



Spring 2017 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Spring 2017 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY November 27th at 11:59 PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to president.apouse@gmail.com and cc webmaster.apouse@gmail.com .

Election Day: Candidates for President and Pledgemaster will have three minutes to give their speeches. Candidates for all other positions will have two minutes.

You may present one slide per position you run for at the time of your speech. Slides are due by **SUNDAY, November 27th at 11:59 PM** to president.apouse@gmail.com. You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Grace Ang

Year: Sophomore

Major: Communication Studies

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Theta Spring 2016

Please mark which elected position(s) you are running for with an X:

- ☐ President
- ☐ Pledgemaster
- ☐ VP of Service
- ☒ VP of Membership
- ☒ VP of Fellowship
- ☐ VP of Finance
- ☐ VP of Communications
- ☐ Fundraising Chair
- ☐ IC Chair

PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is your vision for APO?

Like it was for me when I first joined, I envision APO to be an organization that not only connects people from all walks of life but that also expands its definition of service with every activity. I see APO as an organization that redefines the boundaries of service. We pride ourselves for not just donating money to charities and local organizations, but involving ourselves in our community's needs and wants. I also envision APO to continue to be our family we can trust, rely and lean on here at USC. One of the many reasons I decided to join APO was because I could feel and relate to the sincerity and passion emanating from so many of our members today. I want to try and reignite that passion in our members next semester.

2. Why do you want the position(s) you are running for?

Membership

- Plunging into the affairs of APO as Phi Fam head after being a pledge was definitely quite an experience. I discovered flaws in the system that I wasn't exposed to as a pledge.
- Having attended all membership meetings and having contributed to the modifications of bylaws under the current VP of membership, Vanessa, I aim to change certain policies and invigorate attitudes in the chapter so that we have a livelier and friendlier chapter. I would do this by modifying GBM, bolstering membership retention and reinventing the definition of having a safe space to voice our concerns within the chapter.
- Lastly I hope to create meaning for members in the chapter and remind our members of why we've all decided to join APO in the first place, because I definitely still remember mine.
- Throughout my time as a rushee, pledge and active, I've treasured all my relationships I've formed with people in APO. I hope to spread the sensation of gratitude and appreciation to all members of APO through this position.

Fellowship

- As phi fam head this semester, I saw there was missing energy in APO and in families in comparison to when I was a pledge. I understood the fluctuation of energy and membership retention as a consequence of additional work outside of APO, lack of reasons to stay in APO, lack of continued bonding. For the same reason I want to run for membership, I want to remind our members why they first joined APO, and try to accommodate to them so they feel like a part of the APO family.

3. What are your goals for the position(s)?

Membership

1.GBMS

- Goal: To make GBM for fun and inclusive
- GBM shouldn't just be a presentation on what this or next week's schedule should be like.
 - I want GBM to be interactive, a forum where we can brainstorm and discuss and decide on ideas together- be it our next project or collaboration to take on or potential new service/ fellowship/ membership activities the chapter wants and needs.
 - Making GBM a bigger thing- bring back themed nights + dressing to GBM to acquire family points

2. Membership Retention

- Goal: To make families a more significant entity and to create a system which will improve membership retention.
- I want to bring back the sense of unity in families we had in previous chapters- to create an environment in which everyone feels accepted, loved, and confident to express their thoughts.
- I also want to encourage all pledge classes in these activities- not just the current pledge class or the previous pledge class.
 - To do this, we will incorporate more games and activities during GBM and outside of GBM that will be enjoyable to the members of the chapter. I want to make a schedule that we will abide by. Ex: conducting one game every alternate week

- Implement a family membership requirement- by either 1. Requiring an additional membership point or 2. Making a family membership requirement a part of a membership requirement.
- Create bigger and more membership events- like the upcoming Christmas party, potlucks, Halloween parties
- Continue active retreat to create a sense of focus on active members vs just pledges
- Continue to make sure executive committee discusses important issues during EBM
- Work with executive committee to collaborate with other community service, fundraising charity organization on campus
- Current: A community place, kicks for kids, keds
- Potential: American Sign Association, Animal Rights Association, Chalk the block

3.Safe Space

- Goal: To create a safe and comfortable space for all actives to voice out their thoughts with an online forum and flexible face-to-face meeting with executive committee members to discuss an issue.
- Encourage that town hall be established more than once a semester, so that members have the right and ability to discuss an important issue within the chapter. I envision this to be a few times within a semester. (Ex. Every alternate month)
- Encourage the compliments and recognition of a brother- especially abroad brothers and associate brothers and to keep them in the loop of events within the chapter.
 - Implement an associate and abroad brother compliment section during GBM

4.Creating meaning

- A part of my plan to reignite passion is to remind members of the meaning of APO, and what APO meant to them when they joined.
 - Make sure that committee meetings are conducive in discussion of matters within the chapter
 - Work with executive committee to implement a structure in which we discuss new or relevant ideas in our committees, instead of merely discussing upcoming events.
 - Work with Co-rush chairs and VP of service to foster a sense of responsibility and meaning within the active body and pledge body during service events.

Fellowship

1.Create more non-food events

- Encourage exploration of downtown, the very area we live in.
- Coming from a privilege school/ background, I think its important for members to attend events that are catered to the local population and to explore life out in the streets in downtown.
- Explore L.A with a wide array of activities including thrift shopping, photography sessions, afternoons at the last bookstore.
- Focus on Chapter retreat like, team bonding activities to foster a larger sense of unity

2.Encourage input from the chapter

- Create monthly feedback forms to make sure I adapt to the chapter's needs and wants
- Feedback forms can be anonymous to facilitate disclosure or open talks between the chapter and ex-comm
- Feedback forms will be read and evaluated during fellowship committee meetings

3.Encourage diversity and bonding within chapter

- Create informative/educational opportunities
 - Include trips to the Museum of tolerance + Japanese American National Museum to understand (former) holocaust atrocities and (latter) the Japanese immigration to the U.S
 - Continue to include events that increase our exposure to what's happening in society including monthly guest speakers on campus
 - Increase mixers with different pledge classes

4. Kindle energy within chapter

- Work with membership to create more family events and competitions
- Create chapter retreat like events (team bonding activities) to facilitate bonding
- Work with finance to continue games such as Assassins, Hide the Shuriken to both fundraise within the chapter and create bonding activities

4. **What new ideas can you bring to the position and organization as a whole? Please provide examples.**

Membership

A few of my new ideas are mentioned above. They include: 1. making a GBM a forum of interaction in addition to a weekly meeting on updates, 2. implementing a family membership point, 3. making certain town hall be established be more than once a semester, and 4. recognizing abroad brothers and associate brothers in addition to active members within the chapter.

1. This is to breach the gap in communication between the executive committee and the rest of the chapter. I hope that by implementing this, by getting the chapter to brainstorm and think with the rest of the executive committee even for a few minutes at a time, this will create an equal say within the chapter and generate interest. Merely asking the active body of what they think of a current project executive committee is working on will create a better connection between the active body and executive committee members.

2. This is to reignite the passion and energy we once had for families. Because if big and littles are something we treasure, why aren't families?

3. This create the opportunity for members to talk about something important to them, no matter how implicit or unrecognized. This is a system that would hopefully show care and concern for our members.

4. An extra minute during GBM to recognize and connect with abroad brothers and associate brothers will foster a sense of unity within the chapter, and therefore boost membership retention.

Fellowship

Some of my new ideas for fellowship including encouraging informative/ educational opportunities within the chapter. I think this will create a bigger exposure for our chapter, and also create an opportunity for us to under each other's stories better.

I want to create more events that take place more in Downtown. Downtown is often overlooked because it isn't as beautiful or luxurious as other places in L.A. But I think activities such as thrift shopping, spending an afternoon at the last bookstore enrich our life experiences. My goal this semester is to try and create events that haven't been attempted before.

As fellowship is designed to promote the friendship aspect in LFS, I wish to work with membership and finance to kindle energy within our chapter. To promote this, I wish to create more team bonding activities, team structured games and laidback fireplace talks.

And lastly, I want to make sure that I get the chapter's voice in the activities that we do. To gage each member's preferences and opinions on activities, I will create a monthly feedback form.

5. **What relevant experience, if any, have you had working in committees or other organizations for the position(s) you are running for? Please be specific.**

Having had experience as a Fam head and an involved member of membership committee, I've been exposed to many of the concerns that the chapter has raised including the way in which pairing is conducted, the lack of enthusiasm for family events within the chapter and the insufficient attention to abroad brothers and associates. My experience has made me a valid candidate in commenting on the interactions within our chapter.

For a similar reason as stated above, I am passionate about creating more energy and continuing to facilitate the connections within our chapter. My experience as fam head has allowed me to see the obstacles our chapter face with membership retention, and I think fellowship has a big part to do with this. I see fellowship as the bridge to higher membership retention, and my experiences this semester has help me better get a grip in starting to better our chapter.

6. What other time commitments will you have next semester (i.e. other student organizations, work, research, etc.)? How do you plan to balance APO executive board duties with those commitments?

Other than APO, I would only involve myself in a club or two including Annenberg Media. Furthermore, my schedule is not too busy and provides me with not only the opportunity to perform my duty but also to branch out and connect with the rest of the executive committee and the chapter.