



Report of the Grand Council to the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity

April 5, 2024

The Grand Council of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity is directed to submit a report to each regular Convention in accordance with the Alpha Rho Chi Bylaws, Article VII, Section 04. This report primarily covers the activity of Alpha Rho Chi, from the 75th National Convention held February 2023 through March 2024. The report is divided into 5 sections, as directed by the Alpha Rho Chi Bylaws (printed below for reference).

Section 04 The Grand Council shall make a report to each Regular Convention containing the following items:

01. A statement of the condition of the Fraternity;
02. The transactions, including all rules and regulations, adopted, of the Grand Council since the last Convention;
03. Notable disciplinary actions taken against chapters, associations, or members;
04. All recommendations for the good of the Fraternity that it may see fit to make;
05. All petitions for new Chapters.

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01. Statement of the Condition of the Fraternity

Summary

Alpha Rho Chi continues to face challenges throughout the organization as we settle into the new normal of the post-COVID-19 world. Beginning in March 2020, the pandemic began to impact nearly every facet of fraternity operations, and while we all would like to say the Fraternity is past this challenge, the fact of the matter is that it has had a profound effect on our organization. In speaking with other organizations involved in Greek life, including our insurance provider and educational partner, we are not the only organization facing these issues; however, since Alpha Rho Chi is a smaller organization and 100% volunteer run, our struggles can feel greater in comparison to Fraternities who operate on a much larger scale.

While the day-to-day disruptions of the pandemic have passed, the real effects have continued to light over the past year in our members, chapters, alumni associations, and fraternity leadership. The stability of many of our chapters and alumni associations were greatly affected and for some, it has been more difficult (if not impossible) to reestablish their footing and find the prosperity they once had. The Grand Council and National Appointees have remained focused on assisting our member organizations as best we can to regain and maintain stability.

Since 2018, the collegiate membership of the fraternity has been declining. This is an overall trend across all of Greek life. Our collegiate membership has stabilized over the last several years, which is an encouraging sign, but the Fraternity has also seen two chapters and two alumni associations fall dormant. While these numbers may not seem large, for a smaller organization such as Alpha Rho Chi, this is a loss of almost 10% for the second consecutive year. The Grand Council is monitoring an additional few chapters and alumni associations who may fall dormant in the not-too-distant future. In positive news, Alpha Rho Chi has welcomed two chapters in formation as well as one alumni association.

The Fraternity has also felt the effects of inflation and has had to make tough decisions to cut programs to remain financially stable. In doing so, even in the face of these challenges, our fraternity is currently financially stable at this time and continues to conduct business at all levels. More information on these initiatives can be found in Section 02 of this report.

Throughout the course of our 110-year history, Alpha Rho Chi has had periods of both expansive growth and decline, both in membership and in chapters and alumni associations. Surviving the height of the pandemic years was one task, which we accomplished. Emerging from it as a stable national body is a challenge that we are still encountering. While this may seem scary or unnerving, it is an indisputable reality. Alpha Rho Chi is in the middle stages of recovery, and the road has continued to be bumpy at times. Regardless, the Grand Council remains focused on assisting chapters and alumni associations in finding stability and prosperity, through education, mentorship and hands-on training. Knowing we are forever changed by these world events, Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity will continue to utilize technology, our creativity, and our own collective knowledge to ensure success as best we know how.

Membership

Component Organizations

The fraternity is currently composed of 29 student chapters and 16 alumni associations. Over the past year, the Daedalus Chapter and Pytheos Chapter voluntarily dissolved, while the Rabirius Alumni Association, and Sostratus Alumni Association were suspended and declared dormant after falling short on their responsibilities (and repeated unanswered attempts to contact the members).

Collegiate Membership

As of March 31, 2024, the official membership of Alpha Rho Chi stands at 652 collegiate members, including members studying abroad, and 230 potential new members.

Aggregated collegiate membership statistics are shown in the table below. Including members and non-member affiliates at all chapters, our average chapter membership has stabilized since 2022, but remains lower than pre-pandemic levels. **Note:** *The Grand Council attributes part of this decline to the moratorium on initiating new members (March 2020 - 2021).*

<i>Collegiate Membership Highlights</i>						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Collegiate Members</i>	967	821	723	747	770	652
<i>Potential New Members</i>	119	112	181	123	98	230
Total	1086	993	904	870	888	882
<i>Average Chapter Size (members only)</i>	30	25	23	23	25	23
<i>Average Chapter Size (members + PNMs)</i>	34	27	27	26	28	28
<i>Chapters ≥20</i>	26	14	15	15	15	15
<i>Chapters < 20</i>	6	19	17	18	16	14
<i>Chapters in Formation</i>	2	1	1	0	0	2

The following table provides a census of the membership of our chapter, as reported in GreekTrack through March 31, 2024, compared with the same census from the 2023 reports: **Note:** An asterisk (*) indicates a chapter in formation and a double asterisk (**) indicates a chapter that has gone dormant.

<i>Collegiate Membership Details</i>						
	2023-2024			2022-2023		
	Collegiates	PNMs	Total	Collegiates	PNMs	Total
<i>Agamedes</i>	31	20	51	32	22	54
<i>Amenophis</i>	15	5	20	22	0	22

<i>Andronicus</i>	3	0	3	11	0	11
<i>Anthemios</i>	35	14	49	52	12	64
<i>Apollodorus</i>	25	1	26	28	10	38
<i>Arcesius*</i>	0	36	36	0	0	0
<i>Callimachus</i>	10	15	25	21	0	21
<i>Cleisthenes</i>	17	7	24	32	0	32
<i>Cossutius</i>	6	2	8	5	5	10
<i>Daedalus**</i>	0	0	0	5	0	5
<i>Demetrios</i>	33	31	64	38	0	38
<i>Dinocrates</i>	11	0	11	9	0	9
<i>Domitian</i>	27	6	33	24	0	24
<i>Hadrian</i>	35	0	35	13	0	13
<i>Hippodamus</i>	17	0	17	18	0	18
<i>Iktinos</i>	52	11	63	57	14	71
<i>Isidorus</i>	25	0	25	40	0	40
<i>Kallikrates*</i>	0	28	0	0	0	0
<i>Metagenes</i>	30	3	33	43	0	43
<i>Mnesicles</i>	5	1	6	7	3	10
<i>Nicon</i>	8	9	17	14	0	14
<i>Numisius</i>	9	0	9	9	0	9
<i>Olynthius</i>	14	0	14	18	0	18
<i>Philon</i>	14	0	14	24	15	39
<i>Polyidus</i>	29	1	30	52	0	52
<i>Pytheos**</i>	0	0	0	7	0	7
<i>Rabirius</i>	20	3	23	19	0	19
<i>Senenmut</i>	18	8	26	20	0	20
<i>Seshait</i>	10	0	10	8	0	8

<i>Severus</i>	27	1	56	56	0	56
<i>Skopas</i>	52	20	72	55	2	57
<i>Theodorus</i>	26	0	26	12	0	12
<i>Vitruvius</i>	48	8	56	39	15	54
Total	652	230	882	790	98	888

Alumni Associations (WGAA)

There are 16 Alumni Associations affiliated with Alpha Rho Chi, 15 of which are considered in good standing as of April 4, 2024. Alumni Associations are supported by our Worthy Grand Associate Architect and the Alumni Team.

- Andronicus Alumni Association
- Anthemios Alumni Association
- Apollodorus Alumni Association
- Cleisthenes Alumni Association
- Daedalus Alumni Association
- Demetrios Alumni Association
- *Domitian Alumni Association**
- Hippodamus Alumni Association
- Iktinos Alumni Association
- Metagenes Alumni Association
- Olynthius Alumni Association
- Polyidus Alumni Association
- Senenmut Alumni Association
- Seshait Alumni Association
- Severus Alumni Association
- Vitruvius Alumni Association

**Indicates Alumni Associations who are not currently in good standing.*

Associations who have fallen out of good standing this year will receive a notice in May 2024 identifying their outstanding requirements to be completed before the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). Any association with outstanding requirements as of July 1st will receive warnings and/or suspension notices.

Since the previous Grand Council Report, Alpha Rho Chi has welcomed one new Alumni Association and closed two others. Suspension notices were delivered to the Rabirius and Sostratus Alumni Associations, however the Rabirus AA informed the Grand Council that they had begun the process to dissolve prior to the suspension notice. The Sostratus AA did not respond. An additional suspension notice was delivered to the Seshait Alumni Association. They have since appealed the suspension and have demonstrated significant steps in the correct direction to maintain good standing with the Fraternity.

In January 2024, after many months of preparing and organizing with help from both the current and previous WGAA, the Grand Council received a petition to form the Polyidus Alumni Association. The Grand Council approved the petition and forwarded it to the chapters and AAs. The petition was accepted with unanimous approval.

Alumni Membership

With the transition to GreekTrack, we have adjusted how we track membership in hopes to provide more accurate numbers moving forward. The current alumni membership stands at 8,907, with an additional 10 Honorary members and 43 Faculty members. Of our total alumni membership, we have 92 active (dues paying) members and 319 lifetime members. Our membership records also list 1,227 members as deceased.

The following table provides a census of current alumni data as reported in GreekTrack through March 29, 2024.

Alumni by Chapter					
Chapter	Total	Alumni	Honorary	Faculty	Deceased
Agamedes	75	75	0	0	0
Amenophis	89	88	0	1	0
Andronicus	637	553	1	0	83
Anthemios	1434	992	1	12	429
Apollodorus	404	393	1	4	6
Aristobulus	17	17	0	0	0
Callimachus	135	135	0	0	0
Cleisthenes	209	205	0	1	3
Cossutius	96	95	0	1	0
Daedalus	344	338	0	2	4
Daphnis	145	139	0	2	4
Demetrios	555	432	0	1	122
Dinocrates	236	207	0	0	29
Domitian	162	162	0	0	0
Hadrian	179	179	0	0	0
Hemiunu	52	52	0	0	0
Heracleides	105	103	0	2	0
Hippodamus	70	69	1	0	0
Iktinos	887	674	2	0	211
Imhotep	51	49	0	2	0
Isidorus	250	250	0	0	0
Kallikrates	94	70	0	0	24
Metagenes	421	399	0	2	20

Alumni by Chapter					
Chapter	Total	Alumni	Honorary	Faculty	Deceased
Mnesicles	440	341	0	0	99
Nicon	168	166	0	2	0
Numisius	55	54	0	0	1
Olynthius	107	103	1	2	1
Paeonios	107	27	0	0	80
Philon	122	122	0	0	0
Polyidus	149	148	0	1	0
Polyklitos	81	55	0	0	26
Pytheos	226	223	1	1	1
Rabirius	356	355	1	0	0
Rhoecus	167	164	0	2	1
Satyros	239	224	0	0	15
Senenmut	190	190	0	0	0
Seshait	225	220	0	5	0
Severus	225	224	0	1	0
Skopas	55	55	0	0	0
Sostratus	113	113	0	0	0
theodorus	63	63	0	0	0
Theron	120	88	0	0	32
Vitruvius	483	449	1	3	30
Xenocles	189	176	0	2	11

Leadership

The Grand Council serves as the fraternity’s Officers and also as the Board of Directors. They are:

- **Worthy Grand Architect:** A.J. Kessinger (Vitruvius)

- **Worthy Grand Associate Architect:** Zack Borell (Anthemios)
- **Worthy Grand Estimator:** Sama Verdina (Domitian)
- **Worthy Grand Scribe:** Margaret Scaglione (Senenmut)
- **Worthy Grand Lecturer:** Claudia Miraldi (Anthemios)
- **Worthy Grand Inspector:** Nathan Strother (Metagenes)
- **Grand Advisor:** Laura Schmidt (Anthemios)

Many hard-working, dedicated Alpha Rho Chi members serve the fraternity as appointees to the Grand Council. Our Regional Directors for 2023-2024 are:

- **Region 1 (Agamedes, Apollodorus, Nicon):** Melissa Holder (Polyidus)
- **Region 2 (Andronicus, Cleisthenes, Dinocrates):** Caroline Bair (Anthemios)
- **Region 3 (Anthemios, Mnesicles, Philon):** Kylie Miller (Pytheos)
- **Region 4 (Domitian, Iktinos, Vitruvius):** Cesar Portillo (Clesithenes)
- **Region 5 (Metagenes, Olynthius, Polyidus):** Thomas Wyatt (Apollodorus)
- **Region 6 (Hadrian, Hippodamus, Seshait):** Garrett Brown (Senenmut)
- **Region 7 (Callimachus, Cossutius, Numisius):** Melissa Boudreau (Metagenes)
- **Region 8 (Demetrius, Isidorus, Theodorus):** Caroline McCollam (Rabirius)
- **Region 9 (Amenophis, Rabirius, Severus):** Dan McDonnell (Demetrius)
- **Region 10 (Skopas, Senenmut):** Maggie Kleinman (Olynthius)

Serving in key positions to support our fraternity initiatives are:

- **Charter Directors:** Cassidy Brown (Apollodorus) & Sam Ihle (Daedalus)
- **Events Coordinator:** Darius Greenleaf (Anthemios)
- **Expansion Director:** Nathan Lipson (Anthemios)
- **Historian:** Danielle Swanson (Anthemios)
- **Leadership Conference Coordinator:** Josh Naputi (Cleisthenes)
- **Vendor Coordinator:** Rick Fryer (Vitruvius)
- **Alumni Directors:** Daryl Rowe (Polyidus), Jessica Zamora (Cossutius), Lucas Posey (Hippodamus)
- **Special Projects Coordinator:** Mary Beth Robbins (Theodorus)

02: Transactions, Including All Rules and Regulations Adopted, of the Grand Council since the Last Convention

Rules and Regulations Adopted

The 75th National Convention held in February 2023 passed eight motions rolled over from the 74th National Convention under old business. There were two motions submitted for the 75th National Convention under new business with one passing and one failing.

1. Motion 74-01 amended all references to “colonization” in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity be replaced with the term “chartering”, and all references to “colony” be replaced with the word “chartering organization” and “colonist” be replaced with the word “charter.” Motion passes,
2. Motion 74-02 moved that By-Laws of the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity Article XV, Section 01 - Duties of the Regional Director shall be replaced with “National Appointees.:
3. Motion 74-03 added the “Duties of the Alumni Directors” to Article XV of the National By-Laws of the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity. Motion passes.
4. Motion 74-04 amended Article VII, Section 03 of the By-Laws of the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity to add “or by a vote of Chapters and Alumni Associations. Such rules and regulations may not be considered in effect until so ratified.” Motion passes.
5. Motion 74-05 moved that the “Grand Council compile all of our rules and regulations into a single document to be ratified at the next Convention.” Motion passes.
6. Motion 74-06 moved “that Rules and Regulations to be published to presidents of Chapters and Alumni Associations annually or when revised due to ratification, whichever is first.” Motion passes.
7. Motion 74-07 moved that “the Grand Council publish their meeting minutes within 3 months of the meeting date.” Motion passes.
8. Motion 74-08 moved that “the Grand Council publish scheduled times of their regular meetings and make those meetings available for members to observe while they are held.” Motion passes.
9. Motion 75-01 moved to “replace the final sentence of Article I, Section 01 of the National By-laws of the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity” Motion fails.
10. Motion 75-02 moved for “Alpha Rho Chi to evaluate the purpose and value of awarding the Alpha Rho Chi bronze medal at schools that do not have APX chapters.” Motion passes.

Programs & Services

National Conventions

The 77th National Convention

The event planning team, led by Events Coordinator Darius Greenleaf has been working with potential cities for the 2025 National Convention. An announcement on the location and dates will be released soon.

2023 Leadership Conference

Events Coordinator Darius Greenleaf, Leadership Coordinator Josh Naputi and WGI Nathan Strother, organized and led the in-person Leadership Conference on September 30, 2023 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. All chapter Worthy Architects or Worthy Estimators were invited to participate. Seminars included: utilizing tools to improve your chapter programming, financial success and an interactive presentation on chapter operations called Elephants and Onions by CampusSpeak.

Alumni Programming

Quarterly Alumni Association Calls

The current administration opted to not continue these calls. In theory, these calls were supposed to be helpful to AAs to discuss issues at hand and source solutions to their problems from their peers, however they often did not yield that result and were met with dwindling participation and decreasing attendance.

Communications

Communication and transparency is a key area of focus for the Alumni Team's strategy to maintain and promote additional involvement for our alumni. This year the Worthy Grand Associate Architect and their team began publishing a monthly e-newsletter: the *APX Update*. This regular correspondence is intended to distribute updates, news, announcements, and achievements of our chapters and brothers to all of our membership. The team is working with the Worthy Grand Scribe on expanding efforts to include social media posts centered around alumni activities and promoting life as an alumni to collegiate and potential new members.

Rules and Regulations for Alumni Associations

The WGAA proposed changes to the rules and regulations dictating the requirements for Alumni Associations to be considered in Good Standing with the Fraternity. This document is presently considered for ratification by the 76th National Convention. In short, the proposed updates add or clarify requirements to maintain good standing with the United States Internal Revenue Service, adds a minimum number of involved alumni within an Association, and a requirement to maintain involvement in Fraternity business by regularly sending a delegate to convention.

Alumni Association Operations

This past fall, the Alumni Team launched the Alumni Association Operations Survey geared towards developing a deep understanding of each AA's unique position, struggles, and successes as well as being a means to meet the leaders of each AA. Before the initial deadline of October 31, four Associations of the then fifteen had responded. Ultimately, the survey deadline was extended multiple times until the end of February 2024 with five additional responses being received. Of the nine responses received, five scheduled the follow-up meeting with the WGAA and only three submitted all of the supporting documents requested. Whether real or perceived, this gave worry to the team that associations that didn't respond were struggling or non-existent presenting potential risk to the Fraternity as a whole.

The Alumni Team is prepared to provide future assistance and guidance in using our database to the fullest extent including completing outstanding setup procedures and implementing combined payments for both local AA and national alumni dues beginning in the 2025 calendar year. This will require association leaders to work with the team and respond to communications in a reasonable time frame.

The Grand Council continues to provide liability insurance and database services to the alumni associations. These services are discussed elsewhere in this report in greater detail. The estimated cost to the Grand Council for these services over the past year is approximately \$723 per association.

Alumni Revenue Trends

As part of the AA Operations survey, the Alumni Team asked respondents to provide their local active member data. Of the six respondents who submitted information it was apparent that there was a massive disconnect between the number of alumni who provide financial support to their alumni association and those that pay their national alumni dues. Older, larger associations with many more alumni typically had a higher rate of members who paid both national and local AA dues as well as having more members overall that paid dues regardless of local or national level.

Alumni Dues

As always, we'd like to extend a huge thank you to the 145 alumni who have already paid their 2024 dues (or started payment plans)! Your contributions not only help support alumni operations and programming, but support overall fraternal operations and our collegiate membership. With the alumni's financial support, we can continue to expand our programming opportunities, our alumni outreach and association support.

It's never too late to support the Fraternity. If you haven't done so already, please consider making your financial contribution today. Simply visit **alpharhochi.org**, log into (or claim) your account and click the link on your dashboard.

Added Benefits for Active Alumni

In an effort to promote alumni dues payments, the Alumni Team developed programs that align with our overall strategy to encourage the number of active alumni to grow as well as meet the goals of promoting our brotherhood externally. Beginning in January 2024, brothers who meet criteria authorizing them to do so may place the letters "APX" as a membership mark in their names. This is comparable to the American Institute of Architects allowing "AIA" or the Construction Specifications Institute allowing "CSI" to be used for its members. Authorized individuals are those who are in "Good Standing" with the Fraternity as outlined in the *APX Designation Policy* as required by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

In addition to the membership mark, the team has returned a status program identifying our brothers who have contributed their annual alumni dues for five or more consecutive years. Expanding on this, our brothers who are both identified as a five-year-payer and attend that year's convention will receive an exclusive and commemorative pin for attending that convention.

Expansion Program

With all chapters being fully trained on ritual, the Worthy Grand Lecturer switched focus this year to active expansion. The Expansion team used the annual meeting over the summer to comb through documents to remove all references to the word Colony, being replaced with charter language, as per the 75th annual convention.

The Expansion Team is piloting an active expansion plan this school year. Director, Nathan Lipson, established criteria for Schools across the country to meet. This criteria includes, but is not limited to:

1. City, State
2. Does the school have the following core undergraduate degree programs:
 - a. Architecture
 - b. Landscape Architecture
 - c. Planning (Urban, City, Regional, etc.)
 - d. Interior Design (Interior Architecture)
 - e. Construction Management
3. A list of other allied arts programs at the school

4. Nearest airport with commercial flights and driving distance in miles?
5. Nearest active chapter and driving distance in miles?
6. Did the school award an APX Bronze Medal in 2022?
7. Is there an active discussion with the Expansion Team?
8. Is the school the site of a dormant chapter?
9. Is the school an HBCU?
10. What is the school's ranking in the US News Diversity Index?

This criteria was applied and used to rank 134 Universities across the country. Of the top 20 schools that met this criteria, we have been engaged in conversation with 3 already. The Expansion Director sent mailers to the remaining schools in August. We received outreach from 1 school, City College of New York, requesting additional information and have been in active talk with them since. In January 2024, emails were sent out to the remaining 16 schools we did not receive initial contact from. As a result of this email, the Expansion Director received 1 additional request for information from Ball State.

Other efforts of the Active Expansion strategy have included going to Schools to have talks with students and administration to discuss the benefits of Alpha Rho Chi. The Expansion Director held a talk at Arizona State University, and alumni, Kyle Reid, held two talks at Pratt Institute - Brooklyn. Pratt Institute - Brooklyn administration is impressed by the prospect of a chapter at their school, especially due to a New York City Firm crawl put on by the Skopas Chapter. The Expansion Director is still in active contact with both Pratt and ASU, as well as the New York Institute of Technology.

We have received 2 Packets of Intent from the University of Arizona and Arizona State University. Arizona State University has been in contact with the expansion team since their Bronze Medal order last year. The Expansion Director is working with both groups to move them along in the process and has brought in help from the Western Charter Director, Sam Ihle.

The Expansion Team has conducted 2 Charter Formation Weekends this school year. In the fall of 2023 the Expansion Director, WGL, and the Eastern Charter Director, Cassidy Brown, along with the help of Regional Director, Thomas Wyatt, and WGI, Nathan Strother, conducted a Charter Formation Weekend at the University of Virginia to revive the dormant Chapter, Kallikrates. The Charter had 41 attendees and is going strong having completed the outlines for their Brotherhood event, Professional event, and Philanthropy Event. We expect them to continue strong into the next school year. In the Spring of 2024, the Expansion Director, WGL, and Eastern Charter Director, with the help from Regional Director, Melissa Hodler, conducted a Charter Formation Weekend at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, to form a brand new charter, picking the name Arcesius. The Hadrian Chapter conducted the Pledging Ceremony for the charter. Arcesius is another strong charter, already creating bonds with the chapters around them and diligently working through their deliverables. We expect them to also continue strongly into the next school year.

Publications

alpharhochi.org

alpharhochi.org remains the fraternity's primary repository of public-facing information, including resources for chapters, alumni associations, members and the general public. Members primarily use the website to access the database and make payments; download resources, such as the Archi Pledge, national governance and Grand Council meeting minutes; and read Grand Council Announcements. Accredited schools of architecture across the county access the website to learn more about the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal and submit nominations, while various other groups access the website to learn more about the Fraternity and contact the Expansion team.

Immediately following the 74th National Convention, **alpharhochi.org** was officially transferred from the old hosting partner Anchorwave to GreekTrack. See the previous GC report to read more about the need for a sudden transition and existing plans that were fast-tracked to prevent security breaches or even a total crash.

The WGS Margaret Scagleion continues to make updates as needed to ensure resources are current and readily available. Many documents that were previously hosted on the site have been transferred to Google Drive folders, linked on a centralized resource page, as well as behind the login wall for members only.

The Archi and Alpha Rho Chi Letter

The last edition of *The Archi* was published digitally in Winter 2021, shortly before the 73rd National Convention. There is currently one in publication to be issued later this year.

As of this report, there is currently an issue of *The Archi and Alpha Rho Chi Letter* in publication to be issued digitally this year. The Grand Council continues to discuss the long term future of Fraternity magazines and newsletters, as email and social media efforts are increased as the preferred communication method indicated by most members. As mentioned in previous reports, doing so would alleviate multiple stressors, as articles could be posted as they become available and funds traditionally allocated to the cost of printing and postage could be redistributed to other fraternity programs.

The Archi Pledge

A digital update of the *Archi Pledge* will be published in May 2024, to include the election of new Grand Council officers.

The Rise

The Rise was last issued in the Spring of 2021. No additional issues have been drafted.

Social Media

The Fraternity continues to publish news and updates through our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Members are encouraged to interact with the national fraternity through the following platforms:

- Facebook: **facebook.com/alpharhochi**
- Instagram: **@alpharhochi** or **instagram.com/alpharhochi**
- Twitter: **@alpharhochi** or **twitter.com/alpharhochi**
- LinkedIn: **linkedin.com/company/alpha-rho-chi-fraternity** and **linkedin.com/groups/785627**

As mentioned in previous reports, a concerted effort has been made to post updates to social media whenever key news is emailed to the membership, as not all members have valid email addresses on file.

Professional Business Services

In our 108-year history, our fraternity has often hired professionals or engaged vendors to provide expertise and services that are required to run a business. The Grand Council finds that our needs, our size, and the expectations of our members, require committed, ongoing services and improvements. In

addition, as Alpha Rho Chi grows and scrutiny of Greek-letter organizations increases, it is increasingly important that we proactively comply with all local and national regulatory requirements. To that end, we have made significant progress in addressing the fraternity's needs.

Membership Management System: Memberplanet & GreekTrack

In February 2022, the Grand Council selected GreekTrack as the Fraternity's membership management system, to replace the previous membership database and the Chapter Reporting System. Out of all the database providers the Grand Council explored, GreekTrack was the clear choice. It offers a wide variety of fraternity-specific tools to all of our members and organizations, out of the box, with features that include but are not limited to:

- User friendly interface, including a member dashboard showing your current status (and chapter or alumni association status for those in board positions).
- Integrated data collection, invoicing, and reporting at every stage of the membership process.
- Drag and drop email builder with the capacity for automated drip marketing campaigns, group segmentation by profile type, and tracking for each chapter and alumni association.
- File upload and sharing.
- Integrated fraternity membership records with APX Foundation giving records.
- Fundraising campaign tools for the APX Foundation, as well as each chapter and alumni association.
- Networking resources such as an alumni directory, job board and automated family tree.
- Mobile-friendly website hosting for the National Fraternity as well as each chapter and alumni association

In September and October 2022, all chapters and alumni associations received instructions and specific training on how to set up and manage their accounts. As of January 2023, Alpha Rho Chi terminated their contract with Memberplane, and all chapter and alumni associations should be fully onboarded to Greek Track.

As of this report, the Grand Council is extremely pleased with the transition to GreekTrack and the service provided by their support team. The system has alleviated significant administrative burdens from the WGAA, WGE, WGS and WGI allowing them to focus more time on the members. Continued training is being scheduled as needed.

Looking forward, GreekTrack has launched a new Modules, which provide additional opportunities for Alpha Rho Chi to expand our services, such as creating an internal "social network" where members can host conversations across the Fraternity or privately with their chapter members, share files and like, share, and subscribe to posts across communities, Merchandise Sales, App Integration and more.

Business Functions and Document Management

All Grand Council officers, National Appointees and APX Foundation officers have accounts with Google Workspace cloud-based suite of enterprise collaboration, communications, and archiving tools, where they access their official fraternity email, calendars, shared files and video conferencing.

Alpha Rho Chi also maintains a subscription to Zoom to facilitate larger virtual meetings and events for members across the country.

Accounting Services

In 2017, the Worthy Grand Estimator engaged the services of Ellen S. Silverstein, CPA to review and reconcile our bank accounts and records in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures (GAAP). This effort successfully brought our books up to date by GAAP standards. Each year since, our accounts were reviewed and reconciled monthly by a designated bookkeeper to ensure that our financial records remain accurate. Additionally, our end-of-year finances have been reviewed by our certified public accountant and found in good order.

Annual Taxes

The annual filing for Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity was performed and filed by the WGE and the national organization remains in good standing with the IRS.

Other Services

Alpha Rho Chi additionally maintains the following business relationships:

- Fraternal Law, LLC, provides legal counsel to Alpha Rho Chi on an as-needed basis.
- Holly Monroe of Heirloom Artists Calligraphy Studio is the professional calligrapher who inscribes our membership certificates and charters. Holly has been providing calligraphy services for Alpha Rho Chi for over 25 years, and we are very pleased with her work.
- Award Concepts collects nominations for the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal, and subsequently engraves and ships the medallions to the awardees. Award Concepts was contracted in 2021 and alleviates significant administrative responsibilities from the WGS.
- Proforma Strategic Promotions is our official printing and promotional marketing products vendor. Under the management of Demetrios alumna, Julie Haar, Proforma has been a sponsor for conventions in recent years.

Awards & Recognition

Alpha Rho Chi has a robust Awards program. Our multifaceted program is designed to recognize the achievements of our members and chapters, as well as students and professionals around the country.

Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal

In 2023, the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal was awarded to 77 graduating students from accredited architecture schools in the United States and Canada. Recognizing the qualities of leadership, service, and the promise of professional merit, the medal program represents our goals and ideals, even at schools where the fraternity does not have a chapter. The cost of administering this award is paid by the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation.

The 2024 awards nomination period will open March 1 and run through October 31.

Alpha Rho Chi Silver Medal

The Alpha Rho Chi Silver Medal recognizes fraternal distinction of outstanding merit by a Brother. This honor is reviewed by the Grand Council and then approved by a ¾ Majority of the membership. In 2024, we are excited to bestow this honor to Brother Danielle Swanson of Anthemios, for her 10 consecutive years of dedication as the National Historian of the Fraternity..

George “So” Whitten Award

Alpha Rho Chi chapters have a proven record of high scholarship, and the So Whitten award recognizes the chapter with the highest average GPA among its members. In 2024, two chapters submitted nominations for this award and will be recognized at the banquet on 4/6/2024.

Community Service Award

The Community Service Award recognizes the chapter that most gave back to the community, as determined by the Grand Council from the chapter submissions for this award. In 2024, three chapters submitted nominations for this award and will be recognized at the banquet on 4/6/2024.

Kenneth Kohlen National Faculty Advisor Award Nomination

The Kenneth Kohlen National Faculty Advisor Award recognizes the chapter advisor who best exemplifies the principles embodied by Brother Ken Kohlen. This honor is bestowed by a vote of the Convention. In 2024, one chapter submitted a nomination for this award which is currently being reviewed by the Grand Council and prepared for a vote. If approved it will be presented at the 76th Convention in 2025.

Historian and Archives

The Historian has negotiated a 10 year contract with the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to house the archives, and has documented and shipped all the materials and artifacts to the University. The Historian is currently working to return previously documented physical artifacts of value to their original owners or the appropriate chapter/alumni group.

If you, your chapter, or your alumni association have items that are significant to our fraternity’s history, please contact Danielle Swanson at historian@alpharhochi.org.

Insurance

General Insurance Policy

Since 2010, the Grand Council has purchased general liability insurance for the fraternity at large, and Directors and Officers insurance for its officers. The Grand Council is in the process of renewing this insurance policy with our broker, Favor and Company for the coming year. Favor and Company has stated that there will be a premium increase to our policy. In addition to the premium increase our exposures have also gone up 2% due to an increase in potential collegiate membership over last year and the establishment of two chapters in formation. The Grand Council expects the overall increase in our insurance premium to be in the 15%-20% range.

Fraternal Health and Safety Initiative

Alpha Rho Chi, in partnership with Favor and Company, remains committed to being a member organization in the Fraternity Health and Safety Initiative. Favor and Company has relaunched the FHSI program with a new membership structure. Conversations between Alpha Rho Chi and Favor have begun to develop the best way forward for Alpha Rho Chi to restart the program. There is also a similar online program provided by Plaid, LLC. that is being explored as well.

Financial Transactions + Information

General Finances for FY 2023

A full financial report, including Budget vs Actuals Analysis for fiscal year 2023 and a current balance sheet is included as an appendix at the end of the report. A high-level overview of the budget and end of year balances outlined below.

The Grand Council approved a budget with the projected revenue of \$209,572 and projected expenses of \$304,930.

For a third year, the Grand Council approved a budget at a deficit for many of the same reasons as the previous years. First, the Grand Council still believed that the fraternity could withstand the financial burden of the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic better than individual chapters could. Second, the Grand Council recognized that many chapters are still in need of help with in-person operations, particularly Ritual. Third, the Grand Council acknowledged that, due to LA Convention cancellation during the FY2022, Leadership Conference in Fall 2022 would be a larger expense than previous years. The FY2023 budget reflects the Grand Council goal of helping the individual chapters with the resources they need, with expenditures for travel to each chapter and a more robust Leadership Conference.

At the end of the 2023 fiscal year, the actual losses totaled \$-42,124.38.

For fiscal year 2024, the Grand Council approved a budget with a projected revenue of \$203,725 and projected expenses of \$238,958.

For a fourth year, the Grand Council approved a budget at a deficit for all the reasons that have been listed the previous three years. The Grand Council still believes that the fraternity can withstand loses better than individual chapters, and that individual chapters still need help with in-person operations. The FY24 budget aimed to minimize losses that the Grand Council approved the year before, understanding that programming such as Leadership Conference and chapter visits, while vital to overall fraternal health, would need to be scaled down as the fraternity could not continue to operate at such losses. The budget as approved also removed almost all budget considerations for Alumni Programming.

As of April 1, 2024, the fraternity has a net income of \$67,391. Please note that this value does not recognize some of our largest expenses, including the annual insurance policy, and a portion of the membership database fees as they have not been incurred yet, but will be within the fiscal year. While the Fraternity will likely end the year at a loss, we do not project to be at the level of loss originally projected.

Incomes

The following table summarizes the major revenue sources for fiscal year 2024 (shown here as 2023-2024) as of April 1, 2024, as well as the previous four fiscal years for historical perspective.

5 Year - Major Revenues

Income	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Collegiate	\$ 90,287	\$ 45,236	\$ 74,064	\$ 37,639	\$ 70,932
Continuing Colonist Fees	\$ 6,305	\$ 3,925	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Pledge Fees	\$ 18,915	\$ 9,238	\$ 19,643	\$ 16,716	\$ 22,632
Initiation Fees	\$ 11,280	\$ 11,970	\$ 32,040	\$ 19,571	\$ 22,109
Chapter Installation Fees	\$ 4,210	\$ -	\$ 5,015	\$ -	\$ -
Alumni Association Fees	\$ 3,600	\$ 4,200	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,521	\$ 2,879
Alumni Dues	\$ 16,880	\$ 19,975	\$ 10,706	\$ 6,533	\$ 16,537
LC Fees	\$ 7,012	\$ -	\$ 8,622	\$ 9,013	\$ 4,070
AA Summit / AD Fees	\$ 2,424	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bronze Medal	\$ 489	\$ 13,003	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,277
Grant Leadership Fund	\$ 5,929	\$ 4,600	\$ 5,100	\$ 4,630	\$ -

Our member database, GreekTrack, is our primary tool for collecting funds. While some chapters must pay their dues via check (due to university requirements), a majority of the membership (both alumni and collegiate) pay online. GreekTrack allows the Grand Council to maintain substantially greater data accuracy than previous databases, which will lead to more accurate income projections in the future. Alumni dues can still be paid by personal check, made payable to Alpha Rho Chi, and mailed to 1217 86th Street, North Bergen, NJ 07047.

Expenses

The following is a table summarizing the major expenses for fiscal year 2024 (shown as 2023-2024) as of April 1, 2024, as well as the previous four fiscal years for historical perspective.

5 Year - Major Expenses					
Expense	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
GC Summer Meeting	\$ 15,195	\$ 1,828	\$ 4,727	\$ 6,242	\$ 5,935
GC Winter Meeting	\$ 4,345	\$ -	\$ 432	\$ -	\$ -
Convention Business Session	\$ 1,538	\$ 999	\$ 10,671	\$ 317	\$ 436
RD Retreat	\$ 10,403	\$ -	\$ 8,603	\$ 9,244	\$ 8,249
Publications	\$ 95	\$ -	\$ 1,540	\$ -	\$ 2,009
Administration & General	\$ 35,743	\$ 35,641	\$ 37,920	\$ 20,974	\$ 20,693
Membership Services	\$ 27,178	\$ 13,164	\$ 17,115	\$ 10,583	\$ 14,518
Internet Services	\$ 3,027	\$ 3,140	\$ 7,426	\$ -	\$ -
Formation Weekend	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,730
Colony Educator	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Chapter Installation	\$ 1,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Colony Team Meeting	\$ 1,803	\$ -	\$ 2,923	\$ 3,565	\$ 421
Ritual Workshops	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,143	\$ 4,340	\$ -
Colony / Ritual Development	\$ 2,910	\$ 683	\$ 16,067	\$ 7,904	\$ 6,235
Chapter Development	\$ 9,706	\$ 358	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 2,562
FHSI Workshops	\$ 7,143	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Alumni Team Meetings	\$ 4,480	\$ 1,628	\$ 2,696	\$ -	\$ 3,398
Alumni Development	\$ 4,913	\$ 2,628	\$ 3,496	\$ 700	\$ 3,484
GC Travel	\$ 3,486	\$ -	\$ 1,518	\$ 1,635	\$ 5,097
Leadership Conference	\$ 42,732	\$ -	\$ 69,356	\$ 91,633	\$ 39,340
Alumni Summit / Alumni Days	\$ 18,389	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Balances

As of April 1, 2024, the ending balance of our accounts held by Bank of America total \$240,193:

- Checking account balance is \$201,663.00
- Convention account balance is \$21,762.00
- Savings account balance is \$100.17
- Certificate of Deposit balance is \$16,667.00

Motion to Increase dues

Preparing for this convention, the Grand Council saw the need to submit a motion to increase dues to offset the overall rise in the cost of operations, as well as to be able to expand services we offer.

History of Dues Increase

Alumni dues were last raised in 2012, increasing from \$75/year to \$100/year. This increase was proposed, in part, to raise alumni dues to be even with collegiate dues. In 2018, the Grand Council motioned to raise dues from \$50/semester to \$65. That was the first time in 16 years that we had asked Collegiate Members to contribute more so we could keep offering the programming our membership had come to expect from us. The Grand Council was able to keep dues steady for the almost two decades prior because the Fraternity had only recently grown at an exponential rate, from 11 chapters in 2002 to 32 chapters in 2018.

In 2019, the Alumni Association Fee was raised from \$100/year to \$200/year to cover the increased costs of adding alumni association to the Fraternity's insurance policy.

Shift in Membership

Since 2018, we've seen decreases in membership overall, from chapter and alumni associations alike. Specifically emerging from the pandemic, the Fraternity faced a membership decline we hadn't seen since in decades. As chapters faced challenges as they returned to operating in person, recruitment struggled to recover, and a majority of collegiate members had never held an in-person Ritual.

The Grand Council saw these difficulties and understood that without some intervention, chapters would continue to struggle and dormancy would become likely for a large number of chapters. In 2021, the Grand Council expanded the Leadership Conference, because we were painfully aware of the need to heavily invest in our student leaders ... focusing on our Worthy Architects alone was not enough. We started the Jumpstart Program to help struggling chapters grow and strengthen. We made sure to visit every chapter to prepare new members to hold their first in-person initiation in over a year. We invested in new database management software to better serve our members. The Grand Council believed these things to be important. We approved back to back budgets operating in the negative because we knew that we needed to support our membership as fully as we could.

Inflation and Cost of Operations

Post-pandemic, we saw inflation soar globally. We have seen prices rise for flights, hotels and meals. We've seen technology companies raise the price of their services. In the last 3 years, we've seen the inflation rate for flights average at 8.2%. That same time period saw hotel and restaurant inflation average at 6.7%.

We've also seen operational cost rise over the last 6 years, including our email hosting and membership database. While the cost of our new membership database is a large line item, we believe that the improvements from our previous database are worth it. The new database provides tools that are invaluable in assisting the Grand Council's day to day operations, with everything from web hosting and communications to dues collection and regalia ordering. The Grand Council also believes that as chapters and alumni associations use GreekTrack more, they can start to integrate these tools into their organization's operations to help streamline tasks as well. We have also seen the benefits of the use of G Suite to host all our email and digital documents, as it has helped transition offices more efficiently, and has reduced the amount of redundant work for our officers and volunteers. Due to this, we have expanded account access to all our volunteers and the board members of the Foundation.

Process and Results

The Grand Council dedicated most of our virtual winter meeting to analyzing our current spending, going through previous budgets, assessing what programming was shelved during the pandemic that still offers value, and what programming would benefit from being expanded. The Grand Council looked at what programming would still feel pertinent in 5 years, and, attempting to adjust for historical inflation rates, what the budget would need to be in order to support these events. The predicted expenses were then divided by using current membership numbers, leading to the proposed amount for collegiate and alumni dues, increasing gradually until FY28.

03: All Subjects of Disputes between the Chapters

At this time the Grand Council is not aware of any new or outstanding disputes between any of our chapters. The following is an outline of the specific issues with chapters that have taken the time and care of the Grand Council over the past year.

Chapter Investigations & Resolutions

As the Grand Council receives and responds to various issues, it is important to remember that the Regional Directors and Grand Council are here to assist and serve members in any situation that may arise. By reaching out and asking for help/advice as situations arise, all involved have the ability to be proactive in handling a possible situation as opposed to being reactive.

Andronicus Chapter Status

In Fall 2023, the Worthy Grand Inspector was notified by RD2 Caroline Bair that the Andronicus Chapter had failed to provide any type of communication to convey the status of that chapter and confirmation that they were completing day-to-day chapter operations. Caroline continued reaching out in multiple ways including calls, texts, and media platform instant messaging. The Worthy Grand Architect attempted to reach the chapter via email in the weeks prior to the registration deadline for Leadership Conference to try and have an Andronicus Chapter representative present at the conference. After continued efforts of outreach, the Andronicus Chapter failed to respond to any of these efforts.

On January 15, 2024 a letter was issued to the Andronicus Chapter notifying them that a suspension proceedings would be considered if there was no response by the spring deadline for chapter dues of March 1st. At the Grand Council March meeting, a motion was presented and seconded for the suspension of the Andronicus Chapter. The motion was then tabled to allow the Grand Council to send a follow-up letter to the Andronicus Chapter notifying them of these proceedings. The chapter was invited to the Grand Council April meeting to state their case and informed that failure to respond or appear at the meeting would result in suspension, and subsequently dormancy. This meeting is currently schedule for April 15th, 2024.

Chapter Initiatives

In order to assist the chapters struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated challenges, the Grand Council developed a “Jump Start” Program, based on the minimum requirements expected of chapters-in-formation. The goal of this plan was to offer chapters nearing suspension or dormancy a fair and equitable way to stabilize their operations and lay a strong foundation for their future. As of the spring of 2024, Grand Council has retired this program

Jump Start Program

The Jump Start Program has been retired after the 4 chapters that were a part of it came to their conclusions. Of the 4 chapters, 3 (Agamedes, Nikon, and Senemut) have graduated from the program, with any remaining deliverables to be managed by their Regional Directors. Remaining deliverables were administrative tasks such as refining bylaws and bank account management. The remaining 1 chapter, (Daedalus) chose to go dormant after two unsuccessful recruitment cycles.

Chapter Health

As mentioned above and in previous reports, the status of our collegiate membership and number of recognized active chapters was harshly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The effects from the previous years of hardship continue to weigh on several of the chapters as they struggle with recruitment and stability in both membership and financial aspects. However, we are witnesses to the enthusiasm and dedication in our collegiate members which shows their desire and willingness to strive toward building their chapters back onto a stable foundation.

We have witnessed growth and flourishing in many chapters in this post-pandemic time. There has been an ample increase in the number of events being held by our chapters in all areas; philanthropic, professional, fundraising, and brotherhood. Chapters hosting these events and growing in membership numbers are signs of what is possible. The initiations of 20-plus member pledge classes and fundraisers producing thousands of dollars towards good causes showcases the ability of these collegiate members to surpass the challenges of the past, look towards the future, and grow together as a fraternity.

We recognize that even though many chapters are experiencing growth and prosperity, that is not the case for every chapter. These new trials of the last few years are difficult to carry and get past. There are at least four chapters that we consider in the “danger zone” that are experiencing one or more issues of low membership, internal engagement, recruitment struggles, financial instability, or lack of university support. The WGI and his team have had conversations with these chapters to start planning on how their specific process could change for the better or implementing new ideas to help create a different result. The team plans on continuing these conversations through the end of the semester and throughout the summer so that when fall semester comes, the chapters will feel confident in their plans and reap the benefits of perseverance.

04: Recommendations for the Good of the Fraternity

The Grand Council has a lot of great recommendations for the fraternity. While our recent focus has been on stabilizing our organizations, we are committed to implementing these recommendations in the coming years.

Training Services

The Grand Council has contracted with Plaid, LLC. to provide educational development beginning with our collegiate members. The initial program launched in February 2024 is focused around Risk Management. The Grand Council is in discussions to contract further to provide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training. There are also future training possibilities for alumni members as well as for national officers. Further details are provided below.

Risk Management

The Grand Council, with help from the National Appointees, has continued to focus on making our students' Alpha Rho Chi experience as safe as possible. These past few years have been particularly challenging because of the attitude surrounding Greek letter organizations all over the country. In short: even though Alpha Rho Chi is not a social fraternity, if there is an incident, we will be treated as one.

The Risk Management Policy has not been updated since November 2015. The Worthy Grand Architect is working with the fraternity insurance provider, Favor and Company, to review and provide guidance on any updates that they deem necessary. An updated policy will be launched prior to the Fall 2024 semester, with several new additions including social media.

In addition to these policies, as stated above, an educational partnership with Plaid was launched in February 2024. The first training launched was the Highwire course. Highwire is a 45-minute, online short course offering a refresher to Risk Management around alcohol/drugs, hazing, healthy relationships/consent, mental health and being a "safe student". The Highwire program includes a pre-program climate assessment, to provide insight into experiences of students related to substance use, intervention, risk and wellbeing. Plaid's Learning Management System has been customized to include the current Alpha Rho Chi Risk Management Policy for review and student signoff (as proof of acknowledgement), which has been highly recommended by Favor and Company. As a client of Favor and Company and in partnership with Plaid the Highwire program is a zero cost program to the fraternity.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative

In June 2020, the Grand Council released a statement on racial injustice. As part of that statement, and as we move forward, Alpha Rho Chi re-affirms its commitment to pursue leadership in architecture and the allied arts. This includes our commitment, as a board, to ongoing examination and adjustment of our work and our positions of privilege as we listen to, learn from, and amplify the knowledge of our membership and the greater community.

In 2021, the Professional Fraternity Association, of which Alpha Rho Chi is a Founding Member, launched their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiative. The mission of this initiative is to "support professional fraternity and sorority member organizations to preserve high standards on campus and in professional practice. These high standards include fostering an environment that cultivates and supports diversity awareness, equality, and inclusion for all."

The Grand Council has also looked at other avenues to distribute this information. Plaid LLC (mentioned earlier) also offers the Cultural Competency program for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. It is broken up into 3 modules of 40 minutes each: Self-Awareness and Identity, Historical Events, and Social Structures and Inclusive Practices. The program also includes access to the companion discussion guide that can be used by students, advisors, Grand Council, etc. to support learning in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion by helping participants apply concepts to their personal life and campus experience. This is a student focused module to help students better understand themselves and create inclusive and welcoming environments. This program would also be available through Plaid's LMS.

The Grand Council is reviewing both the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiative developed by the Professional Fraternity Association and the Cultural Competency Program developed by Plaid to decide which model launch to the membership.

APX and Gender Identification

For many years, the Grand Council has been made aware of concerns from schools, former members, and other parties about the male bias inherent in calling ourselves a "fraternity" and using the terms "brothers" and "brotherhood" to identify ourselves and our organization. Much has been written in previous reports on the subject.

The Grand Council is aware that the changes that have been made do not fully address the larger concerns about Alpha Rho Chi's use of terminology that some feel is gender-specific. We have not yet identified words that convey equality, inclusivity, and familial bonds that represent our organization and define us as more than a club. Apart from the changes we are proposing or making, the Grand Council is not mounting a formal reaction or policy change to address these concerns. However, as the conversation develops, we will continue considering the options, and determine what, if any, action to take.

The Past and Future of Convention

***Note:** This has been an ongoing topic carried from 2022 and 2023. It remains front-of-mind for the Grand Council in advance of the 76th Convention in Omaha.*

In our 2023 report to convention, the Grand Council indicated that in the future, members can expect to see significant changes to Convention to address the changes we have seen since the pandemic. As a reminder, the following points were considered:

- Canceling or renegotiating the currently signed Convention contracts in Birmingham and Omaha
- Introducing a cap to the number of Convention attendees
- Reducing our dependence on hotel and conference center venues for our business sessions and banquet
- Reducing programming & complexity beyond the business sessions
- Cutting back on Convention extras & giveaways that are not covered by sponsorships
- Opening Convention registration significantly earlier
- Offering an installment plan for Convention registration fees
- Going completely virtual for business meetings, and holding a separate in-person event for awards, tours and other activities
- Adjusting the time of year Convention is held
- Hosting Convention at a series of rotating locations each year and/or hosting it at the same location every year

Many of these points were followed in the planning for the first in-person convention held in Nashville in 2023. We did ultimately cancel the convention contract in Birmingham. We opened registration in the early fall, and we scheduled the convention in February, rather than in mid-March. In addition, we set a goal to keep the early-bird convention registration fee below \$150 per person. This triggered several cost saving measures. We opted to host the business sessions at an alternate venue, allowing us to eliminate the costly food and beverage minimums associated with hosting the convention at a hotel and conference center. We cut back on convention extras and giveaways paid for by the convention registration. We received a generous sponsorship from NCARB, who donated all the food and beverages provided at the professional event. This event was hosted free of charge at the professional offices of one of our Alumni Brothers.

Ultimately the convention was well attended, despite the fact that this was the first convention for every collegiate attendee. We are truly grateful for those students who took the opportunity to join their fellow brothers at an event that had not been held in person for such a long time.

We have continued operating under these guidelines as we planned the 76th national convention in Omaha. We opted to keep the convention in Omaha, and significantly re-negotiated the contract to reduce the food and beverage minimums and change the original dates to early April. We were very close to achieving our goal of an early-bird registration fee below \$200, missing the mark by \$10.

We also reinstated an official Events Coordinator position, taking much of the burden away from the Grand Council. Under the leadership of Darius Greenleaf, convention attendance increased over last year, our hotel room block sold out. We have seen significant improvements in communication and organization thanks to his help.

As we proceed in planning for next year, the lessons we have learned in the last two will continue to be heeded. We continue to look for ways to improve, and we welcome all ideas and thoughts regarding the future of the Convention. We invite all members to voice your thoughts and concerns to Grand Advisor Laura Schmidt at ga@alpharhochi.org.

Continuing the Conversation around Alumni Involvement

The Grand Council report to the 74th National Convention began this conversation around the struggles our Alumni Associations face with the lack of involvement they are experiencing. Then, in 2023 to the 75th National Convention, continued the conversation focusing on the geographic distribution of our membership. This year, the Alumni Team picked up this topic as part of their overall goals and strategy.

Ten Year Strategic Plan

For the past few decades now, the Worthy Grand Associate Architect has maintained, to some degree, a strategic plan pertaining to Alumni and the Alumni Experience. The most recent iteration of this was drafted in 2018 and included a checkpoint period in 2022. Given the situation arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic, the current Alumni Team sought to tackle this checkpoint period and over the past year have assessed what we have accomplished on this plan, what needs to be updated or revised, what's no longer feasible or relevant, and what has since changed after the Pandemic that should be included in the plan.

The Team identified seven key focus areas:

1. **Identity:** Our external identity as an organization in the professional sphere
2. **Communications:** Internal dissemination of information
3. **Events & Participation:** Local, regional, and national events to increase retention
4. **Alumni Operations:** The functions of alumni associations and other groups
5. **Convention:** Alumni specific programs to increase attendance

6. Revenue Metrics: Increase funds available for alumni programming
7. Recognition: Annual awards and other accolades given by the Fraternity

Some of these areas are existing, some are new, and some have been merged together from the 2018 plan. The full plan will be released separately from this report.

The Good, the Bad, and the Future of Chapter Based AAs

The Alumni Team has discussed the pros and cons of our current chapter based organization structure. The benefits of this structure heavily favor active chapters so long as they have an active Alumni Association and that AA spends its resources giving back to its Chapter. Such benefits include:

- AAs provide scholarships, guidance, and mentorship to their collegiate members.
- Representation at convention with a common tie to a chapter in the sense that there is a common interest for a single delegate to easily represent.

What are the cons?

- Each Association is burdened with individual responsibilities to maintain their own incorporation such as filing taxes, filing incorporation documents to their state, maintaining a budget, collecting dues, etc.
- Officers often vacate their position without performing a proper transition allowing knowledge to be lost between administrations.
- Dues are collected at two levels leading to many brothers paying one level and not both
- Officers occasionally do not respond to Grand Council outreach and requests
- Officers are required to perform marketing to their respective constituents, paying for their own overhead expenses, something they are not necessarily experts or have experience doing which impacts the success of their AA
- Alumni are rarely in geographical proximity to their chapter nor themselves.
- No representation at convention for alumni not belonging to an Alumni Association.
- Representation at convention with a common tie to a chapter in the sense that an unhealthy culture may be retained and promoted.

While this list of disadvantages seem to outnumber the benefits, there is an immense importance to be recognized of the ability for a chapter based Alumni Association to provide specific and relevant guidance to students when their own alumni have first-hand knowledge navigating their academic program and understand the regional needs of its future alumni.

However, the other heavy downsides on this list are the disadvantages of

1. our own ability to move anywhere in the contiguous United States with relative ease causing sprawling and overlapping alumni networks, and
2. Alumni have no say at convention if they do not belong to an Alumni Association.

Twenty active chapters have one or more geographic concentrations of alumni:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Andronicus ^{M,R} | • Iktinos ^M |
| • Anthemios ^M | • Metagenes ^{M,R} |
| • Apollodorus ^R | • Mnesicles ^I |
| • Cleisthenes | • Nikon ^I |
| • Cossutius ^I | • Olynthius |
| • Daedalus ^M | • Polyidus |
| • Demetrios ^R | • Rabirius ^I |
| • Dinocrates ^{M,I} | • Senenmut ^M |
| • Domitian | • Seshait ^R |

- Severus^R

- Vitruvius^{M, R}

M indicates multiple geographic concentrations

R indicates one or more concentrations is to a region and not a specific city or metropolitan area

I Indicates the chapter does not have an associated active alumni association

Ten active chapters have a geographic concentration of alumni in the same city or metropolitan area as themselves:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Andronicus | • Mnesicles ^I |
| • Cleisthenes | • Nicon ^I |
| • Cossutius | • Olynthius |
| • Dinocrates ^I | • Polyidus |
| • Domitian | • Rabirius ^I |
| • Iktinos | • Senenmut |

Six of those ten chapters have an associated active alumni association. Six of our current twenty-nine active chapters have access to the massive benefit of their own alumni being in close proximity to them to use. Four currently active alumni associations have a single city or metropolitan area they can focus their efforts on for in-person programming. Another four AAs have a region they can focus their efforts on, primarily, South and Central Florida in the case of the Apollodorus and Seshait AAs and Eastern Ohio for the Demetros and Severus AAs. In the case of the chapters located along the northeast corridor of the United States, Ohio, and Florida, there is significant overlap in geographic coverage for the associations that operate in these regions.

The second issue is that of representation in business. While a number of alumni associations allow members from outside their home chapter to join, most choose not to for various reasons. This leads to a significant portion of our brothers not having a say at the table should they be interested in doing so.

The Alumni Team has determined that there are three paths for Alpha Rho Chi to choose to continue on:

1. **Small Build:** We continue the patchwork system of alumni associations tied to a home chapter with improvements where we can justify. This option continues our current woes but keeps the successes where we can find them with ongoing support to alumni associations. Continuing this system must recognize that we are actively choosing to ignore alumni from chapters that do not currently have an alumni association when it comes to localized programming and fraternal business.
2. **Large Build:** We reorganize our system to solve the issues of overlapping and sprawling networks and allow our orphaned alumni to have a seat at the table regardless of chapter affiliation. A bulk of the cons previously mentioned are eliminated with this option.
3. **Demolition:** We dissolve all aspects of alumni operations. This is the worst option of the three, but is still a valid option. This would cause us to lose our largest advantage to collegiates and potential recruits: our expansive alumni network.

The Worthy Grand Associate Architect is determined to approach the path best suited for the best outcome for the future success of the Fraternity and is interested in expanding and proposing a Large Build option to the membership with input from alumni stakeholders.

Reducing Volunteer Dependency

Each Grand Council officer comes into their office with goals they'd like to achieve and programs they'd like to implement. Two immediate challenges present themselves each and every time. First, what is the capital expense for this and do we have the funds? Second, do we have the volunteers, do they have the time, and do they have the skills and knowledge to do what we want to do?

The first option is always going to be present. The Grand Council will need to budget for the programs we want to see year to year. The second, however, does not always need to be present. In our current state, Alpha Rho Chi uses 100% volunteer help to operate. The challenge with this is volunteers almost always have day jobs, families, partners, and other relationships they need to prioritize. Alpha Rho Chi fits into their schedule where it can. It cannot be stressed enough how precious and appreciated every hour a volunteer dedicates to this Fraternity, but some things require skills and routine time commitments that are infeasible for a volunteer.

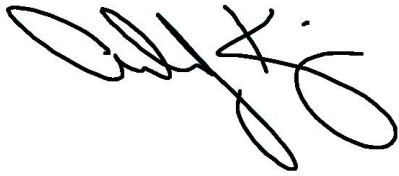
Over the past year, the Fraternity has faced a slight staffing shortage. Programs, research, and outreach have all taken a hit because of this. The Grand Council has routinely assessed where and how to add paid staff to take on routine work. In the past we've contracted with consultants or part-time, direct hire administrative assistants. As our goals and ideals become higher and higher, so too do our workloads.

Currently, the Grand Council is exploring how we can utilize an association management company or AMC. AMCs offer experts in multiple areas of operations for fraternities, professional organizations, and other organizations like ours. They can offer professionals in tax services, marketing, media creation, event planning and more at an hourly rate on an as needed basis. There is no need to find a single perfect person to fill every role the Fraternity would require of them.

05: Petitions for New Chapters

While there are no petitions for new chapters, we have two charters the Expansion Team is actively supporting.

We, the undersigned officers of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity, do hereby attest and affirm this report, and faithfully submit it to the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity for its sincere consideration:



A.J. Kessinger
Worthy Grand Architect



Zack Borell
Worthy Grand Associate Architect



Sama Verdina
Worthy Grand Estimator



Margaret Scaglione
Worthy Grand Scribe



Nathan Strother
Worthy Grand Inspector



Claudia J. Miraldi
Worthy Grand Lecturer

Laura E. Schmidt

Laura E. Schmidt
Grand Advisor

