

June 12, 2019

ALUMNI WEEKEND "TRIAL BY FIRE"

I spent the next chunk of the evening attending a 30th Anniversary concert by the Cheezies, an acapella subset of the Glee Club, and then attending the post-concert party. I figured that by getting back to the house about 12:30 I could get a good night's sleep before I headed to Columbus for a late morning golf date... funny thing about well laid plans...

About 2:15 I was awakened by a party going on downstairs. I walked into a group of about 20 enthusiastic partyers, all from the Alumni Weekend 25th Anniversary group. After a couple somewhat terse exchanges, I explained that unless there was an Alpha Delt Brother who was willing to take responsibility for the group and any issues (read damages), that they would all be leaving shortly.

This is how I met Brother Rich Plum '94. Rich gave me his email address and assured me there would be no issues and he would take responsibility if there were. As he and I spoke, the party continued, primarily on the front porch, with plenty of good music, dancing and a pretty good supply of liquid refreshment. The interesting part was nobody seemed to know how they got in through locked doors and windows... made a mental note to check that.

My conversation with Rich was great! We shared stories of our college experiences (not all stories will be revealed here!), discussed the condition of the house and my new role. He shared that he had recently relocated from Chicago to Indianapolis and there was a possibility that he could get involved with the house. I sent him the following email on Monday...

Hey Rich,

Really enjoyed our discussion Sunday morning and I apologize if I initially came across as overly officious. I do want to complement you on your willingness to take responsibility and your whole group on both their spirit and the way they took care of their partying cleanup...although Stefan did find a couple bottles in the bushes next morning! :-) But all in all, good group and good fun!

I also wanted to follow up to connect you with Stefan and encourage you to bring some of your energy and life experience back to Alpha Delta Phi Miami Chapter. You expressed your appreciation for the excellent condition of the old house... we need guys like you to get involved to keep it that way! And I would certainly appreciate a "middle-man" as I try to relate to the underclassmen! You are just about Mr. In-Between!

I have copied Stefan on this email and discussed our interaction with him as well as your recent relocation to Indy. Hoping 2 things... first that the 2 of you connect about what you can do to get involved with the Chapter. And secondly, I really hope to see you before your 30 Anniversary Reunion!

Now if I could just get those couple hours of sleep back...

Xaipe

The party broke up about 4:30 am without incident. Rich and his buddies collected every bottle and wrapper they could find and filled one of our trash cans... I emptied it the next morning, and, yes, they

missed a couple bottles in the bushes! All in all, they were perfect guests... I just told him we would appreciate a reservation next time.

In some ways, this was my real "trial by fire". It would have been easy to get upset and that potential was there. But I had to make a call, be sure the situation was manageable and that the house would be protected. What I did allowed those goals to be accomplished. And hopefully we re-engaged Rich, Graham and 2 other Alumni who were present. And all it cost me was a couple hours sleep.

I left the weekend more enthusiastic and confident about the challenge. I had spoken to probably 50+ people about my new role and just about everyone had the same response... "Good Luck!" There was one exception... A Glee Club Brother who crossed himself and said, "God Bless You!" I guess I should be pleased it wasn't, "God Help You!"