



Phi Sigma Kappa Penn State



Dear Brother,

I hope and trust that this letter finds you and your family healthy, as we continue to live and to survive in these challenging times.

There is much that I want to bring to your attention. I hope you don't mind if I organize this letter by subjects.

Kappa Chapter is Open!

With the University's decision to open campus for Fall 2020 classes, the Alumni Board needed to make a decision on whether to open the house or not. There were a number of factors to consider, and many sources of information, including National (who was quite helpful). We also needed to know what the actives were thinking – if we opened, would they come? As it turned out, the actives wanted to come back to the House. So we decided to open – and so far, so good. We have more actives in the house this fall than at any time during the last academic year. I am pleased to report that we have 25 actives living in the house, and another 17 living outside the house. Steps have been taken to deal with the coronavirus risk. We are hopeful that the semester will go well.

Homecoming may go virtual.

The Board is exploring the possibility of a virtual Homecoming. Here is the working plan. A few Board members would meet at the house (with masks, of course), and host a Zoom meeting. Alumni would join the Zoom meeting from the comfort of their homes. The Board members would start with a roundtable with the executive board for the actives. We would then go on a walking tour of the house. I would imagine that there are many of you who have not seen the house in a very long time. It would be a lot of fun to bring the house into your living rooms! Finally, we would have a Q&A with the alumni. All in, maybe an 1.5 hours.

We need your help to communicate with you.

The Phi Sigma Kappa alumni total about 950. Of these, we have current contact information (either a mailing address, an email address, or both) for 801. Of these, we have emails for 505. Unfortunately, we have 148 alumni for whom we have no contact information. (Please see the attached list.) If you can, please help us find them.

It also would be helpful if all alumni could provide an email address. Our alumni communication partner, Affinity Connection (who I understand has been working with PSK for decades), provides emails on a monthly basis. The hard copy newsletter goes out just two times a year (due to the expense). In addition, Affinity hosts a website that allows alumni to post information, photos, and/or announcements, and to get in touch with each other. We would like to be of more value to you. Your email address will help us do so.

Finally, we will only be able to send notices on the virtual Homecoming by email.

Finances are strong, with some real highlights.

–continued on reverse

I AM PLEASED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OF:

537-363 D

- \$1,000+
- \$500-\$999.99
- \$250-\$499.99
- \$100-\$249.99
- \$51-\$99.99
- Up to \$50.99

- My check is enclosed \$ _____, payable to
Phi Sigma Kappa Association, 537AF0101
- Or, call our Toll-Free Donation Hotline 1-800-975-6699
- Please charge my: Mastercard Visa \$ _____

Gifts to the annual fund are not tax deductible.

Signature _____

Account # _____

Expiration Date _____ CVV _____
(3-digit number on back of card)

Phi Sigma Kappa
The Pennsylvania State University
Alumni Relations Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

Detach and return this portion in the envelope provided.

See back to update contact information!

–continued from page 1

In response to the closing of the campus on March 16, 2020 the Board decided to provide partial refunds to graduating actives and credits against the fall rent to returning actives. This action was greatly appreciated by the actives. Notwithstanding this reduction in revenue, the housing P&L as of July 31 showed a small surplus for the academic year.

The Board has been taking steps to pay off the mortgage. In January 2019, we refinanced the mortgage balance of \$495k to a 5-year balloon note. We have been using housing surplus to pay down this mortgage balance. As of July 31, the balance is \$380k. I expect that we will be using the current year surplus to further reduce the balance to \$350k. Assuming many things continue in our favor (which is of course a big assumption), we may be able to announce in January 2024 that the house is mortgage-free!

In addition, alumni donations were up significantly! As of July 31, the alumni donated \$19,008. A year ago, the amount was \$11,071. I can't thank you enough for this support. The amount donated this year enabled the Board to nearly cover the costs of alumni communications (which include the Affinity website, and the print and electronic communications to the alumni), to hold a well-received Homecoming in October 2019, and to provide two Special Recognition awards for deserving actives. The Scholarship Funds for this past year were provided by Bill DeGrandis. For the current year, we have a great start on the Scholarship Fund, thanks to a very generous donation by Joseph Masterson. Thank you to both Bill and to Joe!

Support is always needed – and greatly appreciated.

For this new academic year, we do need your continued support. The alumni association budget for this year is \$25,000. As I have described before, the alumni association budget includes all communication costs, events hosted by the alumni, and the Scholarship Fund. Our budget for this year is \$25,000 which includes \$5,000 for scholarship.

Finally, it bears repeating that the Board is very interested in identifying and implementing steps to improve communications with alumni and to provide activities and events for alumni. Our Alumni Communications Chair, Fred DeCock, is ready to hear from you. So am I. Please feel free to contact Fred at fred.decock@comcast.net and/or me at the contact information below.

Be well, and I hope to see you soon.

Fraternally yours,



Martin Barbato
mfbarbato@gmail.com
732-742-0066



THANK YOU! KEEP IN TOUCH!

***Please indicate any changes to your personal information**

OR visit our alumni website at www.phisigpsu.com to update your information.

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Home Address: <Street Address 1> <Street Address 2>
<City>, <ST> <Zip>

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Professional Title: _____

Work Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birth Date: _____

Keep me informed about Phi Sig!
I prefer being contacted through (check all that apply):

- E-mail
- Direct Mail
- Home Phone
- Cell Phone