2018 Grand Professional Alchemist Report

The remainder of 2018 has been a very active time for the Fraternity. Since my election to the position of Grand Professional Alchemist I have continued to work on my major goal of better communication between the Fraternity and it’s members and non-members. In addition, any changes are happening and the Supreme Council and the National Office staff are working to make the Fraternity more efficient. Along those lines I have been working on several projects over the past few months to set the stage for a productive 2019.

* 2018 Solicitation. One of the main roles of the GPA is to manage the annual solicitation Fortunately for me, Helen had done much of the initial work to develop the solicitation prior to conclave. After conclave the solicitation was approved and I worked with Erin in the National Office to select the members receiving the solicitation. The solicitation was mailed out and I monitored receipt of the mailing by members of the Grand Chapter. Solicitation numbers are not available as of the time of this report but will be analyzed and compared year-over-year to look at donation trends.
* Professional Representatives. As we started the biennium the PRs and I discussed developing a communication plan to help bolster our annual solicitation. After digging into the mechanisms for executing such a plan it became apparent that we needed to learn more about the Raiser’s Edge database and the mechanism for using Raiser’s Edge to send targeted emails. As of this time while we have been chatting every month the PRs are an untapped resource for many of the tasks that will need to be done the rest of the biennium.
* Database Evaluation and Process Enhancements. One of the main tasks in the near future is to make our National Office procedures more efficient. In order to accomplish this we have selected and contracted Omatics, Inc.to review of our database. I worked closely with Erin and the Omatics team to define the goals of the review and go over the findings. In the new year we will implement recommendations from the review and also start the process to streamline our pledging and new member paperwork.
* Installations. During the fall I attended the installation of the Delta Xi chapter at the University of Tampa and helped the Grand Master of Ceremonies to organize and execute the installation of the Delta Omicron chapter at Florida A&M University. As always, installations are a wonderful way to hear how the Fraternity affects our members and creates value for the host universities and the science community.

As I look forward to 2019 I see many big changes on the horizon. The Supreme Council will strive to do what’s best for the Fraternity, to secure our future and to increase member satisfaction for both our collegiate and professional members. As we continue to grow and evolve as an organization we will encounter many challenges. I am confident in our ability as professionals to meet these challenges and create a better Fraternity for all.