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**Fall**

**Fall 2013 Nominated Officer Questionnaire**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

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

This questionnaire is due **no later than** **FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH at 8:00PM.** Please send this document and all supplemental materials to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.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 28TH at 11:59pm** to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com). You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

**PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name: Stephanie Zhang

Year: Freshman

Major: Accounting, Business

Pledge Class (Year): AA Fall 2012

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

[ ] President

[ ] Pledgemaster

[ ] VP of Service

[x] VP of Membership

[ ] VP of Fellowship

[x] VP of Finance

[ ] VP of Communications

[x] Fundraising Chair

**PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What is your vision for APO?

I’ve always seen Alpha Phi Omega as a loving family that is focused on giving back to the community and developing its members into leaders. My vision for Alpha Phi Omega is to keep the chapter true to what it currently stands for as well as furthering the three cardinal principles: leadership, friendship, and service. As an organization, we suffer from being unable to retain members; however, I see Alpha Phi Omega as becoming an organization that all its members struggle to leave when they graduate. In addition to becoming more close-knit as a fraternity, I see Alpha Phi Omega becoming more leadership-based with an emphasis on workshops and seminars dedicated to furthering its’ members’ leading abilities since currently leadership isn’t stressed as much as the other two principles. Also, I see Alpha Phi Omega having a more prominent presence on campus possibly through more collaboration with other organizations on campus such as other service organizations or other Greek fraternities and sororities. I love what our chapter of Alpha Phi Omega stands for currently; my vision for Alpha Phi Omega is to further its current focuses and allowing more of USC to see how amazing Alpha Phi Omega is.

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

**VP of Membership:** As I said previously for my vision for APO, I really want to see APO become something that members struggle to leave when they graduate. The fraternity is a brotherhood dedicated to giving back to the community, and I feel the relationships and bonds we build within APO are unique and not seen in any other service organization on campus. However, obviously, when friends and pledge brothers graduate, it is hard to still feel connected and part of the fraternity. Even not picking up a semester can cause a feeling of disconnect between a member and the new pledge class. As VP of Membership, I want to alleviate this alienation members feel when their friends graduate, when they don’t pick up, or when they return from a semester abroad, inactive, or associate. I want to foster family pride as well as help put on events that build bonds within families and family lines. In addition, these past two semesters, I’ve found that while we strongly portray the service and fellowship aspects of our cardinal principles, we fall short sometimes in leadership. I want to add a leadership aspect to VP of Membership, thus fostering leadership skills within APO.

**VP of Finance:** Having seen the funding and fundraising aspects of APO that are constantly striving to fill budget shortcomings, I want to oversee the budgets and help eboard members manage the money the chapter has. I want to accurately reflect how the money of the chapter is being used and how the dues are broken up.

**Fundraising Chair:** Through my experience as Alpha Alpha pledge class fundraising chair, I learned how quickly an amazing idea can be shot down simply due to budgeting constraints. The experience taught me a lot about how important money is – without the appropriate amount of money many events, propositions, and ideas would not be able to occur or would have to be greatly edit to be held within the constraints of the budget. Because of this, I feel very passionately about fundraising not only for our fraternity, but for other organizations and charities as well. It’s an important job, and in conjunction with Funding Chair, it enables the e-board to hold large-scale events that will help bring the chapter closer together or events with higher budgets which allows for more flexibility for the eboard member.

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

**VP of Membership:** My goals for VP of Membership, as previously stated, include fostering family pride as well as adding a leadership aspect to the position. I plan to further define the position, allowing it to focus on both membership retention as well as one of the three cardinal principles as VP of Fellowship and VP of Service do. I also want to work more closely with family heads, thus allowing for more efficient and clear communication between VP of Membership and families. I hope to keep associates, who often say they feel left out, as well as non-bigs, who feel disconnected to the new pledge class feeling as though they are still connected to and part of the chapter.

**VP of Finance:** As VP of Finance, I hope to give a clearer picture to not only eboard members, but also the active body, as to where their dues are going. I want to make a clear breakdown of how much money each position has, thus accurately reflecting to eboard members how much money they have left, which have influence what events they run. In addition, I hope to make the amount of money needed above the amount the budget allows clear to both the eboard member who wishes to use the money and Funding Chair as well as Fundraising Chair. In this way, places where the budget is short both funding and fundraising can help fill in.

**Fundraising Chair:** As an active, I’ve often heard how fundraising points are the hardest to get because there are so few events. To alleviate this problem, I plan to run more fundraising events in hopes of raising more money for our fraternity as well as for charities we choose to support. I want to come up with more innovative ideas that draw capital from outside of the fraternity and cater to the general USC population rather than just APO people. In addition, I hope to collaborate with the PR Chair to publicize our fundraising events more as well as with Funding Chair and VP of Finance in order to get a clear idea of where budgets are and what margin of profit to aim for.

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

**VP of Membership:** I want to add a leadership aspect to VP of Membership. I plan on doing this by hosting leadership workshops throughout the semester. These workshops will be run by a committee under the VP of Membership that will be comprised of both actives and pledges. In addition, I hope to collaborate with other leadership organizations on campus to go to other organization’s leadership seminars and workshops, such as USC’s LEAD. In addition, I want to post for the chapter to see how family points for family competition will be calculated and refresh the point total on a bi-weekly basis, in order to help motivate members to participate in more events to sway the outcome of the competition. I also want to redefine how the membership committee is run; instead of having one giant committee, it will be broken down into smaller committees revolving around events. For example, one committee would be in charge of leadership workshops while another would be focused on a large scale family event. In this way, more members of the fraternity can be involved with leading and planning, thus fostering the leadership aspect of our fraternity but also giving new members a chance to see what executive board is like. I also want to work more closely with family heads, giving clearer guidelines for family events as well as supporting them more for the activities they want to plan. I also hope to plan a family event in conjunction with the family heads in order for each family to have a say in the planning of the event.

**VP of Finance:** I want to make it clear to the active body the breakdown of their dues and post it on the website. In addition, I want to create a budget that reflects how the money will truly be used, for example, leaving money for the President to use for food meetings. I also want to work more closely with eboard members so that they know how much they have and how much money they’ll need from funding or fundraising. I also want to work closely funding and fundraising specifically in order to create a clear timeline of when money will be needed and how much will be needed, allowing them to plan for how funding to apply for or how much money to aim to raise. In conjunction with fundraising, I also want to create a budget that would help support a system that would help alleviate the costs of apparel for both the chapter and families, as often one person has to front the money to buy apparel which is very costly.

**Fundraising Chair:** I want to change how Fundraising Chair is currently a one man job and instead form committees that are in charge of different fundraisers, allowing fundraising to run bigger events that cater to more people. I plan on implementing some sort of food delivery fundraiser with actives and pledges participating in keeping track of orders, ordering food, and transporting it back to campus. In addition, I want to open the floor up to all members of the fraternity for ideas of fundraising and allowing them to lead their own fundraising endeavor. I also want to work with other organizations on campus and team-up to fundraise, possibly doing an organization versus organization style fundraiser, much like Penny Wars, but not just within APO. I also want to create a signature fundraising event for APO that would be planned and executed every semester, allowing for a reputation and brand to build for the event. Profits of this event could go to charity, to the fraternity, or be split. With VP of Finance and Funding Chair, I want to create a timeline for goals on how much money is needed at what time and how it’ll be split up between the budget that already exists, funding that needs to be acquired, and funds that need to be raised. In this way, budget deficits can be covered by either funding or fundraising and allow more flexibility by eboard members as to what events they are allowed to run. I also want to work with the IC Chair start or create an IC fundraiser that our chapter could be known for. This event could become recurring, possibly bi-yearly or yearly, and allow our chapter to not only meet ICs but also fundraise.

1. 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.

**VP of Membership:** This past semester, I worked on a committee in Global Brigades to help plan an event that fostered pride amongst each discipline (which would be the almost equivalent of families in APO) and overall unity across all brigades. In addition, I helped the Global Brigades at Marshall brainstorm ways to build community within the organization and how to retain members even after they’d gone on their brigade. I’ve also had experience participating in leadership workshops in Global Leadership Program through the Marshall School of Business as well as helped lead several in a Global Brigades exchange this past semester.

**VP of Finance:** When pledging, I created a budget for the pledge eboard to use in order to help accomplish the fellowship, service, and IC event as well as other miscellaneous costs we had. As the Co-Director of Finance and Development for the Conquest planning committee, I was in charge of managing the budget for Conquest.

**Fundraising Chair:** I previously served as the Alpha Alpha Class Fundraising Chair and also served as Conquest’s Co-Director of Finance and Development, where I was in charge of funds and fundraising. This past semester, I’ve also helped Global Brigades brainstorm ideas for fundraising for their brigades, coming up with fundraising events as well as ways for people to personally fundraise.

1. 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?

Aside from schoolwork, APO is currently my priority. I’m involved in Global Brigades and plan to further help brainstorm ideas within committees, which is about an hour a week. I also plan on being Director of Finance and Development in the Conquest planning committee, which will be about two hours a week. I plan to manage my time more efficiently as well as planning ahead of time in order to fulfill my commitment to APO as an executive board member.

***Don’t forget to attach your résumé and schedule.***

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Elected Board Questionnaire. Please be sure to send in your election slide(s) no later than Sunday, April 28th at 11:59PM. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com).

Good luck! ☺