

FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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Relationship Agreements

With the beginning of a new calendar year quickly approaching, many universities may begin asking their fraternities to execute the 2011 relationship statement and/or relationship agreement. Increasingly, universities are requiring chapter officers to execute a contract stipulating the expectations of the University and the Greek community.

In some rare cases, these contracts may contain language that is contrary to Fraternity policy. Primarily, the conflict is with the insurance language contained in the relationship statement/agreement and may place unwarranted liability on the collegiate chapter.

As with any contract the chapter is asked to execute, the chapter's Commander should email the contract, prior to signing, to Fred Dobry, Director of Risk Reduction, at fred.dobry@sigmanu.org. This will ensure that the Fraternity's policies and insurance coverage do not conflict with the University's expectations.

Officer Transitions

It's that time of year again where many of our chapters begin the important process of electing new officers. While each member attempts to convince their chapter they are fit to lead, the outgoing officers get to watch with some amusement, as they know better than anyone that those nominated don't *really* know what they're getting themselves into until they're already in it.

Of course, anyone running for a position should do the necessary research, so as to learn the expectations and duties associated with that position. You wouldn't go into a job interview not knowing what it entails and why you would be qualified. Thus, all those running for a certain officer position should read the respective [Officer Manual](#) and browse the [Officer Resource Web Page](#).

However, nothing beats job experience, and it is the responsibility of the outgoing officers to pass down that institutional knowledge to the new leadership. Fortunately, there is a LEAD Session designed for [officer transitions](#). Ensure the lessons of the past are taught to the future by scheduling this session shortly following elections. Lastly, the [officer transition checklist](#) is another valuable resource to assist in this process.

Living the Ritual during the Holidays

We've all heard, at some point, the warning that our individual actions reflect on the entirety of Sigma Nu Fraternity, whether those actions are positive or negative. Sure, it's easy to keep that in mind when we are on campus, where fraternity is more visible. But it seems too easy to forget how true that advice is once we leave the grounds of our respective colleges and universities. Are Sigma Nu Fraternity and *The Ritual* any less relevant when you are at home?

This question isn't posed to address some serious issue we are facing out there. Rather, it is to serve as a friendly reminder that if we men of Sigma Nu are truly living our Ritual, then we live it everyday of our lives regardless of latitude and longitude. *(continued on page 2)*

Chapter House Winter Break Checklist

Adapted from "Leave The Heat On!" by Bobbi Larsen, Willis North America (Fall 2010)

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 avoidable repairs.

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. You can usually accomplish this by notifying your campus or local police department.
- As a chapter, clean the house before departing for break – nobody wants to come home to a dirty house.
- Respond to any leaks promptly to mitigate damage and prevent further harm.
- Keep the furnace on and thermostat set at or above 68 degrees.
- Unplug all electronic devices – televisions, computers, etc.
- 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 assigned this responsibility over the break.

The four leading risks to a chapter facility during holiday breaks are water freeze, fire, vandalism and theft. During the winter of 2008 – 2009, Willis North America (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.sigmanu.org/documents/willis_20101111_leave_the_heat_on.pdf.

Earn Your Badge Everyday *(continued from page 1)*

As we all head to wherever we call home for some much-needed R&R over the holidays, be sure to keep that fact in mind. If you think the collective actions of your chapter and individual actions of members have an impact on campus, just think of the effect individual actions can have on the reputation of Sigma Nu when those members are dispersed across the country. If you have the chance, be sure to give your area the right impression as to what kind of men are a part of Sigma Nu.

So wear your letters, hold the door for someone behind you, be a gentleman at the many social gatherings that occur during the season, etc. And if someone notices your honorable behavior, maybe they'll realize that's what being a Sigma Nu is all about – Honor. Above all, make sure you have a safe and fun holiday Season, recharge for what will surely be a busy spring, and remember, there are thousands of Sigma Nu's out there doing the same as you – living *The Ritual*. Happy holidays!

