

# Mountaineer



# PHI PSI

*West Virginia Alpha...A strong, rich tradition of Phi Kappa Psi*

Zachary L. Mendelson '79, Editor

October 2014 • Volume 71, No. 1

## UPDATE FROM 780 SPRUCE STREET

*On behalf of the James Cochran House Association, Inc. Board,  
W.C. Bird '65, President*

The last months have been full of change for West Virginia Alpha. **We are now moving forward.** The Fraternity house was unoccupied starting in January. We contracted with a security firm to secure the house which saved us money in the long run. We also inventoried what facility needs we had so that we could lease the house for a positive financial outcome and to recover some of the money we spent.

In November of 2013 we were able to re-finance our variable rate mortgage to a fixed rate mortgage. Not only were we able to re-finance at a great rate and long term, we also negotiated an addition amount of money to be added to the mortgage if necessary for repairs and improvements and an ongoing line of credit for emergency issues. This saved us over \$2,000 per month.

*Why were we able to do this?* The answer is the bank saw West Virginia Alpha as a well managed, financially sound and an active alumni centered business. We are there because of your loyalty and continued interest in the fraternity through your participation and financial contributions.

The Irene Phillips Hutchinson Loan Fund and the West Virginia Alpha Loan Fund are funded and continue to be a source of financial aid when needed.

The Board and a smaller group representing the Board worked with the University and National to assure we aggressively and correctively acted on our situation. This was a difficult process and required many hours of discussion leading to the decision to suspend operations for five (5) semesters. We will start fresh in the Fall of 2016 with a reorganizing effort and when successful we plan to re-occupy 780 Spruce Street in the Fall of 2017.

Once we were in agreement with our National and West Virginia University regarding our situation, the Board decided we would do two things. First, we started the interview process to lease the house. We talked to seven different organizations. Second, in doing this, it became evident that we had some shortfalls that had not been finished in our renovation and some repairs to do.

As of this writing we have leased the house to Sigma Alpha Mu until May of 2017. Our lease is a win-win as they have an excellent facility and we have achieved a financial agreement that will benefit us now and in the long run. All repairs have been completed to include re-doing the entire basement floor and renovating the two first floor single room bathrooms. All repairs that needed done either have been completed or are in the process of being completed.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## News From the 2014 GAC



This is newly elected SWGP Scott Noble (L) and **John Miesner '81** (R) at the 77th Grand Arch Council, July, 2014, Phoenix, AZ. During this GAC, Miesner was elected to the Order of the S.C., having attended seven GACs. By our account, there are 5 living members of the Order of the S.C. from WV Alpha: (In order of election to the Order, date of initiation in Phi Psi: **Gordon R. Letterman '72; Robert B. Bird '73; David L. Woodrum '61; Robert E. Lazzell II '85; John T. Miesner '81**. The Order of the S.C was founded in 1920. It has had only 5 Presidents, one of which was **Louis B. Corson '34**, who served from approximately 1960 to his death in 1982. Since its founding, at least one member of WV Alpha has been inducted to the Order in each decade. The next GAC is set for July 6 - 10, 2016 in New York City.

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*(Continued from page 1)*

The Chapel and all memorabilia have been secured.

The Board has formed a committee starting immediately, for the purpose of re-colonizing in the Fall of 2016 with the intention that we would move brothers back into the house starting in the Fall of 2017. Brother Zach Mendelson is our committee chairman. His committee will be seeking advice and counsel from interested brothers in addition to the Board.

Phi Kappa Psi National will assist us in re-colonizing. Since we have not been through this, we do not have all the answers. We know change must be an integral part of our process. We will keep you posted on our progress.

*We appreciate your support during this difficult period.* Please let us know if you have questions or ideas that will help the fraternity.

# 2015 Founder's Day Program & Luncheon at The Erickson Alumni Center

**Date:** Saturday, February 21, 2015

**Time:** 11:00-11:30    Open Tour of Alumni Center  
11:30-Noon    Cocktail Reception

**Noon:** Luncheon & Program

**Cost:** \$55 p/person  
Spouses & friends are encouraged  
to attend this event

**Luncheon Speaker:** Frank Fumich '87

*The 1992 business marketing graduate is the owner of Express Catering, Inc, an airline catering company, which he started 15-years ago. With 70 employees, Frank has built an infra-structure that services 700 flights daily in three cities—Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA, and Charlotte, NC.*

*Many of you may have read about Frank as he has become an avid marathoner, ultra-runner, mountain climber, triathlete, stand up paddler, and all around adventure athlete. While he did not take up running until age 30, he has completed many of the toughest races and adventures around the world. For example, in early October, Frank finished a Quintuple (5X) Ironman (12-mile swim, 560 mile bike ride, and 131 mile run non-stop) in 105 hours. By the way...he finished in FIRST PLACE!*

**Make Check Payable & Mail to:**  
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**RSVP:** Contact Zach Mendelson @ 412-227-4677  
or zachary.mendelson@wellsfargo.com

# WV Alpha 2014 Golf Open May 23rd-24th Pinehurst, NC

All told, fifty brothers traveled to Pinehurst for this landmark event. The following email was written by **Paul Schulte '78** as a follow up. It summarizes this event perfectly:

*Epic / ep-ik / Gk epikos ...Mr. Webster's definition of Epic includes one or more of the characteristics and events as follows:*



**Mike Robinson '81** showing his intramural shirt "still fits"



Six members of the Fall 1978 pledge class with the HOD



Evening dinner...great food and laughter discussing the day on the golf course

- a gathering of fraternal friends from all walks and all parts of the country coming together in reunion
- fifty somethings acting like twenty somethings and actually thinking they can do it
- participation in a sporting event where drinking before, during and after is acceptable and encouraged
- breaking bread while holding hands, giving thanks, remembering those who have passed and two carving stations
- harmonizing and belting out Neil Diamond show tunes and the WV National Anthem
- telling the same two stories 30-years after the event and remembering and embellishing all the details
- looking at memory lane pictures where you had hair, a six pack and rap
- getting to wear your favorite shirt three days in a row; however, no denim please

Hi, Hi, Hi



Friends for Forever



If you are not pictured here...make sure you sign up for the next trip!

# FROM HERE . . . TO THERE

(My apologies for the delay in publishing your remarks/  
donation to the newsletter.)

- (491) **Roger Neighborgall '41**, 1005 Hillwood Ave, Falls Church, VA 22042. Email: neighborgall@msn.com. Mailed along \$75 and notes: Continue to make presentations on WWII and Cuba.
- (503) **Charles Cox '43**, 7184 Drewys Bif, Bradenton, FL 34203. I guess you noticed I still have numbers on "Wild" **Bill Maxwell '44**. He use to come visit me but finally gave up. I built here (Tara Golf & CC) 15-years ago and still love it. The West Coast (FL) brothers always have an annual Founder's Day gathering every year. **Editor's Note:** Brother Cox turns 91 this month-Happy B-Day!
- (520) **George E. Hall '44**, 57 Gilliam Lane, Riverside, CN 06878. Mailed along \$135.
- (549) **Dotson Cather '45**, 315 Spring Ave, Clarksburg, WV 26301. Mailed along \$100 and notes: Still taking nourishment. Certainly enjoy the newsletter.
- (590) **William Poundstone '46**, 19670 Beach Road, Apt 323, Tequesta, FL 33469. **New Address.** Mailed along \$50.
- (602) **Chuck Critchfield '47**, 6322 Muir Ct, Huntersville, NC 28078. Mailed along \$35 and notes: Maxine and I celebrated 60th (with family). No more tennis after 70+ years. Legs are gone.
- (606) **Ken Kincaid '47**, 2955 Ridgedale Road, Morgantown, WV 26508. Mailed along \$235 and writes: Age is finally taking its toll on me, but I can still drive, so I get around and do what I need to. Chris takes very good care of me. Glad to hear from many of my older brothers.
- (631) **C.J. Moore'48**, 2 Franklin Town Blvd, #2416, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Mailed \$100 and notes: Doing Well!
- (672) **John A. Buchanan '50**, P.O. Box 298, Chalk Hill, PA 15421. Mailed \$100 and notes: Hit by a car while riding my bicycle in Naples, FL on 2/20/12. Life threatening injuries. Am new except for a little "hitch" in my giddy-up. The older I get, the better I was.
- (695) **George Daugherty '51**, Box 490, Dunbar, WV 25064. Sent along \$125. **Editor's Note:** The October-December 2013 Issue of **The West Virginia**

**LAWYER Magazine** featured George as he serves at the helm of the State Lawyer Assistance Program. A program designed to assist lawyers recovering from the addiction of alcoholism. Brother George has had a 55-year career as a trial lawyer, with over 34-years working in the addictions/mental health field helping lawyers.

- (706) **Tom VanLandingham '52**, 865 Vandalia Rd, Morgantown, WV 26501. Mailed \$100. **Editor's Note:** I saw Tom at the WVU Homecoming Parade... he looked younger than ever!
- (721) **Gus Conley '53**, 358 Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. Mailed \$135 and writes: Retired from UNC Hospitals in 2012. Been married 57 years to Libby.
- (731) **Howard Furbee '53**, 1696 Fox Ridge Drive, East, Springfield, OH 45503. Sent along \$50 and notes: Three grand-children have graduated from college in last three years. Radford and VA Tech with Masters. NC State and U of SC. Sorry...no Mountaineers.
- (765) **Joseph Dunn '55**, 1006 Dell Way, S. Charleston, WV 25309. Contributed \$135 and writes: Have enjoyed last 14-years of retirement and look forward to many more. Completing plans to expand and upgrade LIONEL Train layout. Doing a little golf and real estate.
- (801) **Charlie Mahan '57**, 16116 Amcroft Ct, Tampa, FL 33647. **New Address.** Sent along \$100 and notes: On the committee to plan our 50th Medical School reunion at Northwestern in 2014. Thanks for the newsletter.
- (811) **Jack Bowman '58**, 28 Vintner Place, Morgantown, WV 26505. Mailed along \$200.
- (848) **John Carrico '59**, 208 Flintlock Rd, Charleston, WV 25314. Mailed \$100 and notes: Still practicing law in Charleston with son Tim. Doing well.
- (855) **John Piles '59**, 4721 Kahala Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816. Mailed along \$100.
- (886) **Stephen McWhorter '60**, 570 Lovely Lane, Sylacauga, AL 35151. Mailed \$135 and writes: Feeling great. Had a heart attack in August 2013. Did a seven week tour of the South Pacific. Awesome!
- (973) **Mark Francis '65**, 108 Deer View Road, Keswick, VA 22947. **New Address.**

# RETURN MAILER

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11/2014

# RETURN MAILER

(925) **Mike Keller '63**, 4755 Ridgetop Dr, Morgantown, WV 26508. **New Address.** Sent along \$135 and noted: Retired from Bowles, Rice after 40-years of practicing law.

(1043) **Stephen Crislip '67**, 2154 Presidential Dr, Charleston, WV 25314. Included \$100 and notes: 40-years with Jackson, Kelly Law firm. General Counsel since 2003. Both boys and grandchildren live in Charleston, WV.

(1072) **Tom DeWitt '68**, 3146 Dahlia Way, Naples, FL 34105. **New Address.** Mailed along \$135.

(1087) **Michael Hoffman '68**, 2571 Baltimore Pike, Hanover, PA 17331. Mailed \$100.

(1092) **Charles Wilson '69**, 44 Monarch Lane, Weston, WV 26452. Sent along \$150 and notes: Thanks for the newsletter and all the updates. So sad to lose **Bobby McNabb '67**.

(1122) **Jim Dobbs '69**, 2389 New Stone Ridge Rd, Ripley, WV 25271. Mailed \$100.

(1158) **Jack Anderson '70**, 2485 Vantage Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Sent along 4100 and notes: Have been practicing dentistry in same place for 37-years. If

you ski Copper Mountain...reach out to me. I enjoy the newsletter.

(1167) **Mark Waronicki '70**, 1704 S.W. Gregor Way, Stuart, FL 34997. Mailed along \$100.

(1172) **Dennis White '71**, 46 East Club Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15236. **New Address.** Sent along \$135.

(1273) **Timothy Miller '74**, 701 Laurel Road, Charleston, WV 25314. Mailed in \$135 and writes: Staying busy with law practice. Primarily representing oil and gas companies. Business is good for West Virginia. Four children doing well and added two grandchildren over past 18-months. Youngest son at WVU.

(1311) **Tim Whalen '75**, 2 Conifer Lane, Bridgeport, WV 26330. Sent along \$100 and writes: Last year I celebrated 35-years with Northwestern Mutual. Been great being with others from WV Alpha in the business, including: **Jim Dobbs '69** (recently retired); **Tom Greenstreet '66**; **Frank Fisher '66**; and **Dan McClure '58**. Seems like yesterday living at 780 Spruce Street. Phi Psi has been a big part of my life both personally and professionally.



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*IT IS ONLY THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS THAT THIS NEWSLETTER IS POSSIBLE.*

**(1433) John O’Shaughnessy ’78**, 170 Deepwater, White Stone, VA 22578. Mailed along \$150 and notes: Experienced out first grandchild last year. Thanks for the newsletter.

**(1452) Rick Mundrane ’79**, 512 Oak Street, Libertyville, IL 60048. Mailed along \$285 and writes: Still working in “loop” in downtown Chicago. Love to fish and really enjoying being with the brothers in May in Pinehurst.

**(1514) Kent Muscaro ’81**, 1121 Dingens Ave, Windemere, FL 34786. Sent along \$135.

**(1517) Michael Robinson ’81**, 1290 Amer Ridge Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Sent \$50 and notes: Still enjoying the birth of my daughter, Amelia Jane, on Oct 21st, 2013. I enjoy keeping up with the “G-24” knuckleheads.

**(1528) Matt Mazanek ’82**, 38 N. Auburn Path Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77382. Mailed \$200 and writes: Thanks for your continued great work with publishing the newsletter. I always enjoy keeping up with the “brotherhood”. My wife, Kathy, and I were married 25-years in January 2014. We down-sized and became empty-nesters about a year ago. Two of our kids are

married, with our youngest enrolled at the University of Texas. We have a grand-daughter and grandson. We get to enjoy the Mountaineers participating in the Big 12.

**(1568) Todd May ’83**, 4605 Jessica Lane, North Royalton, OH 44133. Mailed \$135 and notes: My partners and I sold our company in 2012 so I am working less and traveling more. Took my (16- year old) son to the WVU-Texas game last Fall. We may have a future Phi Psi in the making.

**(1653) Mark Blankenship ’86**, 9008 Sunday Silence Drive, Waxhaw, NC 28173. Sent along \$85.

**(2071) Mark Fusco ’03**, 3137 Belmont Place, Bettendorf, IA 52722. **New Address.** Mailed \$250 and notes: Proud to be Phi Psi!