



Fall 2018 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

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

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY April 16th 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, April 16th 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: Andrew Turpin

Year: Junior

Major: International Relations

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Zeta, Spring 2015

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?

My vision for APO is quite simple; I want our organization to be realized as the premier service organization on USC's campus. I want us to be volunteering at every event, a part of every philanthropy, and always there to help even in small acts of kindness. I want APO to be the organization people think of going to when they first decide that they want to make a difference in the world.

Running concurrent with this is my hope that APO can grow and develop as a diverse organization. One of the greatest parts about joining has been the incredibly diverse group of people you meet, from all walks of life. It is my hope that by establishing our reputation as an organization known for its unparalleled dedication to service, we may attract a great body of unique individuals united by their dedication to service.

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

I was a first semester freshman, fresh out of the quiet suburb of Bonita, California (our only claim to fame is for having the most horses per capita in the US some decades ago. Not the most exciting place in the world). As doe-eyed freshmen tend to do, I went looking for a family to ease the transition to the big city. I found mine at first in the Navigators, a Christian ministry that I spent a lot of my first semester with. I ended up spearheading the planning of the annual Christmas party, which I humbly have to say was a massive success. But the highlight of the night came when someone slipped an anonymous note to me, the last line saying "you have an incredible ability to bring people together and make them feel welcome."

I tell this story because that was the moment I realized not only what I'm best at, but what I most love doing; bringing people together and making them feel welcome. Many of the people who join APO come in in a similar way. They want to help the world, but are unsure to go about it. At the same time, they seek a community, a family of other do-gooders who want to also leave the world a better place than they found it. I remember when I joined years ago, exactly like that, and think back of everything that APO has done for me as a person. I want to welcome the next generation of our chapter, and give them an experience even better than the one I had.

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

APO is an amazing organization that has done a lot for me personally. When I entered college, like many others, I was so unsure of what direction I wanted to take. It was a big world, and I got lost in it. APO showed me not only what it means to live a life of service, but how you can incorporate that in your life no matter what path you choose to walk. And I know it is not just me that has had this sort of experience—APO has been quite literally life changing for many people.

With this in mind, one of my goals for the position is to restore a sense of pride in being in APO. Pledges should be proud to wear their pins and actives proud to wear their letters, knowing that are part of such a great organization that makes such an impact on

its members and on the community around them. I want to teach the pledges from the very first day that they should be proud of APO and of the good work that we do. Another goal of mine is to expand and increase communication between pledge team and eboard. Much of the stress I've seen over the last couple of years in APO has been a result of a lack of communication. Ensuring that not only eboard but the chapter as a whole know exactly what's going on is the key to an enjoyable and enriching semester for all.

One of my biggest goals but one of the hardest to achieve as it is the most intangible is to foster a great sense of friendship within the pledge class, both with each other and with the rest of the chapter. I desire this because many of the friendships I have made within APO, both inside and outside of my pledge class, are friendships that I greatly treasure and some I truly believe will be lifelong. Friendship is not something you can create artificially, they just happen. But what you can do is create an environment for it to happen in. By using my natural talent to bring people from all walks of life together and make them feel at home, I hope to give the pledges as enriching an experience as I had.

I also want to ensure that the puncles/paunties and I are less pledgemaster and puncles/paunties, but rather that we think of ourselves as pledge team. We are tasked with the monumental and vitally important task of educating the next generation of our chapter, and it is vital that we work together as a cohesive unit.

Finally, pledgemasters have often been criticized for being too strict or not strict enough. I will be neither of these; I will be fair. Making the right decision isn't arbitrarily being hard or soft, but critically examining all aspects of a situation and doing what's right based on the circumstances. Some occasions call for respect of the rules that our program is based upon, other occasions call for compassion and understanding based on special circumstances. It is all circumstantial, and I believe that going into the position aware of this makes me and the rest of pledge team able to handle these situations correctly and fairly.

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

I've seen a lot of pledgemasters in my long time in APO, and seen how different ideas affect the pledge class through being a big to three wonderful littles. My new ideas are as follows:

- Pledge missions will be restructured around the idea of Leadership, Friendship, and Service. Friendship will be the video we all know and love. Service will be a community profile on one of the people we serve, like a kid at Kid City or a recipient of food at GWHFC. It will essentially be an interview, with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of this person and their circumstances and really reinforcing the idea that each face we serve is a unique, individual human being. Leadership is still to be figured out, in conjunction with the future puncles/paunties.

- Pledges will perform an "act of kindness" once a week. This can be anything from getting medicine for their sick roommate, to handing out cookies, to leaving friendly notes on study rooms in Leavey. Creativity is encouraged! They will also write

something on how they think that act made the other person feel. This can range from a word to a five paragraph, MLA formatted essay—whatever the pledge thinks is necessary to convey the impact of what they did. Verification will be based on the honor system. It would defeat the purpose of a random act of kindness, in my eyes, to immediately seek documentation and verification for it. If someone wants to lie about an act of kindness, they're only doing themselves a disservice.

-I will host pledgemaster office hours, choosing a time and place for around three hours a week that I will commit to being at no matter what. Pledges can come to ask questions, voice concerns, or simply spend time together and be sure of a safe space to do so.

-In the past, there has been much worry about what exactly goes on in pledge meetings. Pledge secretary will now be in charge of taking pledge meeting minutes that will be distributed to the chapter along with GBM and EBM meeting slides.

-In that vein, pledge officers will also give quick (30 second) updates to the pledge class about the progress of their work at the beginning of pledge meetings.

-Study groups will be formed for quizzes and incentivized. As everyone knows, one of the easiest ways to bond with someone is crying together in Leavey.

-Initiation will be changed slightly. I will elaborate on this when a certain population has actually gone through it.

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.

I was VP of Membership, Pledge VP of Service, and Phi Fam head so I understand how APO works very well. I've also been around long enough to have learned a lot about the organization just through involvement and observation (this will be my fourth semester in APO not counting my abroad and pledge semesters). I suppose this is up to you to decide how relevant this is, but I'm also big to three littles, so I'm highly experienced in guiding people through the process of crossing into activehood.

Outside of APO, I've served as philanthropy chair for Chi Phi Fraternity, Vice President and Souljourn Coordinator for Interfaith Council, and Co-Director of Internal Events for Design For America. These different leadership roles have given me a variety of different experiences that contribute to my general ability to get things done and accomplish the many tasks that the role of pledgemaster requires. I've also been in a number of student organizations which have made me very good at both working with and leading a team.

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?

I will be serving as Risk Manager and advising for the Philanthropy Chair for Chi Phi Fraternity and doing some political and social work loosely organized around the USC Interfaith Council and the Los Angeles interfaith community in general. Other than that I am planning to drop a lot of my usual commitments as it will be my senior year and I'd

prefer to, quite simply, do a smaller amount of things but do them better. And seeing as how busy I'm used to being, this is a semester where I can devote a lot of time to the position and the pledge class.