



Mountaineer Pike

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Newsletter of the Alpha Theta Alumni Association of Pi Kappa Alpha

Next Step: The House

With the huge success of the recruitment for the new colony comes the incessant need to repair and renovate the House on Belmar. Memorial Headquarters knows this and is working out a deal with our own House Corporation to get the House back into operation. Brother Jim Laughlin and members of the House Corporation are looking at proposals that would include an initial infusion of funds from the White Horse Holding Corporation to get the first two floors and parking lot in good order. White Horse is the legal entity which presently owns 117 Belmar, and it is governed by Pi Kappa Alpha's Housing Commission in Memphis.

In return for this approximately \$200,000 renovation effort, the fraternity wants the House Corporation and Alumni Association to make special effort to complete the project and eventually take over ownership of the House.

The initial repair and renovation effort could begin soon enough to put the two floors of the House into operation by next fall. The House could then be used for meetings and other functions. Additionally, a House Mom's apartment and one dormitory room, located on the main floor, would make it possible to rent to four people. The parking lot would be in operation as well.

On January 21, key Alpha Theta alumni discussed the proposal via telephone conferencing, and Brother Laughlin is continuing to discuss all the options with fraternity commissioners.

Colony Draws Praise

The Alpha Theta Colony already has a "great reputation with the faculty and sororities" according to the first Consultant Visit Report by Dean Snihur of the Memorial Headquarters Staff. The report adds that WVU Greek Advisor, Ron Justis, says that the colony has already started to impact the campus in a positive way.

In his assessment, Brother Snihur points out that the new Colony has a great opportunity to be a leader on campus. "The large membership is a strength that will help dominate events on campus," he reports.

On the negative side, the report cautions the colony to more effectively organize its committees, and also to encourage all members to be active participants in Colony affairs. Despite these weaknesses, Snihur saw a willingness on the part of the Colony to work hard towards achieving its goals.

In the meantime, AAB members Arn Brigode and Bill Chittum report that the colony is planning rush activities (rush begins in February), intramural participation, and IFC representation. Additionally, Founder's Day is scheduled for the weekend of March 2, and the Colony, along with the AAB, is hoping for a good turnout from Alpha Theta alumni.

Brother Chittum points out that committee positions within the Colony are still being filled, and that the members are seeking better means of communicating with each other on campus. "The organization problem is being hampered by lack of communications, and a communications committee is being set up to solve this problem."