

Newsletter XXXII Vol. I Fall 2021

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 President: Mike Parker

I think the Covid pandemic has taken a greater toll on us than we can imagine. We see our grandchildren out of school for long periods of time doing "remote learning." For the older kids with reading and basic math skills in place, the computer can be a teaching device for the self-starters, for the kids who can encourage themselves. For those who need a mentor, someone to inspire them, the computer is simply an entertainment device. Almost by default, elementary school kids fall into this category.

What is harder to see are the effects of the disease on ourselves. It goes without saying, we are a somewhat elderly group. For most of us, our interactions with friends and family are the things that keep us going. I can't describe the joy I experience in watching my little granddaughter, Elizabeth, hike up a mountain trail in front of me, listening to her bitch and complain all the way. Just like her mother. I see in her little legs and pigeon toes the exact shape of her grandmothers undercarriage. Genetics works. I can't stop smiling. The effort is nothing to her, we get to the top and while I sit on a rock trying to breathe normally, she's running around looking over every sheer drop. I couldn't be happier, maybe if I could stop panting.

Our fraternity events, maybe on a different level, give me the same boost. Every time I'm with brothers who grew up with me at Zoo Mass, drinking, whoring, partying and occasionally studying, I get a sense of youthfulness and an uncanny sense of well-being. The "Old" gets a back seat for a moment. It takes quite a bit these days to get the joint pain, the loss of close friends and family, the "down" feeling that comes with just being an old man out of my head. But our reunions have worked magic. This small piece of our lives must be restored. Covid has kept us in the "hangar" so to speak, but we should take a reasoned chance on getting together.

We have another ZOOM house meeting in the works for October which I hope everyone will make a point to attend. For guys on the West coast, get some sleep the night before so you can get up before noon. It is my thought that we might, at that ZOOM meeting, plan an "in-person" reunion, we could also have a hybrid portion of the in-person event for the faint of heart, especially during the cocktail (Etails) hour(s) and the house meeting. If everyone is vaccinated and willing to wear a mask, an actual reunion should work, particularly if we can get an outdoor venue.

Stan will be in touch with the date and time for the "Zoommeeting."

Mike

From the Treasurer:

With all the craziness of COVID there hasn't been much news to report. The good news is that those few that caught COVID have recovered and are back to their normal activities. I know of no deaths among our group to COVID. It did however postpone our planned reunion last fall originally scheduled for D.C. We were hoping to have it this fall but with the recent spike in COVID activity your Association officers consulted and agreed to again postpone. If things rapidly improve we may still be able to hold it later in the fall but that seems unlikely so we are realistically looking at next spring at the earliest.

We held our first ever ZOOM call last spring and I was glad to see that 33 guys were on line and we had a chance to catch up with each Brother having a chance to express his thoughts. We may hold another Zoom call shortly but more on that later.

As always I continue to be your point of contact if you have any information or news to share.

Thanks to those of you who have continued to forward your dues in spite of there being no reunion last year. As you know we raised each scholarship from \$100. to \$250 each. So your continued support is needed.

Stan

Brother Bio's:

For a number of years each newsletter has contained a brief bio or comments from a brother or two. The following were submitted by George Donovan '63 and George Rakauskas '70.

George Donovan says;

Glad to hear that all the brothers are surviving the corona virus in good shape. My family (wife, three children, and eight grandchildren, all of whom live in Colorado) is doing OK so far. We did have a niece who came down with a bad case of the virus (she is a Jr. High teacher) but she has recovered. Her son was completely unaffected.

I will fill you in on a little history of my landing in Colorado. While I was in my last year at UMass, my father retired. He and my mother moved back down east to Portland where they had been born and gone to high school. That left me without any family living in Massachusetts.

When I graduated from UMass in 1963, I went out to do my graduate work in mathematics at CU in Boulder, Colo. In 1968 I got married to my wife Carol and took a temporary job at Metropolitan State University in downtown Denver while I finished my thesis. I finished my thesis and received my Ph.D. In 1969. Those who are old enough will remember that the economy took a nose dive after Nixon was elected (Johnson had run up the national debt and there was an oil embargo). The job market tanked so I ended up staying at my temporary job for 48 years and retired in 2016.

Thank goodness I am retired and do not have to put up with what is going on at Metro State. Not that Metro is unique. Colleges around the country are facing "distance learning" and budget cuts. I am just too old to cope with all that ~~erap~~ confusion.

I am glad that Carol and I did some traveling before we got into our seventies. My “get up and go” has “got up and went”. But we do normally keep busy with family. I occasionally end up tutoring my grandchildren in math when they need help. Two of our grandchildren are scheduled to graduate from high school this spring and there are temporary schedules for some kind of ceremonies this summer. So you can see that my life has been anything but exciting.

Here’s hoping that everyone stays well,

George S. Donovan, Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences, Metropolitan State University of Denver

George Rakauskas offers this update.

After I left UMASS, I went to learn about those new fangled computers at Control Data Institute. When the draft board got me and went for my physical in Southie, I was too heavy. I sat in front a man behind a desk who weighed at least 50 pounds more than me. He told me I'd feel better if I just lost some weight. Six months later I went back. Weighed the same, but shrunk 1/2 an inch!! Then I got a high number in the lottery.

I loved the Bruins stories. I met Bobby Orr when my daughter was a student at BU working at a hockey game. Orr was a good friend of Coach Parker and was at the game. My daughter got hit by a puck and Orr came over to take care of her. We found her in Orr's care when we went to pick her up.

George

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 73 scholarships. With no business meeting scheduled this year the decision has been made to roll all new scholarship applications over to our next meeting. If you have a child or grandchild who you would like to nominate for a scholarship, applications are on our web site **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 continues to maintain, update and offer many things that might be of interest. 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. Lloyd is also the PSD Historian with many photos not posted on the website as well, 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.

Dues: Probably the best buy you'll ever have. Annual dues are \$10.00 and can be sent to Stan Kittredge 399 Old Farm Rd Franklin, MA 02038

One more thing: During these crazy times it would be great if all Brothers would RSVP and let me know that you are OK or not. Thanks, Stan.