

AGR Report
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The value of Alpha Chi Sigma to its members varies with each individual's level of participation, and their experiences with other members during their college years and for years and decades thereafter. I have been fortunate enough to be approaching 35 years of my own involvement with the Fraternity. A lot has changed in those years, as expected, and the coming decades will bring even more change as the Fraternity grows. That change is evident in the "business" operations of the Fraternity, starting with evolution of paper to electronic documents, to office software, through to the various web presences of the Fraternity. One might have hoped for change in accordance with some strategic plan, and some insightful implementation, and some post-change evaluation, instead of change in result of crisis.. Well, if wishes were horses...

Some changes in Fraternity operations have been involuntary because of an avalanche of events over the past 18 months involving personnel changes, misfeasance, and what seemed to be a perfect storm of diverting events. Almost exactly one year ago, I agreed to serve as AGR to work towards recovery with the Grand Recorder and the Supreme Council. It has certainly not been an easy year, but we are still here. With changes in personnel in the National Office, GR Stipp concluded that the long-sought "Guidebook to Operations" was a priority. Specifically, each policy or procedure should be rooted in the Constitution and Bylaws, Grand Chapter legislation, or SC proposition. Of course, each of these core documents and resources can and do change with every Conclave. So my job became to prepare the concordance. It's not done yet, but I am committed to finishing it. The Guidebook goal will be a link to an updated and current reference for every policy, and an ability to trace the operations of the Fraternity to documented decisions rather than falling back on "it's always been done that way." There have been some surprises revealed in my examination of past Conclaves and past SC propositions, and I relished sharing those with the Grand Historian, who has also provided some valued perspective. Bit by bit, I have relayed my findings to the GR and the SC so that they can assemble a blueprint for their future actions.

I sincerely hope that the completed Guidebook will become a valuable one-stop resource for new staff and new SC. It has also been rewarding to help respond to the occasional unusual requests, or even the issues that may require hours on the phone to resolve. The unexpected can become both a time-sink and a distraction to staff and officers of the Fraternity. As Fraternity operations return to a more normal state, my conclusion is that a new AGR should be found from members who can look forward and catalyze the additional changes needed. Too often, I find myself looking back, and unaware of current best practices and new opportunities. Thank you for the chance to serve the Fraternity again.