

FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

October 16, 2012



Vol. 4 Issue 2

Social Planning Guide

One of the requirements for Excellence in the Values-Congruent Environment subcategory of Pursuit of Excellence is a balanced social calendar. But what does that mean exactly?

Look no further than Sigma Nu's [Social Planning Guide](#). This guide will take you through the appropriate steps to ensure the chapter is creating a balanced social event, covering everything from third party venue suggestions to theme ideas. It even includes icebreakers to avoid that awkward school dance feeling. Be sure to take advantage of this key resource as it can ensure the chapter is providing a positive social experience for all members as opposed to a one-dimensional focus on events with alcohol. At the end of the day, aren't those what bars are for?



GreekLifeEdu Financial Incentive Policy

Is your chapter on track to qualify for the 2012-2013 GreekLifeEdu financial incentive? Starting with the 2010-2011 academic year,

Collegiate chapters of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. may qualify for the lowest available, per member risk management assessment within their applicable tier after 90% of the chapter's membership has completed the GreekLifeEdu education and prevention program. A per-member risk management assessment surcharge of \$25 per member will be billed to a collegiate chapter in which less than 90% of the chapter's membership has completed the program. Any such surcharge will be applied annually, toward the end of the applicable academic year (with specific time to be determined by the Executive Director).

Chapters and colonies should have all new candidates complete at least Part I with a grade of 80% or better on the exam of the GreekLifeEdu program as part of the candidate education program. Prompts to complete GreekLifeEdu are included in LEAD Phase I sessions 5 and 7.

Take the lead in educating your members by having everyone complete GreekLifeEdu early on in their membership (remember, once a member has completed the course they will not be expected to do so again). For more information about the incentive and course, review our [GreekLifeEdu FAQ](#).

Risk Management Assessment

The highest per member invoice each chapter pays is the Risk Management Assessment (RMA). The RMA is divided into five tiers with the lowest tier being \$210 per member per academic year and the highest tier being \$370 per member per academic year.

The program is set up in a way that mirrors your personal car insurance policy. If you have a car accident, your insurance premium for the next policy year will increase. In Sigma Nu terms, if your chapter violates the Fraternity's risk management policies, then the chapter will pay a higher insurance premium (i.e. increase in RMA tier). But what does the RMA pay for?
(continued on page 2)

Coming Home

By Drew Logsdon (Western Kentucky), Associate Director of Risk Reduction

I can't believe it has already been a year since I last wrote on the topic of Homecoming for this newsletter, but quite honestly it is also a topic that I look forward to. I am an extremely proud alumnus of my fraternity, especially my chapter and my alma mater. As an undergraduate, the actual day of homecoming was all too often the final culmination of a week of float building and other events. It was a time to relax after a busy week and enjoy the company of alumni. It wasn't so much a milestone event as it was just another Saturday with a little more oomph.

But here is where the discrepancy lies. As an alumnus who now lives hours away from my alma mater, Homecoming is my once a year glimpse of the chapter. I doubt I'm the only one in this situation. I would argue that there are many alumni who can only make it out to the chapter once a year or maybe once every five years. I think from time to time undergraduates lose sight of this fact. When I, or any alumnus for that matter, come back for Homecoming, what I see and what my impressions are of the chapter for those few hours will be with me for quite some time.

It only takes one intoxicated collegiate member to say something foolish, bump into someone rudely, or vomit within eyesight of a crowd. The cleanliness, or lack thereof, of the chapter house speaks volumes. What impression do you want your chapter's alumni taking back with them?

Or perhaps the better memory to give your alumni at the end of the day would be to show off your Rock Chapter award, Pursuit of Excellence awards, Campus Recognition awards, or LEAD awards. And while you're at it, go ahead and brag about the chapter's partnership with American Heart Association and the academic achievements of the chapter. Set up an alcohol-free alumni reception to network with alumni and discuss the latest happenings of the chapter. Also, make the event family-friendly so alumni feel welcomed to bring their wife and children to a chapter function. Those are the memories you want alumni taking back home with them. Those are the impressions that make me proud to be an alumnus and proud to offer my assistance when I can.

My overall advice is similar to last year's, but that's because I think it's still just as relevant and important. Homecoming can either be a celebration of brotherhood and the chapter's achievements or it can be a raucous booze fest, but it cannot be both at the same time. The latter I can get by going to a bar at 1:30 a.m. The former I can only get once a year, which is why there will always be one Saturday each fall marked on my calendar and why it always feels good to come home.

What Does The RMA Pay For?

(continued from page 1)

Proactive and reactive risk management costs accounted for 42% of the Fraternity's budget during the 2010-2012 biennium. Let that number sink in for a moment. Nearly half of the Fraternity's entire budget went to risk management costs. You can learn more information about the Fraternity's risk management by viewing the ["Cost of Misconduct" slide show](#) originally presented at the 65th Grand Chapter.

The RMA pays for all of the Fraternity's risk management costs. You can likely now see why your chapter pays \$210 per member annually for the RMA while only paying \$125 per member for initiate dues, which covers the expenses related to supporting our chapters (i.e. Leadership Consultant visits, resource development, LEAD, Institutes, website, etc.).

As a significant expense for your chapter, it is vitally important that your Treasurer and Finance Committee properly recognize the RMA expense in the chapter's budget. If the Treasurer has any questions about what RMA tier the chapter is currently on or will be on in a future academic year, please contact the chapter's Leadership Consultant. The Sigma Nu website also has numerous [tools to assist in chapter budgeting](#).