

PHI MU ALPHA  AMONG MEN  
SINFONIA HARMONY

# **Alumni Association Resource Guide**

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# CONTENTS

ALUMNI AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS IN SINFONIA.....	1	IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS.....	8
STARTING AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.....	1	Providing for the fraternal experience.....	8
Contacting the National Headquarters .....	2	Supporting the Sinfonia Educational Foundation ...	8
Contacting other Sinfonians .....	2	Strengthening and maintaining relationships .....	9
Initial “meet & greets” to establish an interest group .....	2	Community orientation for newly arrived Brothers.	9
Planning the first “formal” organizing meeting of the interest group .....	2	Assisting with recruitment of prospective members .	9
Mailings. ....	3	Providing leadership in community musical activities .....	9
THE PETITION .....	4	Establishing scholarships.....	10
Membership considerations .....	4	Providing Musical opportunities to alumni.....	10
Information required as part of the petition .....	4	Conducting a Ritual .....	10
Chartering fees.....	4	Lending assistance to projects .....	10
GUIDELINES FOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS.....	4	MAINTAINING THE STATUS OF AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN SINFONIA.....	11
Dues vs. donations.....	4	Membership .....	11
Fundraising activities .....	5	Submitting Reports.....	11
Alumni association bank account.....	5	Association Activities .....	11
Dealing with non-profit status .....	5	APPENDICES .....	12
Developing/writing association by-laws.....	6	Appendix 1 – Alumni Association Petition.....	12
Executive structure .....	6	Appendix 2 – Sample association by-laws.....	18
Identifying core group members .....	6	Appendix 3 – Sample Cover Letter .....	21
Recruitment of new members .....	6	Appendix 4 – Sample Alumni Interest Survey .....	23
Maintaining current membership.....	7	Appendix 5 – History of alumni and alumni groups.....	24
Transfer of membership.....	8	Appendix 6 – Sample Association Newsletter.....	27

## REVISION HISTORY

7/31/2009	Evans: effects of 2009 National Convention legislation incorporated,
10/29/2009	Krueger: removed non-historical references to alumni clubs; approved by NEC (10/25/2009)
11/24/2009	Evans: changed uses of the word “active” to “collegian” or “collegiate” as appropriate per 10-2009 NEC Meeting Minutes

## ALUMNI AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS IN SINFONIA

A common phrase heard among brothers in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is “Once a Sinfonian, always a Sinfonian.” It is the spirit of this phrase that has fostered loyal alumni Sinfonians for more than one hundred years. The alumni Sinfonian looks to the lessons introduced in his college days for inspiration and strength throughout his daily life. Yet, while probationary and collegiate memberships are the core experiences for a lifetime journey in Sinfonia, the participation of the alumni member is not passive or secondary. He assumes the vital role of supporting the Fraternity's continued efforts to build musical students into men of high ideals and of ensuring that the Sinfonia experience is available for generations of students to come. Sinfonia's sixth Supreme President, Percy Jewett Burrell, wrote in 1910, “As students we were in the ‘getting’ business; as alumni we should be in the ‘giving’ business.” Alumni membership in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia provides the possibility to give back to the Fraternity all of the benefits of the life-changing lessons learned through probationary and collegiate membership. All Sinfonians are called upon to achieve the fullest potential of this possibility by making the most of their post-collegiate participation.

Alumni are a reflection of our past, a representation of our present, and a link to our future. This vision of a fraternity that fosters ongoing relationships through an environment that invites, supports, and presupposes post-collegiate involvement and interaction on local, regional, and national levels is critical to the future of our Order. Every chapter has alumni, and every collegiate member will become an alumnus of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. While the probationary and collegiate membership experiences provide the foundation for a lifetime journey in Sinfonia, the alumni experience can be the most substantial. Continued involvement in Sinfonia after graduation is an expectation and obligation of membership.

Throughout the history of Sinfonia, alumni have participated and continued to do so in a variety of ways. They have been active participants in chapter activities, served as advisors and mentors to chapters as well as hold the highest offices in fraternity leadership. Groups of alumni work for the good of the order, as well as to fulfill the Fraternity's Object. One of the current structures of these groups is alumni associations. The alumni association concept has been in existence since 1996.

## STARTING AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni associations provide a vehicle for meeting and interacting with alumni in the local area who are from different chapters and different professions. For Sinfonians there is a natural sense of camaraderie felt in the presence of other members, which is enhanced through these interactions. Being a part of an association allows for more direct access to resources provided by the national Fraternity, and an umbrella under which to conduct meetings and other events.

Within the broad parameters of alumni associations, there is no one template. The character and evolution of alumni associations will vary according to the ages and inclinations of its members, as well as the age of the association itself. All alumni associations are expected to have a minimum number of members, meet regularly, pay an annual administrative fee, and have both a love of Fraternity and of music. Alumni associations are important in creating support for local chapters, fulfilling the fraternal needs of alumni reconnecting alumni to the national Fraternity, and providing financial support to the Fraternity as well. Yet each association will decide the form of the organization as well as the interests of the group. Some associations will be more musical, while others will be more social in nature.

This document provides a blueprint in creating an alumni association. This is based on past successes as well as challenges. It includes a description of the preliminary organizing steps, the petitioning process, as well as an overview of the petition itself. It also provides ideas on maintaining a successful alumni association for many years after its inception.

**Contacting the National Headquarters**

The process begins when you call the National Headquarters at 1-800-473-2649 to let them know you are interested in starting an alumni association. Once the National Headquarters has heard from you they will determine in what province the prospective alumni association would reside. This is based on province boundaries, which apply to both alumni associations and collegiate chapters. Then a staff member, usually the Director of Alumni Engagement, will send a set of resource materials to the interested person(s). The Province Governor and Province Alumni Coordinator in the province will also be notified. Finally, the interested person(s) will be put in touch with existing associations in the area or other interested alumni who have previously requested information from the same area.

**Contacting Other Sinfonians**

The first step to bringing a group of brothers together starts with locating and contacting alumni in your area. Options for identifying Sinfonians include the following:

- MyDesktop is the tool or set of tools that the Fraternity has provided its members to do a variety of things. If you have internet access, log onto the National Fraternity website <http://www.sinfonia.org>, which is the home page for the Fraternity. MyDesktop gives you access to a variety of information about Sinfonia membership. It is on the home page for the Sinfonia website, and is quite easy to use. In order to access MyDesktop, you will need to register, which requires you to know your membership number. There is a sign-up area right on the home page. Once you are registered, you will be able to change your password, update your profile, access alumni lists and check out other Sinfonians' screen names. This will allow you to download addresses for Sinfonians living in particular zip codes, for example, or find out the comprehensive list of members from a particular chapter, both collegiate and alumni.
- The Province Alumni Coordinator can help you get in contact with other alumni in the area as well as to the chapters' alumni secretaries.
- The Province Governor can provide you with contact information from various chapters in the province.
- Local chapters may have information on area alumni as well. In addition, they can be a great resource for new alumni as the collegiate brothers graduate from school!

**Initial "Meet & Greets" to establish an interest group**

Once you have established a list of local alumni, you are ready to prepare an introductory message (for a mailing, group email, or phone calls) that includes:

- A brief personal introduction.
- The reason you are contacting them.
- Measuring local interest in attending and participating in get-togethers.
- In mailings, a short survey asking about the level of involvement in Sinfonian activities in which the person would be interested, the types of activities in which he would want to participate, when he is available to attend events, updating current contact information, and whether he knows of other area Sinfonians who would also be interested in events.

Once a group of people interested in alumni activities is identified, begin planning for the first gathering to establish an interest group. Consider the following:

- Choose a date that works well for those who are interested.
- The gathering should be informal.
- Possible events might include: lunch or dinner at a reasonably priced restaurant, cocktail hours, concerts, local chapters events (if a chapter is in the area).
- Don't expect a lot of people for the first meeting and don't get discouraged. A successful event may be where you and one other Sinfonian attend.

**Planning the first "formal" meeting of the interest group**

A formal organizing meeting is the next step when you have expressions of interest from a core group of individuals (5-7 persons). This may take several informal "meet and greets" to attract enough members. The following list describes ideas

of where to start in terms of planning the event and what the group wants to have accomplished once the event has ended.

- DON'T PANIC. Don't expect a lot of people, etc. Consider the necessary areas to cover to most effectively utilize the time, allow brothers to get to know each other, create a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere that will promote future involvement.
- Let each person introduce themselves, talk about when they were initiated, what their instrument or main musical interest is, what they currently do vocationally and musically, etc.
- Keep in mind that each group will be a little different. Some groups may focus more on social activities, others on musical activities. Ask what, specifically, activities people would find interesting and attend.
- Evaluate the strengths or weaknesses of each member, i.e., who might have space for meetings, everyone sings bass, etc. Also, determine who is willing to take on some responsibility for future events.
- Next meeting place & date, and how often to meet.
- Gauge interest in developing the group sometime in the future into an alumni association. This may include informing the persons present what would be requirements in the formation of an alumni association and the regulations/rule of alumni associations (open to all alumni, not just alumni of local chapters).
- Discuss interacting with local chapters. This may give the group some sense of the possibilities of what such a group can do, and also get people thinking about the future in terms of activities and membership.
- Discuss ideas for activities.
- MAKE NO REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OR LOCAL/ PROVINCE DUES AT THIS POINT, but discuss requirements for an association as stated above.
- Designate points of contact for specific organizing activities.

### **Mailings**

Mailings are going to be key tools to let those Sinfonians in the community that interest exists in forming a local alumni group and receive vital contact information and future activities if they are interested in participating in the group's activities. Through MyDesktop you are able to locate the names of those persons who live in a particular area and get a print-out of addresses. This can be the first step towards establishing a database of Sinfonians in the area that can be modified as time goes on. Depending on where you reside, the number of Sinfonians may vary greatly. You are also likely to find that there are a large number of brothers for whom the Fraternity does not have current addresses. Finding those addresses may require some investigation. Free websites such as [www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com) and [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com) can be quite helpful in finding addresses, particularly for people with unusual names. There are also websites that locate addresses for a set fee per address. Your Province Alumni Coordinator or Province Governor may be able to provide you with information as well. Because the address list for your area may be very large, you may need to choose a sample group to mail and, gradually through subsequent mailings, reach all alumni in your area. You may choose to target the A's through the F's, or everyone who was initiated before 1980, for example.

The mailing is your introduction to the alumni in the general area, and it may be that this is the first mailing that the alumnus has received from the Fraternity in several years. With that in mind, it would be most beneficial to have as much valuable information as possible in the first mailing. Your contact information, National Headquarters address, website address, phone number, announcements about upcoming interest group meetings, information about how to receive the Sinfonian, etc. would be information important for the recipient to have. A vital piece of the mailing is the inclusion of a questionnaire or survey that allows the sender to return something to you, and include questions pertinent to interests, availability, contact information, interest in level of involvement, etc. MAKE NO REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AT THIS TIME.

## THE PETITION

Enclosed in this section are the minimum requirements for establishing an officially recognized alumni association.

### Membership considerations

As your group moves to formal organization, there are several membership considerations:

- Membership must be open to ANY alumnus or honorary Sinfonian in good standing with the National Fraternity.
- The petitioning group must consist of at least 9 members.
- Prospective alumni associations must be geographically based rather than chapter-based. For example, the group could be the Chicago Alumni Association, as opposed to the Kappa Kappa Alumni Association, and should reflect persons from a variety of chapters.
- Membership is open to Sinfonians who reside in or work in the immediate area, regardless of previous province, chapter, or association affiliation.

### Information required as part of the petition

The petition document (attached as an appendix in this resource guide) requires the following information:

- The signatures of all the petitioners.
- A brief history of the organizing steps that have led to the submission of the petition. For example: the dates and descriptions of various dates and events, notes from or pictures of events, etc. Note: this should be exactly as written in petition document!
- A summary of reasons why an alumni association can flourish in your area.
- A future plan of action to insure the continuing viability of the organization.
- A statement of goals and programs of the association
- A list of officers
- The signature of the Province Governor

### Chartering fees

The fee for chartering an alumni association is \$100 and should be submitted with the petition. This goes towards defraying costs of the ongoing support of alumni programs in the Fraternity.

## GUIDELINES FOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS

### Dues vs. Donations

All associations will need cash flow in order to put on any event, so local dues or donations will be an integral part of your operations. For example, fraternity-based supplies, postage, paper, envelopes and photocopying fees are but a short list of things needed for day to day operations. When making your projections, set your baseline over those dues and add an amount that will not be burdensome, but enough to start the process of building cash flow. The advantage of association dues is that it will be a guaranteed source of funds for the local association. However, for larger scale projects or major expenses, donations should be requested.

Provinces may require active alumni associations to pay province dues as collegiate chapters do and as a result given a voting seat on the province's council. The amount of province dues will be established at the province level.

When contacting area alumni to come to one of your meetings or activities, you may want to ask for donations for known, specific needs, such as ritual materials, music, or support for an upcoming event. Be sure to include contact information in every communication sent so that the recipient has a way to contact the association leadership if a need arises.

**Fundraising activities**

Every new association (even seasoned ones) needs to think about options for raising monies to do the things planned to further the goals of the local association and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia in general. Every mailing you send to all area alumni should include an opportunity for donation to support upcoming events and activities. The National Headquarters has a document called Guide to Money Management which provides helpful information on fund raising. Examples include: how to raise cash quickly, boost on-going savings accounts, and raising money for one-time events. Alumni associations may apply to the Sinfonia Educational Foundation for matching grants for worthwhile endeavors. Some activities you may wish to consider include: quartets on Valentine's Day, raffle off musical instruments, 50/50 drawings where you collect money and raffle off half while keeping the other half, alumni association branded items (tee shirts/hats), a master class, or a concert.

**Alumni association bank account**

The association's treasurer should set up a checking account in the association's name. You may wish to require only one signature for expenditures under a certain specified amount agreed to by the association and two signatures for higher amounts.

Every alumni association that has a checking or savings account should have a tax identification number. When the association first opens an account with a bank, the bank will require this number or someone's social security number. The government requires that one of these numbers be present on all accounts with the bank. The bank then uses these numbers to report any interest earned on the account to the government for tax purposes. If your association was asked for a number and gave the social security number of a member, that person will ultimately be responsible for taxes on those earnings. The tax identification number eliminates this situation.

All interest will be shown as belonging to the Employer Identification Number (EIN) of your chapter. The federal government does not require organizations with annual income of less than \$25,000 to file forms and pay taxes on this interest income, so in most cases you won't need to file. If your association has income greater than this, you might need to check with a local tax accountant.

Getting an EIN is very easy. You can file by mail using an application form that is available at most banks. (Ask for IRS Form SS4). You can now also apply online at the IRS website ([https://sa.www4.irs.gov/sa\\_vign/newFormSS4.do](https://sa.www4.irs.gov/sa_vign/newFormSS4.do)). You can also get an EIN over the phone by calling the IRS Tele-TIN number for your state. A list of these numbers can also be found on the IRS website (<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=97851,00.html>).

**Dealing with non-profit status**

The National Fraternity is a registered non-profit organization and has a sales tax exemption in the state of Indiana (its state of operation). Its non-profit status and sales tax exemption DOES NOT apply to other entities of the Fraternity including chapters, provinces, and alumni associations. For a chapter, province or alumni association to receive a sales tax exemption, it would have to first incorporate itself according to the laws of its state. Next, it would have to file for non-profit status with the federal government. Then, there are usually additional filing requirements for the actual sales tax exemption. Each state has its own criteria for granting exemptions (ex. a chapter might be granted an exemption in Pennsylvania but not in California).

Filing for non-profit status does not automatically mean that the organization can accept tax-deductible gifts. Being recognized as a non-profit organization by the IRS does exempt it from federal income taxes (except unrelated business income). The IRS has a special classification for "charitable organizations" which provide it certain additional benefits. These are organizations that fall under section 501c(3) of the IRS Code. The National Fraternity is not one of these. However, the Sinfonia Educational Foundation is. This means that donations that are made to the Sinfonia Educational Foundation (not the National Fraternity) are tax deductible. Fraternal organizations, including chapters, associations, and provinces of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, fall under a different section of the IRS Code and cannot be classified as charitable organizations.

**Developing/writing association bylaws**

There is no requirement that an association have bylaws. They can opt to follow the *National Constitution* and the *General Regulations for Collegiate Chapters*, as a guide. Associations that wish to develop local bylaws may see Appendix 2 as a guideline.

**Executive Structure**

Executive structure is at the discretion of the association, but a minimum structure should include a president, secretary and treasurer. As the association grows, positions such as vice president, music director, historian and events coordinator may be added. Again, the *National Constitution* and *General Regulations for Collegiate Chapters* are useful resources for descriptions of the offices, but associations may customize the officer roles depending on its needs.

**Identifying core group members (i.e., leaders, doers)**

In order for any association to succeed, there must be a sufficient number of brothers involved and committed to carry out the goals and activities of the association. This core group of brothers can be relied upon consistently to provide the interest, enthusiasm, and manpower to support the association. There can never be too many in the core group, but a minimum of 5 or 6 brothers helps to ensure the continuing vitality of the association. Too few in the core group will lead to too many responsibilities among a limited number of brothers and may cause burnout or threaten the future viability of the association.

The core group should not be a static group, but should continuously involve new people while allowing others who have been part of the core group for a length of time to take on less active roles. This serves to bring in fresh ideas and enthusiasm and to avoid burnout by the more seasoned core group members. One of the differences between collegiate and alumni members is that, for the alumni, there are always greater numbers of competing interests and responsibilities that occupy their time. These change over the years, allowing them to be involved with the association to their desired degree. New core group members give the association membership flexibility to allow members to adjust their activity level and for the operations of the association to continue.

Associations will need to bring in new core group members actively. The following techniques offer successful examples for recruiting new core group members into the fold:

- Core group members may need to take other members aside and use a personal approach that conveys how much their time and effort is needed and would be appreciated. Several core group members speaking to less active members can have a profound effect on them.
- Choose people to be involved with particular activities based on their demonstrated strengths and skill sets, as well as resources they can access. For example, a person who designs websites may be called upon to create and maintain the Association's website.
- When members bring forth ideas, they should be encouraged strongly to do so. Allowing them to pursue these ideas and translate them into action will increase their participation naturally AND enrich the group's activities.
- DO NOT discourage anyone's offers for new ideas or participation. Not only will this discourage them from offering new ideas, they may be discouraged from participating at all.

**Recruitment of new members**

Recruitment of new members is vital to the continued existence of the association, just as it is for the collegiate chapter. Even the most successful of organizations die out when there is no new blood to carry the torch. Today's society offers many challenges to local organizations of any sort nationwide. We have become highly mobile, and jobs and families require huge time commitments. Also, for alumni groups, aging and eventual death of members become legitimate concerns for membership retention.

Associations can often become hung up on how to find new members. Since we cannot initiate new members from the community, we must rely upon Sinfonians who already live in the vicinity of the association. So, the question remains,

“How do associations bring in new members into the fold?” No matter how you do it, it requires a great deal of time, commitment, and “hitting the highway.” Successful techniques include, but certainly are not limited to the following:

- Visibility at local and province Sinfonian events is absolutely a must. The collegiate Sinfonians need to know that the association exists, and attending province and local chapter functions gives them faces to associate with alumni and the association. Being visible in this way will increase their desire and interest in continuing active membership after graduation, particularly if they move within the boundaries of the association. All collegiate Sinfonians should be considered potential and future members of the association. In existing associations, alumni association involvement at the local and province level has changed the mindset of the collegiate Sinfonian from optional involvement after graduation to the full expectation that involvement after graduation will be a part of their lives.
- Inviting local chapters to association events will give collegiate Sinfonians a sense that they are welcome and can be a part of the association activities. This establishes relationships that can form an important link to the association once they have graduated.
- Writing articles and placing ads for association activities in Sinfonian publications is great public relations for the association, and gives a national audience to the existence of the association. All readers could potentially be moving to the association’s area, and this could be the motivation they need to check out the association when they move to the area.
- Regular, periodic mailings to local alumni are necessary to get the attention of alumni who have not been involved or are no longer active with the association. Nationwide, there are tens of thousands of Sinfonians who have not been in direct contact with the National Headquarters in many years, sometimes, decades. The association may be the first time a Sinfonian has been in touch with them since their collegiate days, and may open the door to future involvement. Subsequent mailings may entice these alumni to attend a function and renew fraternal contact. The mailings should include contact information, a calendar of upcoming events, and an insert that allows the alumnus to send back information to the association about him. The local alumni are your greatest source of potential new members, but will not be accessed unless the association reaches out to them!
- Placing ads in local music publications or organization’s newsletters may be another effective way to reach local Sinfonians. While this reaches musicians in the area, it does not reach those Sinfonians who work in other fields. However, it may be quite economical when compared to placing ads in local media outlets, such as radio, television, or newspapers.
- Being present at state music educator conferences would be a great way to access a large concentration of Sinfonians. Having a booth at these conventions where association members can speak face to face with other Sinfonians, as well as having sign-in sheets where the association can get new and updated addresses from the conference attendees will be time well-spent. As with placing ads in local music publications, it will only reach those Sinfonians who work in the music field, but there may be no other time when such a high number of Sinfonians will be in one place.
- Creating an association website is an essential component of any organization these days, and more and more people are using this medium to find out information. This type of visibility means that people from all over the country can look the association up and it gives potential members a very easy link to the association. With each passing year, new alumni are more comfortable with technology and incorporate web research into their thinking, so it is a natural and convenient resource for them to utilize.

### **Maintaining current membership**

Keeping your current membership informed of the association’s activities, while it sounds like a no-brainer, allows them to fit association activities into their schedule. Because of people’s varied commitments, adequate advance notice is a must to maximize attendance. Often, four weeks or more notice is necessary for members to make necessary arrangements to attend events. Newsletters, in this case, may not provide this type of information effectively because they are periodic in nature. More immediate communication such as direct phone calls and use of email announcements are quicker and more flexible in accessing current members.

Establishing a database with member's current contact information is a must for communicating quickly. This allows members the opportunity to communicate with each other. At a minimum, all officers should have this contact information.

Giving current members new and interesting choices in which to participate piques their interest. Also, regular events such as annual picnics, potlucks, or association celebrations are often events with high attendance and are looked forward to each year even by casual members. These events should be well-publicized and become association "tradition."

### **Transfer of membership**

Alumni may only appear on one association's personnel report during a given year. A member of one association may transfer his membership from one association to another. He may, if he so chooses, pay local association dues for both in the same year.

## **IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS**

The list of activities below is not meant to be exhaustive, but is meant to get the association thinking about the possibilities of activities and endeavors that could be rewarding to the members and the local community, maintain a positive public visibility for the association, and ultimately benefit the music, man, and money powers of the association. It would be unrealistic for any association to attempt all of these activities at once, and most associations will and should only take on a small number of projects at once, particularly in the early years of the association's existence. When engaging with the local community, it will be important for the association to put their best foot forward in executing events that are well-planned, adequately funded, and musically sound. An association that stretches beyond its capabilities will be in for more problems than they expected, and may end up doing more damage control than positive public relations.

## **PROVIDING FOR THE FRATERNAL EXPERIENCE**

Something has brought all of the association members back into Sinfonia, and attracts alumni in the area to specific events. For some, it is the musical opportunities that have been missing in their lives. For others, it may be the fellowship in Sinfonian membership that they enjoyed in their collegiate years and wish to rekindle. It is the responsibility of the association to provide these fraternal experiences for the members, if for nothing else than to ensure its survival! Make sure that there are opportunities for socializing and engaging in interesting, fun activities. Dinners, potlucks, picnics, happy hours, outings to local amusement parks and musical events often have wide appeal amongst all people, and Sinfonians are no exception. DON'T make the mistake of thinking that monthly meetings will meet that need, as meetings are often NOT something that people enjoy, although most recognize them to be necessary. Also, many brothers associate boring business meetings with their collegiate days, something many Sinfonians are glad to have behind them. Incorporate music into all activities as much as possible. That may be as simple as singing from the songbook at each meeting or serenading the waitresses or wives/girlfriends at social outings. There may be Sinfonians who perform in area musical events. You could plan a chapter outing to attend the event. Open and close meetings with "Hail Sinfonia" and "Sinfonia Parting Song". Providing for fraternity education may be valuable as well. For example, in each meeting, there may be a portion set aside for education on Sinfonia's history, symbols, or reviewing particular aspects of the Ritual. Remember that several members of the association may not have had contact with Sinfonia for many years, and these refreshers will be valuable for them and all members of the association.

### **Supporting the Sinfonia Educational Foundation**

Supporting the Sinfonia Educational Foundation can be a natural fit with an alumni association. The Foundation relies upon Sinfonians' (mainly alumni) contributions for its activities, and associations would be a perfect vehicle for financial support. The association may choose to contribute an annual amount to the Foundation, or may sponsor events and fundraisers with the money earned being earmarked for the Foundation.

**Strengthening and Maintaining Relationships**

Strengthening and maintaining relationships with local chapters serve many purposes for an association. Because of the financial resources and connections that alumni in the association have in the community, the association's members are in the position to help the local chapters plan and execute events, help secure venues, and be patrons of the events sponsored by the local chapter. Plus, the chapter may be able to benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience that is present in an alumni association. By the same token, associations with difficulties in securing spaces for activities may, through their relationship with the local chapter, have access to facilities on college campuses. By working closely with the local chapters, both groups benefit from having increased manpower and may choose to do joint events that are more successful than what the two groups could do separately. The close relationship with the local chapter also becomes a great recruitment tool for future association members who remain in the area after their collegiate days are over.

**Community Orientation for Newly Arrived Brothers**

One great way to bring new members into the association is to welcome them to the region and make them feel at home in the community. Our country is becoming increasingly mobile, and there is a constant flow of people moving to and from our communities. Sinfonians new to the area would appreciate having a group of people that they can connect with that share common interests and experiences, and the association can easily meet this need. Often, people moving into the area need assistance in finding housing, jobs, and a basic social support network. Many of the new arrivals may be just out of college and starting their professional lives. Most associations will have a variety of members who could provide different kinds of supports according to the needs of the Brother. This initial contact may be through the national or association website, but Province Alumni Coordinators may also be in touch with the association to alert you to someone new moving to the area. When the association provides this kind of support it is not forgotten, and will greatly increase the chances that the alumnus will remain an active and involved member of the association for years to come.

**Assisting with Recruitment of Prospective Members**

Assisting with recruitment of prospective members and colonies can be very rewarding for associations, and can provide them with a purpose and direction. Because many of the association members maintain a close connection to the local music community through education or performance, association members are in a position to recommend potential members to local chapters, gently guide these individuals toward Sinfonia, and provide them positive role models that enhance a potential member's perception of the Fraternity. In addition, there may be local colleges or universities that have music departments or schools but do not currently have chapters. Again, the association member's connections to the local community may provide an opening towards establishing a colony at those schools. There are likely to be Sinfonians on the faculty at those institutions who may be involved in or have connections to the association. Because of the association's proximity to the school, they can provide support for colony activities, help problem-solve issues that arise, or just be a supportive presence to the young men as they go through the colony process.

**Providing Leadership in Community Musical Activities**

Providing leadership in community musical activities allows for the association to have a visible presence in the local music scene, and gives members opportunities to collectively support them. In certain parts of the country, musical experiences for children may be gradually eroding, or have disappeared completely. The association could offer support by providing faces to the benefits of community music exposure and education, and lobby local governments in support of maintaining or increasing community musical opportunities. In areas where musical activities are not under siege, the association may actively patronize local events and also provide supports such as volunteering time to usher events. The association may sponsor masterclasses, workshops, or guest performers open to the public that fills a community need or brings specialists into the local community who may otherwise not have an opportunity to do so. Being such a visible presence can ultimately be an effective recruiting tool for the association as well as being very gratifying and fulfilling for members of the association.

### **Establishing Scholarships**

Establishing scholarships is another visible way in which the association can support the local community. Scholarships may provide financial opportunities for students who may not otherwise have them, and allow for the association to invest in the future of the recipients, which will ultimately enrich the local community. Establishing a scholarship can give direction to association activities and fundraisers, and allow people to see concrete outcomes of their work. The Sinfonia Educational Foundation may be able to help the association establish an endowed scholarship if it wants.

### **Providing Musical Opportunities to Alumni**

Providing musical opportunities to alumni is likely to be a priority for many members of the association. Given that we all share a love for music; such an interest should be expected. There may be members who only participate musically within the organization, and there may be others whose whole lives revolve around music. No matter what level of involvement association members participate in musical activities, all are likely to particularly value and enjoy making music with other Sinfonians. Participating in musical activities also allows the association to participate in the *Mills Music Mission*, which is a national music outreach program developed by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. There is usually no shortage of performance opportunities in any community. Performances in local schools, for example, promote music and can help to create musical interest in young persons. Performances in nursing homes, hospitals, or other community institutions help to increase the quality of life for persons who may have limited opportunities to participate in musical activities. Engaging in these activities allows association members to use their talents productively and can be very satisfying and fulfilling.

### **Conducting a Ritual**

Conducting a Ritual can be a much-anticipated event for members of the association. The Ritual is the universal core experience shared by Sinfonians, and is the cornerstone of everything we do. It may be the one event that all members of the association share in their varied fraternal experiences. It guides us in our work as Sinfonians, and can be a great vehicle for building association unity and shared experiences. That said, many alumni have not seen a Ritual since their college days. For some alumni, that means they may not have seen a Ritual in many years. As an association, performing a Ritual can be a very renewing and affirming experience for both the individual alumnus and the association. Rituals are not meant solely for initiating new members, and for alumni who have not seen a Ritual in a long time the renewal and re-education can be very valuable. As the association performs Rituals, they might want to consider “re-initiating” an alumnus who has not seen a Ritual in many years to allow them to view it and refresh his memory. However, alumni associations may not initiate new members.

### **Lending Assistance to Projects**

Lending assistance to worthwhile projects outside of the Fraternity can increase the visibility of the association and be something that is quite meaningful to its members. Communities often have issues or situations that spur the community into action. Sadly, many of these situations often involve disasters or difficult situations that communities or individuals within the communities find themselves in. It may also involve such civic issues as the refurbishing of a local park or roadway clean-up projects. Associations can participate in any number of ways, and may include volunteer support for fundraisers or community rallies, adopting a highway, or providing manpower to a community restoration project.

## MAINTAINING ACTIVE STATUS OF AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Through the Fraternity's Commission on Standards, evaluation of collegiate chapters is an integral part of providing them with assistance, determining whether sanctions need to be administered, and deciding on their continued viability or existence. Alumni associations are no exception, and are also evaluated to ensure that they are meeting basic standards and remaining in compliance of rules and regulations. In addition, the Province Governor must make a visit to each association at least once a triennium to evaluate the association's activities and operations. These reviews are not meant to be stressful or critical, but to provide guidance in making the association as productive as possible. Nonetheless, certain characteristics or activities (or lack thereof), may be "red flags" that warrant a more thorough investigation into the association. This may or may not result in any concerns being voiced or changes recommended. Minimum standards in the areas of membership, annual reports, and association activities will be considered.

- Membership in any association should be four or more. Below four, it becomes increasingly difficult to engage in any meaningful activities of the group, but also speaks to the difficulties that these individuals will have in assuring the continued existence of the association. Members of associations with such low numbers are highly susceptible to burn-out, which again speaks to the difficulties in maintaining the viability of the association. In addition to numbers, there should be no membership restrictions other than members must be either an alumni or honorary Sinfonian.
- Each association is required to submit annual personnel and operational reports. Those reports include the annual administrative fee, the association members and their demographic information, as well as feedback regarding the overall health of the association. When those reports are not filed, it becomes unclear whether the association is continuing to function, and at the very least indicates possible operations problems within the association.
- It is an expectation that any organization that exists will do something. In terms of associations, that something may range from something as simple as an annual meeting/social gathering to a group that has several activities occurring each month. While such a broad range may be necessary for the flexibility needed in each association, there are certain basic activities in which all associations should do in order to assure the continued viability to the group and that the group continues to be valued by its members. At least one activity should involve music, and that may range from singing out of the songbook to performing at a nursing home. The association should also have at least one social activity/ outing in the course of the year. The association should also attend at least one province event each year, whether that is a province workshop or province council meeting. These activities could occur all in one outing or event.

The above paragraph describes the types of activities in which the association should engage. There may be activities in which the association participates that are inappropriate and warrant investigation. Such activities might include hazing, executive board members ceasing to communicate with the National Headquarters or province leadership, restricting membership to Sinfonians from only one or a set number of chapters, alleged criminal activities, or initiating new members who were not already Sinfonians.









## GOVERNOR APPROVAL

For completion by Province Governor

I hereby express my approval for the formation of an Alumni Association of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity in (name of city/region) \_\_\_\_\_ and vow to support them in their endeavors.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address

Additional notes:

**The following items must accompany this completed petition:**

1. A letter from the spokesman of the petition group which includes the following:
  - A. A brief outline of the organizational procedures that have resulted in the petition.
  - B. A summary of the reasons the petitioning group thinks an alumni association of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia can flourish in their area.
  - C. A plan of action designed to ensure the continuing viability of the association.
  - D. A statement of goals and programs which the association intends to pursue in order to achieve the Object of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.
  - E. A list of officers.
  
2. A check payable to "Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia" covering the \$100.00 chartering fee and other fees as specified by the National Constitution. This check will be refunded in the event the petition is denied.
  
3. If association bylaws have been developed, include a copy.

If you have any questions concerning this petition,  
contact the National Headquarters at 1 800 473-2649

**BY-LAWS OF THE ANYTOWN AREA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
OF THE PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA FRATERNITY OF AMERICA**

**Article I – Name:**

The name of this organization shall be the Anytown Area Alumni Association of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc.

**Article II. Purpose:**

The purpose of the Association shall be to foster Sinfonian Alumni activities and involvement in the greater Anytown metropolitan area. In addition, further purposes of this Association shall be consistent with those enumerated in Article XIII, Section 1 of the National Constitution:

“The objectives of the Association are to encourage Sinfonian fellowship among both collegiate and alumni, to support and encourage the Collegiate Chapters and Alumni Associations of the Fraternity, to support the Sinfonia Foundation, to give service to the community in which we live and to advance the general welfare of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

**Article III - Membership:**

Section 1: Eligibility

Membership in the Association is open to any Alumni or Honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc.

Section 2: Participation

Payment of association dues is not required to participate in Association activities.

Section 3: Annual Dues

Association dues are \$25. Association dues are payable on or before June 1 and are good through May 31 of the next year. Members are also required to pay \$10 Province dues once per year, bringing the total yearly dues to \$35.

Section 4: Voting

Voting rights are reserved for those who affiliate with the Association by paying annual dues.

Section 5: Donations:

Members are encouraged to make voluntary donations to the association’s activities. The donor levels of membership are as follows:

\$15	Sustainer
\$25	Contributor
\$50	Donor
\$75	Sponsor
\$100	Patron
\$250	President's Circle

A list of donors will be published in the newsletter and programs of the association. Benefits to donors are to be determined by the Executive Committee. The Association may keep a tiered donation schedule for recognition in Association publications.

**Article IV: Officers:**

Section 1: Offices

A. Elected

The Association shall annually elect a Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Member-At-Large. Each of these offices shall have one vote on the Executive Committee. Each of these offices, as well as the President, shall have one vote on the Executive Committee.

B. Appointed

In addition, the Association shall have the following appointed offices, each appointed by the Executive Committee: Historian, Parliamentarian, Events

Coordinator, Webmaster, and Master of Ceremonies.

Section 2: Terms of office

Terms of office for the secretary, treasurer, and member-at-large shall be for one full year following elections for their respective offices. The Vice-President is elected to the Executive Committee for a term of two years, the first year serving as Vice-President, the second serving as President of the Association. All officers are eligible for reelection in successive terms except the Vice-President.

Section 3: President

The President shall preside over all Meetings of the Association. He shall also preside over meetings of the Executive Committee of the Association. He shall, in conjunction with the Secretary and Treasurer, see that the annual personnel report is filed with the National Fraternity. In addition, the President, with the advice of the Executive Committee, may appoint persons for specific purposes. These appointees serve at the discretion of the President for the duration of the current term of office.

Section 4: Vice-President

The Vice-President's primary role is to prepare to assume the Presidency in the second year of his term in office. The Vice-President will work under the tutelage the President in such preparation. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President. In the case of a Vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall become President, and the Vice-President filled by Section 12 of this Article.

Section 5: Secretary:

The Secretary shall be responsible for all Association correspondence. The Secretary shall also keep a record of all Meetings of the Association. He shall endeavor to keep the provincial, regional and National Fraternity aware of Association activities. He shall work with the President and Treasurer to submit the annual personnel report to the National Fraternity.

Section 6: Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall keep record of all finances of the Association. This may include, but not be limited to, a bank account, petty cash, and association dues. The Treasurer shall report to the Association on a regular basis on its financial affairs. The Treasurer shall work with the President and Secretary to file the Annual personnel report to the National Fraternity.

Section 7: Member-At-Large:

The Member-At-Large holds a seat on the Executive Committee.

Section 8: Historian

If appointed by the Executive Committee, the Historian shall keep a photographic record of the activities of the association, and shall be responsible for archiving past minutes of the association

Section 9: Parliamentarian:

If appointed by the Executive Committee, the Parliamentarian shall issue rulings on any questions of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian shall also keep these bylaws current and available to members of the Association upon request.

Section 10: Events Coordinator:

If appointed by the Executive Committee, the Events Coordinator shall be responsible for planning the yearly calendar. He shall also be responsible for keeping the Association informed of this calendar.

Section 11: Webmaster:

If appointed by the Executive Committee, the Webmaster shall maintain the Association website.

Section 12: Master-of-Ceremonies:

If appointed by the Executive Committee, the Master-of-Ceremonies shall coordinate all ceremonies of the Association, and shall also be the Music Director.

Section 13: Vacancies:

Any vacancy shall be filled by simple majority of the members present and voting at the next regular meeting of the Association, for the remainder of the term.

Section 14: Removal:

Any officer can be removed from office by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Association. Said officer shall have the right to speak in his defense prior to such a vote.

Section 15: Nominations:

The President shall appoint a Nominations committee at least six weeks prior to the Annual meeting of the Association. This committee shall report back a slate of officers at least three weeks prior to the Annual meeting. Nominations will remain open from the floor at the Annual meeting.

Section 16: Elections:

Elections shall be held once yearly at the Annual meeting of the Association. Election shall be by secret ballot, and each office shall require a Majority of votes cast for that office. If such a majority cannot be obtained, a second ballot shall be held between the top two candidates.

**Article V - Meetings**

Section 1: Annual Meeting

An annual meeting shall be held once yearly for election of officers.

Section 2: Regular meetings of the association shall be held at least once per month.

Section 3: Quorum:

To conduct business, the following conditions must be met:

- (a) Seven-days notice of the meeting
- (b) At least two officers must be present and
- (c) At least two members at large must be present

Section 4: Majority

All business must carry by simple Majority, that is, 51%.

**Article VI. Amendment**

Section 1:

These by-laws may be amended or replaced at any regular meeting of the Association, provided notice has been given to the membership. Any and All amendments require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present.

Section 2:

The President may appoint a committee to review and revise these bylaws at his discretion. Any report such a committee may make shall be considered notice.

**Article VII. Parliamentary Authority**

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern in all cases where applicable, and where not inconsistent with these bylaws or any special rules the Association may adopt.

**Standing Rules of the Anytown Area Alumni Association of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia**

**Article I. Committees**

Section 1: Standing Committees

- A. Events,
- B. Bylaws,
- C. Membership

Section 2: Special Committees

The President shall appoint special committees as such as he sees fit. The Association may also call for a committee at any regular meeting of the Association.

Greetings Fellow Brothers in Sinfonia:

This past year has been a momentous one in this fraternity...especially for its alumni members. This year the Anytown Area Alumni Association (AAAA) celebrates its 5th year as an alumni association of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. We have a strong core of dedicated members who work to support the musical and fraternal needs of our alumni in the area as well as the needs of the community in our great state. Our vision is to foster the musical and brotherly needs of all alumni here in the Anytown area. We are particularly grateful to the music educators who work everyday to make sure that music in America remains a vital part of our lives. The most important thing we need at this juncture...is YOU. Our Annual Music Educator's Awards Banquet is happening November 20 2004 in Anytown. As the principal organization involved with the banquet, it is important that our presence is strong. While one of our most important events, we also have a year full of worthwhile and fun events planned for you to be a part of. We need you; your voice and your brotherhood, so I invite you to join us as we make the year 2004 a great year for the Anytown Area Alumni Association and for Sinfonia. I hope to see you at any and all of events in the coming year!

OAS AAS LLS,

Daniel Danielson  
Eta Eta '91  
President, AAAA  
ddaniels@hotmail.com

#### **Contact Information for the AAAA**

##### **President**

Robert Robertson  
Alpha Alpha '93  
8725 DeRober Place  
Anytown, OH 43225  
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robertrob@aol.com

##### **Vice-President**

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##### **Treasurer**

Terry Clothman  
Theta Theta '64  
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North Anytown, OH 43555  
888-556-4545  
Terrycloth@yahoo.com

##### **Secretary**

Jacob Jacobson  
Alpha Alpha '78  
1016 Tallwood Pines  
Anyplace, OH 43333  
888-557-5656  
Jacobsun@aol.com

Our listserv address is [aaaa@sinfonia.org](mailto:aaaa@sinfonia.org), and one can become a part of the listserv by sending a message to [majordomo@sinfonia.org](mailto:majordomo@sinfonia.org) with a body of: subscribe aaaaalumni

Our website address is <http://www.sinfonia.org:800/aaaaalumni>

**Become a part of the Anytown Area Alumni Association!  
We need YOU!**

Since our initial mailing to all alumni in the Anytown area 8 years ago, our organization has grown and evolved as our membership has done the same. We are at a crossroads where we are poised for growth, but need your assistance to move forward. If we could involve even 100 of the alumni in Anytown area, we would be a powerful music force in the Anytown area, as well as nationally throughout Sinfonia. Anytown is one of the few areas of the country where Sinfonian alumni have an organization to carry out the mission and purposes of our great fraternity, so please take advantage of our Brotherhood here in ANYTOWN! There are 3 powers of Sinfonia: music power, man power, and money power, and all three are vital to our existence. You ask, how can you help? Here are some of our immediate needs:

**Man Power**

1. We need YOU to become an active member of the AAAA! Our yearly dues are \$35/year. Even if you could only attend one or two meetings a year, your presence is valuable to us. Please join us for fellowship and brotherhood; we welcome you to become an active member.
2. In the very short term, we need Brothers to help with a host of activities in preparation for the Annual Music's Educator's Awards Banquet, which is being held in ANYTOWN from July 16-20 2005 at the Ritz Carlton Anytown.
3. One of our biggest struggles over the last 5 years has been to locate regular meetings spaces to have our events. We are always looking for low-cost meeting spaces where we could regularly hold meetings and events all over the ANYTOWN area. Maybe you know of a place, or could help us find a permanent "place" in the ANYTOWN area.

**Music Power**

1. We need you for both instrumental and vocal ensembles to carry out our musical missions. Even if you haven't sang or played in years, now is the time to get your instrument out of storage and join us! We play and sing to have fun, as well as to do musical outreach. In order to be effective we need more people to perform!
2. In our continuing growth, we are looking to expand our musical activities in the ANYTOWN area. We need a musical director/coordinator that can organize musical outings and activities for us, as well as provide leadership in rehearsals and performances. This is a vital role that we have not yet been able to explore, but want very much to do so now.

**Money Power**

1. In addition to our extensive manpower involvement in the recent National Assembly this summer, we sponsor the Annual Music Educator's Awards Banquet. As principal organizers, we provide up to \$1000 to sponsor the awards and meals for our guests. Any financial assistance you could provide will help greatly.
2. We would like to send yearly newsletters to all 900+ Sinfonian alums in the ANYTOWN area at least once a year. However, the cost of such an undertaking is great. The mailing for such a large number costs over \$300, which has been thus far paid out of pocket by our executive board, which is simply a cost we cannot afford each year. Contributions towards this each year would help us communicate with you. We may also incorporate advertising into the newsletter for Sinfonian-owned businesses or services provided by Sinfonians. Buying advertising space would also help us defray the cost of sending out mailings.
3. We are currently one of the only Sinfonia organizations in the nation performing all-alumni Rituals. To do these performances, we have had to borrow equipment and costumes from chapters as far as 100 miles away. We would like to purchase Ritual equipment, which currently costs approximately \$330. By owning our own equipment, we will have more flexibility in scheduling our Ritual (and not having to work around collegiate chapters very tight schedules), but also would help build pride and tradition in our association.

If you want to become a member of AAAA musically, actively, or financially, or if you just want to be kept up to date with what is happening with Sinfonia in the ANYTOWN Area, please complete the simple survey on the next page.

**Man Power**

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to stay informed about AAAA events in the future:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Where initiated and year: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Voice Part: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to learn more about AAAA and attend a "Get-To-Know-the-Brothers" gathering.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to become an active member of AAAA. Enclosed is a check for \$60 for my membership for the 2003-2004 year.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to help out with the Annual Music Educator's Award Banquet. Please include me in planning for events.

\_\_\_\_\_ I know of a place where AAAA can have regular meetings or can help find a place. Please contact me and I will provide you with more information.

**Music Power**

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to participate musically in AAAA

Voice Part: Tenor \_\_\_\_\_ Bass \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am very interested in the musical coordinator/director position and would like to know more about it.

**Money Power**

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to contribute \$ towards the sponsoring of the Annual Music Educator's Awards Banquet. Enclosed is my contribution.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to contribute \$ towards the yearly newsletter which will go out to all alumni in the ANYTOWN Area. Enclosed is my contribution.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to contribute \$ towards the purchase of Ritual equipment for AAAA. Enclosed is my contribution.

All checks should be made payable to: Anytown Area Alumni Association. Please specify what the check should be used for, such as for association dues or for the yearly newsletter, so that we can accurately earmark the funds. Please send the completed surveys and contributions to:

Joe Sinfonian  
Secretary, AAAA  
7700 Anywhere Blvd.  
Anytown, OH 42880  
(888) 555-6161  
Joephi@aol.com

## A history of alumni and alumni groups in Sinfonia

Sinfonians became interested in maintaining contact with their alumni almost as soon as the first graduates left their alma maters; in fact, the alumni were listed, along with the collegiate members, in the Year Books through 1914, the Mystic Cats (predecessor of The Sinfonian) of 1915 and 1916, and the Sinfonian Handbooks through 1930. There were alumni directories through 1933, although we know by the periodic lists of “lost sheep” and articles in the publications about difficulties in maintaining contact with alumni, that the alumni lists became increasingly incomplete through the years.

### **Alumni Clubs**

Alumni organizations were officially recognized in the national constitution beginning in 1913, and have continued to be so, with changes in designation and more or less specificity as to their chartering and rules of operation, etc., ever since. The rules for petitioning, charter fees and organization have paralleled closely those for college chapters, but with looser requirements for reporting, per capita tax (in the form of alumni dues or life membership), and convention tax.

The first official alumni organization was chartered in 1913, as The Sinfonia Club of New York. The club had rooms (what sort not described) at 307 W. 98th St. The early newsletters reveal that the club planned to hold regular monthly meetings, have club facilities for socializing and overnight guests, and to be in a position to promote the professional aspirations of its members and all Sinfonians. Percy Jewett Burrell aided in the organizational efforts, and its first twenty-five members came from eight different chapters, among them were prominent early Sinfonians. It disappeared in 1922, never to be heard from again. Alumni clubs appeared in Boston and Cincinnati in 1915, Denver in 1933, and San Jose CA in 1939. All alumni clubs were defunct by the middle 1950's.

### **Alumni Chapters**

In 1956, with all of the alumni clubs inactive, the fraternity took action to revitalize its alumni organizations. Having added to the constitution in 1954 the phrase: “Phi Mu Alpha is a fraternity representing the music profession,” it changed the designation of alumni organizations from 'clubs' to 'chapters.' and gave alumni chapters the right to confer Professional-life and Professional-life Honorary memberships. The qualifications for these classes of membership excluded college students and thus precluded any significant competition with collegiate chapters. With these changes the fraternity hoped to give alumni chapters more formality and provide them with another avenue to stimulate their own growth.

The first alumni chapter to be chartered under this new designation was the Kansas City Alumni Chapter. It was chartered on November 12, 1956. In quick succession thereafter, charters were granted in Peoria, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Louisville, Tulsa, Muncie IN, Evansville IN, and as noted above, San Jose. News from some of these chapters included in the Sinfonians indicated that they were following the same patterns of activity as the former alumni clubs, and that they were indeed initiating new members. At its height in the middle 1960's, there were 37 alumni chapters in existence across the country.

The Kansas City Alumni Chapter was by far one of the most prolific and enduring alumni chapters. Its activities throughout its existence included award a “Musician of the Year award, memorial concerts for deceased Sinfonians, special concerts and programs sponsored by the chapter, a very active and esteemed alumni chorus, dances, scholarships, and sponsoring a contest for male choral works. The group remained active up through 1980.

By 1977, there were only nine alumni chapters distributed in only eight provinces. This dramatic decline in the number of alumni chapters paralleled a decline in the number of collegiate chapters, brought on by the changing social dynamics associated with the war in Vietnam. The challenges to alumni chapters had (and have) different dimensions, of course; their members were more scattered geographically than those of collegiate chapters, and had more conflicts for their time and interests.

### Professional Chapters

The first professional chapter was chartered in Washington, D.C. in June, 1974. Executive Secretary Alan Adams (Theta Iota) reported that as of that time, thirty-seven alumni chapters had been chartered, but very few were active. The Washington Professional Chapter was seen as a trial balloon, to determine if a more structured pattern of chapter organization based on more professional goals, would result in more alumni participation and greater chapter stability. The 1976 National Assembly ratified the professional chapter concept and adopted 'Professional' as a class of membership, which only professional chapters could bestow. The Assembly removed all mention of alumni chapters from the 1976 revision of the constitution, but as can be observed from perusal of directories from subsequent years, no effort was made to compel existing alumni chapters to change their names or (presumably) their modus operandi.

The standards for professional chapters were virtually the same as for collegiate chapters. An interesting list of purposes for professional chapters was included as Article VI, Section Four of the National Bylaws of the era: *The purposes of the Fraternity are basic to professional as well as collegiate chapters. To promote these purposes, professional chapters shall act in support of collegiate chapters, shall encourage and enable alumni members to retain identity with the Fraternity, shall engage in or support such musical projects in the community as promote the ideals of the Fraternity, shall maintain a continuing spirit of brotherhood among men of music, shall aid deserving students of music in whatever way possible, and shall encourage and support such local music programs and activities as are in keeping with the standards of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.*

The first official chartering of a professional chapter under the new rubric of the 1976 Constitution took place in St. Louis on March 26, 1977. However, the climax of professional chapter activity was reached in 1979-1980, when seven chapters, distributed across five provinces, were listed in the directory. The March, 1981 Sinfonian carried an article entitled Perspectives on the Professional Chapter by Jeffery T. Kite-Powell, president of the South Florida Professional Chapter, which was chartered on May 17, 1979. The article was informative about the possibilities of professional chapters and specifically about the South Florida chapter. Kite-Powell spoke of the "fellowship and camaraderie, the joy of making music together and the privilege of helping and serving others," but said if a professional chapter was going to work, "there must be a few brothers who believe that a real need for a professional chapter exists." He warned that a chapter not be built around one single individual, that a professional chapter not rely too heavily on a local collegiate chapter, not to expect college professors to be the backbone of the chapter(?), and not to initiate new members with the sole purpose of expanding a declining membership. This chapter was one of two professional chapters to hold on into the 1985-1988 triennium; in both cases, it was apparently their close association with a collegiate chapter that enabled them to continue to function. In the case of the SFPC, interaction with Upsilon Psi Chapter at the University of South Florida gave the chapter members motivation, and alumni from the collegiate chapter helped boost the membership of the professional chapter. However, it disappeared from the directory in 1988. The other professional chapter to last until the 1985-1988 triennium was Northeast Missouri Professional Chapter in Kirksville, Missouri. Without fanfare or announcement of a chartering date, it appeared in the 1983-1984 directory, and then, just quietly, it went away, along with the South Florida Professional Chapter and the Heart of Missouri Alumni Chapter.

### Alumni Associations

Another effort to revitalize the alumni programs of the fraternity was launched in 1988. During the 1988-1991 triennium the Alumni Affairs Committee proposed a new program to be known as Alumnet, prepared a questionnaire to distribute to all alumni, seeking their opinions about the most meaningful alumni programs, and discussed a looser structure for alumni organizations to be known as alumni associations.

Most of the effort during the years between 1988 and 1996 was aimed at the individual alumnus. The questionnaires that were returned were responded to and many individual Sinfonians brought into contact with the national fraternity. The Sinfonia Foundation launched two massive fundraising drives using a professional fundraising organization, and the drives produced "good" mailing addresses for thousands of alumni with whom contact had been lost. The suggestion to organize alumni associations, however, was not explored until 1995, when it came up for discussion before the National Executive Committee. The discussion revolved around the alumni chapter concept compared with a looser organization

to be called an association. Initially, at least, an “association” was seen as an organization that might lead to the formation of a “chapter.” The 1997 National Assembly then voted to replace alumni chapters with alumni associations in the constitution.

In the meantime, a group of alumni in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, led by Kevin McNerney (Gamma Theta), held two organizational meetings in late 1995, aimed at determining the level of interest in and launching an alumni organization. This group was given formal approval by the NEC as the Dallas-Ft. Worth Area Alumni Association on August 3, 1996. Since that time several other associations have formed, most notably in Florida, Philadelphia, and Washington DC.

Today’s Alumni Associations are fluid organizations; no two associations look alike. That said, all provide a fraternal continuity for Sinfonians after graduation and continue the musical and social fellowship enjoyed in the collegiate chapter. Past national president, A.W. Martin, put it very nicely in saying, “The founders of Phi Mu Alpha never intended it to be merely a pleasant four years, but rather a happy lifetime adventure.”



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