



# The Sig House

*A Newsletter from the Board of Grand Trustees*

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## All in It Together

This slogan has become a much-used statement but is the sign of the time. The question is how will one come out of this pandemic when it is over? Over the past 165 years, Sigma chi has faced many challenges which parallel our country's history. Sigma Chis have lived through the Civil War, The Pandemic of 1918, The Great Depression, and four major wars. Yet Sigma Chi has survived and grown bigger and stronger from these experiences because of the men who have answered the call, addressed the challenges and lead the way to solve the problems.

Today, the men of Sigma Chi are once again asked to pick up the challenge and lead the way on our campuses so our Fraternity can set the example for others on campus and lead the way to conquer this devastating challenge of our time. The pandemic has caused drastic changes in the college experience, caused financial hardships for brothers and families, impacted the economic stability of house corporations, restricted recruitment and changed our way of life.

Although there a multitude of issues to face, creative, dedicated and our value-based leaders will overcome these challenges as we have in the past. Why? Because We are all in this together!

Together, if we use our collective talents, follow the CDC and university regulations, utilize the guidance from Sigma Chi Headquarters and Risk Management Foundation (RMF), engage support from alumni, and access the resources available from Constantine Housing Initiative (CHI), Grand Praetors, Grand Trustees and regional support staff, we can strengthen our brotherhood and maintain our chapters and houses.

The recent letter from Headquarters outlined guiding principles from the Sigma Chi COVID Task Force. RMF and CHI have published several resources for house corporations. Virtual Krach Leadership Training Workshop (vKLTW), especially the Risk Managers division, focused on chapter house strategies to reduce COVID exposure, prevent campus violations and maintaining safe health practices for chapters. All these suggestions require strong leadership from both the chapter officers and house corporations.

House corporations are encouraged to connect with the broader base of alumni to increase engagement and chapter support. Now is a time to financially assist with building a reserve fund for the chapter house and provide aid to brothers in need.

Some house corporations may be able to use this time of remote learning to address living environment changes, seek additional funding to offset occupancy restrictions, revise lease agreements for the future, make repairs and seek assistance from CHI which seeks to leave no chapter or house corporation behind.

We have many challenges to face! However, if house corporations connect virtually with the undergrads, enforce COVID regulations and be the leaders for these changes on the campus, we will not only survive but thrive and enjoy the opportunity to reunite at Grand Chapter in 2021.

In Hoc,  
Rich Hronek, Kent State '69  
Chair, Grand Trustees **IHSV**

## COVID-19 Prevention

Sigma Chi's Constantine Housing Initiative (CHI) has partnered with insurance broker and risk management consultant James R. Favor & Company to produce Guidance for a Healthful Living Environment for Fraternity & Sorority Chapters. Page One of this document reads:

"Living in fraternity or sorority chapter facilities, as with any communal living arrangement on college campuses, carries some risk of contracting pandemic diseases as well as common seasonal illnesses such as flu. Although there have been many guidelines and recommendations issued by federal and local government health agencies in responses to the current COVID-19 pandemic, there are many activities that, if incorporated into daily habits, can improve healthy living conditions for fraternity sorority chapters. Knowing how COVID-19 is spread, and understanding the preventative steps needed to break the chain of infection, can help fraternity and sorority members avoid contracting and preventing the transmission of common viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites that could result in disease. By employing common sense and practicing some simple measures, chapter facilities can remain safe and healthy for every live-in or visitor to the premises.

This manual is intended to provide basic guidance for your chapter. For the full document, go to: <https://sigmachi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Guidance-for-Healthful-Living-Environment.pdf>

We highly encourage every Sigma Chi house corporation to review and share it with your active chapter. **IHSV**

## RMF Insurance Considerations

Daily news of the COVID flood our consciousness. While the information may or may not be true, there are some practical considerations that house corporations should prepare for. It is possible that the college where your chapter house is located may shut down for an indeterminate time period. That would mean, the actives would be sent home, leaving the house corporation without tenants and rent. What to do?

Below, Risk Management Foundation (RMF) provides insurance coverage information and resources available: [www.srmcat.com](http://www.srmcat.com)

**Business Interruption Coverage for campuses that are closing.** RMF uses Lloyds Fraternity Program (LFP) for Sigma Chi house corporations. For Business Income Coverage to apply there must be direct physical loss or damage to the chapter facility caused by a covered peril during the policy period. Pollutants such as COVID-19 are excluded from coverage in the LFP policy. This is an insurance market standard, not anything specific to Sigma Chi or RMF. House Corporations that do not insure with RMF should consult their insurance provider.

RMF is closely monitoring this situation and assessing whether and how to bring additional support and resources for Sigma Chi.

Tenants or parents may inquire about breaking a lease early or request refunds. In most cases, outcomes will be determined by the lease language. House Corporations should review leases with legal counsel and agreements with the university, if applicable, for other requirements.

If online learning has been established at your school, students may be asked to return home. If they are not required to return home and you allow them to remain in the chapter house. RMF *highly* recommends the following:

### Chapter House Sanitation Actions.

1. Make hand sanitizers, wipes and antimicrobial hand soap available.
2. Increase the frequency of cleaning and particularly bathrooms.
3. Increase HVAC maintenance cycles to ensure filters are cleaned and the system is functioning properly.

**Chapter House Cleaning.** Sigma Chi's Constantine Housing Initiative (CHI) has a national partnership with ServiceMaster to assist with emergency cleaning and restoration efforts. House corporations that have concerns about COVID-19, contact

Cal McCarty  
ServiceMaster Recovery Management  
Office: 800-954-9444  
Mobile: 224-361-1841  
[cal.mccarty@smdsi.com](mailto:cal.mccarty@smdsi.com)

**Chapter House Cleaning Supplies.** CHI also maintains an international partnership with **HD Supply**. House Corporations in the RMF Property Program are eligible for significant discounts on a huge catalog of products, including cleaning supplies. To set up an account, email [Justin.Brandt@rmfeducation.org](mailto:Justin.Brandt@rmfeducation.org).

Contact RMF with questions:  
Steve Davidson - Executive Director  
[Steve.Davidson@rmfeducation.org](mailto:Steve.Davidson@rmfeducation.org)  
Risk Management Foundation  
Direct: 847.612.6525  
Office: 847.869.3658 **IHSV**

## Fundraising Recipe

Raising money for renovation, construction or scholarship is a labor of love, with emphasis on "labor". Getting brothers to donate to your chapter takes time, persistence and expertise. Here are some key ingredients to success:

- Hire a professional or have experienced, knowledgeable alumni work on the campaign full-time
- Solicit **all** major gifts in person
- Make all solicitations for a specific amount in person or by phone.
- Be persistent!

**Why Hire a Professional?** Fundraising is like building a custom home. You may only do it once in your life. It can be very expensive if mistakes are made. Most of us wouldn't dream of doing it without hiring an architect, contractor and perhaps a designer. You personally would be involved every step of the way and do those things you enjoyed or felt strongly about like picking out the colors. But you might leave the ditch digging to someone else. In the end you'd probably hire out some of the maintenance too.

Your fundraising campaign process is very similar. "Trial and error" is risky. Often there is only one chance to ask for a major donation or to win alumni trust. "Learning experiences" can cost you your goal.

**Cost Effectiveness** (you'll end up with more). Perhaps the best reason to hire a qualified professional is that you will net more money in the end. Also, you won't have to work as hard.

**Continuity** (the future will be insured).

The only thing worse than your project never getting done would be to do it, renew support and loyalty from alumni, have a strong undergraduate chapter, and then watch it all crumble over time. This has happened to chapters that didn't maintain what they built. **IHSV**

## 2020 Outstanding House Corporation Awards

Each year, the Board of Grand Trustees honors Sigma Chi house corporations that demonstrate superior business practices in these 15 areas:

1. Minimum of 3 board members
2. Minimum of 2 board meetings a year
3. Have written bylaws.
4. Current with state/province annual reporting requirements.
5. Segregate house corp funds from chapter funds.
6. Have a written rental agreement for each tenant.
7. Charge each tenant a security deposit.
8. Have regular janitorial service.
9. Fund a plan for repairing/replacing major building components.
10. Have a fire sprinkler system.
11. Have an annual fire/life safety inspection.
12. Have a property manager.
13. Enforce the Sigma Chi Health & Safety Policy
14. Publish at least 2 newsletters/year.
15. Maintain an alumni database.
16. Maintain a website.
17. Have a fund raising campaign.

This year, 54 house corporations submitted applications for this prestigious award. The winners listed alphabetically are (drum roll please):

### Gold Award (20-27 POINTS)

Albion College  
Bradley University  
California State University-Fresno  
Central Michigan University  
DePauw University  
East Tennessee State University  
Embry Riddle-Daytona Beach  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Kansas State University  
Kettering University  
Missouri State University  
North Dakota State University  
Oklahoma State University  
Penn State University  
Pittsburg State University  
Princeton University  
Purdue University

San Jose State University  
Stephen F. Austin University  
Syracuse University  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
The George Washington University  
University of Alabama  
University of Arizona  
University of Arkansas  
University of British Columbia  
University of California-Berkeley  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Illinois  
University of Maryland  
University of Memphis  
University of Michigan  
University of Montana  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Southern California  
University of Texas-Arlington  
University of Texas-Austin  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
Westminster College  
Western Illinois University  
Yale University

### Blue Award (15-19 POINTS)

California State - Northridge  
Carnegie Mellon University  
McGill University  
New Mexico State University  
San Diego State University  
Texas Tech University  
University of Miami  
University of Toronto  
University of Tulsa  
University of Wyoming

### Honorable Mention (< 15 POINTS)

University of Denver  
University of Rochester  
University of St. Thomas

Congratulations to these hard working and effective house corporation volunteers. **IHSV**

## House Corporation Resource Directory

### ARCHITECTURAL & PLANNING SERVICES

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

**TreanorHL Greek Life** 678.297.2929  
Mike Hug mhug@TreanorHL.com  
www.treanorhl.com/design/greek-life Specializing in the design of new and renovated fraternity houses

**Reifsteck Reid & Company Architects** 217.351.4100  
Rod Reid rreid@rr-arch.com  
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 National developers, buyers, owners and operators of student housing with specific expertise in Greek Housing acquisition, disposition, development, finance, etc.

### CHAPTER HOUSE FINANCING

**Risk Management Foundation** 847.612.6525  
Steve Davidson Steve.Davidson@sigmachicago.org  
Affordable financing to Sigma Chi house corporations for chapter house life & safety upgrades, construction, renovation and loan guaranty

### 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  
Comprehensive program: on-site cook plus management of staffing, payroll, food and supply ordering, menu preparation. www.campuscooks.com

### College Chefs

Jordan Wigton jwigton@collegechefs.com 217.369.7267  
www.collegechefs.com We provide trained professional chefs to prepare delicious meals and maintain a spotless kitchen.

### Culinary Consultants Purchasing Services

Stan Faulkner Support@infocpps.com 314.422.3407  
Brian Heider www.infocpps.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

Brian Gill brian@gillgrilling.com 443.822.0264  
www.gillgrilling.com Equipment consultation & purchasing, Nutritional analysis, payroll, custom menus. Serving Maryland, Massachusetts & Alabama.

### Greek Kitchen Management

Amy Poklinkoski amy@greekkitchenmanagement.com 623.428.0496  
www.greekkitchenmanagement.com  
Kitchen management company specializing in staffing, high quality food preparation, food allergy accommodations and exceptional customer service

### FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATION

**Affinity Connection** 814.237.0481 ext 131  
Greg Woodman greg@affinityconnection.com  
www.affinityconnection.com Database management, website hosting/management, newsletter production, e-newsletters, fundraising assistance, donation processing

### FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATION

**Pennington & Associates** 785.843.1661  
Patrick Alderdice palderdice@penningtonco.com  
www.penningtonco.com  
Capital campaign coordination, gift management, alumni relations programs, website development

### Elevate

Bill Paris bparis@elevateiims.com 770.903.3987  
www.elevateiims.com C 404.441.9630  
Specializing in capital campaigns and alumni communications.

### HOUSE DIRECTOR SEARCH & SCREENING

**Greek House Resource** 361.450.0818  
greekhs@gmail.com www.greekhouse.net  
Screen, interview and placement for chapter house directors.

### RESERVE STUDY PLANS

**Regensis Reserves** 503.268.1789  
info@regensisreserves.com www.regensisreserves.com  
30 year plans for renovating chapter house components like furniture, roof, carpet, HVAC and more. Indispensable for planning, scheduling and fund raising.

### RESTORATION & CLEANING SERVICE

**ServiceMaster Recovery Management** 800.954.9444  
Cal McCarty cal.mccarty@smdsi.com C 224.361.1841  
www.smdsi.com

