

The Key to house survival is that the entire chapter understands the privilege and significance of a Chapter house. I am sure there are many chapters out there who would kill to have that house and it is really frustrating when we lose them because members don't want to live in...

Why this happens:

1. The chapter creates a culture that the house is the party place and becomes the environment that that is what the house looks like.
2. Everyone loves to go there, but no one wants to live in the filth and the non-environment when they need it to do well in school.
3. The chapter doesn't establish a policy from the get go...from the time you join the chapter!

How to stop this!

1. Establish a section in your bylaws on Housing. And state something along the lines about housing priority and housing order.
2. State a policy of determining who lives in the houses once those that want to live in the house are established! I suggest creating a lottery system.

Prior: Have each member sign Housing Contract at the beginning of their pledging. This states the chapter's commitment to the chapter facility, its value...what it represents...and their commitment to those things stated in your bylaws...

Lottery system... each man is given a scroll number #... if you do not fill the house... all members agree to put their scroll in the lottery and those drawn to fill the empty beds commit to living in the house.

Suggestions: If you really look at the long term survival of your house/facility... you need to look beyond your four years. as it really sucks to come back at homecoming ...two years after you graduate to find they lost the house and you have no where to park your butt and chat with your old college buddies.

I am sure there are a few chapters out there who can share this misfortune and how it demotivates the chapter and the alumni...

SO! THINK BEYOND YOURSELVES! How?

Seniors down should live in the house! Why? These are the major influences and role models you want in your chapter! Put them in the middle of the activity and I am sure you will find that the house is not allowed to be a "barn" It should be a privilege to live in the house and all members can't wait till they earn the right...

Room selection: Don't make it a scroll thing. we can think of many fraters who have higher scroll who don't carry their weight other than in times when it is time to get first pick.. Make the Room Selection based on merit...

Such as...

Highest GPA... Most improved... most involved on campus...Officers. Or held a jeweled office... TEKE of the year...

Remember... Not for Rank or Honor...but for personal worth and character!

So... give this based on personal worth and character! And I think those examples given are those...

House management... has them living... (House manager) have them co... Chosen by the BOA and the Chapter... have them report to the BOA and have them some authority in regards to chapter house...

This also gives the BOA some feeling to be a BOA... if you have house issues... such as violations of house policy... if the MQB can't handle it... ask them to attend the next BOA meeting and explain their issues of non compliance to the alumni..

Fraters... the amount of work and energy it takes to acquire, run and maintain a chapter house that is also a good environment and a chapter priority is a ongoing challenge..

Those in your chapter that worked hard to get that house... those that fixed it up... don't want to see it lost because so many guys were so selfish in ..Or the men didn't want the chapter house to be kept in a condition that the seniors wanted to live there... you might as well just take those old pictures off the walls and treat them badly... as you are creating your own destruction!

-Frater Stuart Umberger