



Andronicus Alumni Association

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 23, 2008

Time: 10:25am

Location: Andronicus Chapter House

<i>Attended By</i>	<i>Non-Attendees</i>
Vanja Deretic*	Michael Rabanera
Michael Ellars	Laura Schmidt*
Carlos Godinez	April Sommer
Kurt Hanna	John Sterni
Pearl Hung	Tony Tavlian*
Alberto Lopez	
Jay Mock	
Anthony McLin	

*denotes partial attendance

Executive Reports

Report of the President: Brother Ellars

State of the Association Report- see attached

Report of the Vice-President: Brother Lopez

- 1) Recruiting for the Alumni Association was not successful as most of the recent graduates have already moved away.

Report of the Treasurer: Brother Sterni

Housing:

- 1) House is at full capacity from an income perspective. We have 14-15 people, 2 of which are boarders. Some people are buying out their rooms. Rent is \$475 for actives, \$675 if they decide to buy out their room, and \$575 for a boarder.

Repairs:

- 1) In responding to the health inspection report, we were prepared to spend around \$20K. The most significant cost was \$14,000 that were spent on repairing and re-hanging 11 windows frames, front door and sill repairs, replacing broken glass, and painting them to original color. Weights are extra and SARCH will be covering that cost. Still tallying the total cost of the repairs and should be coming in around budget.
- 2) The next issue that needs to be address is the sewer system. The pipes severed in several spots. Cost of that repair should be around \$10-15K to get replaced.

Finances:

- 1) Should not have a funding issue with the amount of tenants.
- 2) Alumni dues are \$40 this year. We need to find a way to market other alumni.

Miscellaneous:

- 1) None.



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Report of the Secretary: Brother Hung

- 1) Deva Powell (SATY) is now the regional director. Ryan Rosen has been promoted.
- 2) We are no longer part of Region 8. National has reorganized the regions and we are now Region 2 along with Daedalus and Satyros. Cossutius is now in Region 1 with Sostratus colony. We have several t-shirt ideas as a response to this change.

Report of the Member-at-Large: Brother Godinez

- 1) Rush is dry, so no beer at BBQ.

Committee Reports

Newsletter

None

Web Site

None

Business

- 1) SARCH report-
 - a) SARCH is looking for more members as some have left.
 - b) Contacted school for help. Doug is hopeful but the Dean has been out of the country so things had to wait.
 - c) We can get Peyton Hall to get free services, ie paint report and to help make certain decisions.
 - d) Use Goodsearch and Goodshop. SARCH gets money for internet searches and internet shopping from places like Overstock, Expedia, Amazon, etc.
 - e) Pearl spoke with HOK and got HOK to donate \$1000. This opens a new option to fundraise.
 - f) Chipotle does fundraisers to help non-profits. Perhaps a fun meeting? Monday night dinner?
 - g) Carlos met a lady who does professional grant proposals. She writes her fee into the proposal so if the proposal doesn't yield anything, she does not get paid.
 - h) SARCH is developing a maintenance manual. Now discouraging people that they can do whatever they want to their rooms.
- 2) Health Inspector Report-
 - a) Originally, the inspectors gave us a timeframe of August 18th, but they never showed up. Sterni contacted them at least 2 times each. Told them that people need to move in. Also told the chapter to keep the house in tip top shape just in case they decide to surprise us again.
 - b) Told the chapter that if the inspection people do show up, and no alumni association board member is around, tell them to make an appointment with the alumni association. It is not



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- the responsibility of the actives to deal with this sort of thing. And unless they have a warrant, it is private property and they will have to leave.
- c) Sterni to send Pearl copies of the documents sent to the health inspectors. State should also have a copy of our by-laws.
- 3) Elections-
- a) President: Br. Ellars and Br. Lopez nominated. Br. Lopez declined. Br. Ellars reelected.
 - b) Vice President: Br. Lopez and Br. Godinez nominated. Br. Godinez declined. Br. Lopez reelected.
 - c) Treasure: Br. Sterni nominated. Br. Sterni reelected
 - d) Secretary; Br. Hung and Br. Hanna nominated. Br. Hung reelected
 - e) Sergeant at Arms: Br. Godinez nominated. Br. Godinez reelected.
- 4) Wildlife Habitat proposal-
Tabled as no active members are present to report
- 5) Library Shelves update-
Tabled as no active members are present to report
- 6) Leadership Conference-
Dates are October 3-4 for the conference. National is reimbursing \$300 per person and \$600 per organization for travel costs. Br. Sterni and Br. Ellars are our delegates.
Chapter wants to send 2 brothers who have demonstrated their dedication to the Fraternity in the summer by helping with the repairs. However, they are requesting to see if the alumni association can help with the cost. Chapter is willing to pay for half the registration. Alumni association will pay for the other half.
- 7) Convention Scholarship-
Tabled.
- 8) Backhouse rent-
For IRS purposes, we cannot charge Br. Godinez less than other renters that are brothers. Therefore, effective September, the rate will increase to \$475.

Announcements

The next **“fun”** meeting will be held on 09/13/2008 at 1:00pm at the house for tailgate to the Ohio State vs. USC game.

The next **“business”** meeting will be held on 10/18/2008 at 11:00am.



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Betterment

Adjournment

The Annual Business Meeting for the Andronicus Alumni Association was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

All information will be considered a complete and accurate representation of the issues discussed unless the Secretary receives written response to the contrary within (7) days of receipt of this document.

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State of the Association

August 23, 2008

We are gathered here today for the Annual Business Meeting of the Andronicus Alumni Association. As it has for the last several years, it coincides with the Andronicus Chapter's "Roark Day" event. This day is selected each year not only to encourage alumni involvement in a traditional Chapter event but also to remind the members of the Association of our higher purpose: supporting the undergraduate membership of the Andronicus Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi.

The purpose of the State of the Association report is to look back upon the past twelve months to understand where the Association is today as well as where it could be tomorrow. This year has delivered both positives and negatives, but more than anything it has manifested tangible demonstrations of our fraternal bond.

The "business year" began with the departure of Brother Sterni, the Association Treasurer, to Northern California. However, an alumni presence has been maintained at the Chapter House by Brother Godinez, the Association Sergeant-at-Arms. Despite facing a five-hour drive each way, Brother Sterni frequently visits and has attended nearly every Association meeting and event.

Our tradition of alternating "fun" meetings with business meetings continued over the last year. This system creates a good balance between "getting stuff done" and "enjoying ourselves," and I encourage future leadership to maintain this scheduling.

The Association was proud to co-host the installation of the Cossutius Chapter, the fourth Region 8 Chapter, over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. As dawn broke on the morning of January 20, those present witnessed the exemplification of fraternalism as Alpha Rho Chi increased both its breadth of influence and aspirations for the future.

The Association had another good showing at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. Brother Lopez was elected to the office of Convention President. For two days, an Andronicus Alumnus held the highest position in the entire Fraternity. Thanks to his solid preparation, including coaching from yours truly, the Convention Business Meetings ran smoothly and came in well under their allotted times. In fact, had it not been for a delayed flight that held up the arrival of key APX Foundation personnel, it would have been feasible to conclude the Business Meetings on Friday!

As the academic year at USC drew to an end, we received unwelcome news in the form of a negative inspection from the Los Angeles County Health Department. Unlike previous similar reports, this one covered a broad – too broad – range of problems from uneven driveway surfaces to missing moldings around doors and windows. Despite our assertion that most repairs would need to wait until the summertime exodus of tenants, the Health Department insisted upon faster service. Brother Sterni attended a public hearing to address the outstanding concerns. The ultimate result was a deadline of August 18 to complete the required tasks.

In an outpouring of support unprecedented in recent memory, over a dozen Alumni and Active Brothers came together in a series of work days to fix and clean the Chapter House and grounds. While everyone who assisted deserves heartfelt thanks, Brother Sterni must be singled out for service to the Association above and beyond the call of duty. It is no exaggeration to state that the amount of work he completed over the span of the last two months exceeds that of any two other Brothers.

The Health Department task list required "triage" of sorts as it rapidly became apparent that the Association would not be able to afford to do everything, and even then not necessarily the "right" way. A list of over two dozen windows was

whittled down to only fourteen. Yet another layer of concrete topping was added to most of the broken parts of the driveway, rather than pouring a new slab. But perhaps the most risky decision was to simply scrape off the chipped and peeling paint from the first floor level and paint over the result.

The issue with this decision is that it is only a temporary stop-gap measure. The entire Chapter House needs to be repainted. We explored two options: to simply repaint using typical latex paint, or to strip down to bare wood and repaint using a more historically accurate linseed oil-based paint that would also help condition the wood siding. Neither option was financially feasible: \$36,000 sounds better than \$96,000 any day, but it didn't really matter because we only had \$26,000 in the bank – and that had to pay for the windows and other repairs around the property. So we essentially “punted” the issue, and it is not yet clear if this is acceptable to the Health Department.

So that's a little bit of where we've been and where we are now. What about where we want to be? It's easy to get carried away with dreams of the future, what might be, but we must aspire to higher goals if we are to continue to challenge our status quo. So: What's next?

We need to increase Alumni involvement with the Association. We have had mixed success in the recent past to re-engage Alumni who have drifted out of touch. I hereby challenge every Alumni Brother present to bring an Alumni Brother who has not been to an Association meeting in the last three years to one of the next two Association meetings (fun or business).

We need to create a coherent scholarship process for sending Chapter Actives to Convention. This year's request/proposal effort was a fiasco that unfortunately prevented several Brothers from attending Convention. Clear documentation of requirements and judging criteria will go a long way towards ensuring fairness and availability to all Chapter Actives.

We need better communication and coordination with S.A.R.C.H. For those who do not know, S.A.R.C.H. (Shankland Andronicus Renovated Chapter House) was founded to handle tax-deductible fundraising for and direction of badly needed historic preservation work for the Chapter House. For whatever reason, the fundraising process has not generated significant donations. The unfortunate result of this has been more rapid depletion of Association funds as we attempt to follow historic preservation guidelines, which are typically more expensive than contemporary construction. To fall back on the house painting example, doing it “the right way” would more than double our costs. It is difficult to justify the greater expense when the purpose of the Andronicus Alumni Association is to support the Andronicus Chapter and the Association membership, not to preserve the historical significance of a particular building – even if it happens to be the Chapter House.

As a much longer-term goal – the kind of thing that will become feasible perhaps only after the Chapter House restoration is mostly complete – is the establishment of endowed scholarships for Andronicus Chapter Actives. Whether such scholarships were tied to a scholar-in-residence program or simply stand-alone assistance, *this* is how the Association should spend its funds.

The fire at the heart of the Andronicus Alumni Association continues to burn bright. There is so much potential bundled up within our membership that one cannot help but be hopeful for the future. I ask that you join me there.

Fidelitas, Amor et Artes

Michael S. Ellars, President
Andronicus Alumni Association