



Fall 2015 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Spring 2013 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than FRIDAY APRIL 24TH at 5:00PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to president.apousc@gmail.com and webmaster.apousc@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, APRIL 26TH at 11:59pm** to president.apousc@gmail.com. You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Andrew Wang

Year: Junior

Major: Neuroscience

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Beta (Spring 2013)

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> VP of Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pledgemaster | <input type="checkbox"/> VP of Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VP of Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VP of Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> IC Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VP of Fellowship | |

PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is your vision for APO?

My vision for APO next semester involves a more cohesive group of brothers and sisters. I hope to encourage more bonding between and across pledge classes, and to motivate those who may have become jaded

towards the fraternity to come back. I would like to create more connections and increase the transparency between the executive board and the active body in order to foster mutual respect and eliminate potential avenues for mistrust and drama. Overall, I hope to see a shift in our organization towards the three Cardinal principles; I hope to rekindle the relationships that a brother has towards his or her fraternity, community, and nation.

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

As a long-standing member of APO, I have seen and experienced the benefits and drawbacks of maintaining membership within this fraternity. While pledging and the first few steps of activehood are indeed an exciting time filled with novel experiences and personal growth, oftentimes the excitement is short-lived. People “grow out” of APO, they believe that the organization is no longer worth their time; they believe that to attend APO events is more of a hassle than a source of happiness.

As VP of Membership, I want to change this attitude among our fellow brothers. I want to remind brothers of their fond memories within APO, to renew that excitement that led them to join this organization in the first place. I want to make membership for all pledges, actives, associates, and members abroad a more fulfilling and meaningful experience.

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

My goals are to kindle (and rekindle) relationships between pledge brothers, to reevaluate the structure of family lines, to encourage the return of older or distant members, and to incentivize academia among fellow brothers. These goals are all in the interest of renewing interest in Alpha Phi Omega and to establish a further sense of community.

- Pledge brothers: I believe that the first step towards reigniting one’s inner fire for APO is to reconnect with one’s pledge brothers. This will be done by implementing a newly designed Membership committee and new events, both of which I will describe later.
- Family: In addition, the definition of bigs and littles must be reconsidered. It has been recently addressed that the nature of a big and little pair should be like that of a mentor and friend, not just a friend. I hope to remedy this by establishing a system in which bigs will be better suited and ready to fulfill a mentor kind of role for their prospective littles.
- Older/distant members: Furthermore, bringing back old members who have lost touch with APO will be yet another important goal to be addressed during my time as VP of Membership. Through proper encouragement, multiple methods of outreach, and organized activities, my hope is that we will see an increase in retention among our older members.
- Academia: Finally, I hope to encourage more academic endeavors among APO members in the form of organized group study sessions, a more developed test bank, academic mentor pairings, and academic workshops. I’m a firm believer that a great way to bond with fellow brothers is to struggle in a library (or café, apartment, whatever floats your boat) together.
- Other goals: In addition to the three aforementioned goals, I would like to efficiently and successfully carry out other membership obligations, including but not limited to distributing membership T-shirts, facilitating Big-Little pairings in a fair and just manner, conducting Mid-Semester Reviews, updating our role on the national website, and coordinating with Family Heads.

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

Based on the goals I mentioned above, there are a number of ideas I would like to implement in order to achieve my overarching objective of membership retention:

- **Membership Committee:** The new membership committee will include the typical Family Heads, Alumni Liaison, and Sergeant at Arms, as well as committed, voluntary, pledge class delegates. These delegates will represent the interests of each respective pledge class. During weekly/bimonthly committee meetings, methods of bringing each pledge class together will be discussed and planned. Some ideas I have right now would be large-scale service events (LA Food Bank), which would involve collaboration with the VP of Service, and large-scale fellowship events (day trip to San Diego or Malibu), which would involve collaboration with the VP of Fellowship. Given that a sizeable amount of the pledge class shows up, a Membership AND a Fellowship/Service point could be rewarded.
- **Big Camp:** As mentioned before, the responsibility and preparedness of a Big has too often been overlooked. With an elevated knowledge of the workings of APO, as well as the exemplary principles of LFS, qualified Bigs should appropriately set an example for their future Littles. In order to ensure that this is the case, I hope to implement “Big Camp” some time during Rush or the beginning stages of pledging. This will serve as a guideline for prospective Bigs, outlining the dos and don’ts of bighood, hopefully directing potential Bigs on the right track to being adequate mentors for their littles.
- **Retention of Old and Distant Members:** For members who have had a difficult time finding their way back to APO, I hope to personally reach out to each individual to the best of my ability and to motivate these members to come back through my newly implemented ideas. Like this semester, for members abroad, I would like to set up Skype Interviews between the incoming Alpha Etas and our abroad brothers. I would also like to continue the tradition of abroad care packages, and to create personally customized monthly updates for each brother studying abroad.
- **AcademicPriorities:** I want to incentivize academics between fellow brothers by implementing weekly study sessions (in a library, café, someone’s apartment, etc) open to all members of the fraternity. I believe that these study sessions will be beneficial by encouraging the pursuit of academia and by rewarding productive and meaningful group interactions with Membership points. Additionally, as always, there will be opportunities for membership through academic mentor pairings, test bank uploads, and RateMyProfessor reviews.
- **Family Line Hangouts:** Next semester, I want to encourage family line hangouts by rewarding membership points to any family line (5 people or more) that goes on an outing together. If your family line is small, that’s not a problem! Go on a double date with another big-little pair, perhaps a pair that you’re unfamiliar with, and earn a membership point just as easily! Capped at one membership point for the entire semester. My hope is that this will facilitate big-little pairs in developing closer ties, and perhaps meeting other big-little pairs along the way!
- **APO Free & For Sale & Housing:** The idea behind an APO Free & For Sale is to establish a sense of community among our existing members. Oftentimes, it’s stressful to negotiate with buyers and sellers on the USC Free & For Sale page. People are always trying to haggle down prices or make counter offers. APO Free & For Sale is guaranteed to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous and kind. All kinds of items, from furniture, to food, to textbooks, to pets, to services, and much more, are welcome. Additionally, housing advertisements could also be posted on this page in order to eliminate clutter on the main actives page. If there is adequate interest, perhaps this page could be expanded to also include ICs.

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.

A VP of Membership requires the abilities to delegate, to communicate, to understand the multifaceted and complex workings of pledging and activehood, to plan events, and to manage time efficiently.

As Pledge Uncle in Fall 2013, I'll be able to use my experiences to help enhance pledging in any way that I can. As mentioned before, I would like to increase the coherence within each pledge class through organized events and committees. With my insight on the details and coordination that goes into the pledging process, I think that I'll be able to play a vital role during the Alpha Etas' pledging semester in terms of group bonding and big/little relationships. I also believe that my experience in planning DTA will help me to plan some of the large-scale events I intend to organize for each pledge class.

As Rush Co-Chair in Fall 2014, my understanding of the rush and "post-rush" processes will help improve dialogue during Big/Little pairings. An important quality that I improved upon during my experience as Rush Co-Chair was attention to detail, and I think that this will greatly aid me when I organize matters such as Big Camp. Furthermore, coordinating with VPs will be an important part of the new ideas I wish to incorporate, and I believe that the Rush Co-Chair position has adequately prepared me for any type of coordinate and communication between E-board members. Furthermore, my ability for proactive outreach in terms of contacting USC vendors, guest speakers, and others during Rush will help as I try to communicate with distant members of our organization. Finally, my experience in keeping large amounts of people and data organized as Rush Co-Chair will most definitely be to my benefit as I manage the MasterDoc and keep track of family points.

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?

In addition to my duties as VP of Membership, I will also be involved in research and USC INK. However, since I am only taking 12 units of class, I believe that all three extracurriculars will be manageable, and that I will have plenty of time to allot towards APO. Having served on E-board previously, I think that I have the time management skills in order to carry out my goals successfully, with no hindrance from my academics and other activities.