

# FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

December 17, 2009



Issue 4

## Risk Reduction Officer Manual

A properly trained Risk Reduction Chairman is essential to the long-term success of any chapter. What steps can you take to ensure a thorough officer transition for your chapter?

In January 2010, an updated version of the Risk Reduction Chairman's Manual will be available and absorbing the manual's content will be the key to your success as Risk Reduction Chairman. It includes a "What do I do now" section, a listing of officer duties and expectations, a summary of the position, how to educate the chapter on risk reduction issues and much more. Be on the lookout for a General Fraternity message announcing the release of the new Risk Reduction Chairman Manual in the near future!



## Anti-Hazing Website You Should Check Out

Are you interested in learning more about the anti-hazing movement? Would you like to hear stories from fellow undergraduate Greek members about combating hazing on their campus? How about a place to find numerous resources to assist in your anti-hazing campaign? Check out [www.hazingprevention.org](http://www.hazingprevention.org); it contains the information above and other countless resources for eliminating hazing in your chapter.

The General Fraternity has been a long-standing supporter of [hazingprevention.org](http://hazingprevention.org) and its premier program "National Hazing Prevention Week." You can find a plethora of resources to assist your chapter and/or campus in developing its own National Hazing Prevention Week. Having a National Hazing Prevention Week can be a great method to publicize your chapter's and/or Greek community's anti-hazing stance and further educate your campus on the perils of hazing. So go ahead and check out [www.hazingprevention.org](http://www.hazingprevention.org) and continue to promulgate our Founders' vision of a hazing-free Fraternity! Also, don't forget to consider utilizing the "[A Different Look at Hazing](#)" workshop to further educate your members and/or campus community on the issue of hazing.

## Chapter House Winter Break Checklist

*Adapted from "Winter Break Notice" by Bobbi Larsen in FPMA Newsletter Vol. 26 (Fall 2009)*

The semester is wrapping up and everyone is getting ready to go home to spend some quality time with their families and enjoy the holiday season. As stressful as this time of the year may be with final exams and project deadlines, it is vital that the chapter does not neglect important maintenance items to ensure the chapter house stays in good shape over the winter break. Failure to do so can cost the chapter and/or local House Corporation thousands of dollars in repairs. *(continued on page 2)*

## **Resolution – Chapters will be held financially responsible for irresponsible behavior**

Did you know that prior to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Grand Chapter the General Fraternity had to spend resources investigating claims of chapter misconduct? At the time, if a chapter was found to be guilty of an alcohol or hazing violation, the General Fraternity, and collectively all other chapters, would foot the bill for the investigation. Thanks to the diligent work of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Grand Chapter, chapters found to be in violation of fraternal law and/or policies will now face financial penalty as well as any additional educational and/or punitive sanction(s).

The resolution passed at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Grand Chapter reads:

“Whereas, Sigma Nu was founded in direct opposition to Hazing, and the Strategic Plan says ‘Sigma Nu will militate against hazing and those who may perpetrate, enable or tolerate hazing within its own ranks’ and whereas, investigating chapter hazing and alcohol violations is a significant drain on the Fraternity’s finances, thus preventing those funds from being used to promote our mission where they may have a greater impact, and whereas, the Fraternity holds its members and chapters accountable for their actions; and whereas, those chapters in good standings are being punished for the dishonorable conduct of a few by having their fees go towards investigating those chapters; now, therefore, be it resolved, that the 62<sup>nd</sup> Grand Chapter allows the High Council and staff to assess up to a \$500 fine per hazing and/or alcohol related violation of the Law of Sigma Nu or Fraternity policies, plus investigative expenses incurred by the Fraternity in relation to the violation.”

The purpose is to hold chapters, which are in clear violation of policies, accountable rather than penalizing all chapters for the inappropriate behavior of one. To view a copy of the resolution, refer to the following link: [http://www.sigmanu.org/documents/risk\\_reduction\\_hazing\\_alcohol\\_resolution\\_2006.pdf](http://www.sigmanu.org/documents/risk_reduction_hazing_alcohol_resolution_2006.pdf).

## **Preparing the Chapter House for Winter Break** *(continued from page 1)*

Utilize the following checklist to prepare your chapter house for the upcoming winter break:

- Open the indoor faucets slightly to allow water to trickle as moving water does not freeze as easily.
- Ensure that someone is checking the interior and exterior of the facility regularly during the break.
- Respond to any leaks promptly to mitigate damage and prevent further harm.
- Keep the furnace on and thermostat set at or above 68 degrees.
- Inspect windows and repair all broken glass.
- Place additional insulation on exterior walls and windows.
- Insulate exterior doors appropriately, and assure all close and latch completely.
- Clear all snow and ice from sidewalks, fire escapes, and walkways and ensure someone is charged this responsibility over the break.

The three leading risks to a chapter facility during holiday breaks are water freeze, fire and vandalism and theft. Last winter, Willis (the Fraternity’s insurance broker) handled 24 freeze claims that paid out more than half a million dollars.

There is no need for the chapter to return from the winter break to a damaged chapter house. Work with your local House Corporation and College/University to ensure your chapter house is properly prepared for the winter break. For additional ideas on how to prepare the chapter facility for winter break check out: [http://www.willisfraternity.com/wfdata/files/Winter\\_Break\\_Checklist\\_All\\_Groups09.pdf](http://www.willisfraternity.com/wfdata/files/Winter_Break_Checklist_All_Groups09.pdf).