

# CE&CF BOARD MEETING

May 21, 2021

Present: Dick Fenstermacher, Bill Giesler, Wayne Gilsdorf, Bill Hoeb, Jerry Lang, John Strohbach, Jim Sparrow, and Barry Wanninger. Excused: Mike Dever, Bernie Meese, Steve Simendinger.

Approval of February 12, 2021 Board Minutes: Bill Hoeb moved to approve; John Strohbach seconded. Unanimous approval.

## **President's Report** – Bill Giesler

### Active Chapter

By: Trey Waltz, Active Chapter President

As our 2020-2021 school year ended, the brothers of Alpha Xi finished a successful academic year while participating in activities that furthered our philanthropic efforts, athletic prowess, and sense of brotherhood. In a year that was much different than others, I was continually impressed by all the Brother's buy-in, willingness to adapt, and overall commitment to the betterment of Alpha Xi.

As 2020 ended, it was time for many organizations across Campus to start their election process for new leadership. Like always, Alpha Xi has brothers holding extremely large roles in some of the most prolific clubs on campus. Brother Michael Brown was recently elected the President of SAC, Brother Nolan Merten was elected President for UC Real-Estate Association, and Brother Christian Wall was elected Internal VP for Student Consulting for Non-Profits. These are just a few examples of the leadership position held by PIKES on campus. The entire list of campus leaders would be exhaustive and paint a positive, yet very repetitive picture-- the Brothers of Alpha Xi continue to dominate campus and influence the student body in very tangible ways.

As for Alpha Xi's leadership, the new Executive Team recently took over the management of chapter and cannot wait to further our success. As I, Trey Waltz, look ahead to my term as President, I am incredibly grateful to be surrounded by a phenomenal Executive Board that includes Joe Auberger (Internal VP), Christian Wall (External VP), Matthew Mohn (Treasurer), Tim Taul (Secretary), Andrew Oeters (Sergeant at Arms), Xander Wells (Membership Development Chairman), Jaydon Kaufhold (Recruitment Chair), Chase Kendall (New Member Educator), and Joe Kemper (Exec at Large).

As new leadership begins our term, we are excited to build upon the legacy of Alpha Xi, while also innovating in areas that we feel could become even better. Our Executive Team cannot thank Sam Kendall and the previous Executive Board enough for all the hard work they put in during an unprecedented year. They set up our Chapter for tremendous success as the world begins to return to a new sense of normalcy.

When looking at some of the best moments this past semester, it is impossible not to mention our annual scholarship ceremony. While the virtual ceremony was different than years past, our Brothers are incredibly grateful for the active role our alumni play in our Chapter. This year the CE&CF foundation was able to give 32 scholarships worth over \$53,000 to the men of Alpha Xi. Every year, I know both myself and my fellow brothers are

both humbled and thankful for these generous scholarships. The CE&CF foundation is something unique to Alpha Xi and is a prime example of how remarkable our alumni are!

To increase Active Chapter's interaction with our Alumni, our new Executive Team has completely re-defined the Alumni Relations role. Now called "Alumni Engagement," this position, held by Brother Amun Tanveer, is designed to facilitate connections between Active Chapter and our alumni through deliberate programming. Amun's first order of business is to put together a committee of dedicated actives to aid him in this mission. Amun and his committee will find innovative new ideas to engage with alumni in smaller and more personal ways, while also building upon some of the best and larger alumni centric events in the past.

During this Spring Semester, our Brother's got together in several meaningful ways while safely following COVID-19 protocols. During one of the best Brotherhood events yet, Brothers Michael Brown and Will Gapinski organized an event where we went "Fowling." In a mixture of football and bowling, our brothers were able to hang out, relax, and see who could get the highest score. On the more serious side of things, Brother Xander Wells launched the Garnet Dot Initiative for Brothers Living inside of the Nester Home. Xander led the trainings of Signs of Suicide (SOS), Question. Persuade. Refer. (QPR), and other mental health strategies. 15 brothers were certified in this training and were given a Garnet Dot sticker to be placed on the door of their rooms. This sticker indicates that these brothers are willing to have difficult conversations with people who are living with mental illness, while also displaying a sign of solidarity for anyone struggling with mental health. Finally, Brothers Joe Kemper and Matthew Mohn led an amazing Karen Wellington Foundation week. This week was filled with all sorts of great activities that included a CycleBar fundraiser with Kappa Kappa Gamma, a 3-v-3 lot basketball tournament, a father-son golf outing, poker tournament, and our 12<sup>th</sup> annual PIKE Spike. In all Alpha Xi raised over \$4,000 for the Karen Wellington foundation!

While our semester was full of successes, the Alpha Xi chapter did face some challenges as well. Following the hazing related death that occurred at Bowling Green State University's Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha, Nationals suspended all New Member activity for every Chapter across the country. While this suspension of New Member activity was disheartening, our Chapter resolved to still make the New Member experience both memorable and meaningful despite these challenges. The leadership in our Chapter worked extremely hard to complete all the necessary compliance forms mandated by Nationals, and we were eventually given clearance to initiate our New Members. While their New Member process certainly wasn't traditional, New Member Educator Cam Carlin did a fantastic job leading and showing them what it means to be an Alpha Xi PIKE. Like always, Alpha Xi triumphed despite these setbacks, and we could not be any more excited to welcome the Phi Class into the bonds of Pi Kappa Alpha!

As the semester drew to a close, we celebrated the graduation of 24 seniors. These men have contributed so much time to our Chapter and have played an integral role in making Alpha Xi what it is today. We wish all of them the best of luck in their future endeavors! Finally, our Chapter would like to celebrate the awards we earned from the University. For the second year in a row, Alpha Xi was awarded Overall Premier Chapter (the highest award possible). We were also awarded "Outstanding Brotherhood," "Outstanding Philanthropic Effort," and "New Member of the Year" (Amun Tanveer). These awards are a testament to the former Executive Team, all the brothers in Chapter, and our exceptional alumni. With the help of our brothers, alumni, and the University of Cincinnati, Alpha Xi looks forward to continuing this success and cementing our legacy as the best Chapter on campus. Thank you, and Rush PIKE!

Bill Giesler will have dinner with Trey to meet and offer encouragement and support. Bill will address the two recent hazing incidents at Bowling Green and Ohio State as a reminder for Chapter oversight.

### SHA

By: Mark Woods, SHA President

SHA has been on a mission to update the ~50% of alumni contacts that have no email associated with them. While beginning this work, we identified gaps in our current contact management process which exposed our alumni orgs to potentially faulty contact info. As you all know, that not only makes it difficult to reach our brothers, but also can be quite costly when it comes to mailings that don't reach their intended target. Steve Armsey, Bill Giesler, Bill Hoeb and Chris Simendinger have all worked to help rectify our processes and contact information.

Separately, SHA is in the beginning phase of planning our first golf outing since 2019. With many brothers now vaccinated, and with a better understanding of how to safely gather, we're ready to explore in-person events once again. If you're back to playing golf/outings, we encourage you to join us. Currently exploring dates in September.

### UCPHC

By: Alex Glutz

- Operations will be returning to normal for 2021-2022 school year
- The house will be at full occupancy with 28 residents next year
- We will be executing the chapter lease agreement with the new AC exec in this month.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Jim Sparrow

In December 2020 we were notified of the death of Marilyn Pecsock, widow of Jack Pecsock, Class of 1949. CE&CF is a beneficiary of the estate along with family members and ten other charitable entities.

We will receive an allocation from the estate and an IRA with Fidelity. The valuation of the estate is approximately \$3.8 million. Our share is 2%, about \$76,000. The estate is expected to be closed around September of this year.

In addition, there is an IRA which is to be split between the 11 charities. My guess is that its value is between \$1-1.5 million. Our share is 4% which could net \$40,000 - \$60,000.

We have established a Fidelity account which will receive the IRA distribution once all 11 charities have been set up with Fidelity. The Estate law firm will make distributions when the estate is finalized.

John Strohbach suggested that the distributions should be placed in the Jack Pecsock ESF Scholarship account.

## **Fundraising Report – Bill Hoeb**

### Annual Fundraising Program (AFRP)

Our 2020-2021 contributions total as of May 5, 2021 are \$84,606. The early months of the calendar year are normally a slow time for contributions.

### Association Connection (A/C)

We continue to be pleased with Association Connection. We pay them a fixed fee plus expenses such as postage. We do not pay them a percentage of funds raised. Recently we reviewed our master Alumni Directory information with that of headquarters in Memphis. We identified a number of brothers who have entered chapter eternal. We introduced a new feature that allows our alumni brothers to update their personal information online.

The new website continues to attract information and contributions from previously “inactive” alumni Brothers. Recently we started an email series focusing on comments from recipients of the 2020-2021 CE&CF awards. This series of email blasts began on April 26, 2021 and is planned to run monthly through early 2022.

We continue to look for and develop communications that help us secure the attention of and contributions from those on our email list.

## **Investment Committee Report – John Strohbach**

The portfolio surpassed 1.5 million dollars in early May but dropped below that level in mid- May. We will meet with Johnson Investments late in July or early August to review our Fiscal year and determine the new value of our special accounts as well as the amount available for scholarships in 2022.

## **Scholarship Committee Report – Barry Wanninger**

We had a successful CE&CF & Alpha Xi Update and Scholarship Announcement Zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 23rd with over 150 brothers in attendance. It only lasted 20 minutes and wasn't at all like being at Kenwood Country Club for Founders' Day, but it worked. Brothers Giesler and Wanninger presented the award letters and checks to the recipients at the Nester House on Monday, March 29th.

Brother Jon Doerger, a current tenured CE&CF Scholarship Committee member, has agreed to be mentored by Brother Wanninger over the next couple years as a vice/co-chair. This is important so we have someone that can assist with the responsibilities and be a part of a needed succession plan.

An email announcement will go out within the week if it did not already go out for the upcoming CE&CF "UC Bearcat" Scholarship application process. The applications are due by July 31st and the scholarship will be presented in the fall most likely at the Alpha Xi active chapter scholarship dinner.

**Old Business:**

1. CE&CF Succession – Johnson Charitable Gift Fund (Quasi-Endowment Agreement)

Tabled until August 20, 2021 Board meeting.

2. Planned Giving Initiative – Update

Bill Giesler, Nick Orphan and Mark Serriane will meet to discuss “next steps”.

**New Business:**

1. David Krutsch Trust

No action required. The Board will continue to monitor the status of the Trust through Dave’s attorney Tom Cuni.

2. Board Trustee Elections

Bill Hoeb “moved that Mike Dever, Wayne Gilsdorf, and Bernie Meese be re-elected to a four-year term on the CE&CF Board of Trustees effective June 2021-June 2025. It is further moved that Bill Giesler be re-elected to serve as President for the term June 2021-June 2023, Jim Sparrow be re-elected to serve as Treasurer for the term June 2021-June 2023, and Dick Fenstermacher be re-elected to serve as Secretary for the term June 2021-June 2023.” John Strohbach seconded. Unanimous approval.

3. Christmas Luncheon – the luncheon will be held at KCC on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

4. 2022 Founders’ Day – planned for March 4, 2022 at KCC. Since Covid-19 restrictions are now relaxed in Ohio, the opportunity to have a social gathering (in lieu of cancelled Founders’ Day 2021) this summer/fall will be explored.

**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** August 20, 2021