apor1.org so we know what we are doing right and can try to make things better where necessary.

Announcements

Region I has created a new award - the Region I Advisor Recognition Award. This award, described more completely in an article on page 1, will be given out periodically by the region to advisors who have been nominated for this award by a chapter, a section staff, or the region staff, and have been chosen by the selection committee as someone who has fulfilled the requirements and the spirit of the award.

In an effort to improve this newsletter, we are planning to include a periodic letters section and a question and answers section in some of our future editions. The Q&A section will contain questions that you always wanted answers to but never asked (or did ask and never got answered).

(Please see **Announcements**, p.2)

Region I Advisor Recognition Award

We have a new award in our midst. Region I has created the Region I Advisor Recognition Award. We have a lot of great advisors in our region and would like to make sure that everyone knows it. We are asking chapters, registered petitioning groups, section staffs, or the region staff to nominate advisors who they think are deserving of this award.

Nominations should include an essay on why the nominated advisor should win this award. Examples of how the advisor meets the criteria for (Please see **Advisor Recognition**, p.2)

Advisor Development Workshop

Advisors are among Alpha Phi Omega's most important assets. Do you know that the average brother who attends a 4 year college is active in his or her chapter for less than 2 ½ years? As a result, the collective memory of a chapter at any time is very short.

While section and region staff tries to fill in the gaps, staff can only go so far. The long term memory in a chapter tends to be in the (Please see **ADW**, p.3)

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Announcements

(From **Announcements**, p.1)

If you have a question, another advisor probably wants the answer to it. Please send your letters and your questions to advisors@apor1.org. If we get a response, we will put one of these columns in the next newsletter.

The Region I Webmaster has added a page to our web site that you might be interested in. There is now a glossary of commonly used terms at <http://www.apor1.org/jargon.php>. Please check it out – especially if you have an Alpha Phi Omega abbreviation or term that you just cannot figure out.

Every fall, the Board of Directors selects a Fall Pledge Class Namesake. This year's selection was Dr. V. Ray Hancock, an alumnus of Zeta Beta (1948) and current advisor to the Pi Omicron chapter at Emory and Henry College. For more information, see the Region I web site (<http://www.apor1.org>), the national web site (<http://www.apo.org>), or the T&T.

Upcoming events include:

- 11/1-/9 National Service Week
- 11/7-/9 Sections 94/96 Conclave at Alpha Gamma Pi (University of Maine – Farmington). For more information, send email to conclave-fall@apor1.org
- 11/15 Chapter paperwork and money due - See article on page 3 for more information.
- 11/15 Section 99 Conference at Nu Theta (Rowan University)
- 12/28-30 Regions I/II Regional conference hosted by Delta Rho (Rutgers University – New Brunswick) in New Brunswick, NJ – See <http://regionals.apor1.org> for more information. Email addresses can be found on that site to ask questions not answered on the web site.
- 3/26-28 Sections 94/96 Spring Conclave at Nu Alpha (Quinnipiac University) – This

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conference will have an Advisor Development Workshop. For more information on the workshop, see article on page 1.

8/27-29 2004 Region I Summer Staff Meeting (Thing-a-ma-Jig).

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

Region I Advisor Recognition Award

(From **Advisor Recognition**, p.1)

the award (see below) should be included. Pictures of the advisor fulfilling these criteria should also be included if possible. The nominations will go to the award selection committee consisting of members of Region I staff. Any nomination that the committee feels fulfills the letter and spirit of the criteria for the award will receive the award. Multiple awards will be given if necessary.

As this award is brand new, the criteria listed are subject to change. At the discretion of the selection committee, some of the criteria listed may be waived. At this time, the advisors must have as many of the following traits as possible:

- The advisor must be a current registered advisor
- The advisor should
 - be accessible
 - be resourceful
 - have years of continuous service
 - have diverse involvement in chapter programs
 - be innovative
 - show involvement in interchapter events

Advisors who receive this award will be highlighted in the next advisor newsletter.

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November 15th

Requirements

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For those of you who do not already know, November 15th is an important day each year on the Alpha Phi Omega calendar. According to our national bylaws, there is a set of obligations that a chapter must fulfill in order to be “in good standing” with the fraternity. Article IX section 8 states that,

A Chapter in good standing is one which yearly meets its financial, administrative, and Annual Charter Reaffirmation obligations to the National Fraternity; is not more than 90 days delinquent in its financial accounts with the National Office; has at least one Active Member; and which has not been declared inactive or suspended, or had its charter revoked, or has not otherwise been deemed in violation of the policies or National Bylaws of Alpha Phi Omega; or of the rules, regulations, or policies of its school.

Those chapters that are not in good standing are in for problems. At a minimum, the local Section Chair and the Region director will have to come down on the chapter. At worst, the chapter may not be allowed to vote at the next National Convention or may have their charter revoked.

The Annual Charter Reaffirmation is the one part of the requirements to be in good standing that have a set deadline. The charter reaffirmation must be in the national office by November 15. The charter reaffirmation is made up of many parts.

The first item that must be included is a roster of the Active Members of the chapter. It is important that the national office know who is currently in the chapter. Just as important as the roster of Active Members, a roster of Advisory Members is also required. If, for some reason, a staff member or the national office is trying to reach the chapter and cannot, we will try to contact the chapter advisors, who are sometimes easier to track down.

In addition to rosters, the charter reaffirmation includes the payment of Annual Active Membership Dues. The dues (\$15.00 per Active Member with a minimum of \$45.00) are due in the national office by November 15.

Also included in the charter reaffirmation are certifications that the chapter is in compliance with the Membership and Risk Management Policies of the Fraternity and is in compliance with the Standard Chapter Articles of Association.

In addition, there are two new sections of the charter reaffirmation that were added at the last national convention. The chapter must now include confirmation that a National Youth Service Day Report and a National Service Week Report. These reports must be submitted each year – even if the chapter did not do a project for National Youth Service Day or National Service Week. Worst case, these reports should say that a project has not been done, though this is obviously not what we are hoping for.

Please check with your chapters to make sure that they are prepared to submit everything by the deadline. If there is a problem getting any of these things done by the deadline, please make sure that your Section Chair and the Region I Director are aware of it.

Advisor Development Workshop

(From ADW, p.1)

hearts of our advisors. You are the ones who were around 10 years ago (or might be around 10 years from now) who know why a project that was done before was never done again.

As a group, the members of a chapter’s advisory committee tend to know the campus and community better than the active brothers in the chapter. You also tend to have a better idea how to find answers to problems relating to the campus, the community, and, in many cases, even the chapter.

Unfortunately, what we often find is that our advisors often feel that they are unprepared. As a result, the national Leadership Development committee created the Advisor Development Workshop (ADW). We are happy to announce that there is an ADW on the schedule of the Section 94/96 Spring Conclave, which will be

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held March 26 – 28, 2003 at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

The workshop is scheduled for 3 hours and will cover some of the following topics:

- History and Highlights of Alpha Phi Omega
- Structure, Policies, and Guidelines of Alpha Phi Omega
- Chapter Operations and the Chapter Advisor
- Risk Management
- Working with Educational Institutions
- Working with Students
- Working with Alpha Phi Omega Staff and Alumni
- Mediation
- Student Expectations of Advisors

In order to run this workshop, however, we need at least 10 advisors interested in the workshop. Please let us know if you are planning to attend the conference and are interested in attending the ADW by sending email to advisors@apor1.org. You can also call Andrew Braverman at 516-594-4429.

Thing-a-ma-jig

by John Grossi
Omicron Iota '91
Advisor Theta Zeta - UNH

What is Thing-a-ma-jig? Factually it is a staff and personnel development event that occurs in somewhere in Region I (often in central Massachusetts due to its central location in our region) every summer.

As the title suggests, it is not an event that one can put a hard name on, as it means different things to different people. It is:

- An informational event where the Regional Director disseminates information to her personnel.

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- A planning event where questions of great import are posed and solutions are pondered.
- A social event where people get to catch up with those that years and miles have pushed out of their everyday life.
- A service event, where we think about why joined the organization.
- A training event where those who have come after us are brought up to speed on the lessons they need to learn to be effective in their roll as staff members.
- A moment where my opinion is being asked, my wisdom is being sought, my vision of the future is being asked.

To me personally it's a moment to sit down in the company of peers, relax a bit, pull out this addiction I developed over a decade ago, explore it a bit, talk with those that share my interest, and generally get myself recharged for another year of Alpha Phi Omega.

There were 25 people at this year's event including 6 who had not been to a Thing-a-ma-jig before. Three of our four section staffs were represented.

All reports are that everyone who attended thought it was a good experience. There were good discussion and planning sessions as well as some team building. The weekend built some camaraderie among the attendees that could not be built as well over the phone or in the time spent at conferences. As a result, the region has built a better, stronger backbone with which to help students in the year to come.

As advisors, you are always welcome at the annual Thing-a-ma-jig. In order to make scheduling easier for everyone, the date for next year's event has already been selected. The next Thing-a-ma-jig will be held August 27-29, 2004. Please let the Region I Director know if you are interested in attending next year's event so that we can put your name on the list of people that we need to make sure we hear from.