

Dear Brothers,

Twenty years ago, I played a key role in starting a PiKA Tradition. We formed a PiKA Alumni Golf Outing. Each year on the first weekend in August, we gather at a predetermined place and share our friendship with one another organized around the game of golf. Over the years it has become a very anticipated event for me. It originally was intended for all AΘ Alumni and Undergrads. However, in time, the group settled in as what we have described as the 80's Group. A different brother hosts the event each year in his home area. We each have the opportunity to travel to our old friends' home and get a feel for the characteristics that influence his life after University. We bring our wives, girlfriends and children and we have grown to become a large family. We share a cookout, usually at the hosts' home, and lots of chat about the good ole' days and our current opportunities in life. Therefore, this group of men has truly captured the spirit for which the fraternity was founded. We are brothers! We have "established a friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis."

A few years ago, the AΘ Chapter lost its charter. I was disappointed but reticent to be a part of changing that course. I was happy to continue meeting each year for the PiKA Golf Outing and share my friendship with the 20+ brothers and their families and not be concerned that the opportunity to build that tradition of friendship had ended in Morgantown.

Then a group of more experienced brothers stepped in, the 60's Group. They led the charge to speak to National and organize a group of alums that would support the rechartering of AΘ. We have been successful. This past year AΘ reopened the opportunity for a gathering of young men to form the same friendship that builds into the brotherhood that we have today. PiKA lives again in Morgantown! Along with that, the brotherhood that we have shared in our Golf Outing grew monumentally this past August in Morgantown. This year the 80's Group and the 60's Group, on our 20-year anniversary, joined together for the Golf Outing in Morgantown. And for the first time, I felt the brotherhood for men whose names I have heard for years but have never met. Together as a group, we are decided that the tradition and the opportunity to ban together as brothers in PiKA at West Virginia shall not die. Therefore, we have formed and are building an Alumni Association and a House Company. Actually these organizations have been in place for the past few years, but now the real work begins with the rechartering of AΘ. Although, we have not yet formed a complete detailed plan of our goals. We have generally determined that as alumni, we would like to support the growth of the chapter and "reform" the chapter house at 117 Belmar Ave. To some degree, the chapter house was in disrepair when I lived there 20 years ago. However, it has fallen into an unlivable state of disrepair. National has stepped in under the influence guided by the 60's Group to renovate the first two floors of the house. It has become our opportunity as alumni to influence the next steps of the renovation of the house. We would like, ultimately, to buy the house property at 117 Belmar Ave and completely renovate the Chapter House. However, the complete set of costs and responsibilities are not yet solidified. The new House Board just elected at the business portion of the Golf Outing, has met recently and confirmed our desire to solidify the details necessary to purchase the Chapter House, renovate it and manage it. For clarity, we are not yet sure that we have the financial resources or the level of commitment to purchase, renovate and manage the Chapter House. However, in short time, we will have gathered enough information to make a proposal to all AΘ Alums and Undergrads on our suggested direction for the Chapter.

As a first step, we would like to offer each AΘ alumni the opportunity to become a Lifetime Voting Member of our House Company. We have already started the process of collecting yearly dues and Lifetime Member Dues. We are collecting \$100 per year or (onetime) \$300 for Lifetime Voting Rights. We have set a goal to have 100 members support the Fraternity with their \$300 Lifetime Dues within this first year. As of 9/28, 26 brothers have made the commitment to support the fraternity with Lifetime Voting Membership. They are the following:

<b>Wilson Caskey 33</b>	<b>Tom Whalen 80</b>	<b>JP Chipps 80</b>
<b>Jim Laughlin 60</b>	<b>Gabriel Ado 90</b>	<b>Mack Gardner 65</b>
<b>Larry Cobb 59</b>	<b>Robert Nixon 60</b>	<b>Doug Ladish 62</b>
<b>Dave Lewis 82</b>	<b>John Allevato 62</b>	<b>Dennis Logue 66</b>
<b>Frank Julian 63</b>	<b>James Gabriel 64</b>	<b>Andy Moore 85</b>
<b>Phil Iapalucci 83</b>	<b>Joe Feola 79</b>	<b>Dan Snyder 75</b>
<b>John Buttermore 65</b>	<b>Chet Schwer 66</b>	<b>Arn Brigode 62</b>
<b>Denver Atkinson 66</b>	<b>Joe Burford 63</b>	<b>Dave Vaughn 60</b>
<b>Al Dering 65</b>	<b>Rick Robinson 63</b>	

Someone said to me at this past Golf Outing, I would have given sooner if I would have known you were collecting and who to send it to. Therefore, I am personally asking each of you to help support the revitalization of the AΘ Chapter by doing at least one of these four things:

1. Send \$300 to support as a House Company Lifetime Voting Member
2. Send \$100 to support as an Annual House Company Voting Member
3. Send \$25 to support as a yearly dues paying Alumni Association member
4. Join us or continue joining us at the Golf Outings and other scheduled events that we may have in the future.

I had the opportunity to communicate via email with a newly introduced brother, John Buttermore 65, after the Golf Outing. He commented that he had not been to an alumni event in several years (I think since graduation) and he is not likely to miss another.

Please make your check out to:

*Alpha Theta House Company. Send it to*  
*Phil Iapalucci, Treasurer, 14415 Northampton Drive, Granger, IN 46530*  
*or*  
*Doug Ladish, Secretary, 109 Kingussie Court, Cary, NC 27511*

*Alpha Theta Alumni Association. Send it to*  
*Reggie Osenton, Treasurer 1 Mountaineer Lane, P.O. Box 869, Logan WV 25601*

We will be announcing news and upcoming events in the future primarily with email and with some Postal mailings. Please Get Involved, not just to support the current movement in Morgantown, but also to proliferate your brotherhood with each of us, but especially your old friends that you met in Morgantown.

With my warmest regard in brotherhood,

J.P. Chipps 80  
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