



Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 2, Spring 1999

## WELCOME, NEBRASKA!

ATO at the University of Nebraska is in the midst of a major renovation. As you know, the Society is a not-for-profit organization that helps **member** chapters of the Greek system raise funds and rehabilitate their houses through tax-exempt donations. These funds must be utilized for re-furbishing and renovating the chapter house in strict accordance with our by laws and with the IRS.

The Board of Directors of the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing has approved a total of \$158,444.86 under the requirements of the Society to the ATO chapter in Lincoln, Nebraska. This is the portion of the overall funds expended to date that qualifies for a Society grant. The Board found that much of the work being done at ATO-Nebraska qualifies as rehabilitation of historic features and to help the chapterhouse become a more viable place in which to live.

Included in the grant approval are projects to:

- \*refinish existing hardwood floors
- \*add new porch railings
- \*add window well railings
- \*emergency doors
- \*emergency lights for life-safety issues
- \*heating system renovation
- \*asbestos abatement
- \*bathroom renovations, and

\*tuck-pointing exterior brick and cleaning limestone.

SPGH is very pleased to have been able to work with the ATO chapter at the University of Nebraska. The project there is continuing and the Board anticipates the awarding of more grants as the work progresses.

SPGH appreciates the opportunity to assist the ATO chapter in their efforts to rehabilitate their chapter house. As you know, the Society is located in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, and this is the first project we have been asked to work on not at the University of Illinois. The Board looks forward to visiting the chapter house at The University of Nebraska and to working with other chapters of fraternities and sororities at Nebraska as well as Illinois in the future.

## Elections

The Board of the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing has some new members and some of it's very loyal and long serving members have retired. The Board wishes to extend their thanks to the retiring members for their excellent service to the Society.

The retiring members are:

Ellen Garrett-Colfax  
Stasz Gorski  
Greg Hargus  
Joe Miller  
Rod Reid, and  
Bonnie Sprague.

All of these people will be missed and their service to the Board is very much appreciated; and several out-going Board members remain

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on committees.

There are several new members to the 1998-1999 Board of Directors:

Cara Augspurger  
Terri Carr  
Jeff Fehrenbacher  
Marc Roberts  
Todd Salen, and  
Amy Woods.

David Bechtel has become an ex-officio advisor replacing Lynn Jones.

In November, the Board elected new officers, they are:

Duane Frichtl.....President  
Karen Lang-Kummer..Vice-President  
John Seiler.....Secretary  
Carol Miles.....Treasurer

### Meeting News

At the March Board meeting Karen Lang-Kummer reported that the Preservation and Conservation Association Board is very enthusiastic about having a combined house walk with The Society. We will, therefore, plan to have a house walk in the fall of 1999, in September or October with PACA, most likely on a Sunday afternoon. We will be looking for five to eight houses to be on the walk and many of them will be Greek chapter houses. At the next few meetings we will come up with a target date and then we will be approaching some of you for permission to include your house in the walk. Please consider whether your house can be made available for a few hours on a Sunday afternoon when we call.

Karen Lang-Kummer reported for the Preservation Committee that she is working with Alpha Delta Pi at the University of Illinois on an application for National Register status. It is hoped that the application will be ready soon.

It was reported at the Board meeting that Phi Sigma Sigma is interested in being on the National Register, and that they have

contacted our board in that regard, The Board will be contacting Phi Delta Theta at Illinois to see if they might like to apply for National Register status also. Phi Delts chapter house at Illinois is already on the Champaign, Illinois list of historic buildings and so some of the background work may already have been done.

### Who Did You Use To Renovate?

The Society is asking you to share the names of contractors and architects that you have used for projects and been happy with, so that we can pass their names along to other Greek chapter house corporation boards who are contemplating similar projects and renovations. If you are willing to share your experiences with these contractors and architects in your renovations with others, SPGH would be willing to serve as a clearing house for you and your organization. As we receive names we can pass information along to other house corporation boards so that everyone can benefit from companies who are able to do work of similar size and scope with integrity.

### SPRING REMINDER

Spring is here so remember that prospective freshman rushees and their parents cannot be far behind!

Remind your collegiates and your house corporation board members of the importance of keeping the yards around your chapter houses free from trash and accumulated winter debris. The average parent is not impressed by the old Christmas tree out on the side lawn in June or the lawn which is not mowed all summer long. Remember hundreds of prospective students and incoming freshman and their parents tour campuses during the Spring and Summer months. To your university, as well as, your chapter these first impressions from many families could mean *everything*. Please keep your chapter house

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and grounds as ship shape as possible this year.

### Guidelines for writing chapter histories.

We very much encourage the writing of chapter histories, both for your chapter records and to be deposited in the University Archives.

The history should be written in a clear and concise narrative; chronological and alphabetical lists may be included. All information should include dates. A complete bibliography of sources is required. Included should be as much of the following information as possible.

1. Date chapter history was written, and authors.
2. A brief (paragraph) history of national founding, purposes and motto, etc.
3. Founding date of chapter.
4. Founders and charter members (include a brief biography on each founder if possible).
5. Influential or famous members throughout history.....collegiate  
.....alumni
6. Chronology of meeting places and houses.
7. Significant events and activities, including but not limited to...social events  
.....important visitors  
.....anniversary celebrations of chapter  
.....founders days activities  
.....philanthropies, community service activities  
.....scholarship  
.....awards to chapter
8. History of publications (list with dates)  
.....chapter newsletters  
.....manuals, rush booklets
9. Chapter house information  
.....address, both current and any previous locations  
..... construction dates  
.....architect and builder  
.....financing

.....major renovations and repairs, with dates

.....damages by natural disasters, ie. flood and fires

..... include historic photographs, if available

.....note location of blueprints, if known

.....legal description of property and ownership, if possible

.....unique architectural features

Appendix could include lists of presidents, officers, house directors.

And be sure to include any information of special interest.

### Possible sources of information

architectural blueprints

national histories

prior written chapter histories

oral interviews

chapter newsletters

national magazines

photographs

University Archives including, at Illinois: Illio, Daily Illini, Alumni News

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