**DISTRICT IV ARCHON REPORT**
**Nick Sharp**
March 4, 2017
St. Louis, Missouri

Brothers of the EC,

The chapters of District IV of our Noble Fraternity continue to improve in status of their respective universities. We are all excited to see the return of the colonies at Auburn University and Virginia Tech. After coordinating with the officers of the colony of the Alabama Beta colony and HQ staff members who have spent time on campus, it seems the new members are enthusiastic and anxious to return in full force. According to undergraduate observations, a housing structure could greatly increase the Auburn colonies success chances and the officers want to discuss the resources that the Canonsburg Corporation could potentially provide for their situation.

I attended the Tuscaloosa session of the Regional Officer Training in January. The event seemed to be extremely valuable and was met with many positive reviews by the various undergrads who attended this session. A common theme of praise following the event was the value that many of the officers received in speaking with their equals from other chapters. I know this is a common activity in these training events, but the members, especially the presidents, seem to gain valuable insight in discussing their successes and hardships with varying situations. Many problems can easily be solved speaking to members from other chapters who have already overcome.

The GPs of the district have an open line of communication between themselves using emails and an application. This has lead to further sharing of information, documents, and overall knowledge of how to deal with certain situations.

With WWLS on the horizon and my term as Archon quickly coming to an end, I have reached out to the chapters in search of potential candidates. Several members have responded with questions of the role and submit their names for the potential role. It is exciting to share the current vision of the EC and listen to how the candidates already agree and/or disagree based on their own chapter. I will continue to reach out for more interested candidates to hopefully reach a diverse pool of men running for the position in June.

As always, looking forward to seeing and working with the rest of the EC and Staff in St. Louis.

LEDN,

Nick…

## Chapter Updates

**AL Alpha**

Here's what you asked for in the GroupMe. Let me know if you need anything else.
Alabama Alpha is currently in its first year within our new chapter house. We had a fall pledge class of about 50 with 35 of the new members being initiated. We currently have 133 members in total. We ended the fall semester with the fifth highest new member class GPA on campus as well as finishing with an overall 3.05. Some of our goals for this semester is to become more involved with the community, especially the B+ foundation. We are looking forward to a great second semester. –Michael Goldhammer, GP

**AL Beta Colony**

A few things we have done in Auburn so far. Main thing right now is recruitment we have given out four bids, which doesn't sound like much, but in spring of Auburn that is really good. Chapters that have 100+ usually get 8-10 for spring here. Working towards becoming an actually chapter again (we have a weird situation). We are looking for a temporary house currently for like a year that is all, the one place that is in good position is way to expensive for us to afford. So, a question for you, I think I remember this from ROT is there a fund or something that we can apply for to get help from nationals. Other things we are working on is a family weekend, partnering with a sorority, and adopting a spot on Auburn' campus to keep clean. -Jake Houston, GP

**AL Gamma**

Alabama Gamma is currently at 46 actives and has 3 pledges for the spring. We're hoping to be at 60 members by the end of next fall. Our GPA for the fall was over 3.0. We're actively trying to raise money for a house through dues and fundraisers. We have planned a Founders Day event and invited all alumni living near Huntsville to try to get more involved with them.
My chapter liked the regional officer training, especially the parts where there officers talked with just their office (like presidents with presidents). We thought the big group discussions were less effective. -Alex Ross, GP

**GA Alpha**

This is what I sent to my advisors. It has all the information on the current chapter:
-We currently sit around **34 active members** with a **new member class of 3.** We have approximately **15-19 inactive brothers** at the university. Reasons range from inability to pay dues, parents quit support due to grades, legal issues, etc.
-We have a chapter **GPA (from the fall) of 3.25** (although that is slightly inflated). That probably sits us around 20/27 in campus ranking. The highest is around 3.5 and the lowest is around 3.05.

-We are in the process of **building a new chapter house**. It is located across the river from Greek Park Circle. It sits on 5.5 acres of land.
-We hand chapter meetings **Sundays at 7:00pm.** Rooms depend on the week. I have a master schedule.
-We have about **$40,000 that is owed to us from recent grads and inactive brothers**. While that number seems high, Davis (my treasurer) has taken that number down since getting elected by a significant amount. There are a few members that are "bad debt" that need a solution because they make up the bulk of that amount.
-We **offer two in-house scholarships**, but are **in the process of creating a new one for incoming freshman** that will be distributed to high school seniors this spring. We will need help with executing that.
-This is the first academic year where we have had an active and engaged alumni base (at least in recent memory). It is awesome, but we aren't entirely sure how to get more engaged and what exactly they want.
-**We do elections by academic year**. I will be gone come Fall but the new president will be here all academic year.
Here are our goals:
**Offer a scholarship to incoming freshman**. This adds to our recruiting effort and helps bring in solid new members.
**Create a enforceable, yet reasonable scholarship plan**.
-20/27 is embarrassing. I refuse to wear letters to class because I know every student thinks, "Oh, he's in the dumb chapter", yet I maintain a 3.8 GPA. Bringing that up helps us as a whole and us as individuals.
**Reinforce Low-Risk Behavior to ensure no major incidents.**
-It sounds obvious, but getting in the local paper for sexual assault or eating a raccoon or anything else would kill the construction efforts, kill our recruitment efforts, potentially get us suspended, and raise our insurance premiums. -Alex Lister, GP

**GA Beta**

Chapter Update:

- Relations with alumni in our vicinity are improving and more alumni are becoming involved with our chapter
- New leadership in the chapter has shown initiative in wanting improvements
- 6 new members which is above our IFC average (5.31) for the spring; GA Beta is making headway in its recruitment
- Our financial situation is stabilizing and plans have been made to get rid of some debt
- Committees are being started from scratch. New standard being implemented and expectations for committees are being set

Semester Goals:

- Committees become fully aware of their new responsibilities
- Transition binders/transition process is standardized
- Debt is reduced by half

- Fall 2017 Rush is planned out by last chapter
- New member education is standardized
- Have a surplus of 5% of our budget

Numbers:

- 21 active brothers
- 6 new members

Comments:

- Our national consultant advisor was a great help to us during his visit. Communicated important information pertaining to nationals and other chapter operations
- No concerns right now
  -JS Lee, GP

**LA Beta**

Sorry for getting this to you last minute, things have been hectic around here. This semester we're coming right out of a membership review that was pretty hard on our chapter but I believe we are recovering very well. We started the semester with a brotherhood retreat where we discussed what happened over the last few months, what we did wrong, and how we could have reacted better. We also set goals for the semester, the main ones we're getting the sanctions put on us lifted, doing more philanthropy, and to increase our numbers.

Right now we are at about 25 members and we would like to see us get into the 40s within the next 2 semesters. We lost some guys from graduation as well as this last membership review. There was also another hazing incident on Super Bowl weekend between and active and 3 new members, all 4 for which have been removed from the chapter. It sucks that we are losing so many guys, but that is the price we have to pay when trying to change the culture of our chapter for the better.

We've been looking at our goals each chapter meeting to check our progress and so far we are almost halfway to getting a couple sanctions lifted. I truly believe that we are starting to gain momentum and will be a completely different and better chapter this year. –Kaleb Schuler, GP

**LA Gamma**

I hope this message finds you well. Here are some things that LA GAMMA is up to this semester. We are working on getting our GPA up from last semester, we are working with the Greek study app for all brothers, and have implemented a mandatory study hours policy for all the brothers who did not meet our GPA requirement from last semester. The brothers who did not meet our minimum standard have one semester to bring up their grades before they will be kicked out. We currently have 38 members on campus. In other news we have two new philanthropy events that we are going to do this semester which are a blood drive and a clothing drive to benefit the victims of the New Orleans East tornado. We are not having any problems with nationals right now, if we do I will contact you. –Hugh Lynch, GP

**MS Alpha**

Mississippi Alpha initiated 57 new members a few weeks ago who had a combined GPA of 3.1. We began several philanthropic drives last semester. In October we donated several thousand dollars to the Susan G. Komen Foundation in the name of our late housemother, Miss Cindy Harkin who passed away due to cancer 18 months ago. We also donated money sports equipment to the local Boy and Girls Club, as well as, several thousand more dollars to the Active Heroes Foundation, which fights PTSD and mental health of our veterans. Goals this semester include the continued rise in our chapter GPA, getting ahead of our finances due to several large bills this year and work towards accreditation requirements. –Jack Bitterman, GP

**TN Epsilon**

Chapter updates from TN epsilon, 38 members + 5 New Members. The chapter has been slowly but steadily increasing since I joined in 2014 when we had 14 members. Still laying down the foundations for a successful chapter. Semester Goals, 2.75 GPA, 10+ service hours per member, form alumni advisory board. –JC Sorce, GP

**VA Alpha**

VA Alpha is happy to announce several updates for the Spring of 2017. We had an incredibly successful rush, in which we both extended and had 23 bids accepted. Our pledge class features several out-of-state individuals, a member of the 2014 National Champion Men's Soccer team and current varsity starter, 2 members of the 2016 National Champion Club Soccer team, and leaders in a diverse set of organizations including the business school's Global Markets Group, College Republicans, and Habitat for Humanity, among others. This leaves us with a strong number of 84 total brothers and new members to lead VA Alpha now and in the years to come. Additionally, we have made several repairs to the house and have announced a new project to insert an ADA Accessible ramp this year, which would make the first ADA Accessible house at the University of Virginia. We are planning to have an entire week at the end of April to host philanthropic events that will benefit SARA, a sexual assault prevention and response organization devoted to educating students on bystander intervention tactics and providing support to victims of sexual assault. Given all that we have experienced, we want to lead the IFC at UVA in sexual assault prevention and response efforts, and we feel that this newly-created week devoted to that cause will help us do so. We are continuing to pursue justice, and we are confident that our litigation against Rolling Stone will have a positive outcome in 2017. –Nick Metzler, GP

**VA Eta**

Hope you're doing well. My name is Danny Rayes; I'm the president of Phi Psi VA Eta at VCU. The semester has been going well so far and we've got a few projects we're working on. We have consistent service projects on a weekly basis: we "adopted" Floyd St. last spring semester and every Friday we clean it up, we also volunteer at BARK, a dog shelter, every other Saturday. BARK actually entered an Animal Planet competition for a renovation and after a little help from our brothers voting and getting the word out on social media, they won. We've been planning a philanthropy event for this semester that will raise money for low-income Richmond public schools. All money raised will be given to Communities in Schools of Richmond, which is dedicated to

keeping kids in school. We're still running through logistics and it's possible the larger event (a field day for kids and families within the Richmond community) gets pushed to fall but we will for sure have a fundraising drive this spring. Right now we've got about 45 active brothers and we expect to initiate six new members before the end of the semester. As a long-term goal, I want us to have a larger presence and influence on our campus. A few weeks ago I drafted a document detailing my vision for our future and specific goals we could accomplish this semester that would bring us closer to it. Some of these goals include: a far reaching and unique philanthropy event, increased involvement in the Greek community by showing support for other Greek orgs, and increased involvement with the university by supporting and collaborating with student orgs. I'm hopeful that we can accomplish a lot this semester. Let me know if you have any input/questions! –Danny Rayes, GP

*Late response from all other chapters.