

# CE&CF BOARD MEETING

May 13, 2022

Present: Dick Fenstermacher, Bill Giesler, Wayne Gilsdorf, Bill Hoeb, Steve Simendinger, John Strobach, Jim Sparrow. Excused: Mike Dever, Jerry Lang, Bernie Meese, and Barry Wanninger. Guest: Trey Waltz, Alumni Engagement Chair

Approval of February 18, 2022 Board Minutes. Wayne Gilsdorf moved to approve; Bill Hoeb seconded. Unanimous.

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

### Active Chapter

By: Christian Wall, Active Chapter President

It is my great pleasure to be writing this Spring 2022 update on behalf of Active Chapter. As a quick introduction to myself for those who I have not yet met, my name is Christian Wall, and I have recently taken the reins from Trey as SMC. I grew up on the west side of Cincinnati before attending St. Xavier High School. I came to UC not expecting to join a fraternity but quickly realized how much PIKE had to offer. I was a member of the Fall 2019 Sigma 45 pledge class and have since served as Scholarship Chairman and as External Vice President. Just recently, I finished my 3<sup>rd</sup> year out of 5 pursuing my BS and MS degrees in Business Analytics.

Getting into the report, this semester has been a wildly busy one for Active Chapter. As Trey mentioned in his Winter 2022 report, this semester started off with 140 Brothers and their dates heading down to Nashville for our Spring Formal. Coupling this weekend with the Bengals success in the playoffs was a major boost to chapter morale to kickstart the semester.

In February, VP of Membership Development, Xander Wells, led 28 Brothers to Chicago to take part in the annual PIKE University hosted by PIKE Nationals. These Brothers attended sessions covering topics to help them develop as fraternity leaders, as young professionals, and as young men. They also capitalized on the hotel being right in the heart of Chicago and had a blast exploring the city during their free time.

Recruitment Chair Jaydon Kaufhold ran a phenomenal spring recruitment process. We handed out 18 bids and had 17 men accept to form the Psi 17 Pledge Class. Brother Chase Kendall again ran an efficient 4-week New Member Process centered around teaching the Pledge Class about the history of Pi Kappa Alpha, Alpha Xi, and introducing them to all the current actives. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 16 men were ritually initiated into the bonds of Pi Kappa Alpha.

I know you are all aware of Founder's Day being hosted on March 4<sup>th</sup>, but I do want to draw attention to it as it was undeniably one of the highlights of this semester. This scholarship program continues to be truly one of a kind. It encourages Brothers to always put their best foot forward and rewards those who continue to strongly represent all that Alpha Xi stands for. Thank you all for your continued support of Active Chapter.

Following Spring Break from March 14<sup>th</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>, where Brothers could be found around the globe relaxing and recharging, was elections for our new exec team on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Many of the positions were very heavily contested which led to elections lasting several hours. When the dust settled, the men below were elected to lead Alpha Xi for this coming year:

President – Christian Wall  
Internal Vice President – Tim Taul  
External Vice President – Charlie Eckert  
Treasurer – Wiley Lyons  
Secretary – Rishi Gabbita  
New Member Educator – Matthew Mohn

Recruitment Chair – Jackson Howe  
Sergeant at Arms – Ben Wessels  
Membership Development – Amun Tanveer  
Exec at Large – Joe Auberger

As the weather warmed up, Philanthropy Chairman Evan Vollmer programmed an amazing Karen Wellington Foundation Week that ran April 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. This week comprised 7 events in 7 days with all proceeds going to KWF. Things kicked off on Friday, April 8th with our Mom Prom. We welcomed 80+ moms to the Nester House for a great night of music and fun. On Saturday, we hosted a small Pancakes @ PIKE Fundraiser. On Sunday, 115+ actives, dads, and siblings attended a golf outing at California Golf Course. On Monday, we hosted a 3 v 3 basketball tournament in our parking lot. On Tuesday, we rented out the University of Cincinnati football team's indoor practice facility to host a Powderpuff Tournament with 100+ participants from sororities and campus organizations showing out. On Wednesday, 4 professional comedians hosted a comedy show at our house. Finally, on Thursday, we hosted a full-scale concert in our parking lot. 650+ people showed out for an awesome night of live music. We will be donating roughly \$6,000 to KWF.

With Alpha Xi being several years removed from hosting a concert on our property, there were a few challenges that we faced. We went through all the proper channels to register our event through the university, but the size of the crowd and loud music did draw the attention of both Cincinnati and UC Police Departments. After a quick conversation with Trey and myself, they allowed the event to continue for that night. I then had several further conversations with both UCPD and CPD to see what we could do differently for future events and to ensure PIKE continues to have a healthy relationship with local law enforcement. They appreciated me reaching out and said that as long as we provided advance notice to them for any events of that scale, we wouldn't have any problems moving forward.

Coinciding with our KWF Week was a visit from our PIKE Nationals Chapter Consultant, George Hoyer. George is a recent graduate of Indiana University and has spent the past year traveling to PIKE Chapters across the country providing feedback and advice. Between his own experience as SMC of IU's Chapter and what he has seen at other chapters, George provided us with numerous avenues to continue to elevate Alpha Xi. We had in depth discussions on topics ranging from expanding recruitment to place an emphasis on student-athletes, ensuring Ritual remains a core part of the member experience, revising Health & Safety and Crisis Management Plans, exploring corporate partnerships for our large philanthropy events, and much more. In his final report that was sent back to our executive team and the International Fraternity Headquarters, George stated, "To all the leaders and volunteers who have contributed to this group's 112-year streak, I leave you with this: There are many accomplished PIKE chapters across North America, **but only one Alpha Xi.**" Coming from an individual who has worked with many Smythe winning chapters, this statement truly is a testament to all that Alpha Xi continues to do right.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Xander Wells hosted an Innovation in Greek Life discussion with Dean of the Lindner College of Business, Marianne Lewis. All UC fraternities and sororities were invited and over 100 students showed up to the event. They discussed a number of topics primarily centered around how leading a college relates to leading a Greek Life organization, specifically regarding recruitment, curating meaningful experiences, and encouraging ongoing involvement after graduation.

As has become tradition at this point, PIKE received several awards from the University. The Fraternity & Sorority Life Office moved away from their more traditional chapter ranking system to instead give out 8 awards to fraternities to recognize specific events and individuals. This year, PIKE was named as the recipients of 3 of those 8 awards, including John Mang being named Alumni of the Year, Xander Wells being named Outstanding Chapter Citizen, and our Adopt-a-Highway community service program being named the Outstanding Service Project.

To round out this semester, 27 Brothers graduated from Active Chapter. These men have been staples in chapter, especially as we returned from the COVID regulations, and it is bittersweet to see them all move on. From what I can find, is one of the larger graduating classes Alpha Xi has had in several years. To have retained all these men as members of Active Chapter through all the craziness of the past few years is truly a testament to the Brotherhood that can be found within Alpha Xi. This will put us at a chapter size of 126 men heading into our next semester.

Currently, our new exec team is working very hard behind the scenes to get our feet under us and be in a strong position heading into this Summer. The previous exec team did an incredible job in just about every way imaginable and we want to capitalize on all the momentum that Alpha Xi currently has. In the coming weeks we will be getting the ball rolling with our summer programming and jumping right into recruitment for this Fall's Omega Pledge Class. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with you all throughout this next year and leading Alpha Xi to another year of great successes. Thank you and Rush PIKE!

### SHA

By: Mark Wood, SHA President

SHA has been busy the last couple of months planning for our first golf outing since pre-Covid. We chose a new location this year in hopes of attracting a broader age range of alums, while also going after sponsor dollars for the first time to help keep the outing affordable. Early reviews have been very positive, but we do intend to send a post event email to garner feedback once we have a few photos to share. In total, we welcomed 56 golfers, 44 of those being Pike alumni (we've been averaging right around ~60 golfers since I took over SHA, generally with a larger % of actives). While we successfully broadened the age diversity of participating brothers, I still believe there is plenty of low hanging fruit to drive greater attendance. Registration costs increased ~90%; with the addition of older alumni, we made up for a loss of younger alums. For next summer, we intend to introduce young alumni pricing (with the support of sponsor dollars) to help make the outing even more accessible. Overall, we consider the event to be a success, while acknowledging room for improvement going forward. Finally, thanks to the unexpected generosity of our sponsors, we not only broke even, but made money on the event. After a final tally here in the coming weeks, we expect to be able to make a small contribution to CE&CF.

The golf outing helped to re-energize SHA, with 4 new members being added to the board (Chris Simendinger, Brad Cousino, Brad Chamblin, Zak Smith). These brothers will be instrumental in building out the SHA event calendar, including a softball team, happy hours and more. Mark Stuhldreier has also continued to offer his support as an outside contributor. Joe Reifenberg and I are thankful to have others volunteering their time as we build a stronger path forward for SHA.

Trey Waltz added that as Alumni Engagement Chair, he intends to work with Mark to continue to build alumni participation in SHA events. Staying connected with graduates is essential to alumni involvement and Trey will work to integrate updated graduate information into CE&CF and other master contact rolls. In addition to staying in touch, this will lock them into our fundraising endeavors. Further, Bill Giesler asked that Trey also look for early on venues to "make the ask" and capture these new alumni into a giving mindset and plan.

### UCPHC

By: Alex Glutz

- 26 of 28 beds filled for 2022-2023. Chapter is looking to fill the two open beds by July.
- 2022-2023 Chapter Lease is expected to be completed soon.
- We will be meeting with Active Chapter to discuss summer maintenance plans and next year's housing contract Tuesday May 17.

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

Discussions with the law firm representing the Pecsok Estate indicate that there are a couple of commercial real estate properties yet to be sold. No final distributions until that happens. No estimate as to when sales may happen. No financial transactions outside of Johnson.

## **Fundraising Report – Bill Hoeb**

### Annual Fundraising Program (AFRP)

Contributions for fiscal year 2021-2022 currently total \$210,136. We await our final payment from the Pecsok Estate, expected to be in the neighborhood of \$20 to \$30,000. We have not had a targeted “ask” recently and the pace of contributions has slowed with only one gift received since Founders Day.

We have resumed email blasts of letters received from the 2022 CE&CF Award recipients. They will be sent every other week until July when we will switch to one per month.

Work continues on the master record of lifetime giving. We began keeping some annual giving records in the 2000’s and have managed to identify gifts from that period as well as previous years.

### Association Connection (A/C)

A major change in our relationship with A/C occurred in early March when we learned that Megan Prewitt resigned to take a job at Xavier University. Sandy Hatmaker, president, has assumed the responsibility for our account and it has been a smooth transition. However, Megan certainly will be missed!

### Communications

The obituary prepared by Brother Bob Felts ’60 for Nick Shafor ’57 was forwarded to Memphis and appeared in the Spring 2022 edition of the Shield & Diamond.

We have added a tab on the ucpiques.org website for the “History of Alpha Xi Chapter” and it contains the history book prepared for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010.

Trey Waltz - Active Chapter Fundraising Endeavor- Trey Waltz began his report by affirming the numerous and impressive accomplishments of Active Chapter as noted in Christian Walls earlier report to the Board. Trey added that he is excited about the leadership team chosen to lead Alpha Xi this next year.

Trey led the Board through a well-prepared Power Point presentation that credits Alpha Xi’s overall success to a three-part strategy: 1. Recruitment; 2. Development and Retention; and 3. Establishing a Campus and National Dominance - all grounded with strong Alumni support.

Continuing excellence in these areas while looking to the next level of success is a priority as the recruiting of new members is becoming increasingly competitive vis-a-vis other select fraternities. Alpha Xi is winning recruitment on campus in the above strategic areas and our annual CE&CF scholarship awards are invaluable as a recruiting tool and are unmatched by any other fraternity.

However, one area of growing concern in recruiting is occurring in the development of housing with significant multi-million-dollar upgrades and renovations in process at competing fraternities (Sigma Chi, SAE, and Beta). The Nester House is currently competitive but is somewhat limited in space for parking, tailgating and other inside social events, kitchen, Chapter room, etc.

Trey presented a proposal from Active Chapter that would enhance the offerings of the Nester House through the development of the adjacent empty Digby lot acquired in 2020 from Mike Dever. Entitled the “Mike Dever Alumni Addition”, the vision is to connect the Nester parking lot and the Dever lot and build a barn-like structure on the Dever lot that would hold up to 200 for recruiting, campus socials, alumni tailgating and other events. With social activities being held in the barn, this could repurpose usage of the basement/kitchen/Chapter areas of the Nester House.

Chapter has begun an internal fundraising campaign (to get skin in the game) for the project and has had preliminary discussions with local contractors. As next steps, the CE&CF Board agreed to work with Active Chapter in developing the exploratory steps to the project:

1. Bill Giesler will attend the planned meeting with Trey and Ed Wright Designs to exchange ideas for the project design phase. UCPHC will be informed and kept in the loop.
2. There is a vacant house (Deacon) that abuts the Dever property. Bill Giesler asked Trey to get a contact for the property in order to pursue a potential purchase.
3. The Nester parking lot will lose two valuable parking spaces with this project. Opportunities to gain needed parking spaces were discussed and will be explored.
4. Trey Waltz will meet with other stakeholders (Mike Dever, etc.) to discuss the project.

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

The market has not been our friend in 2022. Our investments are down 8.2%. This is not good but is better than the S&P 500 which is down 15.5% both YTD results. The fact that we are keeping Fixed Income at 55 - 60% has helped our performance versus market results.

The actual value of our portfolio is \$1,519,181 as of this morning.

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

We will start sending out blanket emails to kick off the 2022 CE&CF "UC" Bearcat Scholarship application process at the end of this month. Applications will be due by July 31st with the presentation of the scholarship in the fall at the Alpha Xi Scholarship Dinner.

### **Old Business:**

1. Planned Giving Initiative Update: Bill Giesler is still meeting with Nick Orphan and Mark Serrienne to generate ideas for new initiatives. The current focus is on completing the Accumulated Giving Project.
2. Accumulated Giving Project: Work has been completed to identify known past donors and accumulated donations to CE&CF from all available historical sources. This initiative will create all new Recognition Award categories for donors at accumulated giving levels (ex., a top level of \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 and below) that would mirror our ongoing annual Shield and Diamond giving levels. Before sharing this data, Bill Giesler stated that he is looking to having the data audited for accuracy and hopes to have the project completed in time for the Annual Report.
3. Amazon Smile: CE&CF is a charity authorized to receive a percentage (.5%) of a purchaser's sales through the Amazon Prime (Smile) website. Association Connection will be asked to update the present CE&CF site data regarding the processing of financial transactions before we promote this fundraising opportunity.

### **New Business:**

1. Board Elections: Dick Fenstermacher made the following motion: "It is moved that Dick Fenstermacher, Bill Hoeb, and Barry Wanninger be reelected to four-year terms expiring in June 2026; John Strohbach and Steve Simendinger be reelected to two-year terms expiring in June 2024; and Wayne Gilsdorf be elected Vice President to a two-year term expiring in June 2024. It is further moved that the following Committee Chairs be elected to two-year terms expiring in June 2024: Bill Hoeb, Fundraising; Barry Wanninger, Scholarship; Steve Simendinger, Investments; and, John Strohbach, Vice Chair, Investments." Seconded by Bill Hoeb. Unanimous.

Steve Simendinger thanked John Strohbach for the many years and tireless effort that he has given to making our Endowment Fund the great success that it has been over the years. The Board also echoed similar thanks of appreciation. Thank you, John for your insight and leadership as you have personally managed the investment process, philosophy and policy objectives through the years that have grown our investments wisely and enabled our ability to give back generously to scholarships and other endeavors.

**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** August 12, 2022 – Kenwood Country Club