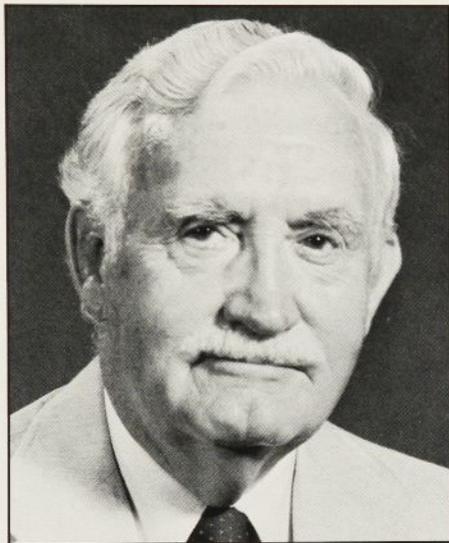




# FALL PLEDGE CLASS HONOREE



*Dr. James William Dean*

During his professional career Dr. Dean took many opportunities to help Alpha Phi Omega grow on campuses throughout the Southeast. He served on Regional Boards and Committees. He was elected to the National Board of Directors in 1964. He served on the Board for ten years. He helped rewrite the Constitution in 1967 and worked enthusiastically for female members in the years before 1976. Under his guidance Zeta Beta was the first chapter in the nation to admit women as full Brothers in January of 1977.

In recognition of his long years of service to the campuses, community, nation and Alpha Phi Omega, the National Board of Directors recently honored Dr. Dean with the National Certificate of Appreciation, an award President Earle Herbert presented at the Spring Zeta Beta Banquet. Zeta Beta Chapter also honored Dr. Dean as Advisor Emeritus.

Recently Dr. Dean retired from the University. He had a long and illustrious career as an educator and administrator and as a Brother of Alpha Phi Omega. After retiring from the University he continued to stay busy as sales representative in Blacksburg, Virginia. He is also a member of the National Council on Aging and his hobby is gardening.

When asked to describe his greatest contributions to Alpha Phi Omega his answer was simple but nonetheless inspiring. "I was always there" to help our chapter and to help Alpha Phi Omega. He has clearly demonstrated our principles of Leadership, Friendship and Service. His guidance and commitment will always be remembered and appreciated certainly by the Fall 1986 Pledge Class of Alpha Phi Omega. They will have the honor and privilege to bear the name James William Dean Pledge Class.

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## TO ALUMNI... YOUR INVITATION

Welcome Alumni! That's the message that the Alumni Planning Committee wants to send to you in hopes that you will be able to attend the National Convention in Houston, Texas. Abe Frishman, Chairman of the National Alumni Committee and the Student Committee planning the alumni events have been involved in conjuring up good things to attract our Alumni to our National Convention.

Houston is an exciting place from Gilley's to the Rockets, to NASA, the Houston Space Center. Many events and activities are in the offing for our alumni.

A number of exciting sightseeing tours are being planned during the Convention

as well as post-convention side trips. If you would like to visit New Orleans, see San Antonio, visit South Padre Island or Dallas-Fort Worth, complete the registration form on the back and make a note of any of these tours when you send your registration back to the National Office.

To help you coordinate your travel plans to the Houston Convention the Park Travel Agency in Dallas is at your service. Their toll free number is 1-800-225-7282. Continental Airlines has been the designated Convention Airline and has promised the best rates possible for convention attendees. Make your plans now—we want to see YOU in Houston!

The Fall 1986 Pledge Class has been dedicated by the National Board of Directors to Dr. James William Dean, University Dean at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Dean is a distinguished member of the Fraternity having been an active undergraduate, an Honorary member, a chapter advisor and a member of the National Board of Directors.

Dr. Dean joined Alpha Phi Omega in 1936 while in high school. In college, he joined the University of Pittsburg's Beta Chapter. He left school to serve in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and later returned to Grove City College where he graduated in 1948. While there, he served as President of the student body.

In 1959 Dr. Dean came to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Serving as Dean of Students and later as Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Dean used his position to promote service through Alpha Phi Omega.

  
**T O R C H &  
T R E F O I L**

*Alpha Phi Omega  
National Service Fraternity*

**Volume 62, No. 1  
FALL 1986**

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## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

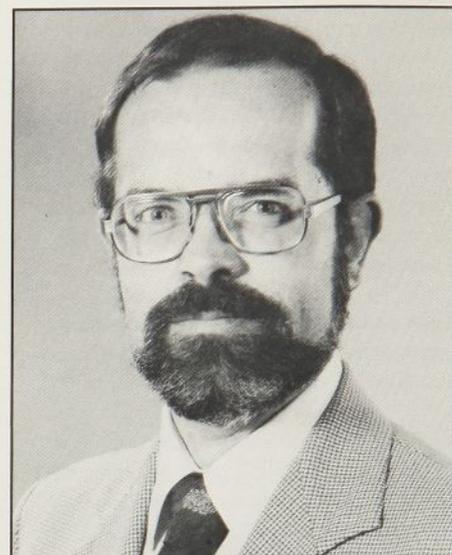
I am writing this in early August and you are reading it only a month or so later, but this greeting—this wish—is not out of place. This is a new year, nationally for our Fraternity, and many new exciting things are happening—ring out the old and welcome the new!

The biggest “new thing” has to be the news that Alpha Phi Omega is moving the National Office. Although the Waltower Building has served us for a generation, it is no longer able to provide the Fraternity with what is needed. To improve our service to our Brothers, Chapters, and Alumni the National Office will be moving to another location in Kansas City.

This new year gives us not only a new address but new ways to continue to serve our ever important principles of Leadership, Friendship and Service. They may be old principles but each year we make new determinations and discover new ways in fulfilling those guiding principles.

This year with our National Convention being in Houston, Texas we have a fantastic opportunity for renewing our principles on a national basis. A National Convention really brings out fellowship. I have been directly involved in many National Conventions, but none have had the degree of innovative pre-planning that our Brothers in Texas have already supplied. This Convention is going to be one you and your chapter will not want to miss. You will be getting more Convention information as the school year progresses. But if you haven't already started planning to attend, start now to assure that you and your chapter are present. Select your chapter coordinator and send me that Brother's name and address. Make sure that you and your chapter are part of the largest fellowship circle in our history.

Our National Convention also provides leadership opportunities. Our Leadership Development Committee continues its work in improving our Leadership Program. Those who attend the National Convention will be able to participate in the Leadership Development Workshops being offered there. There will also be other personal growth workshops and seminars. This will be a great opportunity to develop your own leadership potential and also to find out how to better serve your chapter.



**Earle Herbert**

And, service is also a part of our National Convention. These projects are still being planned.

Yes, our National Convention is that opportunity that allows us to participate at a National level. But we still need to fulfill our guiding principles back in our own chapters, sections and regions. This Fall any number of the regions will be having Fall meetings. Try to attend that conference. National Service Day which will be November 1 this year is an opportunity for all chapters to join together as a National Service Fraternity. Make plans now for your chapter to be a part of that one day service event. In this issue of *Torch and Trefoil* read Jerry Schroeder's article on the Bicentennial of the Constitution. What could be a better example of service to the nation. As Jerry indicates the U.S. Constitution is a unique document and Alpha Phi Omega is a unique organization. With all the chapters working on this project it could be a great opportunity for the Fraternity on a national level.

Well we are about to begin the new year, and chapters have new officers, new ideas. The challenge is to continue improving ourselves and our chapters. As always the success of a year will be up to you and your chapter. Remember, however, that we—your advisors, sectional chairmen, regional representatives, Board Members, National officers, and the personnel at the national office—are all here ready to act as a personal resource to you.

Working together we can guarantee that Alpha Phi Omega does indeed have a happy new year.

# CHAPTER NEWS

- The **Alpha Alpha Epsilon** Chapter in Charleston, South Carolina recently sponsored a Lip Sync Contest to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The total amount of monies raised was \$430.00. The contest was such a success that the chapter has elected to make this a yearly event. For further information write to Alpha Alpha Epsilon SPO Box 2522, Charleston, South Carolina 29424.
- **Beta Omicron** Chapter at the University of Missouri, Rolla, as part of their Spring 1986 Service Project, raised over \$3,500 to benefit the Ginger Bread House, a home for severely mentally and physically handicapped children in the Rolla, Mo. area. The money is to be used in building and maintenance needs. The funds were raised through a Pizza Drive in which Beta Omicron members sold, prepared and delivered pizzas to members of the community as well as other campus organizations. Such enthusiasm and publicity was created for the project that beside monies raised from the Pizza Drive, numerous other contributions were also received. For more information on this project write to Beta Omicron, Alpha Phi Omega, Student Union, Rolla, Missouri 65401.
- This past spring **Zeta Delta** Chapter really showed the spirit of Alpha Phi Omega. On April 28th they inducted 60 new members into the chapter. Additionally, during the Spring semester they were able to accomplish two very exciting fund raising events. They held an MDA dance marathon raising \$13,550 and then built a 100 foot long banana split for the Arthritis Foundation raising \$1,200.00. Needless to say the Brothers of the Zeta Delta Chapter are very proud of their accomplishments and will continue to work hard to make Zeta Delta one of the best. For further information on either of these two projects write to Zeta Delta, 221 Shriver Center, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056.
- The experience of **Zeta** Chapter can happen to any chapter. They had a membership of 7 brothers in 1983 and today they have 120 brothers active in their chapter. They participate in a wide variety of service projects and enjoy a wide-spread name recognition on campus. This past Spring they held their Annual Valentine's Day Flower Sale and raised \$600.00 for the Ecumenical

Hunger Project in East Palo Alto, California, a non-profit group that provides food and shelter for the underprivileged. The project involved over 40 Brothers helping with everything from getting flowers to sorting, wrapping, and attaching personal messages and then hand-delivering the flowers to their

destinations on Valentine's Day. Zeta Chapter is proud of its accomplishments and looks forward to seeing many other chapters at the National Convention. For information write to Zeta Chapter, P.O. Box 3058, Stanford, California 94305.



*British Scout Bob Pugh from Beudlay, England takes the opportunity to get to know War Eagle V at the 1985 Scout Jamboree. War Eagle whose home is **Delta** Chapter at Auburn University, has been invited to attend the 1986 National Convention in Houston, Texas.*



*Recently a Service Project was performed by Brothers of the newly chartered **Alpha Beta Kappa** Chapter and their Big Brother Chapter **Alpha Epsilon**. Twenty members worked for several hours clearing trees from the Vee Bar Scout Camp. This project will be long range because of the damage done to the camp by Hurricane Elena last summer. For more information on this project contact Alpha Beta Kappa of New Orleans, Lakefront New Orleans, Louisiana 70148.*

# Alpha Phi Omega

## SERVICE — OUR HERITAGE

by Berkeley Duncan  
National Service Chairman



Service is the basis of our Fraternity's existence. It should be the goal of every chapter to perform as many worthwhile service projects as possible. Has your chapter spent time seeking service projects lately or do you rely on those that you have done for the last several years? Recruiting and training pledges and participating in fellowship events are some results of service projects. It is possible to interest students in joining your chapter by involving many people in service projects. What better way can you get to know someone than to work side-by-side cleaning up a campus, conducting Blood Mobiles or working on a bed-push.

It's easy for a service chairman or project coordinator to involve every member, pledge and many friends in finding, organizing and participating in projects. Do you require each pledge class to seek out, plan and carry through their own original project as an important part of their training? These projects teach pledges much of what they will need to know as Brothers, but also they will help them discover many services that would not have been discovered otherwise.

Have you contacted the local service clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and social service organizations in your community? They constantly have a need for help from groups such as APO. If you need more help, look under Social Service in the yellow pages of the phone book. You can find many organizations where help is needed.

After your chapter becomes large and well known on its campus, many groups will come seeking help with their projects. Most chapters will have to find service projects by themselves. Assign each organization being helped to a different brother

who can keep in touch and know when the service is needed.

Your campus is still probably the best source of service projects. Get to know the heads of various college groups. The officers of your college, the head of your buildings and grounds department or other service organizations that might need help. Depending on where your APO chapter is located, remember to contact local, state or federal government officials and park services.

Many chapters get involved with only one or two time-consuming projects a semester. They take many people and much planning to become successful. Your chapter can become known as the "blood drive chapter" or the "bathtub push" chapter. Some projects are continuing, multi-week projects. Soon Brothers lose interest in them.

Try many smaller, one-shot projects that can interest more Brothers and members of the student body. In this way a project becomes a good program and membership item.

Once a chapter finds a project and decides to carry it through, the members usually have no trouble organizing and completing it. I would remind you to plan it as fully as possible before it takes place. One project chairman should be fully responsible for the undertaking and should see that the project is completed. Secondly, the project should be written up on report form and placed in your service file for future reference and also to be mailed in to the "Service Hot Line" and the "Torch and Trefoil."

It's our responsibility to make ourselves more than just a Fraternity. It is our responsibility to find and perform as much service as we can. Remember, a good service program can help you grow in membership, in fellowship and in usefulness to your fellows everywhere.

## BOARD ACTION... JULY BOARD MEETING

The National Board of Directors held a regular meeting on July 18-20, 1986 at the KCI Marriott Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. The following actions were taken by the Board:

- Approved the presentation of a National Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. James W. Dean of Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.
- Approved Lorin Jurvis to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Lawrence Hirsch on the Board of Trustees.
- Approved the concept of having an annual three day work session to discuss the future of Alpha Phi Omega.
- Approved Dr. James W. Dean of Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia to be the Fall Pledge Class honoree.
- Approved sectional chairmen to receive Certificates of Appreciation for years of active service to the Fraternity (in multiple of five years).
- Approved a new chapter at the Pennsylvania State University-Behrend College, Erie, Pennsylvania. The chapter, Alpha Beta Nu is the 637th chapter of Alpha Phi Omega.
- Continued the mission of a special committee to act in place of the board advising and authorizing the Executive Director to act in regard to the purchase of real property at the call of the President.
- Gave unanimous approval and honored Jack Grady, Personnel Director, BSA, with Honorary membership in the Fraternity.
- Approved the Standing Rules for the 1986 National Convention in Houston, Texas.
- Approved the Budget for the 1986 Convention.
- Approved the dissolution of the following chapters: Nu-Upsala College, Alpha Alpha Iota-Barber-Scotia College, Alpha Alpha Delta-Salisbury State College, Omega Eta-Loyola University, in New Orleans, Phi Pi-Langston University, Theta Nu-Hamline University, Eta Kappa-University of Wisconsin-Stout and Lambda Sigma-University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- Approved the Budget for the Fraternity for the 1986-87 fiscal year.
- Approved a motion to send a letter to Coopers and Lybrand thanking them for their outstanding service as Fraternity auditors for the past 12 years. Also approved the motion that the auditing firm of Deloitte, Haskin & Sells be the Fraternity auditors for the next fiscal year.
- Approved a motion that chapters should be encouraged to participate in bicentennial commission activities during the next two year period.

- Approved changes effecting the Board Operating Manual.
- Gave unanimous approval to a resolution to congratulate past Region VI Representative, Roger Elliott and Bill Rugh, Region V Representative who gave much time and hard work in compiling changes to the Board Operating Manual.
- Approved the next Board Meeting to be December 27th in Houston, Texas at the National Convention.

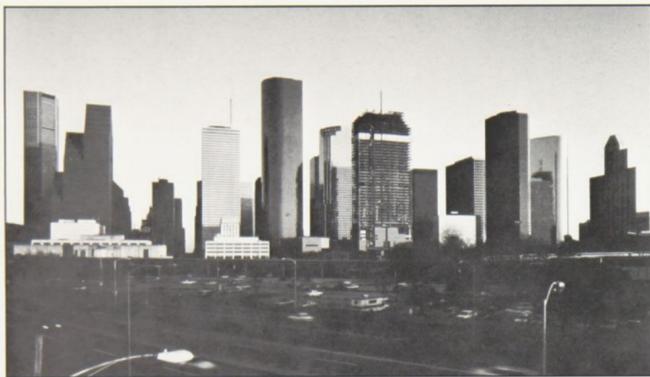
## GENERAL HANNIGAN'S MEMORIES LIVE ON

by C.P. Zlatkovich  
Past National President

Dean James P. Hannigan of Bryan, Texas, a long-time Alpha Phi Omega volunteer, passed away on May 14, 1986. Dean Hannigan had a full and distinguished career. As a career military officer, he attained the rank of Brigadier General. Following his retirement from active military duty, he became Dean of Students at Texas A&M University. At that time, Texas A&M was an all-male school with all students participating in ROTC training. There had never been any fraternities on the Texas A&M campus.

As a Dean, Hannigan became acquainted with Alpha Phi Omega's Past National President, Arno Nowotny, who was Dean of Students at The University of Texas at Austin. Nowotny introduced Hannigan to Alpha Phi Omega and explained the benefits that an APO chapter would bring to the Texas A&M campus. Hannigan was sufficiently impressed with Alpha Phi Omega that he made it possible for Xi Delta Chapter to be organized in 1962. His action demonstrated a real belief in our fraternity, as there had been a tradition of no fraternities at Texas A&M throughout the school's 86-year history and traditions are not readily broken at A&M.

Dean Hannigan's loyalty and service to Alpha Phi Omega only began with his introduction of the Fraternity to the Texas A&M campus. He served for many years as a Sectional Chairman and as a member of the National Board of Directors. Following his retirement from the University and from these volunteer roles, he continued to serve as an advisor to Xi Delta Chapter. He will be missed by many Alpha Phi Omega Brothers.



## HOUSTON CONVENTION

When you think of Houston, Texas think of NASA and the Johnson Space Center, the Astrodome and Astroworld, the Houston Rockets and Gilley's...and the 1986 Biennial Convention of Alpha Phi Omega.

Yes, the week of December 28-30, 1986 will be an exciting time in Houston. It is estimated that almost 1,500 Brothers will attend the convention in Houston.

The Convention Committee has lined up entertainment, tours and good times for everyone.

We will have banquets, dances, casino party, a talent show and auction (to end all auctions) for the Capital Campaign. Besides all this fun serious plans have been made for your educational needs. There will be many seminars on varying topics, and three Leadership Development Workshops, Regional meetings, committee meetings, and the general business of the



**SERVICE**  
THE FINEST FRONTIER  
1986 NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

Convention in which you as a delegate will be seriously involved. Region VII is the host in Houston. Are they planning fun? You can count on it!  
1986 National Convention—Houston!

### CONVENTION FACTS

**WHEN** — December 28, 29, 30, 1986  
**WHERE** — Houston Downtown Hyatt Regency  
**WHO** — Every Pledge, Member, Advisor, Life Member, and Alumnus is invited.  
**WHAT TO BRING** — Exhibits of Chapter and Sectional Activities, 500 Copies of information about your best project for the Service Exchange.  
**HOW TO REGISTER** — Convention Services and Participation forms will be mailed to each chapter in early October. Complete and return these, along with the fees, to the National Office. Hotel reservation cards, which will be included in this mailing should be returned directly to the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Anyone not currently in an active chapter may use the attached order blank to request registration forms.  
**COST** — Hotel rates are: \$40 per night for single, double, triple or quad occupancy.  
Opening Banquet — \$16 Closing Banquet \$19  
**BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE**, so the Hotel can be advised of the estimated attendance.  
Convention Services and Participation Fee — \$25 prior to Dec. 3 — \$30 after Dec. 3.

Please send me the registration materials for the 1986 National Convention.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Each Chapter will receive a registration form. Please use the order form above only if you are not a member of an active chapter.

## NATIONAL AWARDS FOR CHAPTERS

### ARNO NOWOTNY NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

The Arno Nowotny National Service Award which is presented at the National Convention is given to the chapter with the best overall service program as reported to the Service Committee. Selection is made by the Committee in sessions at the National Convention which will be in December. Criteria the chapters need to be aware of are as follows:

- The chapter receiving the award has conducted at least one project in each of the four areas of service—To the student body and faculty; to the members of the Fraternity; to the youth of the community; to the nation as participating citizens.
- The percentage of active participation in the chapter's service program is considered in selecting the recipient.
- The chapter has participated in National Service Day.
- The chapter receiving the award has conducted at least one project related to the National Program of Emphasis.
- The chapter receiving the award submit at least one project report to the National Service Project Exchange at the National Convention.

Every chapter should strive to be considered for the Arno Nowotny National Service Award.

### JOSIAH FRANK HISTORIAN'S AWARD

The guidelines in competing for this award allow any chapter that compiles and maintains chapter history and perpetuates the principles and traditions of Alpha Phi Omega to be eligible. Selection of this award is made by the Awards Committee from among chapters submitting materials at the convention. The exact criteria are as follows:

- The perpetuation and maintenance of chapter traditions such as service projects, founders day celebrations.
- The maintenance of a visual chapter history, such as a scrapbook.
- The maintenance of a complete chapter administrative history, such as minutes of meetings, project reports, treasurer's record.
- The maintenance of a written chapter history.
- Any other criteria deemed necessary or appropriate by the committee.

### M.R. DISBOROUGH SERVICE TO SCOUTING NATIONAL AWARD

This Disborough Award is to recognize those chapters with exceptional service to the Boy Scouts of America as an integral part of their overall service program. Specific criteria are as follows:

- Requires service to be performed by a chapter for the Boy Scouts of America.
- Service should be of a lasting nature.
- Service performed may be through a continuing program or through a single outstanding project.
- Service performed by the chapter must incur direct involvement with youth registered in any division of the Boy Scouts of America.
- The Scouting Relations Committee will consider the number of youth served by the chapter's program or project.
- The Scouting Relations Committee will consider the number of active members of the chapter involved with the program or project.

These award programs are for the betterment of your chapter. Take every opportunity to see if your chapter can qualify for them as they are very exclusive National Awards and definitely something that your chapter should try to achieve.

## HAZING — A DANGER TO CHAPTERS

by Patrick Burke  
Executive Director

*Hazing Rites become a crime! Students burned in hazing!* These are merely two, obviously very dramatic, headlines about hazing being reported. Hazing is being outlawed on more and more campuses each year. Alpha Phi Omega has always outlawed hazing. In fact, there is a very strong policy against chapters having any kind of hazing rituals. Across the nation over the past several years there has been a growing concern among faculty administrators, parents and students about some of the activities associated with hazing. Unless the students themselves take steps to guard against any type of hazing, the institution could take steps which would be very negative because they would probably eliminate all pledging and initiation ac-

tivities, except for a formal installation dinner. Alpha Phi Omega also has a strong disciplinary action review. The Alpha Phi Omega National Board of Directors has determined that any allegation of hazing be fully investigated and that appropriate action be taken against the chapter or individuals involved.

Hazing is so dangerous it is the one thing that has the potential to completely destroy our Fraternity. Hazing cannot occur in your chapter. Reread the policy on hazing. This subject is one that your chapter needs to look at very seriously. Be aware of it constantly and do not tolerate it. Remember hazing is clearly a violation of the By-Laws and Alpha Phi Omega. A member can have his rights and privileges suspended. A chapter can have its charter suspended or revoked.

## 1986 NATIONAL CONVENTION LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

by Fred Pollack  
National Leadership  
Development Chairman

The 1986 National Convention will offer many opportunities for leadership development in addition to convention committee work and the legislative sessions. There will be a wide variety of workshops and seminars available. The topics have been selected after careful consideration by both the Leadership Development and National Convention Committees. We believe that they will meet the needs of almost every Brother in attendance.

It would be impossible to provide a description of each of the 35 sessions which will be offered. A few of the highlights are: The Leadership Development Workshop, our premier program, which will be offered three times during the convention. This is a 6 1/2 hour intensive workshop which focuses on improving personal skills. The staff has been carefully selected and certified to facilitate this program.



## ALUMNI WANTED AND NEEDED

By Abe Frishman



Judy Costello lives in Fort Worth and works for the American Cancer Society. The ideas she learned in Alpha Phi Omega help her in her daily professional life, and she continues the opportunity to pass along to other younger Brothers the concept of service as an active alumni of Alpha Phi Omega.

Rick Dials lives in Lubbock and is a district executive for the local Boy Scouts. He also is Section 40 Chairman (West Texas and Mew Mexico). His loud laugh can be heard helping young people learn about leadership and friendship through service.

These are just two of many who have taken the sort of service with them into jobs after graduation. For others, the spirit still needs to be moved. It may take a little prodding to get them going again to be active in Alpha Phi Omega.

As alumni, we can continue service even though we be salesmen, bankers, attorneys, athletes, or soldiers. With today's government cutbacks, alumni of Alpha Phi Omega are needed to draw upon their spirit of service.

Lions Clubs, Optimist Clubs, church and synagogue groups, the Boy and Girl Scouts and many other organizations need volunteers.

Alpha Phi Omega needs your help. Chapters are always needing more advisors, elected positions for national offices are in demand, national committees are in need for active members and there has yet to be too many volunteers on a sectional staff.

Usually, the pattern in the Fraternity has been that one will volunteer for two or three years after graduation, then be caught

up in making a living and advancing at work—which, of course, is understandable. Yet, the Fraternity needs your support and continued interest. I hope this article can be a reminder to you that the Alpha Phi Omega spirit lives deep within you even today.

When we were undergraduates we thought what a shock it will be to become alumni, no more active chapter, no more active involvement. But our active participation does exist through our alumni associations, or becoming a member of the Sectional Staff and advising a chapter. Call the National Office for more information. Alumni are still wanted and needed!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER

- 12-14, Region V Staff Retreat, Salt Fork State Park, Cambridge, OH
- Chapter Rush Activities
- How many new pledges does your chapter have!

#### OCTOBER

- 17-19, Section 27 Fall Conference, University of Wisconsin, Plattsville, WI
- 17-19, Region VIII Fall Meeting, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- 17-19, Section 95 Fall '86 Conclave MIT, Cambridge, MA
- 24-26, Region VI Fall Conference, Claire, WI
- 29, All Proposed Amendment Changes to be considered at National Convention are due in the National Office this date.

#### NOVEMBER

- 15, Due date for Membership Rosters and AAMD
- 7-9, Section 88-89 St. Lawrence University, Campton, NY

#### December

- 28-30, National Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, TX

# FRATERNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN BICENTENNIAL OF CONSTITUTION

by Jerry Schroeder  
National Membership and  
Extension Chairman



One of Alpha Phi Omega's four major fields of service is service to the Nation as participating citizens. One of the reasons for the existence of our unique Fraternity is to "further the freedom that is our national, educational, and intellectual heritage." And yet, service to the nation is probably the most elusive and difficult objective of any chapter or petitioning group's program of service. At least for current undergraduates, however, that is no longer the case.

On March 17 and 20, 1986 representatives of more than 150 associations gathered for meetings in Washington, D.C., at the request of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, chaired by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, to participate in a forum of ideas on involving the American public in the commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution, which occurs on September 17, 1987. The Chief Justice, in his remarks to the participants, proposed that during the Bicentennial celebration "the best way we can honor our Constitution is by giving ourselves a history and civics lesson on its origin and content."

A representative of Alpha Phi Omega was present at that meeting and, as a result, your Board of Directors at its July meeting in Kansas City adopted a resolution to join in this national celebration. Given the purposes of our Fraternity, as well as its principal areas of service, it is most appropriate that we participate in a meaningful way in democracy known in the history of mankind.

Why, you might ask, having recently

celebrated the bicentennial of our country would we place so much importance on the 200th anniversary of the Constitution? The answer is simple. Were it not for the "miracle at Philadelphia," in the words of George Washington, the United States would be a very different country than it is today. The thirteen states engaged in the Revolutionary War were very jealous of their own sovereignty and had created, in the Articles of Confederation, a "firm league" to carry on that war against a great world power. The Confederation had no power to levy taxes or raise armies. The lack of true sovereign authority in the Continental Congress and the suspicious concern of each state for its own authority caused Washington's troops at Valley Forge to suffer through a terrible winter because the states had no binding duty to provide the promised food and supplies to support the armies. It is a wonder that the Revolution was successful!

The Constitution converted the thirteen state sovereigns into a true nation that has a common currency, a central revenue and banking system, a central authority to deal with other nations, no trade barriers between the states, and the power to raise and support armed forces. Most importantly, however, to both the country and our lives is how a newly independent people created a form of government never before known—a system of government by the will of the governed—a grant, not of rights as King John granted at Runnymede 771 years ago, but a grant of power from the people to the government they ordained.

When America celebrated its first 100 years under the Constitution, President Grover Cleveland noted:

*"If the American people are true to their sacred trust another centennial day will come, and millions yet unborn will inquire concerning our stewardship and the safety of their Constitution. God grant that they may find it unimpaired."*

Thus, this bicentennial celebration is truly a worthy undertaking and represents an outstanding opportunity for Alpha Phi Omega to be of service "to the Nation" by joining in this gigantic history and civics lesson.

Alpha Phi Omega, however, is not a centrally governed organization that can join this effort with a nationally mandated project such as those which have been approved by the American Bar Association, the National Association of Homebuilders, and many others. Our undergraduate chapters define their own service programs based on their own individual desires and resources. Not only is that as it should be, but it is particularly fitting for this celebration which is to be an event for the people of the country, widespread and spontaneous, and not planned by a panel of "experts" in Washington. The National Board urges chapters to join in this important project. Support can be given in many ways including sponsoring lectures and debates, exhibits, essay contests, plays or symposia on campus; in addition, many educational institutions, as well as local governments and civic organizations, are already part of the celebration and would welcome student support of events already planned. Check with your school or city government. If they are already involved, perhaps you can help. If they are not, encourage them to participate.

The National Office will help with additional information and suggestions as they become available. We inherited the liberties and opportunities of freedom that were established in Philadelphia 200 years ago; let's do our part as a service Fraternity to allow those who follow us to find them unimpaired.

(This writer is extremely grateful to the Bicentennial Commission for making material for this article available; the material has been liberally paraphrased and quoted without attribution..)

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