



REGION VII

The Sturdy Oak

Official Alumni Newsletter of Region VII for Term 2007-2008

Vol. 1

As a Sturdy Oak tree withstands the test of time, like a dedicated APO alumni, it has at times been a source of strength, guidance, protection for the younger generation.

Scouting

In a joint effort with Philmont Scout Ranch, student members of the Fraternity had an opportunity for a special spring break this year. Participants spent five nights at the ranch, including two nights of winter camping in the backcountry. Activities included service projects, leadership development training, and fellowship events. Philmont management also visited with participants about summer employment opportunities.

Leadership

Although more presenters are still needed, the APO LEADS leadership development program continues to reach many members. Between the five component courses of Launch, Explore, Achieve, Discover, and Serve, at least 139 courses were presented in 2007.

Scholarship

The John Mack Scholarship fund now stands at over \$670,000. For 2009 there should be over \$30,000 available for distribution to worthy applicants.

Excellence

The Fraternity revised the criteria for the Chapter of Excellence Award and adopted criteria to begin the Pledge Program of Excellence Award. These national awards recognize chapters for performance in, respectively, chapter programming and pledge programming. The current awards feature a tiered recognition system; each one has three levels of excellence. The least level is the blue award, the middle level is the gold award, and the top level is the diamond award.

As of February 11th, there were five chapters in Region VII that were still in the running for Diamond Chapter of Excellence and there were ten chapters still in contention for Diamond Pledge Program of Excellence.

Service

2007's National Service Week focus was Serving Children With Disabilities. Nationally, 4,585 members participated resulting in 29,232 hours of service. Those efforts led to fundraising of \$66,296 and 58,037 youth impacted. Region VII's share of that is due to 390 members who performed 3,438 hours of service, raised \$15,048, and reached 35,416 youth!

National Volunteer Conference

The Fraternity's main alumni volunteer training and re-energizing event is the National Volunteer Conference. The 2007 NVC had over 140 members in attendance and 170 are expected for 2008. This year's NVC will be held July 31st-August 3rd in Independence, MO at the Hilton Garden Inn (which is close to the National Office). The conference is ably co-chaired by one of Region VII's very own, Kari Logan.

Revival

In somewhat of a flashback to earlier years, the Fraternity has re-created the position of Field Representative. Heather Lehman, the brother hired to fill that role, has already started visiting chapters throughout the country, working to help them return to good health. If you'd like to know more about Heather, what she does, or her chapter visitation schedule, just go to <http://www.apo.org/articles/show/63>

Brotherhood

To help chapters with membership issues, the Fraternity has developed a Membership Academy. The first academy is scheduled for this June 20th-22nd in Cincinnati, OH.

In 2006-2007 Alpha Phi Omega set a new record for membership at 17,358, which is 8,363 initiates and 8,995 actives. And, so far, we are tracking to set a new record this year.

Conferences

The Fall 2007 Region VII Conference was hosted at Baylor University by Zeta Omega Chapter. The chapter did a great job of organizing training seminars, fellowship events, and service projects! One outcome of the conference is a decision by the voting delegates that Region VII will support a bid to bring the 2010 National Convention to Dallas.

40th Biennial National Convention

The 2008 National Convention will be held in Boston, MA during the usual time frame of December 27th-30th. We anticipate that nearly 1,700 members will attend. The fees are:

NV advisor alumni	\$75
NV advisor late	\$85
Alumni Life Member	\$85
Alumni Life Member late	\$95
Alumni non-Life Member	\$105
Child's banquet	\$15
Fellowship banquet	\$35
Awards banquet	\$40

Public Relations

In pursuit of greater awareness by our various audiences, the Fraternity is developing a marketing program. Two of the initial steps completed are the implementation of the national Graphics Standards Guide and the Style Guide. These guides provide a unified direction across the Fraternity for word choice, graphics/logo usage, preferred fonts, and more. If you would like to see the guides, they may be accessed at

http://www.apo.org/pages/show/Publications_and_Forms/Style_Guide

Support

GoodSearch.com featured APO as the Charity of the Day on February 5th. The website is a Yahoo-powered search engine where user-designated charities receive a contribution for each search performed by the user. You can help the Fraternity earn funds by using GoodSearch.com for all your web searches – just select Alpha Phi Omega as your choice in the “Who do you GoodSearch for” box.

Fireside chats

Please update contact information at the APO website.

Region VII is expanding its program for our alumni brothers. As students graduate their priorities change . . . survival, work, family. Maybe we can help you locate a place to start or associates in your respective field. We are concerned on where our alumni are and how everyone is doing, we want to

know where you are so we can help you if you need it. If there's anything the Fraternity can help you with especially those starting out in the real world. Please send your info, we love to know where you are...

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