

Survival Tips for Operationally Challenged Chapters

(Operationally challenged is generally defined as some combination of declining membership; large overdue debt; very low CMP; no attendance at conference and LEAD events).

- ▲ Never initiate Seniors. Only consider new members who have at least 1 year left toward their degree after initiation. You must initiate more than you graduate. Never initiate anyone who has not paid the initiation fee.
- ▲ Keep Pledge Education short (30-40 days) and use only the national requirements with no additional options. Pledges must be initiated quickly so they can help the chapter more.
- ▲ Avoid member/officer burnout. Be sure each officer knows the most important functions that are required. (See CMP).
- ▲ Be sure each member pays their dues and that the chapter pays national dues. Dues are an individual obligation.
- ▲ Seek to increase faculty involvement and support. The advisor should be the one consistent strength for the chapter.
- ▲ Increase communication with Central Office staff, your Regional Vice President and District Director. They can help more when they know what is or is not going on. Focus on effective and frequent communication and teamwork among the members and pledges (i.e. group lunch every Tuesday).
- ▲ Be sure to read monthly e-newsletters from the Central Office and review the Fraternity website often.
- ▲ Seek school funding, corporate sponsors, and alumni donations to supplement the lack of other fundraising.
- ▲ Learn CMP and meet reporting due dates.
- ▲ Look for solutions to chapter challenges. Do not complain about weaknesses and personal problems. Those are not acceptable excuses for poor chapter performance.
- ▲ Review minimum objectives and goals regularly (individually and as a group).
- ▲ Remember, you are the chapter and the reputation of the chapter is the reputation of you. Remember that the chapter IS a business and you are a co-owner / manager.
- ▲ Do not give up. If you do give up, tell your advisor, national officers or the Central Office. A lack of communication is the worst thing you can do.