

FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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65th Grand Chapter – Dallas, TX

From Beantown to the Big D, Grand Chapter has finally arrived! Has it been two years already? Make sure you're doing your part by making this a priority topic of conversation at your next chapter meeting as we get ready for the 65th Grand Chapter in Dallas, Texas, from July 11th to July 15th.

Risk Reduction Chairmen should take special care to make sure his chapter attends Grand Chapter because any chapter that fails to attend is placed on Alcohol-Free Housing status until the next conclave.

But more importantly, your chapter needs to attend because it's Sigma Nu's legislative convention!

So mark your calendars and pack your bags as we get ready to rodeo in Dallas.

Get Recognized

Has your chapter developed an innovative way to use the LEAD Program? Do you have outstanding seniors who have made significant contributions to the chapter and college/university over the past four years? Has your chapter enjoyed the support of a chapter advisor going above and beyond the call of duty? Well this is the time of the year for your chapter and members to apply to be recognized for your collective accomplishments.

The General Fraternity is now accepting applications for the annual collegiate, alumni and LEAD awards. All completed applications must be submitted to the General Fraternity by April 30, 2012. Electronic submissions can be made to headquarters@sigmanu.org. Hardcopy submissions should be mailed to Sigma Nu Awards Program, 9 N. Lewis St., Lexington, VA 24450.



End of Year Chapter House Maintenance Checklist

Adapted from "Summer Break Checklist" by Bobbi Larsen, Educational Consultant for Willis North America

The following is a list of items you should consider having done during the summer break to help the house recover from another academic year of residency while also preparing the facility for the 2012-2013 year:

- Inspect all rooms/suites, document damage and collect payment from security deposits
- Repair all broken windows and doors to prevent damage; ensure that doors latch completely
- Inform the host institution (college/university) as to whether the residence will be occupied or not and provide proper contact information for the facility (*continued on page 2*)

Don't Treat Your Fraternity Like a Frat

The Administration hates us. We're stereotyped as drunks who haze. We're maligned by the national media more often than not as careless, sexist, ignorant bigots. Faculty members think we're a breeding ground for poor decisions and parents think we're dangerous. I highly doubt these feelings and attitudes have not been expressed by our membership across the country at least once or twice this past year.

Now, this is not to say that these things are true or even that when they are spoken, that they're right. But one has to wonder where they came from. They certainly can't all be myths. In fact in many cases when these charges are made against us, the accusers are quick to point out their version of evidence to support their claims.

Your chapter worked a soup kitchen every weekend all semester? That's great! Oh wait, you also held an "Insert Moronic and Possibly Sexist Theme Here" party.

You guys have the highest GPA on campus? Good job! Oh wait, you also made your candidates march across campus in ridiculous attire.

If you are a member then you represent all of us, from coast to coast and from the youngest candidate to the Regent himself. You represent the values of Love, Honor and Truth and the firm principle that no man should be hazed. And oftentimes you do a great job at it and make us all proud to call you a Knight in the Legion of Honor. But while the 1,000 positive things we do are heralded, it will be the one negative one that sticks, unfortunately.

The point I am driving at is: we need to get our values straight and stop treating our Fraternity like a Frat. Frats will be the end of us. They will further erode our commitments to our values and will only add fuel to our detractors. Fraternities, however, will carry us into the next generation. They will reaffirm that we are men, not boys. They will remind our supporters that we are positive influences on the minds, hearts and characters of those who join us, and that we are as relevant now as we were over 100 years ago.

A Frat will last for as long as the fad does, and for as long as it takes for reality to catch up and shut it down.

A Fraternity will last through two World Wars, several generations, and over 200,000 initiated members.

Sigma Nu is a Fraternity, gentlemen ... lets make sure it stays that way.

Chapter House Maintenance *(continued from page 1)*

If members will be attending school and living in the facility over the summer period:

- Have each sign a housing agreement, specific to the summer period
- If the appropriate chapter officers will not be living in the facility, appoint someone to oversee daily maintenance, collect rent and pay bills

If the chapter facility is unoccupied over the summer, make sure the following is completed:

- Securely lock the property and limit access to only designated alumni and/or undergraduates
- Have a responsible alumnus, undergraduate or professional property-management company check the property daily. A consistent daily presence will deter thieves and vandals
- Inform local police and/or campus security the property will not be occupied. Provide them with a key/code for access to the facility and ask them to patrol frequently

The above list provides a sample of items you should do to prepare the house for the summer break. For the complete "Summer Break Checklist," visit the [Willis North America website](#).