



The Advisor News



THE ADVISOR NEWSLETTER OF Alpha Phi Omega REGION I

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Editor's Corner

Welcome to the summer issue of *The Advisor News*. This issue contains a review of the ADW that was held in the spring along with some advance information on our National Convention. We also have some random information in this issue that should be helpful to you as an advisor. 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

As mentioned in our last issue, we would like to include a periodic letters section and a question and answers section in some of our future editions. The problem is that we can have neither of these sections without your input. Please send your letters and your questions to advisors@apor1.org.

In addition, please remember that we are always accepting nominations for the Region I Advisor Recognition Award. If your chapter is interested in nominating someone or you or your chapter want more information on this award, please contact

(Please see **Announcements**, p.1)

In Memoriam

John Grossi

Recently, we lost a brother who was very involved in our fraternity in more ways than most people will ever know. Among others, though, he was one of you – an advisor for a Region I chapter of Alpha Phi Omega. Another advisor (and staff member) wrote the following as his way of remembering a life that ended much too early. He wrote:

“One of the best parts of Alpha Phi Omega, is that it allows you to take chances and try new things, and step outside your comfort zone, and know that there will always be someone there to help you out if you fall” - Anonymous Brother.

I start out with that quote in remembering John, since it talks both helping others, and about personal growth, and these are two areas at which John excelled.

I met John as a young Section Chair, newly graduated, and full of energy to help people in Alpha Phi Omega. He took six disparate chapters in Northern New England, and for the first time in my recollection, gave them an identity of their own as a group. John recruited new staff to the section, including myself, to help us grow in Alpha Phi Omega. As a person, there seemed to be no limits to John's generosity. If it involved helping someone who needed a ride, it was not if he could do it for you, it was “what time should I pick you up”, regardless of the distance. With John, helping others was never an inconvenience, it was a true joy.

John was however “green” when I met him (but then again, so was I). He had plenty of fresh ideas, tons of energy, but

not a lot of seasoning. In time, and with a few bumps along the way, John matured a great deal. When the time came for John to step down as Section Chair, I took over the job. I still remember

Please see **In Memoriam**, p.2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 3 ADW – An Advisor's Perspective

Page 4 National Convention Info

Page 4 The Search For Advisors

Page 5 National Youth Services Grant

In Memoriam

(From *In Memoriam*, p.1)

him coming up to me with the same enthusiasm I first saw four years previously, and this time, it was for a role on my section staff. Much to John's dismay, I wanted him to focus on a new role given to him by the Theta Zeta Chapter at UNH, that of Chapter Advisor. A few years later, John would mention to me that he initially wondered why I did not give him a greater role, but he was grateful, since the time he had with UNH as advisor was the most rewarding thing he had done in the Fraternity.

My time as chair as now long since done, as my successor has a successor as well. But one of the things that John grew to learn while helping others, is the same one that I have as well. The most rewarding job in Alpha Phi Omega is one where you help others grow and develop, while you do the same, and that is being a chapter advisor.

John and I shared many things, some he brought to the table, some I did. I have a hard time remembering who brought what to the friendship, since they now seem to be ours, and what helped serve as the foundation for our friendship. Among them were exploring Maine and the Maritime Provinces of Canada, Celtic music, sports (though we did not share the same teams), discussing politics, and enjoying the road less traveled, for the point of it.

John learned a lot during his time with us, and he taught us a lot as well... He gave unselfishly of his time and energy. A prescription for a great Brother, and a life well led. We miss you.

With great respect and in Brotherhood,
Stephen Merrill
Advisor, Sigma Xi
Section 94 Chair 1999-2002

Advisor Development Workshop

As scheduled, the region's first Advisor Development Workshop was held on March 26 – 28, 2003 at the Section 94/96 Spring Conclave. Thanks to Tom Salter and his numerous attempts to make sure that we had a good turnout, we had 15 advisors attending the workshop.

The Advisor News

The presenters of the workshop, along with Region Director Marilyn (Mims) Dow and the Section Chairs from the region want to thank each and every one of our attendees for joining us. We understand that your free (?) time is very valuable to you and that you have other things that you could have been doing that weekend. We appreciate the time and dedication that you put into Alpha Phi Omega.

- The ADW was an all day (5 hour) workshop. Topics included:
- Basic APO Orientation
- Role of Advisors
- Advisor Interaction With Students
- Effective Advisor Participation
- Requirements of Chapters
- Effective Communication With Staff and the National Office
- Promoting Chapters and Organization to Outside Entities
- How to Attract New Advisors

According to the advisors who had something to say after the workshop, it was a smashing success. Please see ADW – An Advisor's Perspective later in this newsletter for an advisor's point of view.

We are planning to hold at least one seminar for our advisors each year. We will hold it at the sectional conference/conclave that we feel is most central in the region during the year. We are hoping that the next one will be at the spring section 94/96 conclave hosted by Delta Sigma chapter at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Ct over April Fools weekend.

Please let us know what you would like to see discussed at this seminar and if you would be interested in attending it. Correspondence on this subject can be sent to advisors@apor1.org. If you prefer, you can also call Andrew Braverman at 516-594-4429.

ADW – An Advisor’s Perspective

by Lori Tsuruda

Advisor, Alpha Chi Chapter

Founder & Executive Director, People Making a
Difference

At the Advisor Development Workshop (ADW) at the Section 94/94 Conclave on March 27, 2004, 14 other chapter advisors and I learned about national policies and strategies to work best with the students and chapters that we advise. Alumni Relations Director Dr. Julie Moore from the University of Georgia, advisor training volunteer Sarah Burton from the District of Columbia, and our own Andy Braverman shared their vast experiences and ambitious aspirations for relatively new advisors like me as well as veteran advisors who also participated.

In the course of discussing APO basics, the role of advisors, effective participation, common mistakes, chapter requirements, and promoting APO to outside interests, I came to appreciate how much Ellen Kranzer, Chair of the Advisory Committee of Alpha Chi Chapter does and how much I still have to learn despite my vocation in community service.

We shared thoughtful discussions about the role of advisors as mentors, coaches, role models, etc. We also conversed about the challenges of being approachable and friendly, yet keeping appropriate boundaries. The presenters stressed the importance of objectivity. We also discussed the art of knowing when to listen versus talk at chapter meetings, particularly when one is a new advisor and/or new to a chapter. I especially liked the suggested techniques for sharing how other chapters have handled similar experiences (as opposed to saying “We did it this particular way when I was an active.” or “The XYZ chapter does it this particular way.”) so that the actives can make informed decisions on how to run their chapters without feeling like they are being told to run their unique chapters as clones of others.

We also learned about important topics like the national Pledging Standards, Risk Management

Policy (yes, there really is one), the challenge of on-time annual charter re-affirmations with lists of members and advisors (due by November 15) and acronyms like *APO LEADS*, *LeAP*, and *Chapter of Excellence* that represent new APO programs initiated during the 15 years since I was an active brother. Fortunately, a detailed, 28-page glossary of terms was distributed and can be found on the web at <http://www.apor1.org/jargon.php>.

All in all, I am very glad that I made the trip down to Connecticut to learn more about advising, to meet advisors from other chapters and to learn from their experiences, and to set personal goals for my involvement as an official advisor as well as for my interactions with other local APO chapters in my capacity at People Making a Difference (PMD).

Announcements

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

the newsletter editor at advisors@apor1.org.

The Region I web site at <http://www.apor1.org> is a great source of information. A current calendar of events taking place within the region as well as contact information for those events can always be found there. Currently listed upcoming events include:

- 8/1 Section 94 Picnic.
- 8/12-15 National Volunteer Conference, Kansas City, MO (Basic Skills will be presented)
- 8/27-29 Region 1 Thingamijig (Staff retreat for ALL staff in the region) at Camp Resolute in Bolton, MA
- 10/15 Voting Delegate Selection Deadline. Please contact your Section Chairs.
- 10/22-24 Section 94/96 Conclave at Phi Epsilon.
- 10/24 Legislation Overview Meeting
- 11/13 Section 99 Sectionals at Theta Alpha
- 11/15 AAMD Deadline
- 11/15 Early discount convention registration deadline
- 12/27-30 National Convention, Denver, Colorado

To see events already scheduled for early 2005, please see the Region I web site.

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

National Convention Information

As always, since we are in an even numbered year (2004), the culmination of the year will be our national convention. As always, advisors are not only welcome, they are encouraged to attend. The 38th biennial convention will be held December 27-30, 2004 in Denver, Colorado. For those who do not know, the final banquet is the evening of December 30, so people attending the convention are encouraged not to plan to depart until at least December 31.

Though full details are available on the web at <http://convention.apo.org>, this article will highlight some of the issues that advisors may be interested in.

To start with, registration for this year's convention is very different than registrations past. In the past, a chapter would register as a whole, and advisors might register with them. This year, each person registers himself or herself. This allows attendees to register and pay whenever they feel like they are ready and have the money. On-line registration will be available soon on the convention web site.

Another point about registration this year is that there are some discounts that you should be aware of. First, as an advisor, you are eligible for the same low price that actives pay. This year, there is also an incentive to pay early. Prices for the convention (not including rooms or food) are as follows:

Early Bird Registration (prior to 11/15/04):

- Active/Advisor Registration: \$65
- Alumni non-life member: \$90
- Alumni life member: \$85

Registration after 11/15/04:

- Active/Advisor Registration: \$85
- Alumni non-life member: \$105
- Alumni life member: \$105

Banquet fees are as follows:

- Opening Banquet -- \$29
- Closing Banquet -- \$34

The Advisor News

Hotel rooms at the Adam's Mark – Denver are available for \$69 + tax / room / night for up to 4 people per room. Reservations can be made by calling 303-893-3333 and telling them that you are with the Alpha Phi Omega conference. Do not try to use the national reservations number as you may not get the convention price. Convention rates are available from December 24, 2004 – January 3, 2005.

If you have any questions about the convention, please feel free to ask any Region I staff member or the convention committee at questions@denver2004.org.

The Search for Advisors

Does your chapter have enough advisors? Are they all real, active advisors, or are they just names on paper that neither your chapter nor you as an advisor know? Remember that chapters should have at least 4 advisors including at least 2 faculty/staff advisors, at least 1 scouting or youth services advisor and at least 1 community advisor.

If your chapter does not meet these minimums, you can help. Find out if your chapter has someone in mind. If so, encourage the chapter to act. Making a decision is important even if the decision is no.

If that does not help, you may be able to suggest people who you know have been working with the chapter. Another alternative is to suggest someone that would fit the category that the chapter needs that you think would be interested even if the chapter does not know the person. If, however, this is the case, remember to give the chapter enough information to make an educated decision. Do not just ask them to take your word for it.

Last, but not least, remember that though you can try to offer suggestions and help, the final decision is up to the actives. Do not be insulted if they do not do what you suggest or make use of the person that you suggest. It may turn out to be the wrong decision, but it is what they decided. The advisor is there to advise...

The Advisor News

National Youth Services Grant

By George Kober

5

Applications and instructions can be found on the National Website at:

http://www.apo.org/programs/service/youth_service_grants/index.shtml (all together on one line)

Does the chapter that you advise have a great idea for a new service project involving youth but doesn't have the funds to pull it off? Or does your chapter want to expand an already successful youth related service project to more kids, but funding is also an issue? If this sounds familiar, then the National Fraternity has a great program that can help!

One of the ways that the National Fraternity supports the Service Program of local chapters is through the Alpha Phi Omega Youth Service Grant Program. The program provides funds, in the form of a grant, for Alpha Phi Omega Chapters to conduct a service project that relates to socially positive programs for pre-college-age youth. The grants range in size from \$100 to \$500. Funding for the APO Youth Service Grant Program has been endowed by a generous grant from the Jadel Foundation founded by Jack Jadel, an APO alum.

All Chapters of Alpha Phi Omega in good standing, as defined by the National Bylaws, may apply for an APO Youth Service Grant. No Chapter may receive an award more than twice in a five-year period. A Chapter may submit only one application, for one project or program, per grant year.

Since there is a limit to the number of projects that can be funded every year, there is a competitive application process. Members of various National Committees comprise a selection committee that will evaluate the applications and fund as many appropriate projects as available monies will allow. The chapters will be notified by a member of the selection committee.

As a chapter advisor, you will play an important role in the application process. A letter of endorsement from a Chapter Advisor confirming the Chapter's readiness for the proposed project is required. The application also requests information focused primarily on the proposed project and must include a proposed budget. Also required is a description of the Chapter's fiscal operations including how the Chapter handles money (i.e., who writes checks, how many signatures are required on Chapter checks, etc.).

The preliminary 2005 application timeline is the following:

Submit completed and signed application
December 15, 2004

- Application reviews completed January 31, 2005
- Notification to Chapters February 7, 2005
- Project Execution After Award; No later than November 15, 2005
- Submission of Project Report; Within 2 weeks of Completion of Project (or by November 15, 2005, whichever is sooner)

Look for an updated timeline along with the 2005 application and instructions early this fall. If you have any questions, please contact the Region 1 representative to the National Service Committee, Alycia Cantor through the Region 1 website at www.apor1.org.