



# The Sig House

*A Newsletter from the Board of Grand Trustees*

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Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania Ph 202.427.4981

**Scott Ross (2019)** [hsross@bellsouth.net](mailto:hsross@bellsouth.net)  
Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama Ph 662.494.2593

**Harvey Silverman (2017)** [harveyas@aol.com](mailto:harveyas@aol.com)  
Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia Ph 703.319.8806

**Rich Thompson (2017)** [rich.thompson@sigmachi.com](mailto:rich.thompson@sigmachi.com)  
**Communications Czar** Ph 503.481.7974  
Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Minnesota, Alaska, Hawaii

**Clyde Dormier (2017)** [cdormier@hotmail.com](mailto:cdormier@hotmail.com)  
British Columbia, Washington, Idaho Ph 650.727.2533  
Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba

## Spit Shining

One of a house corporation's important tasks is to perform various types of repair and maintenance on the chapter house. Painting, carpeting and roof replacement fall in this category. One critical task that is often left up to Active Chapter is cleaning. The theory is if you rent a house, you are responsible to keep it clean. Great theory.

Older alums remember the days when regular house cleaning was mandatory and often a team building event for actives and pledges. While the results of these exercises weren't always stellar, when performed weekly (not weekly), the results were tolerable.

But as most of today's house corporations can attest to, the standards of cleanliness at chapter houses often leaves something to be desired. In some cases, the level of sanitation borders on toxic. One chapter house actually had an incidence of the highly infectious ebola virus. There may have been dire consequences if the house corporation had not taken immediate and intensive remediation measures.

But plague conditions aside, overflowing garbage cans, unswept floors, unvacuumed carpets and unwashed windows are common. The condition of kitchens and bathrooms often gives rise to mold and bacterial conditions that cause real health problems.

When it comes to cleaning, some things are more important than others. Keeping the kitchen and bathroom germ and mold free is at the top of the priority list. But knowing *how* to clean these areas is of critical importance:

**Use Commercial Cleaning Products & Equipment.** Treat chapter houses like commercial space and shop at

janitorial supply outlets. Not only will the distributor be able to give expert advice on proper technique and products, the products come in large quantity containers that will save money. Many of these products are designed for janitorial professionals so having proper equipment (rubber gloves, rags, mops, etc.) is important.

**Establish a Regular Schedule.** Kitchens and bathrooms need thorough cleaning at least *weekly*, no exceptions. Bathrooms need tubs, shower walls, sinks, toilets and urinals to receive a proper cleaning with bacterial and mold killing products.

**List of Supplies.** Have the right products and tools makes the job easy and more effective:

- **Dusting:** Cleaning Cloths, Dust Mop, Furniture Polish
- **Trash Supplies:** Trash Cans, Trash Can Liners, Baking Soda (Odor Control), Recycling Bins
- **General Surface Supplies:** All-Purpose Cleaner, Kitchen/Bathroom Wipes, Sponges, Paper Towels, Rubber Gloves
- **Special Surface Supplies:** Liquid Hand Soap, Automatic Dishwasher Detergent, Oven Cleaner, Wood Polish, Toilet Bowl Cleaners, Soft Scrub Cleaner, Air Freshener, Window Cleaner
- **Floor Cleaning Supplies:** Broom, Dustpan, Vacuum Cleaner, Mop & Bucket, Floor Wax/Polish

**Assign Responsibility.** A statement like "All the brothers are required to clean the house when their schedule permits" translates as "Nobody lifts a finger to clean". The House Manager needs to be held accountable for the results.

**Spot Checks.** Regular inspections by the house corporation is essential to good results. Set up a schedule and keep it. If the cleaning is not getting

## Sigma Chi Fraternity's



Affordable financing options up to \$250,000 for Sigma Chi house corporations that own chapter houses

- ✦ Chapter House Purchase
- ✦ Life & Fire Safety Upgrades
- ✦ New Construction
- ✦ Renovation



*Ritual Regalia Loans up to \$5000*



For more information, contact [robert.schock.zo@sigmachi.com](mailto:robert.schock.zo@sigmachi.com)

done, have it done professionally and charge the cost to the chapter. If it does get done, recognize the effort

Maintaining a clean chapter house is more than just a healthy thing to do. It demonstrates pride and helps in recruiting brothers with high standards. Help the brothers help themselves and all of Sigma Chi wins. **IHSV**

### Forever Young

One area of continuing frustration for house corporations is the immaturity and bad judgment that periodically punctuates Active Chapter life. It's the same old story: A Quaestor's failure to collect housebills causes the chapter to default on rent. Or some young brothers manage to pull a stunt that attracts the attention from the neighbors, police and university. Hazing raises its ugly head. Excessive alcohol consumption takes its toll with lasting and tragic results.

Yet, most of us were in similar shoes as undergrads. We made our share of mistakes as we tried on manhood for size. Like the boys in "Lord of the

Flies", many of us made significant life changing decisions for the very first time as undergraduates. Some of us learned from our mistakes while others didn't seem to get it.

"The older I get, the better I was" reflects a common attitude among some Sigma Chi alumni. These brothers loudly decry the bad behavior of "kids these days". Time blurs memory of their own undergraduate days when actions and decisions were equally immature.

Sigma Chi always has been, and always will be a training ground for leaders. One of its core purposes is to improve individual performance by teaching standards of truth and excellence. But coming to real understanding of those standards takes time, patience and maturity.

Young men do what young men do. Maturity comes from experiences with lasting impressions. When impressions aren't lasting enough, mistakes are repeated until they are. Thankfully, most young men are quick studies and

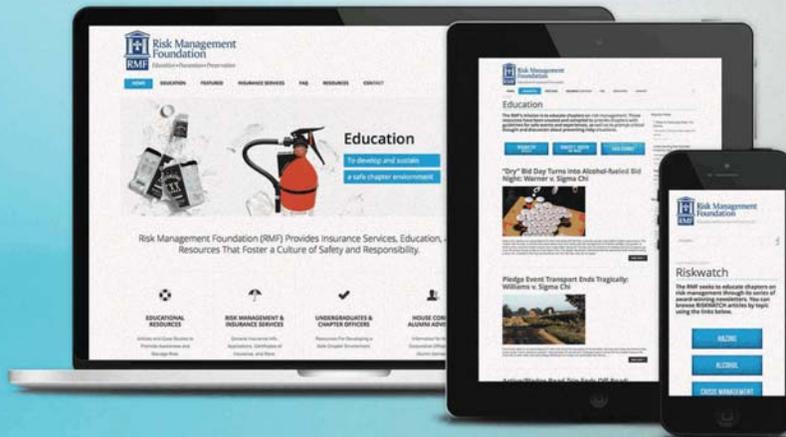
don't require near death experiences to understand the way they should go.

Freshmen are particularly vulnerable since this is the time when most are out of the nest for the first time. Last year's high school valedictorian can easily become this year's college dropout when the folks are no longer around. Having an older brother that shows sincere interest can make a lot of difference in keeping these brothers on track. This is where older brothers can help. Getting to know actives and pledges on a personal level helps them to better focus on strengths and weaknesses.

Identifying and encouraging those with strong leadership potential is an important goal for a house corporation. Active chapters with strong leadership will be more successful and make the house corp's job much easier. If older brothers encourage key brothers into leadership positions, many disciplinary, financial and academic problems can be circumvented.

House corp should also encourage

Announcing our new website...



**RMFEducation.org**

- ✦ Watch Risk Management Videos
- ✦ Read RISKWATCH Articles
- ✦ Download Checklists & Safety Tips
- ✦ Search RMF Archives

**Know the Risks, Be Proactive, Develop a Plan**



leaders and potential leaders to take advantage of the resources offered by Sigma Chi like Balfour Leadership Training Workshop (BLTW) and Horizons. Since most or all of the expense is covered, house corp only needs to promote the concept and assist with scheduling.

Remember when you walked into your first chapter house as a rushee? It was probably both intimidating and exhilarating. The Sigma Chi experience is a life long journey. It can seem at times that young actives aren't learning much along the way. They can seem forever young and dumb. But their reality is not unlike yours. They have hopes and dreams. They respond to a caring and helping hand, the kind that house corporation mentors can provide. **IHSV**

## House Corporation Annual Report

Each year, the Board of Grand Trustees request that each house corporation complete and submit a one page form so we can verify the current chapter housing (house corp owned, university

owned, rented or none) and to update our house corp board member database. Those house corporations that do complete the Annual Report qualify to apply for the Outstanding House Corporation Award plus apply to attend House Corporation Officers Training Seminar (HCOTS). The 25 board officers selected for HCOTS attend at no cost. Food, travel and lodging is provided (a \$750 value).

That said, **the following house corporations have not yet responded** to our Annual Report request:

Albion College  
Alma College  
Beloit College  
Boise State University  
Brown University  
Colorado College  
East Tennessee State University  
Eastern Illinois University  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Fort Hayes State University  
Hanover College  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
McGill University  
New Mexico State University  
North Carolina State University  
Oregon State University  
Princeton University

Purdue University  
Sam Houston State University  
Stanford University  
Texas A&M-College Station  
Texas Christian University  
Texas State University  
University of California-Irvine  
University of California-Los Angeles  
University of Idaho  
University of Kentucky  
University of Mississippi  
University of Nebraska  
University of New Mexico  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of South Alabama  
University of Tennessee-Chattanooga  
University of Waterloo  
Wabash College  
Washington University  
Western Kentucky University  
Whitman College  
Willamette University  
Youngstown State University

To obtain an Annual Report form, email [rich.thompson@sigmachi.com](mailto:rich.thompson@sigmachi.com) If your chapter has no house corporation, simply email with the chapter name and the message "no house corporation". Grand Praetors and Chapter Advisors are encouraged to respond to this request. Thanks for your help. **IHSV**

## House Corporation Officers Training Seminar

HCOTS will be held at Bowling Green University on August 3-5, 2017 in conjunction with Balfour Leadership Training Seminar. 25 house corporation board officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) qualify to apply to attend this all expense paid training. You cannot have attended a previous HCOTS and only one officer per house corporation may attend. HCOTS topics include:

Chapter House Maintenance  
Budgeting  
Fund Raising  
Legal Issues & Governance  
Brainstorming Issues

If you are interested in attending, email [rich.thompson@sigmachi.com](mailto:rich.thompson@sigmachi.com) by April 30, 2017. **IHSV**

## Constantine Capital Q&A

One of the primary charges of the Grand Trustees is to help improve chapter house conditions for livability and life and fire safety issues like fire sprinkler systems. Sigma Chi has an outstanding money source available known as Constantine Capital, Inc.(CCI) that can help make those goals a reality.

**Q** How much money can CCI lend?  
**A** Up to \$250,000.

**Q** What are current interest rates?  
**A** CCI's loan rates are competitive with the commercial mortgage market (currently around 6%).

**Q** What is the term of the loan?  
**A** CCI loans can have up to a 30 year pay back schedule but the remaining balance comes due in 5 years. If payments have been made as agreed and the house corporation is in good standing, CCI can consider renewing the note for another 5 years.

**Q** What collateral does CCI require?  
**A** CCI needs a 1<sup>st</sup> or possibly a 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage if the house corp has a large equity. If the equity position is slimmer, CCI may require alums to sign personal guarantees.

**Q** What if the chapter house sits on university property?  
**A** If the chapter house sits on university owned land, there should be a long term lease in place (like 40-80 years). CCI can make a loan if the house

corporation has a leasehold interest because it is "tangible" collateral.

**Q** So what's the first step in applying for a CCI loan?  
**A** Contact the CCI Chair Bob Schock [robert.schock.zo@sigmachi.com](mailto:robert.schock.zo@sigmachi.com) **IHSV**

## House Corporation Resource Directory

### ARCHITECTURAL & PLANNING SERVICES

**Aynesworth Architects & Consultants 512.328.2272**  
G. Tim Aynesworth [tim@aynesworth.com](mailto:tim@aynesworth.com)  
PO Box 161434, Austin TX 78716 [www.aynesworth.com](http://www.aynesworth.com)  
Architectural design and construction management.  
Texas Registered Architect, Certified by National Council of Architectural Registration Board.

**Hug & Associates, LLC 678.297.2929**  
Mike Hug [mhug@HugArchitects.com](mailto:mhug@HugArchitects.com)  
5250 Avalon Blvd  
Alpharetta GA 30009 [www.HugArchitects.com](http://www.HugArchitects.com)  
Specializing in the design and renovation of fraternity housing.

**Reid Studio Architecture LLC 217.390.7403**  
Rod Reid [rod.reid@comcast.net](mailto:rod.reid@comcast.net)  
Chapter house renovation and construction design; collects data, analyzes project requirements, develops cost estimates; assists locating design and construction team members.

### CHAPTER HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

**Pierce Education Properties, L.P. 619.297.0400**  
Matt Maruccia, VP for Acquisitions  
[www.PierceEducationProperties.com](http://www.PierceEducationProperties.com) National developers, buyers, owners and operators of student housing with specific expertise in Greek Housing acquisition, disposition, development, finance, etc.

### CHAPTER HOUSE FINANCING

**Constantine Capital, Inc. 816.300.0604**  
Bob Schock [robert.schock.zo@sigmachi.com](mailto:robert.schock.zo@sigmachi.com)  
Affordable financing to Sigma Chi house corporations for chapter house purchase, life & safety upgrades, new construction, renovation and loan guaranty

### CHAPTER HOUSE RENOVATION & DESIGN

**LAUNCH Interior Design 916.660.9856**  
David Leinberger **C 916.769.2464**  
[launch@starstream.net](mailto:launch@starstream.net) [www.launchinteriordesign.com](http://www.launchinteriordesign.com)  
New construction and renovation for cost effective and efficient design selections including paint colors, furniture, lighting, window & floor coverings and more.

### FINANCIAL & DATABASE MANAGEMENT

**GreekBill, Inc. www.greekbill.com 800.457.3816**  
Web-based billing and financial management service enables billing, collecting, budgeting, reporting, online payment options

**OmegaFi www.omegafi.com 800.276.6342**  
Chapter and alumni management tools to bill and collect dues and rent, manage rosters and records, pay bills and employees and file tax returns.

### FOOD SERVICES

**Campus Cooks 847.309.1859**  
William Reeder [wreeder@campuscooks.com](mailto:wreeder@campuscooks.com)  
Comprehensive program: on-site cook plus management of staffing, payroll, food and supply

ordering, menu preparation. [www.campuscooks.com](http://www.campuscooks.com)

### College Chefs

Jordan Wigton [jwigton@collegechefs.com](mailto:jwigton@collegechefs.com) **217.369.7267**  
[www.collegechefs.com](http://www.collegechefs.com) We provide trained professional chefs to prepare delicious meals and maintain a spotless kitchen.

### Culinary Consultants Purchasing Services

Stan Faulkner [Support@infoccps.com](mailto:Support@infoccps.com) **314.422.3407**  
Brian Heider [www.infoccps.com](http://www.infoccps.com) **847.566.7533**  
National buying program exclusively for fraternity chapters with food programs. Instant cost savings with no major changes to existing food program.

### Gill Grilling 443.822.0264

Brian Gill [brian@gillgrilling.com](mailto:brian@gillgrilling.com)  
[www.gillgrilling.com](http://www.gillgrilling.com) Equipment consultation & purchasing, Nutritional analysis, payroll, custom menus. Serving Maryland, Massachusetts & Alabama.

### Greek Kitchen Management 623.565.8289

Justin Rolnick [info@greekkitchenmanagement.com](mailto:info@greekkitchenmanagement.com)  
[www.greekkitchenmanagement.com](http://www.greekkitchenmanagement.com) Kitchen management program: staffing, ordering and food preparation. Cleaning products: cleaning chemicals, supplies & paper goods

### FLOORING

**The Carpet Company 541.484.5373**  
Daryl Egbert **C 541.517.8820**  
[daryle@thecarpetcompany.biz](mailto:daryle@thecarpetcompany.biz) [www.thecarpetcompany.biz](http://www.thecarpetcompany.biz)  
All major brands of commercial and residential flooring.

### FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATION

**Affinity Connection 814.237.0481 ext 131**  
Greg Woodman [greg@affinityconnection.com](mailto:greg@affinityconnection.com)  
[www.affinityconnection.com](http://www.affinityconnection.com) Database management, website hosting/management, newsletter production, enewsletters, fundraising assistance, donation processing

**Member Planet 888.298.8845**  
Patrick Terrian **C 310.590.4413**  
[pterrian@memberplanet.com](mailto:pterrian@memberplanet.com) [www.memberplanet.com](http://www.memberplanet.com)  
Email newsletters and text messaging, chapter websites, member database, donation sites.

**Pennington & Associates 785.843.1661**  
Patrick Alderdice [palderdice@penningtonco.com](mailto:palderdice@penningtonco.com)  
[www.penningtonco.com](http://www.penningtonco.com) Capital campaign coordination, gift management, alumni relations programs, website development

**The Laurus Group 770.903.3987**  
Bill Paris [bparis@thelaurusgroup.net](mailto:bparis@thelaurusgroup.net) **C 404.441.9630**  
[www.thelaurusgroup.net](http://www.thelaurusgroup.net) Fundraising consulting specializing in capital campaigns, gift management, alumni communications, annual funds

### HOUSE DIRECTOR SEARCH & SCREENING

**Greek House Resource 361.450.0818**  
[greekhs@gmail.com](mailto:greekhs@gmail.com) [www.greekhouse.net](http://www.greekhouse.net)  
Screen, interview and placement for chapter house directors.

### INCORPORATION ASSISTANCE

**Grand Trustee Harvey Silverman 703.319.8806**  
[harveyas@aol.com](mailto:harveyas@aol.com)

*Do you offer a service for Sigma Chi house corporations? Email [rich.thompson@sigmachi.com](mailto:rich.thompson@sigmachi.com) with the details and get listed in the Service Directory.*



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Back L to R: John Watson, Rick Hronek, Tom Samulski, JB Allen, Bill Bringham Jr., Harvey Silverman, John Bibo, Nathan Neal  
Missing: James Carroll and Steve Schuyler  
(Effective March 2017 Clyde Dornier assumed John Watson's position)



