

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.

From the Treasurer - Stan Kittredge '72

Last year's reunion at the Sheraton Tara in Framingham was a resounding success with more Brothers in attendance than any previous reunion. It was great to see several Brothers who had not been with us for many years.

From the President:

The astute reunion site selection committee of Phi Sigma Delta has apparently been involved in some form of "reversion therapy." Sensing the effects of advanced age, the committee members all sought psychiatric counseling from a head-case guru in Amherst, Massachusetts. In the fifth session, Bill Troupe, was advised that if he wanted to restore his youth, he had to return to his youthful consumption of alcoholic beverages. By the way, he was given the sex option, but that seemed out of the question. High-powered alcohol infusion (talk to Goldfarb) is one hell of a chore for an old guy, but he persevered. I won't go into detail (it gets messy) but during one of his restorative bouts, in full delirium, he selected my home town, Springfield, Massachusetts, as the reunion site. I was shocked. What Bill discovered whilst under the influence was that Springfield had a new Casino and that in order to attract players, there were some great hospitality deals in the offing.

While Brothers are known to be able to meet, drink and tell lies in any location, Bill drooled out the words "Springfield Tower Square Hotel" and was able to lock down some bargain room rates and the use of spacious meeting sites. His planning did not stop there. He has a private room and dining accommodations at the Munich House in Chicopee for Friday night at 6:00. Order from a selection of fine German entrees. For Saturday night, he cornered a young lass at Storrowton Tavern in West Springfield...same deal at 6:00, private room and ordering off menu or selection of meals at a fixed price, your call.

In addition to the Casino, there are some good golf courses available, Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield Armory, (for the daring) airplane rides over Amherst, Minor League Baseball (at the new DD Field in Hartford) and excellent reunion facilities. We hope to see a great turnout. John will be bringing the ever ageing bottle of scotch from which a toast (Tontine) will be made to all of us (some day, way in the future) by the surviving Brother. We'll take care of the toasting at the reunion. Come sign the bottle case if you have not already done so. We expect another great reunion.

All of the statements of fact in this Presidential Message are (except for sleeping and eating reservations) false, subject to revision, retraction, modification, amendment, characterization as misinformation or downright lies.

Looking forward to connecting with every Brother...

Mike

Brother Bio: For several years I have included brief biographies and comments from individual Brothers hoping you would enjoy some background information on some of the guys you know and introduce you to some that you may not know. Jay Cammarata and his wife Dee are frequent participants at all our reunions and functions. The following are some of Jay's thoughts.

Jay Cammarata began pledging Phi Sig as a freshman in the late fall of 1967. I received a first semester cum of 3.4 in Engineering, became a brother and nailed a 1.5 cum during spring semester. I somehow graduated as a

civil engineer in January, 1972. But as we all know, my UMASS education was indeed well rounded and filled with “good fun Phi Sig remembrances which will last forever”.

Jobs were difficult to obtain in 1971/1972. Time magazine illustrated this by showing a college grad pumping gas as a cover sheet. One 1972 day as I was driving along Rt. 128 in Massachusetts following another unsuccessful engineering job search, I noticed a contractor starting to begin a Rt. 128 highway construction project. I filled out a job application while not indicating I was a graduate civil engineer. I immediately received a job offer as a construction laborer. About a week later production slowed down when the project engineer got hurt and all survey and engineering field layout practically stopped. So I informed the project superintendent that I was a graduate civil engineer and could do the survey layout. The super looked at me with a kind of puzzled look and said OK. I must have passed the test because he checked all of my work daily for the next month. Over the next 2½ years I enjoyed work and developed first as a construction project engineer and then as a superintendent. In November of 1974 I married and also began working with a consultant engineering firm in the environmental fields. My environmental profession began while assisting in the construction of the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District (UBWPAD) located in Worcester, Mass. Subsequently I worked on many environmental design build projects throughout New England, New York and other states. My last environmental design build project occurred in 1994 at UBWPAD. Ironically this was the same facility that I had worked on as a junior engineer in 1974. Upon project completion in 1996, I was offered the position of facilities manager for the UBWPAD. I accepted this position because in 1996 I was divorced and retained custody of my two boys (Matthew and Jeffrey) and needed a position with little travel as opposed to my previous position which involved much travel. I enjoyed my employment at UBWPAD until my retirement in 2015. This position allowed me the time and flexibility a single parent needed.

I never excelled at cooking or cleaning at our home the “Male Place” but I did enjoy coaching baseball and basketball with Matt and Jeff and somehow found time to build baseball fields for Bellingham Youth Baseball. Thank god I met Denise in 2002, married and inherited two more boys, Tom and Andy, ironically the same ages as Matt and Jeff. We have three grandchildren – Travis, Austin and Julia Rose. Jeff married in June 2019; the last of the crew.

So what did I do for PhiSig before attending reunions and get together from 1972 to 2000 – NOT MUCH!! I repeatedly informed this guy named Stan that I had no time. But the real reason was that I did not feel like a Brother because of my lack of commitment to the Brotherhood. When I started attending PhiSig reunions & get togethers, much to my surprise I felt immediate fun and friendship as we SCHMOOGS shared the old & new times.... Sound familiar????

During my first couple of reunions, I felt immediate comfort & rebonding with Brothers that I knew at UMASS. Later this Phi Sig brotherly sharing & friendship grew with the Phi Sigs who came before me and then to their wives or “Phi Sig sisters”. So as I remember back to our UMASS/Phi Sig days and get that “reunion buzz” that we all do at a reunions past, I look forward to future Phi Sig reunions telling those same old stories and pretend that I can still slosh down a few beers with the best of you.

Bill Troupe, Mike Parker and the committee have found an excellent location for this year’s reunion. Bill writes.....

Hello all, I have been working on the fall reunion for several months. After having done it now I can truly see how much work and aggravation it can be. I say thanks 1 million times to Stan for having done it pretty much by himself over the last few decades. I had sent out Number of queries last fall and the venue that seemed to get the most approval was Springfield Mass. Where Mike Parker's practice is located in Springfield I enlisted his help. He and I made a day trip to downtown Springfield to review several venues. The one that we have come up with is really nice and we're getting a very good price on the room rate. It is The Tower Square Hotel and is

next door to the new CASINO. There will be lots of things to do including some people probably wanting to take a drive over to see how the Amherst campus looks like after all these years.

We can also look into a tour of the international basketball Hall of Fame, and the Springfield Armory both of which I understand are really good takes.

We are hoping that we get a real good turnout. That time of year (early October) is usually very nice in western Massachusetts and a lot of the guys live close by and may be able to commute to Springfield.

Bill Troupe