



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.apouse@gmail.com and 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 26th at 11:59pm** 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: Carmen Guan

Year: Junior

Major: Social Science w/ an Emphasis in Psychology

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Gamma (Fall 2013)

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?

I envision an APO that lives up to its name as a service fraternity: a version of itself that emphasizes the importance of service and is known at USC for its dedication to serve within the fraternity, on our campus, in our community, and in our nation. I hope to do this by continuing to build on the relationships we already have with other organizations on and off campus while fostering new relationships with other organizations as well. This semester as Philanthropy Co-Chair, we built a really strong relationship with USC Civic Engagement, and office that has connections to many other service organizations on campus as well as community members that receive service around USC. By continuing to partner with them, I believe we will really be able to promote ourselves as a well-rounded service organization.

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

At this moment, service is not the only issue within APO. However, I want to be VP of Service because of my passion for service and my interest to see this specific aspect of APO improved as I believe the reinvestment in service will promote a more unified community within our chapter and extend the reinvestment into other parts of our fraternity.

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

As we all know, the balance among our cardinal principles has been unstable as of late. To secure this imbalance, I believe we need to remember our objectives as members of APO in order to establish a stronger focus on service. I want to increase our investment by continuing Pam's idea for Servicer of the Week to highlight quality service. Additionally, I plan on having our members share their reasons for doing service in an attempt to remind themselves and others why they joined a service fraternity in the first place. Because asking members to share voluntarily during GBM/pledge meetings has failed in the past, I plan to achieve this by asking for volunteers before GBM and having the prepared story on a slide ready to go to avoid the bystander effect during GBM (the phenomenon in which people think someone else in a public space will step up so they won't have to). My goal is to highlight a variety of APO members: actives, associates, pledges, old members, and new members. While it will be important to highlight the motivation for service of members who actively do a lot of quality service, I believe emphasizing this in less active members as well will prove even more effective overall. My hope is that this reflection process will improve our sense of community as a chapter and help us grow as individuals, in turn driving us to want to invest more of our time and energy into service. I want to recreate a sense of community within APO bound by this love for service.

Furthermore, I will push our weekly service events along with this reflection process. Combined with the reflection process, I hope these events will create a service learning environment where APO members are not only giving to the organizations they help, but also are learning something from their experiences. I believe it is at these weekly events that members can truly see the direct outcome of the time we put into service. I hope this too helps members to remember why they choose to do service and reignite their motivation to do service. I understand that it is very difficult for members to commit to the same event week after week due to scheduling conflicts, midterms, and becoming burned out, but I think if members could attend one of these weekly events just every other week, we would learn a lot about service and community. Just completing a large number of service hours is good, but doing service for a cause, personal or otherwise, is even better.

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

Like I have already stated, I want to add a new segment to GBM that highlights our member's reasons for doing service in order to promote a sense of community within the chapter

and remind everyone of why we do service. While I will have a slide with notes for each highlight, I would have the APO member tell their story for themselves. This way, it will not just be an Eboard member telling the chapter what to think and do, but another member sharing a personal experience. This will give the audience a chance to listen to one of their peers instead of just Eboard, improving the sense of community.

Additionally, I plan on adding new service projects to broaden the types of service we do in Alpha Kappa. I expect these new events to offer the chapter something new to learn from, provide new perspectives on service, and keep the idea of service new and fun. One organization I really hope to work with is the Do Good Bus, an organization that connects individuals and groups to volunteer opportunities in the local LA area. What makes Do Good Bus so interesting is that this bus will pick up a diverse group of volunteers to provide service at a surprise location for a surprise organization. This adds a fun twist to service and allows us the opportunity to do different kinds of service and learn about new organizations that members may be interested in. Examples of projects Do Good Bus has done are beach cleaning for Surfrider, learning about and playing with animals at The Gentle Barn, and sorting prom attire for A Place Called Home.

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 have been working in committees every semester with APO. During my pledging semester I helped out in the AG Fellowship, Casino Night, and Benefit Concert Committees. In Spring 2014, I worked in the committees for Philanthropy, Rush, Fellowship, and Casino Night. This semester as Philanthropy Co-Chair, I participated in the Service Committee alongside VP of Service and assisted her whenever needed.

From my work in all of these different committees and my position as Philanthropy Co-Chair, I have learned many skills that I believe will prove necessary as VP of Service: teamwork, communication, adaptability, and problem solving.

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?

My only other commitment next semester is work (roughly 10-15 hours a week). Every semester thus far I have worked close to 20 hours a week, including this semester while balancing Philanthropy. Working fewer hours next semester will provide me more time to focus on being VP of Service while still completing my school work.