



FarmHouse Focus

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Fall Assoc. Meeting Minutes 2
- Spring Planning Meeting Minutes 3
- Spring Update from Billy Butler 4
- What's Coming Up 5
- Alumni News Notes 5

Have You Signed Up For the Contingency Fund?

As reported in an earlier issue of the "FarmHouse Focus" the Mississippi State FarmHouse Alumni Association has restarted the Contingency Fund to help pay for costs that may occur in the future such as air conditioner maintenance, house repair or other unforeseen occurrences.

Since October, we have already raised over \$500 with one-time donations and monthly subscriptions from Alumni, and we have utilized this fund to help defray costs involved with maintenance in the chapter house already. However, at the recent Alumni Association Planning

meeting, it was noted that many people still were not aware, or were unsure how to sign up / donate.

We are hoping you will consider signing up for a monthly donation of \$10, that will automatically be drafted from your account. This is a small amount, akin to a lunchtime meal for many of us, but will mean a great deal to the chapter and to the Association as a whole as we deal with a house that is aging rapidly.

All you have to do is sign-in to the chapter website: www.fhmsu.org, and click on the "Alumni" tab at the top. You will have two choices, a

one time donation or the monthly subscription that is administered securely through PayPal.

As seen in the image below, if you click on the "subscribe" button, you will be directed through a series of steps that will allow you to have the payments set up automatically to draft at the 1st of each month.



Its easy to do, and I know for me, it's a simple way to give back to FarmHouse. Let the chapter know if you have any questions or concerns. We hope to be sending out a letter to all alumni to let them know about this opportunity, so spread the word!

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PayPal, Inc. (US) <https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr>

Mississippi FarmHouse Foundation Council

Billing Information  

* Required

Subscription To	Terms	Amount
Contingency Fund Montly Donation	\$10.00 USD for each month	\$10.00 USD

Select Payment Type

Signing up for a PayPal account will be required to complete this purchase.

PayPal Pay fast with PayPal. It's free and private. [Learn more](#)

No PayPal account? Use your credit card or bank account (where available).

Done www.paypal.com

Minutes of the Fall Association Meeting



An initiation ceremony for John and Mikey was conducted beginning at 10:10am. At the conclusion of the ceremony, and a brief meet and greet, the fall association meeting was called to order at 10:45 am. Robert Graham, VP for the Association presided in the absence of President Richard Strachan. 20 alumni were in attendance. After the recitation of the object, a scripture passage by Mikey, and an introduction of pledges, actives and alumni, business was started.

The chapter President, Alon Blakeney gave the first report:

- Recruitment has been on going. They have two pledges for the Fall.
- Bathroom needs major repair. The floor is rotted and the urinal is broken. The faucet in the back is still leaking. The hot water heater holding tank is rusting inside. Bret Howell did some repair work in the bathroom over the summer.
- A report was given on Mrs. Searcy. She suffered a heart attack early in the semester and went Monday to have open bypass surgery, and is doing well and recovering at home. She has continued to be paid over the semester while she has been ill; however, she still needs financial help.
- 16 men are living in the house, and 2 are pledging
- The chapter is still soliciting names for the spring and fall semester of next year for pledges

The chapter treasurer's report was given by Financial Association Board Member James Williams

- applauded the chapter for keeping within budget, and supporting Mrs. Searcy
- the house has paid the full rent to the Association.

Myles Carpenter, Association Treasurer, gave the next report.

Old Business

- Work day went well. Ended up having 2 days in the summer
- Eric and Ryan Paulk, with the help of Brian McCann and Frank Lovell have put the contingency fund online now through the chapter website: fhmsu.org.
- Myles Carpenter received the Master Builder award at the Lubbock Conclave in August

New Business

- Mrs. Searcy's situation was discussed. The chapter is continuing to pay her in her absence
 - Concerns were made that the men are not getting the 9 meals they are paying for due to a cook not being available
 - Alumni agreed to start covering her paycheck instead of the chapter
- Repair work at house
 - Jimmy Shirley moved that Greg Flint gets a quote on repair of the bathroom; **[PASSED]**
 - Discussion covered the issue of taking on another loan; looking into other ways of getting money (rural development); getting more men in the house
 - Perhaps the January planning meeting needs to focus on capitol improvements
 - Ross Loftin restated concerns of a lack of members and the view that the poor bathroom and carpet (perhaps we should pull it up and score the floor)
- The January planning meeting was set for Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 10am.
 - Home basketball game against Vanderbilt at 7pm
 - Will Gilmer moved that Association board should have a priority list of things that need to be done around the house for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at: 12:13 p.m.

Lunch was provided by Mrs. Tucker for the men assembled and their families.

Minutes of the Spring Association Planning Meeting

Meeting started at: 10:06 a.m.

Minutes of the Fall meeting were accepted as circulated without corrections.

Introductions of pledges (Rico and Mark), actives and alums (

- 12 alums, 11 chapter members present

Chapter Presidents report

- Leadership academy was a success, got goals set for the semester (6 pledges, meet one person a day)
- Water heater was replaced late in the fall semester
- 17 men in the house
- Fence needs work
- Bathroom needs major repair as well (wall, urinal, washing machine [one went out])

Chapter Treasurer's Report

- No rent has been paid to assoc. treasurer (due by Feb 2, 2009)

Assoc. Treasurer Report

- Feb mortgage is ok, bills are paid
- Property Insurance in March
- Hot Water heater (to Martin Wilson)

Chapter Advisor Report

- Grade report from the fall was not very good, hope is that spring will see improvement
- Searcy has returned as of the start of the Spring semester
- Card needs to be sent to dining services coordinator (Andrew Besard) for fall meals

Contingency Report

- 4 alums have signed up for monthly donations so far

Assoc. President

- Housemother would be good to have again at some point
- If house increases number significantly, an assistant cook may also be needed
- Allison has asked to help fund the leadership conference in January of each year
 - \$1,200 is a full ride to the Lead Academy for all 3 +1 of members
- Dining Room air conditioner and a few rooms are still in bad shape

New Business

- Nominating Committee (Billy Butler, Bruce Royce, Steven Pannell) for elections **[PASSED]**
 - VP – Robert Graham, Treas. – Myles Carpenter, Events Planning – Jessie Cornelius, Finance – James Williams, and Fund Raising – Pete Weisenberger
- Billy Butler will solicit three bids for repair of the bathroom from professional contractors. At a later date, the Building and Grounds Committee (under direction of Dan Fox) will be tasked to find a professional building inspector to inspect the house and determine issues and repairs to be done and report back to the Association at Founder's Day. Up to \$800 can be allocated to cover cost of the inspection, to be pulled from the Contingency fund first. **[PASSED]**
- Brian McCann will ask Bob Off about a plaque or recognition of the interest group/colony members that did not officially become charter members **[PASSED]**
- Billy will look into getting a fund raiser together (fish fry) for the Association. **[PASSED]**
- A good deal of discussion centered around the state of the house, the repairs and future repairs that will be needed and funding (explore repairing fence this spring). Urinals and wall will be looked at for repairs before founder's day (Billy Butler).

Meeting Adjourned at: 11:36 a.m.



Spring Update from Billy Butler

I'd like to report that since the first chapter meeting of the spring semester, I have been excited to see the motivation around the table with most of the active chapter. They returned from the Annual Farm-House Leadership Academy in Kansas City in January, where apparently they had learned about some rush techniques.

I have watched as they have set goals for the semester, and was pleased that Alon (the chapter president) made a comment during the meeting that "More quality guys in the house will fix most of our problems". I agree with this statement whole heartedly. The chapter has set a rush goal of six pledges for the semester, a House GPA goal of 3.0, philanthropy and charity goals, improved alumni relations, and not to swear in the social quarters of the house. So they have a mutual direction.

Many of you have asked about Searcy. She returned to the kitchen at the start of the semester on light duty. She says she is doing well and the guys are making sure she doesn't over exert herself. She spends most of the day organizing the kitchen.

At the association planning meeting recently, we talked about house repairs. I am going to handle a few of the issues right away because we don't need to wait. I will get the guys in the house to help me. The bathroom was one of the main top-

ics. I would like to have most of this completed by Founder's Day.

Below are the target areas that I think we should focus on and what is in play:

Bathroom(s):

- Wall around urinal needs to be torn out and replaced – *Alumni/Active Workday*
- Toilet will not flush/line blocked – *Roto Rooter comes 1st week in Feb to clean out the lines. I estimate this will run around \$350.*
- Urinal does not Drain/Seal and diaphragm need to be replaced on valve – *Roto Rooter comes 1st week in Feb, and I have found parts for the valve assembly we can repair that on the A/A Workday .*
- Shower – water line leaks in wall – *A/A Workday*
- Toilet in women's bathroom has a cracked tank – out of service – *I don't want to wait for this one, I will take measures to get this fixed ASAP*
- Bathroom needs to have some drywall replaced – *A/A Workday*
- Needs to be painted – *A/A Workday*
- Fans in Bathroom do not work, need to be replaced to get moisture out – *A/A Workday, Any electricians want to*

volunteer?

Kitchen:

- Drain on sinks slow – *Roto Rooter comes 1st week in Feb*
- Would like to install a disposal on one of the sink drains
- On the Wish List would help from food going into the drains. \$150

Backyard:

- Fence needs to be repaired I am going to walk the fence and write a list of materials for this. I would like to make it a workday project – *A/A Workday*
- Pressure Wash Deck/Thompson Waterseal everything – *A/A Workday*

Hallway:

- Need to talk about replacing carpet down the hall. New Carpet or Ceramic Tile? – *Wish List to be talked about at Assn Meeting*

Dining Room:

- I would like to see the floor stripped and waxed – *Wish List to be talked about at Assn Meeting*

If you would like to pitch in with time or money, email or call me back at billy_butler@yahoo.com, or 662-523-3720. I will make sure to plug you in.

What's Coming Up

Be sure to mark the following on your calendar:

February 27 — Mid Term Grades Reported

March 16-20 — Spring Break at MSU

April 18 — Spring Association Meeting in conjunction with Super Bulldog Weekend (10:00 am at the house, arrive at 9:00 am for refreshments)

April 10 — Easter Holiday

Apr 27 - May 1 — Final Exams

May 2 — Graduation Ceremonies

August 17 — Fall Classes Begin

Oct 10 — Homecoming at MSU against Houston. The Fall Association Meeting will be held at the house starting at 10:00 am. [TENATIVE DATE]

Faith

Ambition

Reverence

Morality

Honesty

Obedience

Unity

Service

Excellence

Alumni News Notes

1998

Billy Butler is engaged to be married later this fall. He will be having the ceremony on campus at the Chapel of memories.

serve a two-year term (beginning this spring) on the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. He was also featured in a recent article in the Huffington Post concerning Broadband Internet availability in rural areas: [http://](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/art-brodsky/broadband-bullies-shouldn_b_156427.html)

www.huffingtonpost.com/art-brodsky/broadband-bullies-shouldn_b_156427.html

1999

Will Gilmer was appointed to

Alumni Change of Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Please Return To:
FarmHouse Fraternity
Mississippi State Chapter
P.O. Box 6344
Mississippi State, MS 39762



Spring 2009 Members and Officers		
Alon Blakeney	President	Taylorsville, MS
Mikey Jankovic	VP - Finance & Chaplain	Marietta, GA
John Anthony	VP - Recruitment & Director of Risk Management	Water Valley, MS
Jeffrey Garner	Dir. of New Member Education & Intramurals Chairman	Bay Springs, MS
Matthew Berry	Dir. of Alumni Relations & Chairs of Community Service & Philanthropy	Raymond, MS
Ryan Tucker	Director of Administration, House Operations & Kitchen Manager	Hamilton, MS
Joseph Wilson	Social & Brotherhood Chair and Director of Total Mem. Education	Hamilton, MS
Keith Barlow		Meridian, MS
Brian Bullock		Clinton, MS
Coleman Crigler		Starkville, MS
Carson Dickenson		Patuxent River, MD
Steven Loftin		Redbanks, MS
Tyler Roberts		Water Valley, MS
Ben Wait		Etta, MS
Daniel Wilson		Hamilton, MS
Rico Hernandez*		Greenville, MS
Stephen Hoffman*		Collierville, TN
Mark Matthews*		Austin, TX
Billy Butler	Advisor	
Daniel Fox	Senior Advisor	
Greg Flint	Advisor	
Dr. Brian McCann	Faculty Advisor	
Bruce Royce	Advisor	

* Pledge

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