



Manhattan Alumni Newsletter

Continuous And Dedicated Alumni Support Ensures A Strong Future



Beta Sigma Psi - Zeta Chapter - Spring 2020 - Gary Raffety '62 - Editor

COVID – 19 Situation at Zeta Chapter

BY: Laurel Davis - Alumni President

Editors Note: The following message was sent out by email the last week of March but because almost 40% of you do NOT have emails on file and many more have emails on file that are no longer working, I have made the decision to include it in this newsletter. These are trying times and are creating uncharted territory for all of us. Please read this as well as the Question and Answer section so that you are aware of what we are all dealing with.

Gary Raffety - Editor



President Laurel Davis '85

Dear brothers and friends,

I write you this message to let you know what the situation is with Zeta chapter amid the COVID-19 pandemic we are experiencing. In short, the chapter house will be closed for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester. Earlier this month the University released information regarding the campus response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the impact to campus operations. The Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) organization has also provided guidance to active chapter presidents and alumni advisors regarding best practices during these trying times. Zeta chapter in Manhattan intends to follow university and FSL guidance, as does the alumni chapter. One recommendation was for students stay at their permanent home residence during this period rather than in their Manhattan residence, so the active chapter house will be closed during this period.

FSL has also recommended that organization activities, meetings and events scheduled during this time be postponed. The actual decision for each event will be made by the active chapter, but we recommend and the active chapter intends to follow the KSU and FSL guidelines. With the most recent changes, all events will be canceled for the remainder of the semester.

The Beta Sigma Psi chapter house at KSU will be officially closed as long as the KSU residence halls remain closed. Our expectation at this time is that in-person classes will resume for a normal summer session, but we will remain closed if the residence halls close for the summer.

Students returned from Spring Break to gather books, clothes, and other school related supplies which they will need to continue education remotely. Mail service will continue to the chapter house and the active chapter president will ensure we have someone tasked with processing the mail once each week, including the payment of bills received by mail. The access code on the door lock has been changed now that students have retrieved their clothes and school supplies.

If there are students who have a significant personal or family hardship that makes staying at their home residence impractical and need a place to stay in Manhattan, we may see if we can accommodate an exception. To stay at the chapter house, a student will need to request Beta Sigma Psi Alumni Board approval prior to continuing occupancy.

We don't know the full impact yet, so there are many unanswered questions. We will provide additional communications as the situation progresses and further details become known. We have a document anticipating frequently asked questions that we have been updating, but please let us know if you have any questions that we have not answered.

Recruitment will continue with some adjustments. We won't be able to host events at the chapter house for multiple prospective members at the same time, so we will have to do individual house tours and make more use of multimedia virtual tours. We do have a relatively large spring class of associate members, but we need to follow that up with a good sized pledge class for the fall semester.

Continued on page 2

More Alumni Financial Support Needed Now

By: Gary Raffety

The Capital Fund Drive is officially over now. Several brothers are still paying off their pledges with regular auto withdrawal payments that will continue for a while beyond the official closure date. Realistically though, our income flow from the Cap Fund drive is over and the money has been spent.

We still have several house interior upgrades plus a lot of landscaping outside that must be done - and soon. What with the virus disrupting school and our cash flow this semester, we have had to cancel many of our planned improvements. Our treasurer says that without any large unexpected expenses, and if we tighten our belts, we should be able to squeeze by until the end of the fiscal year.

As you all know, without your financial support we cannot keep the doors open for long. Payment of dues and additional donations to help us get through this difficult period are essential now. We could use another \$50,000 to help us get through the next 12 months. Please help if you can.

Dues are still \$100 annually :

**Make checks payable to:
Manhattan Alumni Chapter of BSP
and send to me at:**

**Gary Raffety,
9228 W. 73rd St.,
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204.**



Gary Raffety '62 - Editor

President's Report

MAC President's Report - (continued - from page 1)

Financially, this will have an impact on both the active chapter and the alumni chapter. We have worked together already to perform cash flow analyses for both the active chapter and alumni chapter, and find that we are positioned to survive this downturn assuming we have no un-anticipated expenses that arise.

The active chapter continues to look at areas they may reduce costs during this period. Our housing contract allows for refunds of 40% of the semester house bill for cases such as this, which we expect to be granted mostly as credits to be used against the fall semester house bill. There will be some refunds for students graduating or otherwise not living at the house next fall, but within the amount of available funds of the active chapter.

From the alumni chapter perspective, we will offer a similar credit to the active chapter for rent to cover this period when they are unable to occupy the house. We have projected our cash flow to include reduced maintenance costs since the house will be un-occupied for two extra months, but that is always risky for a 50-year old house. From a big picture perspective – we're down \$20k in income for the year with mostly fixed expenses, limiting our opportunities to reduce costs.

One of the bigger expenses we have is the two newsletters we publish each year. The newsletter has been an important communication tool through the recent capital campaign, but is an expense we cannot maintain at the same level for the coming year. We will continue to communicate in a newsletter, but will do so at a reduced cost.

We had some house improvement projects planned for the year that are affected. The front lawn improvement project is in progress and we plan to continue that project with some volunteer labor to reduce the cost. We will forego the dining room improvements planned for this year of \$6000, and will only do house improvement projects that can be done without hiring contractors.

The cash flow projections for 2021 include a more normal budget for maintenance items, but house improvement projects will likely be affected for 2021 as well. We had an additional \$10,000 planned for dining room improvements and either the flooring or bathroom improvements on the list for 2021.

On the income side, we could use your help to plug the \$20,000 gap that we will have this year. We exist for a purpose: to provide an environment in which the Lutheran college man can grow spiritually, scholastically,

and socially. The Manhattan Alumni Chapter needs your help continue to provide this for the men of Zeta chapter.

Please stay current with your dues, along with any additional gift you can share during these trying times. Encourage the young men in your life to consider Zeta chapter when they choose to attend Kansas State University. Each student you recruit represents nearly \$10,000 in rent to the alumni chapter over the 4-years he will spend at K-State.

Finally, please pray for the continued success of the men of Zeta and the volunteers serving the Manhattan Alumni Chapter. These will be trying times emotionally, financially, scholastically and physically for some, so we need your support now more than ever.

COVID-19 Response FAQ

March 16, 2020

K-State is suspending in-person classes the week of March 16-20, and beginning Monday, March 23 classes will be taught remotely through the end of the semester. They further recommend that students stay at their permanent home residence during this period rather than in their Manhattan residence, so the active chapter house will be closed.

You may have questions about how this will impact us, so this is an attempt to anticipate your questions and respond as best we can today.

1. Will we make exceptions for hardship cases that need a place to stay?

a. The alumni board of directors will review any hardship cases and may allow some students to live at the chapterhouse during this period.

b. With the change to remote learning for the remainder of the semester, exceptions would most likely not be granted.

2. What about our contract with our food service providers - Greek Chefs?

a. We have worked with them to terminate service and just got a final bill from them for the Spring semester.

3. Will we need to pro-rate house bills?

a. Per the housing contract, we will credit students for 40% of the Spring house bill.

4. Will the full semester rent for the active chapter to the alumni chapter be paid?

a. The full rent for the semester has been sent, but we plan to credit the active chapter for rent at the same 40% rate.

5. Do we have insurance coverage for "loss of business" in this situation?

a. Our policy has coverage for Business Income including Rental, but there is an exclusion for loss due to virus or bacteria.

6. Are there any active chapter social events impacted?

a. FSL will not approve any events during this period.

b. The Gold Rose formal, Mom's day and other events have been canceled.

7. How do we show rush candidates the house during this period?

a. Re-schedule any visits that would occur during the outage. We need to create video options and will do one at a time house tours as needed. We currently have 11-13 potential new members.

8. Will the active chapter continue to hold meetings?

a. KSU and FSL guidance is to hold any such meetings via Zoom, WebEx, Skype or other similar telecommunication tools. Some meetings, active chapter and exec board, will be held this way during this period of remote learning.

9. Since we are essentially closing for the semester, when will we execute the check out procedure so we know rooms are properly closed out?

a. The active chapter has completed all check-outs.

10. Who will pay the ongoing bills (Electric, Water, Gas, etc).

a. The active chapter will ensure that someone stops by the house once or twice a week to pick up mail and pay any bills that are due.

11. Who will mow yard front for the next few months?

a. The active chapter will delegate this to individuals.

12. Will there be any impact to summer projects?

a. We will continue to work on the front yard improvement project, and will do what we can to reduce the cost.

b. Tuck-point repair on front porch brick will be done by volunteers instead of hiring a contractor, saving us around \$1500.

c. Some dining room improvements planned for this year will be canceled, saving us around \$6000. Additional dining room improvements planned for 2021 of around \$10,000 will also likely be deferred.

d. Other projects on our list will be deferred until we have clear financial support lined up.

If you are receiving a printed copy of this newsletter, it is only because we do not have an email for you. Please go to the website (link at bottom page) and update your personal data. Or - send me an email with the information and I will update the file. This is important if you want to continue to hear from us.

Gary Raffety - MAC Secretary
(See back page for contact information)

Zeta Chapter News

By: Laurel Davis - MAC President

The chapter started the semester with 39 men living in-house and about a dozen out of house active members. The spring pledge class is larger than usual, and they continue to meet on-line so they can complete their associate membership period on the normal schedule.

At this point, we are assuming a normal rate of return for students, but should there be students that do not feel safe returning to campus in the fall we might see a decline in returning students.

Scholastically, our GPA dropped from 3.175 to 3.070, which dropped us from 11th to 16th place among fraternities on campus. That is still above the All Men's Average of 2.97, but not where we would like to be. The active chapter was addressing that prior to the house closure, so hopefully we will see some improvement in the spring 2020 GPA.

The Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) organization on campus continues to host seminars and gatherings for chapter advisors to stay in touch with what's going on at the university. They report that the freshman residency proposal has been submitted to the administration, with fraternities allowed as an exemption to the requirement for freshmen to live in the dorms for their first year. This is the 5th year in a row for declining enrollment at K-State, so recruiting continues to be an important focus.

Thanks to your generosity, the Manhattan Alumni Chapter has been able to increase the award amounts for some of the scholarships we offer for our members. We doubled the award amount associated with the Phil Krug scholarships to \$1000 and increased the payout on some of the other scholarships.

We also had four students earning the first semester GPA scholarship. We have awarded a total of \$8,600 in scholarships thus far in the last year, with freshmen scholarships for the fall still to be awarded.

With the early closure of the chapter house this semester, we've had a \$20k impact to our budget, which we expect to be mitigated to some extent by less maintenance from the lower occupancy rate this spring and summer.

We have looked at the cash flow for both the active chapter and alumni chapter

through the end of the 2020-2021 school year and will have to defer some improvement projects to remain cash positive through the year.

The front lawn landscaping project has been started and has some momentum (and is definitely needed) so we will continue with that over the summer and into the fall semester. The next items on our list were improvements to the dining room that we are going to defer until we get a better prognosis for the long-term conditions.

We do plan to have a summer work day to address any maintenance issues that arise, assuming we will be allowed to gather in groups of larger than 10 at that time.

Please continue to keep the active chapter in your prayers and actively support the Manhattan Alumni Chapter as we work to provide an environment where these young men can continue to grow scholastically, spiritually and socially during these demanding college years.

Per aspera ad astra!

Dr. Wilber Voss - '53 - Dead at 86 years of Age

Dr. Wilber Christian Voss, 86, passed away November 29, 2019 at Sunrise of Sabre Springs, and is with our Lord Jesus.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sandra (Bettis) Voss; five children, Chris Voss, Craig Voss (wife Lori), Brenda Oakes, Jennifer Nasser (husband Gordon), and Will Voss; and nine grandchildren, as well as his 2 sisters Della Mae (Voss) Raguse and Marian (Voss) McKay (husband Charlie) and many nephews, nieces. Wilber's sister Lavina (Voss) Juergensen preceded him in death.

Born in a farmhouse in Ellsworth County KS. to Chris and Emma Voss, the third of four children, Wilber attended a one-room school and put himself through college (Kansas State) and medical school (University of Kansas) through doing odd jobs and farming part of his father's farm. When asked about his motivation, Wilber answered, "driving a tractor and getting sunburn at age 13 was motivation enough."

Never materialistic, Wilber was the consummate family man, and a devoted member and twice president of Fountain-of-Life Lutheran

church in Tucson, AZ. He once said that his goal was to put his children through college and take his family on an annual vacation. Wilber more than succeeded.

Having not traveled at all or not far from home in his youth, Wilber and Sandra loved traveling around the world and across America. When their children were young,



many family trips were centered around visiting national parks and family. Wilber survived many a long drive with six others in a station wagon.

A longtime lover of the arts, Wilber said that when he and Sandra arrived in a new city overseas, they would first head to the art museum. They loved going to the Cedar City, UT, Shakespeare Festival every summer. Wilber loved history and once said that had he not made it to medical school he may have gone into history.

Always the sports fan, Wilber was a huge supporter of the Arizona Wildcats, having football and basketball season tickets since moving to Tucson in 1970. When he left his beloved Tucson three years ago, giving up his season tickets may have been the most painful event of all.

After graduating from medical school, Wilber joined the U.S. Air Force and served for 10 years, before joining the Arizona Air Guard where he served for 20 years, retiring as a Bird Colonel.

After leaving the Air Force, Wilber moved from Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL, to Tucson, where he joined Thomas-Davis Clinic. He served a term as president of the 140-member clinic, as well as CEO of the Thomas-Davis owned Intergroup HMO; retiring in 1995

Wilber was truly a renaissance man. He was always patient, had a wonderful sense of humor, never gave unsolicited advice, never imposed his beliefs on anyone, and tried to always give a kind word. He was loved by all and will be dearly missed.

Wilber's remains will be cremated and a memorial service will be scheduled at a future time.

KITCHEN UPGRADES:

The kitchen received a new stove with separate ovens, a new double wide freezer, new ice making machine, new sanitizer (dishwasher & disposal), and a new double door refrigerator, plus much needed drain line clean-outs.



New Sanitizer & disposal



New Double Wide Freezer



New Stove and Ovens



New Windows & Glass Doors



New Double Door Entry

MAC 5- Year Capital Fund Improvements

The photos on this page show many of the high dollar additions to the House as a result of your donations to the 5 year Capital Fund Drive. One item not shown that required almost 25% of all money spent is the new roof over the entire house. It was done in two phases, but within the 5 year period. We accomplished a lot with your donations, but we still have additional projects that need to be completed before we can finish the remodeling process that we began in 2014. We continue to have one of the top houses on campus.



New Academic Learning Center



Baehr Library Redone with Handicap Bath



Remodeled Living Room



This is a view of the hall adjacent to the Baehr Library prior to our major house remodeling. Notice the makeshift trophy display created by the men in the house. It is a shame that with over 60+ years of existence and 800+ living members and alums, we were unable to provide a proper trophy display for the men of Zeta Chapter.



The view above is the same wall show in the previous photo after major remodeling was finished. The blue tape on the wall represents glass shelf locations for displaying trophies, another creative attempt by the men in the house to show off our trophies. I felt our members deserved much better and I promised them, (when they presented this idea to the board), that if they would just hold off a while, I would do my best to get them a new trophy case within the year. I kept my promise.



I designed the new trophy case above as free standing units. In the future, the trophy display could easily be doubled in size by simply sliding out the floor cabinets, sliding the existing trophy case to one side and inserting a duplicate trophy case into the remaining space, resulting in a pair of matching cases. This was the original idea but because of the cost, this was the result.

A New Trophy Case For Zeta

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

A handsome new full size trophy case was a goal of mine for decades. The small trophy case in the living room is nice, but totally inadequate when compared to what other fraternities have in their chapter houses. Rushes have often asked the embarrassing question - "Where is your trophy case"? Not a comfortable position to be in if you have to answer the question. Lack of funds and a consistent low priority have always been the reasons for not having one. Last year I decided it was time, before I retired from the board, to see if I could conceive of a plan for a large trophy case, totally finance it with donations, and implement it. Well, as of Spring Break 2020, it has finally been built, installed, and filled with trophies and awards. (See photos on this page).

If you have read the past trophy case newsletter articles of mine, you saw the larger trophy case designs that were scrubbed due to the excessively high cost estimates from the professional cabinet shops. Everyone agreed that it would be nice to have but irresponsibly to spend that much money for a trophy case. Following that disappointment, I downsized the design, created some cabinet details, and started searching for someone - perhaps an alum, that could construct the trophy case for us.

After several failed attempts in the KC area where I live, I contacted Larry Edwards in Denver to see if he knew of any individuals we might contact. As it turned out, a retired engineer in his congregation had just built new cabinets for their remodeled church kitchen. Larry said he was very capable, so we hired him and he provided us with a superb job.

The next problem was getting the cabinet to Manhattan. Shipping was going to be difficult and expensive, so Brad Brunkow volunteered to drive to Denver to pick it up. He and his wife Susan had to drive to Denver in a bad snow storm. Then because of the heavy snow in Colorado, they stayed with Larry at his house until the roads were clear enough to head home. That got the trophy case (minus the glass doors and lighting) to Manhattan.

Larry Edwards priced the glass doors and shelves in Denver, the estimate was over \$900. That blew me away. I knew I could do better in KC, so I contacted a glass company in Overland Park I knew of and priced the same doors and shelves. The estimate was about \$300 less than the Denver price. So it was agreed we would have the doors and shelves made in Overland Park and shipped to Manhattan when done.

As it turned out, the local glass company could not ship the doors to Manhattan, so Brad once again volunteered to pick them up and take them back to Manhattan. He installed them a few days later during Spring Break. Brad's wife Susan volunteered to create the nice display within the case (see photo at left). Our thanks to you Susan for your efforts to help us complete this project.

Brad not only hauled the case and glass doors/shelves to Manhattan, but he was in charge of the installation process as well. He had to do some rewiring to provide for the case lighting. He also purchased some of the materials needed at the local Home Depot. With the installation of the glass doors and shelves, the project came to life - finally. A 30+ year old wish of mine finally came to life before my eyes and I could not be happier.

Dedication to Lowell Gordon

I have been asked why the trophy case is dedicated to Lowell Gordon. Well, Lowell was a very close lifelong friend of mine, but that is not the reason. Throughout Lowell's life - after college, he was a regular contributor to MAC - paying his annual dues almost every year plus he often gave a large donation to the chapter at his death from his life insurance.

Then about 10 - 12 years ago, we asked Lowell to become the national treasurer and he accepted and served superbly for 5 years. During his term, he suggested and later implemented significant changes to

Continued on page 7

Spring 2020 - Zeta Chapter Scholarships

By: Gary Raffety

The following scholarships were awarded to these students for the 2020 spring semester and Fall 2019. Total value of the awards is \$5,900.

Congratulations to the following Zeta Members and a special thanks to all of our alumni donors, who made these scholarships possible. Below is the list of names winning scholarships.

2020 Spring Semester Awards:

Jeffrey Reed - \$500 - Chemical Engineering - Junior - Brett Mock - KSU Foundation - Brett Mock

Dustin McDermott - \$500 - Industrial Design - Sophomore - Brett Mock - KSU Foundation - Brett Mock

Isaiah Washington - \$500 - Finance - Sophomore - Brett Mock - KSU Foundation - Brett Mock

Jacob Williams - \$500 - Architecture - Freshman - Brett Mock - KSU Foundation - Brett Mock

Jack Rottinghaus - \$700 - Industrial Engineering - Junior - Mark Torluemke - KSU Foundation - Mark Torluemke

2019 Fall Semester Awards:

(Repeated from last fall newsletter)

William Baldwin: \$350 - Open Option - Freshman First Semester - GPA - Zeta Fund

Derek Cronenwett \$350 - Business Management - Freshman - First Semester GPA - Zeta Fund

Ryan Leadley \$350 - Animal Science - Freshman - First Semester GPA - Zeta Fund

Abe Rottinghaus \$350 - Marketing - Freshman - First Semester GPA - Zeta Fund

Korey Kneisley \$500 - Political Science and History Sophomore - Outstanding Associate - Zeta Fund

Isaiah Washington \$500 - Finance - Sophomore - Outstanding Sophomore - Zeta Fund

Jeffrey Reed \$500 - Chemical Engineering - Junior - Outstanding Junior - Zeta Fund

Jeffrey Reed \$1,000 - Chemical Engineering - Junior - Phill Krug Leadership Jr / Sr - Zeta Fund

Jack Rottinghaus \$1,000 - Industrial Engineering - Junior - Phill Krug Leadership Jr / Sr - Zeta Fund

Ryan Wolters \$1,000 - Electrical Engineering - Junior - Phill Krug Leadership Jr / Sr - Zeta Fund

Five MAC Scholarship Funds Available

Currently we have 5 scholarship funds that you can donate to. Two are funded through the KSU Foundation (Brett Mock Scholarship and the Mark Torluemke Memorial Scholarship). The re-

maining three funds are funded by the BSP Scholarship Foundation's Zeta Chapter Sub-fund.

Scholarships are an asset to recruitment today, and thanks to your steady annual donations, we are now able to award scholarships on a regular basis. Just four years ago, we could not do this, so we are making positive progress. NEF donations are one thing that you all can provide just by writing a check. Nothing else is required and it does so much good. Plus - IT IS 100 PERCENT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

When can I donate?

You do not have to wait to receive a donation card to donate, you can do it any time you want. Send your checks to:

Gary Raffety
9228 W. 73rd Street
Overland Park, KS 66204

Make your check payable to:

BSP - National Educational Foundation
In the note section - add -
Zeta Sub-Fund

Need advice before donating?



If you wish to donate to the NEF Fund but need some good advice before you make up your mind about something you are unsure of, then feel free to contact current MAC Board Member, Brad Brunkow. His Cell # is - **580-716-8187** or you can email him at

b2sb@sbcglobal.net.

NEF supports more than just Scholarships.

I should remind you that your NEF donations are not used just for scholarships. They are also used to help pay for housing upgrades repairs and replacements of things that are related to scholarship.

The NEF pays 1/3rd of insurance coverage for property, fraternity directors liability insurance and worker compensation. In addition to the above uses, NEF donations also help pay for part of the annual publication costs, and our national education leadership training programs.

NEF donations are one way for every Beta Sig to help out his fraternity and at the same time help himself with a tax deductible donation to a worthy cause he personally is involved with. Why would you put others ahead of us.

Please donate to the NEF.

ANNUAL MAC DUES

The following have paid their dues (**as of 4-14-2020**). Names in red donated an additional gift with their dues. The Board wishes to thank all of you who have paid your dues. To those who have NOT - please contribute, we need your help.

Hobie Ahrens '61; **Brad Brunkow '78; Laurel Davis '85;** Harold Dorssom '58; Galen Doud '88; Jim Folkerts '62; Kent Frieling '86; Rich Haller '62; Elmer Karstensen '52; Reece Laurie '92; Leroy Luedders '55; Jerry Meng '70; **Dr. Tim Millsap '71;** Gary Raffety '62; Mark Reese '72; **Steve Schultz '62;** **Ron Wilms '78.**

As of the April 14, the total amount received for dues is \$1,600.00 and the total for additional gifts along with dues payments totals \$3,000. This adds up to a total of \$4,600 for the first quarter of the year.

Meager NEF donations to date = \$250 and Capital Fund donations = \$5,075. I hope this does not mean that we are looking at a slow year for NEF donations. Remember, these donations are very important to the National Fraternity as well as the chapter scholarship program.

To all who read this and have not donated to the NEF before or maybe just not for sometime, please consider the good you will be doing with your tax deductible donation. If you regularly donate to charity, but not to Beta Sigma Psi, why not change that this year and make your first donation the fraternity.

Your donation to the large charities is insignificant when compared to the millions that they collect annually. That same contribution to your alumni chapter or the National NEF makes a significant difference and helps members of an organization you belong to.

So, please, start your giving at home and help those that really need your help. Scholarships do help recruitment and NEF dollars do so much good at both the local and national levels.

I would also remind you that it is easy to set up gifts to the fraternity through life insurance. Also, gifts of stock or other property can sometimes help you with your battle with the IRS. Talk to your financial advisors and ask them if there are ways that you can help the fraternity while helping your self too.

New Trophy Case

Continued from page 5)

the way the National Fraternity conducts its business. He also helped to renegotiate a new Liability Insurance contract. He was able to double the coverage for the same cost plus he instituted some new methods and procedures for conducting business at the national office. After stepping down from his national post, we once again called on Lowell to help us with a serious problem we were having with the IRS - in particular, the hated IRS.

Glancing back in history, following the 2010 school year, when we had fewer than ten men living in the house and our treasury was empty, the chapter failed to make our annual payments to the IRS. I don't recall how many years that was, perhaps it was 5 or 6, but that is just my best guess.

We were looking at very substantial penalties plus many years of back taxes owed and the IRS was not playing games. The problem was extremely serious and Lowell told me privately at the outset that he didn't think we could survive this. Luckily, he pulled off one of his tax miracles that he was well known for. That one IRS deal very well may have saved our chapter from extinction.



Lowell was a licensed CPA and attorney. He was also the senior managing partner of his accounting firm. He grew the business (founded in the early 70's) from a handful of employees into the second largest privately owned accounting firm in Colorado, with offices scattered

throughout the state. Lowell also had an impressive career-long record of successful dealings with the IRS. He was proud to say that in all of his hundreds of audits and reviews he had with the IRS, he NEVER LOST a case to them. In fact the IRS hated Lowell because he consistently whipped their pants off.

Well that expertise and experience was just what we needed to resolve the ongoing IRS matter. Lowell pulled off his miracle and was able to negotiate an agreement with the IRS that forgave all of the penalties, (many thousands of dollars worth) plus setting up a workable schedule for us to repay the back taxes. This was truly a chapter saving effort on Lowell's part.

Lowell is certainly not the only MAC alum to be a dedicated and loyal alum. We have had many alums who dedicated themselves to MAC, donating money and time to the chapter, but none have done any more than Lowell and few added such timely and important contributions as Lowell. I just felt Lowell's dedicated service to Beta Sig National and Zeta Chapter deserved special recognition and suggested we dedicate the new trophy case to him.

As you all know, Lowell passed away last July from a long illness, several months before this project was



started. So, unfortunately, Lowell never knew anything about this dedication to his memory. He was a big supporter of the trophy case idea and told me many times that he would be a major contributor if I could make it happen. I just wish it could have happened while he was still alive.

Donors and Contributors

This magnificent trophy case, this special project of mine, would never have become a reality without the generous donations from the following alums.

DONORS: Mike Dove '71; Larry Edwards '55; Dr. Howard Erickson '56; Jim Folkerts '62, Sandra Gordon (widow of Lowell Gordon, to whom the trophy case is dedicated); Richard Haller '62; Dr. Tim Millsap '71; Larry Nelson '60; Jim Schoenbeck '63.

OTHER CREDITS:

Brad & Susan Brunkow - Purchasing materials, Transporting Case, Installation and Trophy Case Display.

Larry Edwards - Finding cabinet maker, Denver Coordinator.

Mike Unger - Lighting consultant.

Gary Raffety - Trophy Case Design, Promoter, Fund Solicitor, and Project Coordinator

Alfred Herzl - Our Denver cabinet builder.

The total cost for the completed trophy case has not been totaled up yet, but it was right at \$6,000, about \$10,000 - \$12,000 less than our cabinet shop estimates for the larger trophy case design.

I hope that all of you will visit the chapter house next fall if you are in town for a game and view the new trophy case plus the many other upgrades we have completed throughout the chapter house.

Thanks to all your generous donations to the recently ended, but successful Capital Fund Drive, we were able to complete most of the badly needed upgrades, but unfortunately, we still have unfinished work to do, so please continue to support the alumni chapter.

Board Of Directors Election

Each fall we are required to elect two members to the MAC Board of Directors. This year Rick Reed is retiring (his term expires at the end of 2020). He has accepted a job offer out of the area and will be moving away from Manhattan.

Alan Barraza, currently a special 1 year appointee of the president, is going to run for Rick Reed's Director seat, a 3 year term. Alan (Class of '09), is currently employed as a nuclear engineer at the Wolf Creek Generating Station near Burlington, KS. He is a former Zeta Chapter President.

If you would like to write in a candidate, you may do so on the form below, or simply send your candidate's name(s) to me by email or the form below.. (see box at bottom of column).

You may send in your vote at any time between now and the 30th of November, at which time the polls are closed. To vote, you can email Gary Raffety with your vote or cut out the ballot below and mail it to me at my address:(see my addresses below).

You must vote for two candidates.

Please cast your vote for 2 candidates.

Brad Brunkow '78

Brad is a retired V.P. From ConocoPhillips Oil Co. and is living in Manhattan. He attends most weekly chapter meetings and also consults as a financial planning. He is running for his first full term on the board after replacing Ben Walter in 2018

Ballot



Check box -- ☐

Alan Barraza '09

Alan is a Nuclear Engr. employed at the Wolf Creek Generating Station near Burlington, KS. He is running for the seat being vacated by current member Rick Reed, who is relocating to a new job out of the area.



WRITE IN CANDIDATE: below

First and last name

To Cast Your Vote:

Email Gary at: Manhattanalumni@kc.rr.com

Or - Mail ballot to: **Gary Raffety**
9228 W. 73rd Street
Overland Park, KS 66204

Coronavirus Pandemic's Impact on Greek Life and Higher Education

BY: Rudy Ristich - National Fraternity President

The coronavirus pandemic is the greatest challenge facing Greek life and higher education since the Second World War, this opinion is unanimous across the fraternity industry. All of our chapters and advisors are currently navigating uncharted waters. All of the men in our chapters are continuing or closing out their college experience virtually. Most have physically left their campus.

The main unanswered question at this point is: are colleges able to return to safely offering classes on campus in the fall? There are talks that the virus could mutate and make a resurgence later in the year.

Universities will be doing everything in their power to safely offer classes in the traditional on campus format as housing fees typically are used to fund much more than just dorm operations and service staff. There are major deposit deadlines coming up in May which will be a bell weather indicator of enrollments in an era where demographics predict drops in overall college attendance across the midwest through to at least 2025.

Some are predicting that some out-of-state students may transfer to local institutions to be closer to home if there is a resurgence, some families may also choose to pursue distance learning options rather than risk a return to a campus environment.

What does this mean for chapters? Much is changing now and will remain changed when we find and reach the new normal. Our men are already shifting their recruiting efforts to establish relationships over digital meetings like Zoom.

Although Beta Sig is not as dependent upon the macro level enrollments to meet recruitment goals, it is important they add these communications platforms to their toolbox. Recruitment will start earlier and bids offered and accepted with less in person contact than ever before.

Health and safety has been a key focus for the past half decade but following the pandemic, parents will have higher expectations about how the facilities are cleaned and disinfected.

Protocols will need to be established and followed with respect to handling chapter members that fall ill. Several of the house parents and staff at our chapters are in a ele-

vated risk group so it is especially important for them that the men follow protocols. Food service options will likely have to change also as the common buffet style meal can pose a new risk.



Rudy Ristich - Nat. President

Advisors and alumni boards can be sure to continue to keep up communications about what is happening in the chapter to alumni. Most importantly, they can be further fostering and building community among the brothers they know by taking time to reach out and do wellness checks. While some people are perfectly fine on their own, others could be struggling with isolation and the additional stress it puts on physical and mental health.

Nationally, the staff and board are increasing our virtual touch points with the chapters to ensure they are doing the right things to preserve chapter continuity and are able to hit the ground running when a safe return to campus occurs.

The economic situation will likely have an impact on the way we deliver programming in the immediate future. A significant amount of funding for programming comes through the Educational Foundation and the working capital is derived from investment returns which are suffering on account of the economic slowdown. We have postponed our regular summer development programs and are considering options for virtual delivery.

The office does not qualify as an essential business in the state of Illinois and as such routine work and deposits of donations have abruptly stopped and will likely not resume until May at the soonest. Some of the adjusted modes of operations will become the new normal when we exit this crisis.

Educational Fund Donations Are Needed Now More than Ever

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

If you read the adjacent article (at left) you will see that the future of our fraternity is likely to be changed due to economic factors at the national level. As Rudy stated in his article:

"A significant amount of funding for programming comes through the Educational Foundation and the working capital is derived from investment returns which are suffering on account of the economic slowdown".

Most of you I am sure look for ways to reduce your taxes at year's end and I am asking that you seriously consider donating **MORE** to the NEF, especially for this year and next. In fact, it would be really great if many more of you started donating to our fund as opposed to the many other charities out there. I am sure that they do many good things, but the future of our fraternity is at stake here and we need you to show your support and loyalty to US!

It is important that we continue to grow NEF Fund as we are not only using it for portions of our publications expense, but also for chapter scholarships and now more than ever, national educational programs.

The virus pandemic could cause us to make permanent changes (hopefully not) to our educational programs and if we are forced to do this, funds from the NEA will be needed more than ever.

Our investments have done better than most over the past many years and are only down now because of the coronavirus affects on the general economy.

I believe that President Trump and his financial team will restore the national economy to it's previous all time highs and things will get back on an even keel. When this happens, our investments will also recover.

I guess what I am saying is it is time that more of our brothers put our fraternity ahead of the many national charities that get millions of dollars anyway. I doubt if they will miss your contributions, but our much smaller NEF fund will definitely be enhanced by your donations.

2020 Summer Projects

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

Front Terrace Brick Wall Repair

Zeta Chapter House is now closed and will be at least until next fall. Brad Brunkow, current board member and Manhattan resident, has volunteered to fix the low damaged brick wall that runs along the front terrace. Time has damaged some of the wall cap bricks and much of the mortar within the wall has weathered away.

Over the years, there has been some erosion of the mortar, some cracked bricks, and missing mortar. **Brad has volunteered to do the work and is providing the materials so this will be a no cost improvement.** The mortar grind out is already completed.



Landscape improvements

Brad contacted a local nursery and requested estimates to install a sprinkler system for the front yard and complete reseeding of the front yard - from the parking lot to the east side yard.

Also included in the estimate is some edging around proposed planting beds, mulch, and some tree removal. **(projected cost = \$11,000).**

Dining Room Improvements

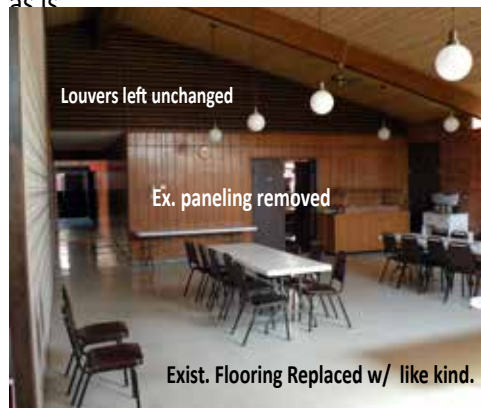
The dining room is one of the most used rooms in the house and it shows. The flooring

is badly worn, dirty, pockmarked and needs replacing. The plan is to replace the existing flooring with the same flooring material so as to maintain the original look and to get a long serviceable floor at minimum cost. **(Estimate to replace dining room flooring - \$6,000).**



The North Wall Of Dining Room

The north wall of the dining room was supposed to have been completed last summer but was not due to lack of funds. So this summer we will remove the existing dark wood panels and replace with sheet rock. The wood louvers above the wall will not be touched. They will remain as is.



The estimated cost to complete the proposed dining room north wall is \$1,000. At some point, we may also have to replace the shutters on the south windows in the dining and living rooms. We still have much to do and we cannot get it done without the help of the alumni.

Other Interior Projects

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

Ceiling Tiles Need Replacing

Ceiling Tiles in the recreation room and the hallways all need replacing. The photos below show the poor condition. The ceiling lights in the recreation room also need to be replaced and upgraded.

There have been discussions about replacing the hall door at the entrance into the recreation room. I am not sure the decision has been made to definitely do that, but I think we definitely should.



Kitchen Badly Needs Remodeling

Our kitchen is now over 50 years old. We have replaced appliances several times since the house was completed in 1964. The floor, ceiling, cabinets, sinks, work counter and lighting all need to be replaced and upgraded. This will not be cheap but it is something that we need to do.

AC Condenser Units

Thanks to an ongoing service agreement to have our units serviced once a year, we have extended the life of our units by many years now. Unfortunately, one of these days, they are going to start failing and we will have to replace them. Don Kaiser, our past Treasurer, estimated that it would cost over \$100,000 about 6 years ago. So, we not only need funds to complete the improvements, but we also need to create and build-up an emergency fund. We also need to repay our debt to Dr. Larry Erickson who transferred our loans to the NEF Fund. We owe about \$250,000 to that commitment. WE need your help to complete all of these necessary projects.

THE COVID – 19 PANDEMIC & BETA SIGMA PSI

By: Larry Edwards - Past National President

Much of this special newsletter is devoted to the Pandemic, now infecting citizens in 184 countries worldwide and with few signs of abatement in larger metropolitan areas. Reading the articles from Laurel Davis, and Gary Raffety on page one, plus National President Rudy Ristich's article on page eight, clearly paints a picture of future headaches for both our National Fraternity and Zeta chapter.



Clearly, it is time once again for our alumni to step up and help our chapter through this current crisis. There is a serious need to raise a minimum of \$50,000 to meet our current needs.

The last Pandemic in the US was in 1917 and it was called the Spanish Influenza. It killed 600,000 Americans and an estimated 50,000,000 people worldwide. I don't think many – if any – of our current Beta Sig Community was around during that horrible time. So, for most people alive today, this is a very unique time for all of us in the United States.

This is also a special time, the likes of which have never been witnessed before, for our Universities and college organizations, such as the fraternities. Schools are now closed throughout the country and all organizations have been banned from meetings. People are encouraged to stay home and not mingle with others.

The death toll continues to grow and it is not just from the deaths of the old and infirmed like me. Think of the Colorado Mesa University Ball Player in Grand Junction, CO, who was only 21 and in very good shape. He died of the virus.

What can Zeta Chapter Alumni do to help?

K-State will begin classes this August or September. And guess what, there will no doubt be a substantial increase in tuition and dormitory room and board. Why? The costs of higher education continue to rise, with the huge numbers of over-paid administrators and their costly building programs.

Interest on the bonds used to finance all of the new construction, plus all of the other rising costs, are being passed on to a rapidly declining student body. Call it big government, socialism, or just bureaucracy, but it is real.

Before these future anticipated increases become a reality, why is it that my Grandson can attend KSU, join Beta Sigma Psi and pay \$500 less per semester than he can to live in one of the oldest dormitories on campus. Yes, it is a fact, fraternities are still very relevant to an undergrad's development outside of the classroom. However, if you read KSU's interpretation of why a person should live and eat in the campus dorm and make life- long friendships, you will soon determine what a bunch of crap you are being fed.

Things to consider:

1. Did you ever hear of large numbers of graduates from the university dormitories coming back for homecoming? I doubt it. In a dorm, close, life-long friendships, usually means 2 or 3 others, if even that. Dormitory life does not begin to compare to fraternity life for those that know the difference.

2. We have a Chapter House with a super location - it is separated from the campus by only one sorority house. We offer a lifestyle that is much closer to a normal home life than what you get in a sterile institutionalized dormitory.

3. Our current Chapter House is now valued at about \$2,500,000 plus. It is still as modern and relevant today as the newest fraternity houses on campus, and yet it is now over 54 years old. That speaks volumes about our Architect and founding member – **Dale Meyer**, who produced a small miracle for us when he designed our house. Our house is as structurally sound today as it was the day we moved in.

4. We have put a lot of money into Capital improvements and yet we still have over \$50,000 (minimum) in repairs and upgrades left on our priority list that were not completed during the capital fund campaign. This amount does not include our extensive obligations to the NEF in promised pledges to repay debts owed to Dr. Larry Erickson, former Faculty Advisor for decades.

Even with the hundreds of thousands of dollars raised and spent on the upgrades, we fell short of completing our priorities, to a large extent because of an inflated construction market in Manhattan, caused by the huge amount of KSU construction!

Now is the time to consider the plea from Laurel and Gary!. We need to raise monies to meet our needs and the prioritized capital needs developed by the MAC Board of Directors.

Donations:

We need a lot of substantial donations to help reach the \$50,000 minimal goal needed to meet our immediate needs. I am going to personally contribute \$500.00. Won't you please look at your current financial situation and make a commitment to send in a sizable donation.

Send your donations to:

Gary Raffety,
9228 W. 73rd Street,
Overland Park, KS 66204.

Make your checks payable to:

BSP - Manhattan Alumni Chapter

Recruitment:

We need every Alum out recruiting for the chapter this Fall, and every fall, so that we have a full house for next year and for future years as well.

Faternally,
Larry Edwards 55'

Bad or Missing Emails a Big Problem

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

We have an on going problem with many of our alums because of bad or missing emails. I have attempted several times to get updates from all alums with bad emails but the response has been poor to say the least. It only takes a minute or two to contact us with a new email, cell # and address - if you have moved recently, so why do not reply?

I recently sent out an email about the coronavirus and the following individuals (see list below) - who have emails in our MAC data base - had their message returned for various reasons. Most messages indicated that the email address was no longer valid.

If you don't want to hear from us, then send me a message and I will remove you from our contact list. If you want to remain on the list, then PLEASE SEND A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS! The alums that had their emails returned are listed below.

Abel, Trevor jessie_abel@yahoo.com; Acker, Erik erikacker@yahoo.com; Bader D.V.M, Dean Dean@DeanBaderD-VM.com; Bandy, Adam bandomatic@hotmail.com; Bargmann, Terry t022053@aol.com; Beal, Joshua joshbeal@indyc.com; Bluhm, Vernon vernon.bluhm@yahoo.com; Bodenschatz, David dnrhode@aol.com; Borgstadter, Darin Dborgstadter@ymca.org; Boye, Noel boyen13@hotmail.com; Bruning, Brett brehaha24@hotmail.com; Burkman, Galen burkman@yahoo.com; Calvert, James calvert@ksu.edu; Carlisle, Taran taran@ksu.edu; Chaput, Scott schris-topherc@netscape.net; Christie, Robert rchristie@henderson-lyman.com; Clobes, Donald donaldclobes@latin-mail.com; Cook, Jeffrey jeff.cook@centurytel.net; Deschner, Bruce bdeschner@dcs.topeka.com; Dowlin, Marin adri-avvv@aol.com; Duff, Jordan jordan.duff@aol.com; Ehmk, Layton lehmk40@yahoo.com; Froberg, Daniel daniel.froberg@aol.com; Germer, Robert regermer@landolakes.com; Gieschen, Rev. David dwgieschen@connect.net; Grunewald, Travis travisgrunewald@yahoo.com; Hansen, Craig craig.hansen@kstope.ang.af.mil; Hanson, Matt mphanson@ksu.edu; Harrison, Dr. Mark mjh7749@yahoo.com; Jacobs, Nathannate nathannate3580@yahoo.com; Jorns, James Walker Jjorns@H&Rblock.com; Jorns, Mark markjorns@yahoo.com; Kobylinski, Willia kobo-antahobo77@yahoo.com; Kolterman, Daniel dan.kolterman@usda.gov; Lawrence, Dr. Layle llawrenc@wvu.edu; Lindquist, Wesley wilndq1@hotmail.com; Manke, Alan alanmanke@yahoo.com; Little, Bruce brucelittle@cox.net; Lovseth, Tyler Tyler236@ksu.edu; Mann, Scott; s.mann@mannlawoffices.com; Mellring, Paul paulmellring@yahoo.com; Mignot, Vaughn vmignot@yahoo.com; Miller, Timothy milltd@yahoo.com; O'Connor, Patrick ppatrick@ksu.edu; Peters, Bruce bpeters@inav.net; Plaike, Kyle krplaike@yahoo.com; Plumer, Andrew imaral@enterprise.navy.mil; Puls, Stuart lokinha2003@aol.com; Ramsey, Blake blakeramsey@cs.com; Ringwald, Chris digomaniaco@aol.com; Saenger, Fred cmianiesp31@aol.com; Scheller, Melvin gmscheller@cableone.com; Schoenthaler, Terry terryschoenthaler@yahoo.com; Schmidt, Alan marshall.schmidt@yahoo.com; Scott, William wscott4474@yahoo.com; Shank, Glen braulioserra@aol.com; Shandy, Matt mrshandy@k-state.edu; Svaty, Howard dasilvaped@aol.com; Thorson, John johnthorson@yahoo.com; Tryon, Tyler whiterabbit@ksu.edu; Turnquist, Travis cowboytyty@aol.com; Valenti III, Joseph joseph23@ksu.edu; Watkins, Aaron aaron1gn@yahoo.com; Weber, Nick nweber@k-state.edu; Weber, Troy ebch1953@aol.com; White, David white.dc@aol.com; White, Verlyn verlyn.white@behlenedg.com; Wilson, Tim twilson@usd237.k12.k.us;

Zeta Chapter's Landscape Status is a Disaster

BY: Gary Raffety

I was in school when the current chapter house was brand new. I was also a fellow Landscape Architecture classmate of the student working part time for the Blue Hills Nursery that designed our original landscape plan. In fact, he gave me a copy of the plans which I kept for many years until they destroyed by water damage while stored in the basement of our Lenexa home some years ago.

What I remember of that original plan is that there were just a few shrubs in the front yard, a few on the east side, still fewer on the west side, and maybe a 3 or 4 trees total. The white birch is the only remaining tree from the original plan.

If you look at the photos on this page, you will see that we have almost NO landscaping left at all. These photos are about 5 years old

or more and many of the plants that you see in these photos have since been removed.

There is an old saying that "If it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all. Well, I think that saying kind of applies here. If it weren't for our "poor and lightly scattered ('here and there') landscaping, we would no landscape at all.

These photos clearly show just how bad our yard really looks and it got worse after these photos were taken. Two years ago, the grass in the front lawn died out and we've had dead grass and weeds for the past year or two. Not a pretty picture.

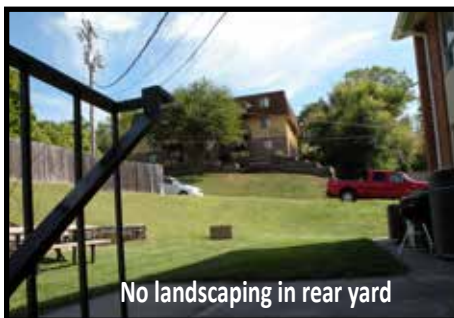
It will require a substantial investment to create a pleasing landscape. We need to raise money to do just that. We estimated about 8 years ago that it would take \$80,000 to get

the job done. That was before we lost the lawn and the balance of our shrubs and last ornamental tree in front.

So, we still need to complete the interior upgrades and then we have to concentrate on the outside appearance of our property.

Our sorority neighbors across the street south, the Theta's, have dressed up their yard and it really looks nice, especially from the front and south sides. The Kappa Delta house to our west also looks nice and well maintained. We are definitely outclassed.

We need to become good neighbors and dress up our property as well. Right now we are the neighborhood eyesore. I would imagine the parents of prospective members must notice this as well. We need your donations to do a job that never has really been done right. And as always, we can chalk it up to a lack of funds.



Gary Raffety
9228 W. 73rd Street
Merriam, KS 66204

First Class Presort
US Postage Paid
Mail Works

Manhattan Alumni Newsletter - Spring 2020

Beta Sigma Psi National Fraternity - Zeta Chapter

Manhattan Alumni Board Directory

PERSONAL DATA

President

Laurel Davis '85
320 Pinecrest Place
Andover, KS 67002
316-733-0045
IRun4fun123@aol.com
(Term Expires: 2021)

Vice President

Mike Unger '86
4437 Pennsylvania Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-838-2823
mikeU02@yahoo.com
(Term Expires: 2019)

Secretary

Gary Raffety '62
9228 W. 73rd
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204
913-831-3842
theraffis@kc.rr.com
(Term Expires: 2019 - special
appointment for 1 year term.)

Treasurer

Andrew Bowman '08
6320 W 81st St.
Overland Park, KS 66204
316-207-6991
AJBowman.ksu@gmail.
(Term Expires: 2019)

Director

Brady Hoffman '12
1879 190th Rd.
Wathena, KS 66090
816-344-9999
brady.a.hoffman@gmail.com
(Term Expires: 2021)

Director

Rick Reed '07
No longer on board
Moved to Tennessee
as of March. Position
now open.

Director

Brad Brunkow '78
2024 Rockhill Circle
Manhattan, KS 66502
580-716-8187
b2sb@sbcglobal.net
(Term Expires - 2020)

Director

Alan Barraza '09
418 Niagra
Ottawa, KS 67067
Cell# - 913-961-3836
alanjb64@gmail.com
(Term Expires: end 2020 - special
appointment for 1 year term.)

UPDATE PERSONAL DATA NOW ON THE MAC WEBSITE.

Recently we hired a consultant to help us update our website so we could join the rest of the world with an informative and up to date looking web site.

Part of the important remodeling we set out to accomplish was to set up a personal data page that will allow you to update your personal information for the master date base. To Update, go to the Alumni Tab, click on the tab and go to "Update Information". A form will appear that will allow you to type in your data.

You can update your address, city, state, zip code, phone, and email by simply filling in the form. It only takes a few minutes and it will help us keep the master data base current, which is the life blood of any organization.

Please go to the website and submit your current information even if you have not moved. You may not have a current phone number or email in the data base, even though you are receiving mail from us. This would be a very big help to us.