

Fall 2019

## **STAR-SPANGLED PROGRESS**

Some interesting times... Wednesday night before just about everyone leaves for Fall Break (no classes Friday)....

I returned from my uptown Trivia night about (a regular retreat) just before 10 pm to the sound of singing in the basement... the Star Spangled Banner no less! I joined in as 3 brothers were on the "stage" with a 4<sup>th</sup> wearing a flag shirt being held crosswise by them. What followed can best be described as a "rave" complete with loud music and "locker room" boy behavior... but before you panic, it was much more silly than stupid. A couple observations...

- They actually moved all the couches (not good ones anyway) into the halls and covered the center window.

- They brought trashcans from upstairs and did a pretty good job of filling them... and actually emptied them into the dumpster before the end of the night.

- Yes, they probably set a new standard for wasted beverages, but there was no breakage and no injuries... probably a tough morning for some.

- I complimented them on finding a "use" for the basement... but I also reminded them that we have our preliminary fire inspection today at 2 pm!

The party moved upstairs and then up town and back but in the end, the basement was "sticky" but pretty clear and the dining room and patio were no worse than a typical Thursday / Weekend night.

It may be hard for you to see it this way... but I consider this a small victory and evidence of progress. We will never stop them from partying and we shouldn't allow ourselves that illusion. Hell, we all partied! The "victory" was they thought ahead and left less of a mess behind. And the Old House stayed clean and uncluttered.

Welcome your questions and observations... but I see progress! Thanks!