

Newsletter XXXIV NO. III
December 2022

Brotherhood - is not a one year commitment, it is a life-time commitment.... We took an oath to remain brothers. An oath is something that cannot be taken back, that's what makes it an oath. Some of us have outgrown pounding down beers but you can never outgrow your commitment and the bonds of brotherhood. Our younger selves were wise beyond their years. We took an oath of brotherhood, not realizing the impact that oath would have on our own lives and the lives of those around us. To fully appreciate the definition of Brotherhood, you need to experience it. We have had years to let the meaning of Brotherhood sink in, and while I know that it holds a special place in all of our hearts, the true impact is quite personal. The oath is one-of-a-kind and we can thank our younger selves for setting us down this path. I urge each of you to take a moment to reflect on what Brotherhood means to you.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Covid robbed us. Now, we have resumed our in-person reunions. It is exciting for us. We have a solid core of brothers who regularly attend reunions and many others who have been able to attend often. No one is ever disappointed. No one ever says that they wish they never attended. We want to expand this participation to include everyone. These events are special and these opportunities are fleeting. We have already lost too many of our friends. Thanks to the inspired efforts of our reunion committee, Marty Berkowitz, Gerry Goldhaber and Tom Nastasia, our next reunion is scheduled on Cape Cod for the weekend of Oct 13-15, 2023. We hope that this much lead time will provide more of us with the opportunity to include this event in their lives next year. It's not necessary to commit for the entire weekend, you can come for one dinner, or, the house meeting Saturday morning, or, even just a drink and Schmoog-fest before or after one of the events. All of us enjoy the chance to say hello, shake hands, hug, remember those days and catch up on today. Every reunion is special. Maybe some of our tech savvy brothers can arrange for a zoom connection and big screen TV for those that cannot attend the house meeting in person. There are about 200 names on our roster and I know nearly every one of you. Many of us haven't seen each other in years. You are missing out on a unique opportunity. We want to include each and every one of you in these wonderful events of friendship, brotherhood and connection. It seems that this modern world will no longer provide people with the opportunity for the special bond that we have. Please join us next Fall.

TheOneTheOnlyRalfo brtz57@gmail.com (C)508-523-1105 Ralph Goldfarb '68

FROM THE TREASURER:

Brothers:

I had a great time at the last reunion in October. Marty, Tom and Gerry have already done significant work in checking out several locations and have found a great location for 2023. The Hyannis Conference Center (soon to be called The Emerald Resort) has been long known as a great destination. Located on Cape Cod it is an easy drive for many of our guys located in New England and the new York area. We are not looking for a firm commitment at this early date but please mark the weekend of October 13-15 on your calendar. If you choose to make a reservation now please do so, the liberal cancellation policy will allow you to cancel if something pops up. Details on our dining experiences are still in the works. Tom, Gerry and Marty have been doing their due diligence in finding a great location. Their original plans were to stay at The Cove but plans changed and they found the Hyannis Conference Center to be a better fit for our needs. Rooms are blocked under Phi Sigma Delta Reunion at \$149./night and

may be reserved now. The Conference Center is undergoing reservations as well as the name change. It may be familiar to those of you who attended our 2016 reunion there. In addition to the usual amenities there is golf on site so pack your clubs. Check out The Hyannis Conference web site for details but as usual you can contact me with any questions or comments.

Stan 508-528-1107 or kitcol1@comcast.net

BROTHER BIOS:

For many years I have included biographies or comments from Brothers. Since Tom Nastasia '69 is part of the reunion committee I thought it would be appropriate to have Tom submit the below comments.

Hi Brothers,

I was born in the once beautiful and thriving city of Lawrence, MA. and attended Lawrence schools in my younger years. Early on, I became infatuated with sports and science and was lucky enough to become fairly proficient in both categories. My parents, unfortunately, did not have a lot of money, but they worked hard and I was extremely lucky to be able to attend UMASS.

Ever since I was treated orthodontically, I have been enamored with dentistry and enrolled as a pre-dent major. I joined Phi Sig pledge class along with co-pledge Dave Graves during my sophomore year. Len Nyer became my excellent big brother. Although pledging was difficult (we all remember "We're a bunch of bastards...") along with my studies, the experiences were all priceless. I learned how to drink on \$5/week from my parents, and enjoyed meeting and forming friendships with the brothers of our expanding brotherhood. After passing the paddling, camel walk, dive into the mud & pee (I'm sure), and eating the "feces" in the toilet, I became a brother. I moved from Southwest to Hills and lived with Don Petrone, Fran Bourdon, Jerry Principe, and Paul Johnson. I became aware that college life was the best, and to this day I view my 4 years at UMASS in the top 3 of 4 year stretches in my life thanks almost entirely to the brothers of Phi Sig. I am so blessed to have continuous relationships with you all.

After graduating from UMASS I was lucky enough to be accepted with scholarship money to Temple grad school. My entire family was ecstatic since I was the first to attend a graduate college and continue on towards my doctorate. Actually several of my brothers came down to Philly to see UMASS football in the Boardwalk bowl. During my senior years, the dental companies would come to my school to ask us about our future plans. I had worked on the cape for several summers and fell in love with its beautiful surroundings, I was hopeful to practice on the cape. They laughed at me and said I had no chance to practice on Cape Cod. Of course, I was disappointed. Upon graduation, I received my 1st car, and while waiting for the results of my boards, I headed cross-country to fulfill a dream. When I returned, I impulsively drove to the Cape on a Friday to see if the companies were correct in their assessment and broke out the phone book. The third dentist I called was actively looking for help so he was anxious to speak with me the next day. We met again and by late Sunday we had a deal.

I was again ecstatic, and the practice grew by leaps and bounds for many years adding three more dentists and several hygienists. I enjoyed my occupation immensely for 41 years, and in 2017 was able to retire. During that time I was married and was blessed with ecstasy again when my three children Tom, Nick, and Chanelle were born healthy. Tom is a Computer Engineer working for Boeing, and lives in Maryland with his wife and two kids. Nick is a

HVAC expert, and lives in Georgia with his wife and two identical twin boys. Chanelle lives on the Cape and is a Social Worker who works for the state helping children and families.

Brothers, we were so lucky to be attracted to one spot (North Pleasant St in Amherst) and solidify so many friendships at Phi Sig through the enjoyment we shared during our time together. Well, it's time to have fun again at our next reunion on Cape Cod. We have secured a fabulous venue at the Conference Center in Hyannis for Oct. '23. I encourage all our wonderful brothers to make arrangements to attend and enjoy a fantastic weekend with regular attendees and those who have not yet been able to participate. I guarantee you will all be smiling when you see your friendly brothers.

See you all there,
TN.

SCHOLARSHIPS: At our 2019 business meeting the Brotherhood voted to increase the amount of our scholarships to \$250.00/ea. Since beginning our scholarship program in 2001 we have awarded 84 scholarships. This year we awarded all 3 applicants. If you have a child or grandchild who you would like to nominate for a scholarship, applications are on our website phisig.atspace.com. or can be requested from John. Forward the completed application to Chairman John Cycz at: 23 Capt. Lathrop Dr., S. Deerfield, MA 01373.

WEBSITE: Lloyd Bristol was also reappointed as historian and web master to maintain, update and offer many things that might be of interest on our web site. If you have not visited the site lately please check it out at: phisig.atspace.com Lloyd is always looking for your comments, photo's or whatever you might share. Being the PSD Historian Lloyd has many photos not posted on the website as well other items, so if you have some items of nostalgia from your PSD days share them with us via photos. Lloyd can be contacted at lgbristol@verizon.net. See the attachment.

DUES: Probably the best buy you'll ever have. Annual dues are \$10.00 and can be sent along with any donations for the scholarship program to Treasurer Stan Kittredge 399 Old Farm Rd Franklin, MA 02038

Wishing you all the best for the holiday season and a happy new year!