

## Things aren't the same anymore

Something has occurred outside of the Fraternity that has changed the environment in which your chapter operates. What do you do? The "Swine Flu" has the potential to be this type of outside occurrence. What happens if it strikes your campus during your normal rush period? Then once students start returning to classes they may be leery of being involved in extracurricular activities for fear of people still be contagious. All the sudden you are getting ready for finals and the semester has slipped away with very little chapter activity.

Your executive committee should develop contingency plans now and not wait until some outside influence has a major impact on the operations of your chapter.

### **SUGGESTED HINT TO HELP YOU IN YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS**

#### **Chapter Operations**

- Meetings – have a virtual meeting using free services on the website such as:
  - FreeConferencecall.com
  - Skype
  - Oovoo
  - And many others that allow for online chats, phone calls, and video.
  
- Events
  - Suggest individual or small group, rather than large group, events
  - Encourage members that are sick to "stay away" from the event, but to communicate to the project chair, Service VP or whoever is coordinating the event, they are sick.
  - When doing an event have germicide gel available for participants to use, and use often.
  - Talk with service partners or others with whom you are coordinating an event about the alternative plans should they, or you, have a need to cancel due to the flu.
  
- Administration
  - Use of online organization tools such as Google Docs, Google Calendar, or Sky Drive Live.
    - These tools allow you to post and change documents for all to see. If you usually have signup sheets for service projects at your meetings, you could use a Word Document on one of these sites for signing up for service projects.
  - Use an Excel Document on Google Docs for each person to submit & keep track of their own service hours.
  - Maximize the effectiveness of your meetings so that you do not have to meet face-to-face as often.

## **Service**

- Instead of doing service projects in large groups as you would be used to doing. Some service projects may be able to be broken up into smaller groups.
- Seek out service projects that are able to be done and then provided the “outcome” to an organization; such as making blankets for children or providing premade sandwiches for the homeless. Each member of the chapter could participate individually or in small groups, and the chapter can donate them to organization. Or the chapter could write cards in support of our troops overseas.
- Volunteermatch.org and other community service matching websites have information on how to participate with organizations seeking virtual volunteers.

## **Leadership**

- APO IMPACT Live sessions are available and can be accessed by individuals on their own computers.
- Provide the opportunity for service project chairs to track those who are participating with each service project.
- Make the conscious effort for your chapter to operate using the Servant Chapter Model as described in the APO LEADS course LAUNCH. Use the functions of sharing and providing leadership giving others the opportunity to lead and for you to delegate. Value people by ensuring healthy behaviors and giving the opportunities to develop people’s skills through this contingency planning. Build a healthy community by being collaborative, communicating often and as needed, valuing differences in the way people respond to this health issue and building relationships that are strong and that will withstand these types of critical changes in the way the Chapter operates. Finally, be authentic, accountable and willing to learn from your efforts to reduce the risks of spreading the flu to fellow members or those we serve by learning from all the available resources on how to reduce the risks.

## **Fellowship**

- Use online games to participate with each other and have fun as a chapter.
- Start a book club or a movie review club of the month. Each member could read the same book, or rent the same movie and discuss the movie over email or live online chat.

## **FINAL HINT**

Meet with your campus Health Center staff or Student Affairs staff to discuss additional strategies and to find out what the campus policies might affect your Chapter’s operations and programs.