

August 14, 2008

Kevin Gfell '01, President
Indiana Chi Phi Alumni Association
6250 McKinley Court
Indianapolis, IN 46254

Re: **THE ONCE AND FUTURE IOTA DELTA**

Dear Kevin,

Thanks for the invite to a Directors Meeting on Saturday, August 9th and enjoyable cookout at your home. The collapse of our Iota Delta Chapter was the main topic of discussion.

With a touch of autumn in the air reminiscent of I.U. home football games, I have gathered samples of Association material from over the years, some of which might be of use for the 50th Anniversary:

1. Iota Delta's 35th Anniversary letter to Dean Richard McKaig – This is a review of significant events in Iota Delta's history up to 1993, which I adapted from the 25th Anniversary Slide Show.

See the 1982 Little 500 and 1993 35th Anniversary DVD's.

I acknowledge the stalwart support provided by the *Chi Phi National Office* and *Educational Trust* to Iota Delta from our beginning in 1958, but personally feel the Chapter colonization was under-capitalized. I.U. administration required that the Fraternity build a new house within 5 years, so that another fraternity could move into the building at 814 East Third Street. Lacking \$20,000, National built the new house without the living room wing depicted on the architect's plan. This resulted in the 1964 "Shoobox" at 17th and Jordan, which also lacked a paved driveway for some 30 years until 1993. After the enthusiasm for our new house waned in a few years, Iota Delta began to lose money in its attempts to compete with other I.U. fraternities.

2. *Frangipana II*, December 7, 1973 – This newsletter was published and mailed by Brother Bill Montgomery '64 for many years. 1973 marked the 15th Anniversary of Iota Delta, with Chapter income losses and need for alumni aid beyond dues already apparent. After 10 years as Alumni President, John Craft '61 retired, being replaced by Joe Goeller '63 for remainder of the 1970's.
3. John returned as Alumni President to organize the Iota Delta 25th Anniversary celebration in 1983. After its success, he again resigned, succeeded by Dr. Perry Lopez '81 through 30th Anniversary in 1988. I returned as President for 5 years, 1989 through 1993, plus served as Secretary - Treasurer and Secretary until 1998. Further Presidents were Doug Givan '82, 1994 – Feb 1995; Bryan Gray '88; Steve Pappas '76; Dan Bowden '76, Bill Brockmann '66; Marty Pieratt '79; and now you!
4. Association Chart – Directors, Advisors to the Chapter, New Wing Chairmen; Chi Phi Rush List; **Alumni tax-deductible contributions** to *Education Trust* c/o the John D. Craft scholarship; and "Accepting the Challenge" certificates for a Senior Recognition Banquet to enroll them as alumni.
5. Association/Iota Delta Update letter, September 26, 1990 – The \$5,600 AADCO fire alarm system was installed, "*The Campaign for Iota Delta*" **New Wing** literature printed, and we had **55 live-in members achieved by Iota Delta!** It was proposed the Chapter send Christmas cards to alumni.

With some \$12,000 in alumni contributions from *The Campaign* and refinancing of the Chapter House due to its increased property value over the years, we paid off our \$111,315 debt to *Educational Trust*; set up the John D. Craft scholarship, plus completed these renovations – (1) A paved parking lot with basketball court, (2) Patio railing, (3) Remodeled bathrooms, with new tiles in showers and fixing the plumbing leaks from 1991 frozen pipes, (4) Modernized kitchen - hot and cold food serving lines, (5) Completely new roof, soffits, and gutters, (6) Thermo pane windows, (7) New \$5,800 water heating system, (8) Redecorated formal living room, featuring new carpeting, furniture, and so on, by 1993.

6. *Iota Delta's New Beginning* letter, May 9, 1994 – Alumni funds solicited due to failure of Rush.
7. Proposed KDR lease of Iota Delta letter, March 4, 1995 – Confidential letter to National following another year of meager Rush results by Chapter. KDR did not pursue their proposal, so President Bryan Gray requested National's assistance for an intensive Summer Rush effort. For even further motivation, the Association obtained *Educational Trust* funds for an Iota Delta computer lab.
8. March to December 1995 – Inadequate Accountant oversight; attempts to collect \$13,000 in bad debts. Overdue bills were turned over to a Collection Agency. A Line-and-Block Chart relating Association Directors and Advisors to Chapter Executive Council. Immediate goal of even larger Homecoming alumni crowds. Several flyers sent, offering an Indy bus trip. Future celebrations could be an Annual Founder's Day in Indianapolis, Golf scrambles, and the Winter Formal Dance.
9. Association Meeting Minutes, March 6, 1996 – Association Directors approved spending \$6,000 from Alumni money market fund to buy new dining room tables and chairs, redecorate the Game Room with a 48" large screen TV and game tables, plus replace ceiling tiles and other renovations. Discussed the need for both live-in and live-out student contracts. Alumni Annual Dues are to be included in the *Iota Delta Update* newsletters, and then followed by postcard reminders at three-month intervals for alumni who have not responded. *Thank You* letters are to be sent. Transworld Collections upgraded \$13,000 in student bad debts to "hard core" status, or reimbursed at 50/50.

Of positive note, current student **payment of house bills** were the **best in 6 years**; and Chi Phi-Chi Omega scored a triumph at I.U. Sing on February 7, winning the **Second Place Trophy! ... (See I.U. Sing DVD)** A new *Academic Standards Plan* by Graduate Advisor Eric Lagzdins Pi '95 was adopted by the Chapter.

New Wing prospects were again discussed, with Association Directors stressing the need for 2 ½ to 3 years of consistent Chapter Rush performance. Alpha Brett Trout presented an impressive, color Rush brochure.

10. 1996-97 Housing Contract, Director's *First Friday* Meetings, April 5, 1996 letter – For further flexibility, the Association began our series of meetings on the *First Friday* of each month. Dan Bowden volunteered to organize an Alumni "Husbands and Wives" social event and/or cookout for early summer, and possibly gather some Chi Phi teams for an I.U. Alumni Golf Tournament in June. Steve Pappas offered to have a 500 Race Qualifications Saturday party, being a day at the Speedway and a cookout. John Craft had earlier proposed an Alumni/Chapter Rush event at his home and barbecue on the patio deck.

President Bryan Gray '88 noted the need to proceed with organizing the Directors and Advisors as active and reporting individuals in a solid team, per *1989 Chi Phi Housing Corporation Manual*.

Dan Bowden '76 took responsibility of continued monthly mailings for the Indy Chi Phi Club.

Steve Pappas '76 solicited alumni assistance in providing summer jobs to Chapter members.

11. Chi Phi Mission Statement, Alumni Association Bylaws, Iota Delta Chapter Bylaws, Application for Room Reservation, Room Condition Form, Live-In Contract, and Live-Out Contract.

I began extensive traveling on business, flying to some 30 offices across the country, doing audits for my company, essentially "living out of my suitcase". This involved flying from Indianapolis on Sunday and returning on Friday, with a week between to file reports and expense account. My time was running out.

12. 1998-99 Housing Contract, November 23, 1997 email – I proposed to the Directors an idea for the charging of rooms like motels, with a discount for double occupancy to discourage the apparent practice of students having single rooms, which depresses Rush. *Need to match students to room numbers!* In addition, the prepayment discount for paying the entire house bill in advance should

be reduced to \$100, with the Junior-Senior discount also reduced to \$100. The Chapter had 20 live-out members, who should be confronted by the Delta and pressed to pay their live-out fees.

13. 1998-99 Housing Contract, November 25, 1997 email – I proposed to the Directors that the housing contract be altered to allow us to pro-rate Chapter deficits against all damage deposits, requiring the damage deposits be replenished at the beginning of the next school year. As the members of a Brotherhood responsible for each other, it would seem suitable for the students to assume these debts as damages. At least, this should be done on a 50-50 basis with the Alumni. *I had in mind some \$12,000 in New Wing funds, which we had to spend to keep Iota Delta alive.*
14. Association Meeting Minutes, April 27, 1998 – Treasurer Dan Bowden reported \$1,600 in money market funds. Asst Treasurer Dave Estes '69 advised we would use up our \$30,000 line-of-credit with another interest payment to Monroe County Bank. He requested names of Chapter members being considered for the Dr. Thomas A. Gehring scholarship. (Dave was also our AIFC delegate.)

Joe Goeller provided information as to State of Indiana requirements for reinstating the Alumni Association, including an updated set of Bylaws. Our corporate status had been dissolved by the Secretary of State on April 18, 1989, due to our Accountant's failure to file her annual "1935AR" reports. Joe further reported on procedures for creating a "501 (c) 3" scholarship foundation.

President Steve Pappas discussed the role of Director's, and need for *more involvement* by them, both at Association and Chapter levels. (Note: All Directors were unaware of State's 1989 action.)

John Craft and Don Meyer '60 reviewed plans for 40th Anniversary, scheduled for the weekend of November 14 and 15. They will work on establishing chairmen for each Class Year to promote alumni participation. The first mailing will be Friday, May 1st. Dan Bowden offered use of his bulk rate mailing service, at the cost of 3 cents above the Post Office rate. The current Association concept is four postcard or tri-fold mailings annually, plus two Chapter newsletters. If agreeable to the Chapter, they would be paid a commission on alumni contributions for doing the mailings. Use of outside Alumni Service publishing company was also considered, with no decision made.

Joe Goeller proposed three measurements for determining Association and Chapter improvement: (1) Number of Chapter Live-In students compared to 55 man capacity; (2) ID Chapter and New Member GPA compared to other fraternities (Do our student Brothers have the higher intelligence and energy necessary to operate a fraternity and study for their I.U. graduation degrees?); and (3) Number of alumni contributors compared to total Association database.

The Directors unanimously approved the following motion: "The Iota Delta chapter house shall be open to students attending Summer School sessions during 1998. Summer students will pay for room privileges by one of two methods: (1) For the long class session, \$250.00 due by May 5th; or (2) For short class sessions, \$150.00 due by May 5th, another \$150.00 due before or on June 5th."

In early May 1998, I had a radical prostatectomy, with a slow recovery. After that, for business and health reasons, I became inactive in the Association. I have continued to contribute to the Indiana Chi Phi Alumni Association and *Keeping the Promise* campaign.

Yours in the Bonds,

Joe Goeller ID '63