

SCIMITAR IX

The Newsletter for Region IX's Delta Chi Alumni

Region IX Calendar of Events

12 Dec 2018

Region IX "Booze Free" Virtual Town Hall Meeting hosted by "AA" Aaron Otto; Register on-line to attend

19-21 Jan 2019

"A"'s Academy at Saint Meinrad Arch abbey, St. Meinrad, IN; All Region IX "A"'s required to attend

16-18 Feb 2019

Region IX Regional Leadership Conference USP Philadelphia – "AA" Aaron Otto and "Retiring AA" Miles Washburn to attend

27 Aug 2019

Headquarters Team lands at Towson University, Maryland to launch new colony and recruit "founding fathers"

27-29 Sep 2019

3rd Region IX Alumni Leadership Retreat
Front Royal VA; All Region IX Alumni Invited to Attend

Virginia Tech Colony Initiates 68 New Brothers!

Region IX's newest colony at Virginia Tech initiated 68 men into the bond on Saturday, November 10. The colony had recruited 80 associate members and 66 completed the associate member process. The colony initiated an additional two alumni members — the Reverend Tommy McDearis and Virginia House of Delegates Member Chris Hurst.

Reverend McDearis or "Tommy" as he is well known serves as the pastor of the Blacksburg Baptist Church. He also holds multiple academic degrees, including an earned doctorate in pastoral ministry and applied theology and has received training in clinical pastoral counseling. Tommy has agreed to serve on the colony's ABT.

Chris Hurst is a former news anchor of WDBJ7 of Roanoke. He decided to dedicate himself to a public life of advocacy after the shocking murder of his girl friend in 2015, winning his seat as a candidate of the Democratic Party and serving as a Delegate s for the state's 12th district. Chris' shock of brilliant red hair contributes to the diversity of our new brotherhood, being one of two red heads who joined the bond.

In order to initiate so many new brothers, Kenny White — the Leadership Consultant and "father" of the new colony — invited teams from the George Mason, the Ferrum and the Wilmington





Delaware Colony's New Brothers



Chapel Hills' New Brothers



Chris Hunt



Tommy McDearis

chapters to conduct the initiations. Wilmington "A" Ivan Browning and his team drove six hours on Friday night, blowing out a tire as they arrived in the early morning in Blacksburg. All three of these teams participated last spring in the Chapel Hill colony initiation. We owe a special thanks to Jonathan Kraft — Ferrum's "A" — Ivan Browning — Wilmington's "A" — and Evan Caldwell — George Mason's "E" who all helped in both initiations.

The Virginia Tech Colony now has a full Alumni Board of Trustees in place with brothers from the old Virginia Tech chapter as well as brothers from our Radford Chapter. Brother Dave Harrell leads the ABT along with brothers Gary Cole, James Clay, Patrick Lester, Darryl McCallum, Mark Layne, Marc Povell, Paul McNulty and Bill Glover:

Chapel Hill, Delaware Colonies Also Initiate

One week before the Virginia Tech initiation, our Chapel Hill Colony conducted an initiation of three new brothers. Founded last spring, this was the colony's second initiation but the first that the colony ran itself under the supervision of the Regent Gene Dorris and Vice Regent Jason Gonzalez. The colony held a reception for parents immediately after the initiation at a venue on the Franklin Street strip. Chapel Hill currently has 22 members. Although small and new to the UNC campus, the colony boasts a 3.6 GPA and is the top academic chapter/colony in Region IX.

Our third colony at Delaware held their initiation on Sunday, November 11, under the direction of Vice Regent Darren Talbot and Chapter BB Matt Rowland. Delaware added seventeen new brothers, boosting the colony membership to 98 brothers.



The Virginia Tech Colony plus brothers from Ferrum, George Mason and Wilmington!

Calling ALL Alumni! Join us in Philadelphia!

Our chapter at the University of Science in Philadelphia will be hosting the 2019 Regional Leadership Conference on 15-17 Feb 2019. We changed things this year to encourage greater alumni participation. This year's registration fee of \$500 covers the participation of not only five brothers but also one alumni member. We are offering the new "BB" training rolled out at Convention in Denver. It is particularly appropriate for newer or younger alumni who are interested in becoming more involved in the life of the chapter.

Greg Cauffman — the current BB of the Virginia Tech Colony — is facilitating this session. Greg has previously served in alumni advisory positions at Ferrum University and at George Mason University and brings a wealth of experience to the program. If one of your current alumni officers is not interested in attending, you could take advantage of this training opportunity. In any case the charge for an alumni delegate is only \$75.

This year's Conference also provides an opportunity to meet and visit with some of our International leaders, including Aaron Otto "AA," Miles Washburn "Retiring AA" and Heather Lockwood Director for Fraternity Growth. Both Aaron and Miles served as Regents previously in Region IX. Aaron as always brings interesting insights into the history of the fraternity and our ritual at such gatherings.

If you are interested in participating, the link for registering on the DChi website is:

<https://my.omegafi.com/apps/myomegafi/index.php#!events/listing>

We have reserved hotel space at the nearby Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel at 3549 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19104 where we booked fifteen [15] rooms at the cost per night is \$120 plus \$16 tax. We assume that many of the chapters will sleep more than two brothers in a room. We expect that fifteen [15] rooms will not be enough. The Sheraton has promised to make more rooms available to us at the discounted price if we register the rooms before 31 Dec 2018. So register early!

The reservation number is #1-888-627-7071; The booking code MBI5AB. You can also contact directly the Group Rooms Manager, Kamara Purnell, for assistance in registering. She maybe reached at kpurnell@sheruniv.com or 215 349-6310. If you have any questions, please call me at 919 259-9234 or contact Paul Berman, Events Coordinator at IHQ at 319 341-3129.

Delta Chi Hosts a “BOOZE FREE” Town Hall Meeting!

The National Interfraternity Conference adopted a resolution at its August 2018 Annual Meeting that is aimed at making all chapter houses among its 66 National and International Fraternity Members DRY by Sep 1, 2019. Before Delta Chi implements this initiative, our Headquarters is first seeking your opinion on this daring and far-reaching proposal in a series of town hall meetings being conducted in five different geographic areas. As Region IX is Delta Chi's largest region, we are holding our own town hall meeting on 12 Dec 2018 at 20:30 EST.

This town hall will be an open forum. It is especially important that brothers from Penn State, Behrend, Johnstown, Lehigh, William & Mary and Pittsburgh participate as these chapters have houses and the new policy will have the most impact. Aaron Otto “AA” and Miles Washburn “Retiring AA” will host the event and Jerod Breit, Acting Executive Director, will help facilitate the meeting process along with other senior Headquarters staff persons. To register for Region IX's Town Hall, please follow the link to sign up below:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7421823728729095425>

Delta Chi's Executive Committee is putting forward three possible routes to reaching DRY status in our chapters houses: The options are:

Option One [NIC Standard]

Effective 1 Jun 2019, the presence, consumption and use of any alcohol product containing more than 15% alcohol by volume (ABV) shall be prohibited at any chapter facility or chapter event, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.

The presence, possession or consumption of an alcohol product below 15% ABV at a chapter facility or chapter event shall be in compliance with the Fraternity's Risk Management Policy and all applicable laws of the state, province, county, city and institution of higher learning.



Option Two [2 Year Path]

Effective 1 Jun 2019, the presence, consumption and use of any alcohol product containing more than 15% alcohol by volume (ABV) shall be prohibited at any chapter facility or chapter event, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.

From 1 Jun 2019 to 31 May 2020, the presence, possession or consumption of an alcohol product below 15% ABV at a chapter facility or chapter event shall be in compliance with the Fraternity's Risk Management Policy and all applicable laws of the state, province, county, city and institution of higher learning.

Effective 1 Jun 2020, the presence, possession or consumption of any alcohol product shall be prohibited at any chapter facility or chapter event, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.

Option Three [Alcohol Free]

Effective June 1, 2019, the presence, possession or consumption of any alcohol product shall be

prohibited at any chapter facility or event, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.

Of course there is an obvious **Fourth Option** and that would be to reject the NIC proposal and continue as we are doing now relying on local option.

Keeping a Campaign Promise: Visiting Our Quaker and Cavalier Brothers Across Region IX

When I was elected Regent for Region IX at the Ferrum University RLC in 2017, I made a campaign promise to visit all of the chapters and colonies in Region IX. Unfortunately I did not look at the map of the Region before I shot off my mouth — otherwise he would have known that 13 of our 21 chapters and colonies are north of the Mason Dixon Line and over a five hundred mile drive from my home in Hillsborough NC.

The distance between our farthest northern chapter in Fredonia NY and our farthest southern chapter at Wilmington NC is around 775 miles and requires a twelve hour drive. I have dubbed Region IX the Mid-Atlantic States Region but in truth it is a mix of two cultures — Quaker in the North and Cavalier in the South. Or another way to look at it is the blue collar worker culture in the north and the want-to-be Southern Gentlemen of Virginia and Carolina.

My journey began in September 2017 with a trip to George Mason [1] to work out the logistics of the 2018 RLC. The next weekend I drove down to American [2] for the chapter's 25th Anniversary. My plans then called for me to travel to East Carolina for their 25th Anniversary but the day

before the event, IHQ pulled ECU's charter for hazing.

Almost simultaneously Charlotte kicked our chapter off campus for hazing, and a month later our CalUPa chapter closed its doors voluntarily because a lack of manpower. In a few short weeks Region IX went from Delta Chi's largest region with 22 chapters/colonies to 19 chapters/colonies. I was stunned by these turn of events.

Immediately after the George Mason RLC, I began to hit the road with serious purpose. I drove to William and Mary [3] for an ABT meeting in early February. The next weekend I visited Radford [4] which had been



The Johnstown Chapter Halloween Party [the pix heavily photo shopped to meet FPIG standard]



Pitt Chapter e-Board and Regent at a local student hangout. Pitt upsets Duke in the last minute!

incommunicado for several months to discover that the chapter was alive but forgotten by its alumni. Thank God for Dr. Stephen Owen and his work as faculty advisor. In early March I added Virginia Commonwealth [5] to my list. The chapter was on the verge of suspension — a fact that alluded me at the time.

I then participated in the initiation ceremony at our new colony at Chapel Hill's [5] in April and then drove north to see Delaware [6], West Chester [7], Penn State [8], Behrend [9], Fredonia [10] and Gannon [11]. In Erie PA I was hit by not only a blizzard but also by the crafty guile of our Behrend brothers. It is my practice to host a chapter's e-board to dinner. Our Behrend brothers took me to an upscale Italian restaurant that tore a hole in my pocket book.

After three very successful visits on the banks of Lake Erie, I then drove home is a snow storm, passing through Pittsburgh with a promise to return again before the winter snows came. I closed out the 2017-2018 school year by hosting the Wilmington e-board to a strategic planning session in the Hillsborough Holiday Inn in June. I saved a trip but I had already visited Wilmington earlier in the year unofficially.

The beginning of the 2018-2019 school started with shock when the VCU administration put our chapter on one-year suspension. We presume they will come back next fall without but it will take a lot of hard work. I saved that thought for another time as I was eight chapters short and had a lot of travel still ahead of me.

I did another swing north to Quaker land, visiting Lehigh [14] on September 14, followed with visits to East Stroudsburg [15] and USP [16]. I should add that our USP brothers found an even more expensive restaurant than our Behrend brothers — but the food [a Chinese restaurant] was first rate. And I am sure they will host me there at the RLC.

Our Virginia Tech [17] colony opened in September and I joined this new group for their officer retreat. One week later I finally visited our brothers at Ferrum [18] after three cancelled visits and they introduced me to one of the chapter "toasters."

At this point I was only three chapters short of completing my mission. So, on Halloween Eve I drove north to Johnstown [19] in time for the chapter's Halloween Party. It seems I made my trip to Pittsburgh the next day at the wrong time. Pitt was playing Duke and was holding Parents



Duquesne e-Board plus BB and Spiritual Advisor with Regent

weekend and the Steelers had a game. Hotel space was at a premium and I ended up spending the night some distance from Pittsburgh at a small community of Cranberry. The next morning I had breakfast with Lyle Sprinkle, the new President of Delta Chi's Education Foundation. As I was preparing to drive into Pittsburgh I heard the tragic news of eleven persons being killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue located near our chapter at Pitt. I was still able to meet with the Pittsburgh [20] e-board for dinner and to join the Duquesne

[21] chapter e-board for Sunday lunch. With Duquesne in the bag, I left Pittsburgh for my 500 mile drive home!

Having completed my odyssey and fulfilled my promise, I am contemplating my future steps in Delta Chi. I will be running for a second term as your Regent in February, but will not be seeking a third term. I want to put my efforts over the second term in adding another North Carolina chapter so I can retire to serve as a BB once again. I need your help in meeting both these goals.

Lessons Learned on the Road

My odyssey in traveling to all of the chapters and colonies in Region IX was more than a campaign promise. Rather, it was an attempt to base line where Delta Chi is today in the mid-Atlantic states. What are we doing right? What do we need to do better?

Alumni Involvement: I have only visited one chapter that currently has a fully staffed and functioning ABT and this is USP. It is likely that Pitt and Duquesne ABTs operate at a high level but probably don't have the roles fully developed like USP. About half of our chapters have inadequate alumni support and are having a tough time doing it on their own. Typical of this are chapters like Wilmington and East Stroudsburg. We have good undergraduate leadership on these campuses but not enough on-site coaching and support from the older generation. At many chapters we are lucky to have more than two alumni active and giving of their time to the fraternity. And we currently have at least four chapters with non-functioning ABTs. The bottom line: Where we do have strong alumni support, the chapters flourish.

Hazing: About one-third of our chapters are likely still involved with hazing and violating our behavioral requirements for alcohol and illegal substances. This is an improvement over two years ago and the result of IHQ pulling East Carolina and Charlotte's charters, eliminating two of our worst offenders. At the same time many of our chapters have cleaned up their act following pushes from campus authorities after the fiasco at Penn State and Delta Chi's success in putting in an effective risk management program.

Doing Fraternity Right: Our three new colonies and a handful of our older chapters [Pitt, Duquesne, USP, William & Mary] are committed to doing fraternity "right." I am not sure what that means in exact content but it appears to



"Pete 9" My Wheels for the Road — over 8,00 Miles visiting Delta Chi Chapters in Region IX

be a clear direction toward living and practicing Delta Chi's core values.

Best of the Best: I would rank Pitt and William & Mary as our best among large chapters and USP and Ferrum as our best among our smaller chapters. In all four cases these chapters have a tradition of strong alumni backing and consistently choose strong e-boards and activist "A"s to guide them.

Weak Chapter Leadership: The formula for a weak chapter is where the "A" of the chapter is a sophomore and there is little or not contact with the chapter "BB" and/or the Alumni Board of Trustees. When an underclassmen emerges as the "A," the upperclassmen often have passed over their responsibilities to lead, making it difficult for the young "A" to involve the whole chapter or to challenge traditions that need to be challenged. Many alumni — especially those returning for a weekend of carousing — pay little attention to the chapter leadership. And like East Carolina was a disaster for this same formula, these chapters are disasters waiting to happen. Fortunately we only have a couple of chapters like this.

Role of the Greek Life Office: Although several of our chapters are performing well on campuses where the Greek Life Office is weak or non existent, having a strong the Greek Life office and a school administration that supports fraternity and sorority life is important. We benefit when the Greek Life office and administration support the following:

1 a high minimum GPA for joining a fraternity [at least a 2.5 GPA] — We have a huge advantage at Ferrum where we require a 2.5 GPA and the rest of the system a 2.0 GPA. We get the best men; others get the bottom of the barrel.

2 commitment of both the Greek Life office and the fraternities to philanthropy and service

3 risk management guidelines in place, enforced and practiced

4 a standards of excellence program in place evaluating chapters on scholarship, leadership, service and brotherhood on an annual basis — Wilmington has a great model to learn from.

5 active IFC and Pan-hellenic councils that promote win-win scenarios

6 Greek life training programs in leadership, chapter management, risk management — William & Mary have programs that are even better than what our IHQ can provide

7 Greek life office staffed with one or more full time professionals

8 Greek Housing that is university owned and managed

The last point may seem counter to fraternity tradition but it is clear that both at William & Mary and at Pitt, those two chapters are thriving because they have excellent university housing and strong support from their Greek Life offices. We should be using the eight standards above in choosing are next expansion targets. Wake Forest and High Point are two campuses that meet this requirement.

Gene Dorris

Regent, Region IX [Mid-Atlantic States]