

A photograph of four students walking away from the camera down a long, brightly lit hallway with a series of arches. The students are seen from behind, and they are all carrying backpacks or bags. The hallway has a polished floor and white walls. A semi-transparent yellow and blue banner is overlaid on the image, containing text.

# Connecting through Closures and Chaos

**Campus closures have sent many of us home. Ultimately, fraternities and sororities will bring us back. It is more important than ever to look at new solutions for stronger bonds.**



OMEGAFI





Dr. Mari Ann Callais  
The Catalyst Agency



Addison Schopp  
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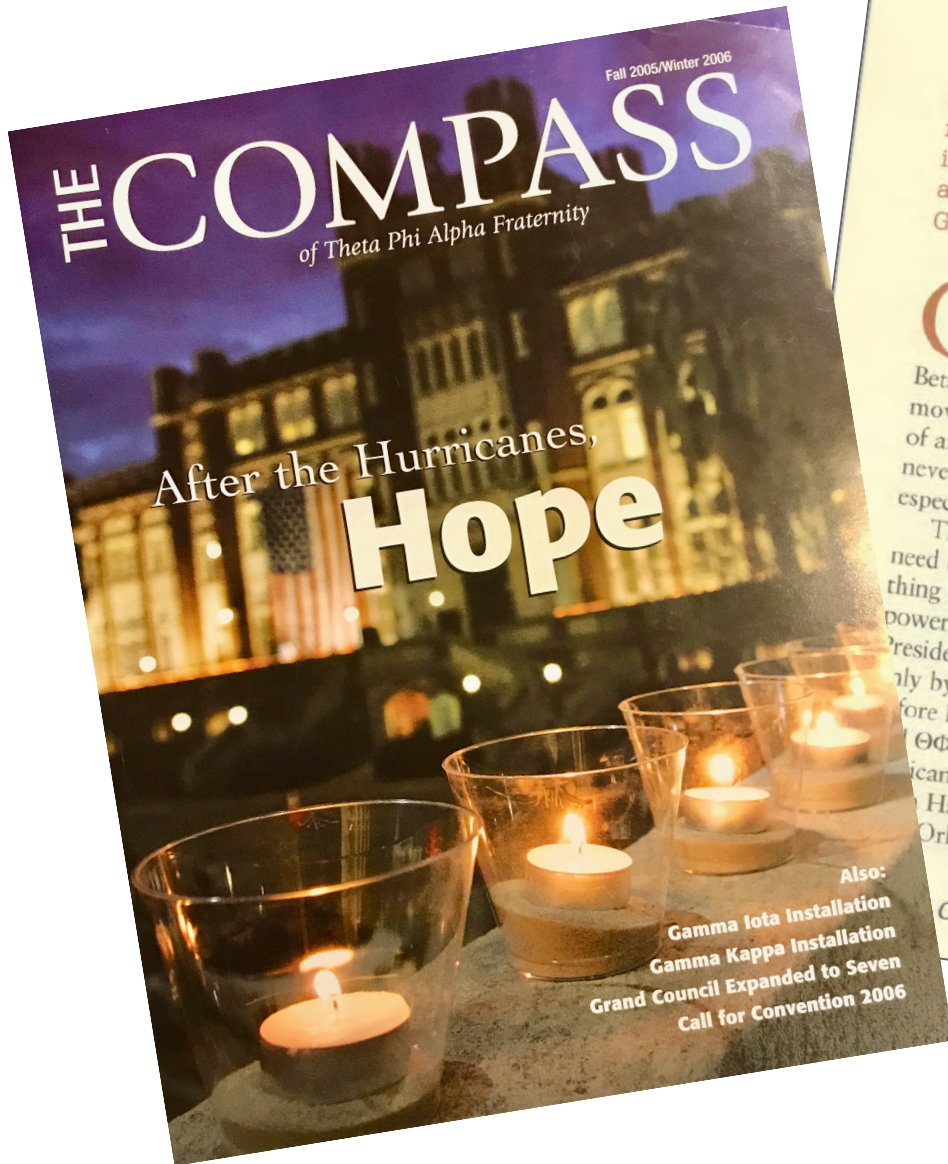
Tony Quandt  
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## Topics

1. The new but temporary reality imposed on the fraternity and sorority community
2. The incredible resilience and power of the fraternal community to members and universities
3. How to maintain and enhance brother/sisterhood
4. Resources and next steps to stay organized and operational



# Hurricane Katrina



## “The outpouring of support will be with me forever.” by Mari Ann Callais, AB

Mari Ann Callais,  $\Theta\Phi\alpha$  National President, a 1986 AB initiate, waited out Hurricane Katrina from her home in Hammond, La. Since the storm, she has experienced an outpouring of kindness from  $\Theta\Phi\alpha$  sisters and the Greek community.

**G**rowing up in the southernmost part of Louisiana, evacuating for hurricanes has always been a way of life. My family sustained damage during Hurricane Betsy (1965) and lost everything during Camille (1969). We moved back to Buras, La., and always knew the possibility of another hurricane wiping out our hometown, but I could never have been prepared for what happened during and especially after Katrina.

The night before the hurricane, I thought, what would I need to do to prepare various aspects of my life should something happen to my home, or me, or if we would be without power for an extended period of time? As  $\Theta\Phi\alpha$  National President, certain responsibilities are placed upon me not only by job description, but constitutionally. The night before Katrina hit, I sent an e-mail to The Grand Council  $\Theta\Phi\alpha$  National Office transferring all duties to Karen Hammon, AΣ, National First Vice President. In Hammond, La., where I live, about 50 miles north of Orleans, we received winds of 120-130 miles per hour.

Compass of Theta Phi Alpha

As the morning of August 29 progressed, I wondered if I should have evacuated as well. That day was the most uncertain one of my life. I didn't know if my family or friends in the area were okay. All we had was a battery operated radio.

The nights were dark. We had no power, telephone, cell phone, or e-mail. Finally, after three days in Hammond, I traveled 40 miles to Baton Rouge to get supplies such as ice, gas and batteries. When I finally got in range to where my cell phone would connect, I had 164 emails on my Blackberry and all of the subject lines read, “Are you okay?”

As I began to read the e-mails, all I could do was weep and remember how fortunate I am to have so many people who really care about me. The e-mails were from Theta Phi—both collegians and alumnae, other National Panhellenic Conference Presidents, CAMPUSPEAK and Capstone colleagues, Greek advisors, students from campuses or conventions I had visited, and the list goes on. Text messages also started coming in and voice messages started registering, and I could hear the fear in each voice, not knowing if I was okay.

The days seem cloudy now, but those messages will always be etched in my heart and memory. The outpouring of support will be with me forever.

For each person I spoke with, we shared tears of joy and tears of sadness. We knew there were many Theta Phi Alphas

Fall 2005/Winter 2006

# How to Help Your Community in Crisis

- **A little intentionality** is better than a lot of chaos...
- **Listen** to the voices of your members...
- **Don't assume** you know what your members need...
- **Document** needs based on the feedback received...
- **Prioritize** the needs, tell your members how you plan to help...
- **Fully engage.** Don't quit until the job is completed...
- **Communicate, collaborate and coordinate...**
- **Cheer progress.** Sometimes the task can seem daunting...



# Staying Operational

## Why focus on operations?

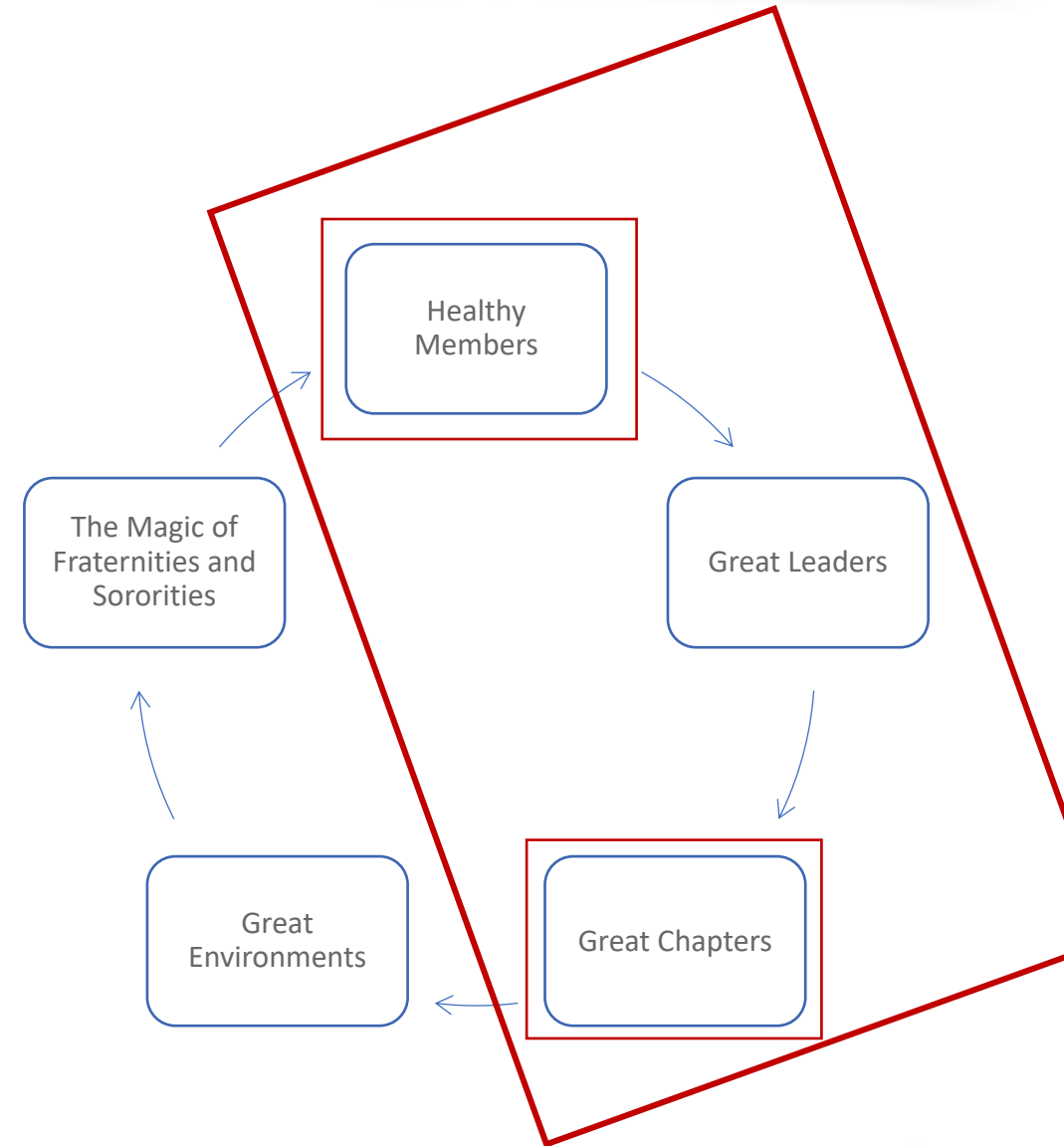
- Personal connections are most likely to thrive in healthy chapters.

## Where to focus?

- We can't do everything, so let's focus on key functional areas that provide normalcy: chapter meetings, budgets, remote community service, maintaining relationships.

## Use outcomes to narrow your options.

- Prepare for a success fall semester.
- Maintain connections between members to maximize retention.
- Achieve some down-list goals that we now have time for.



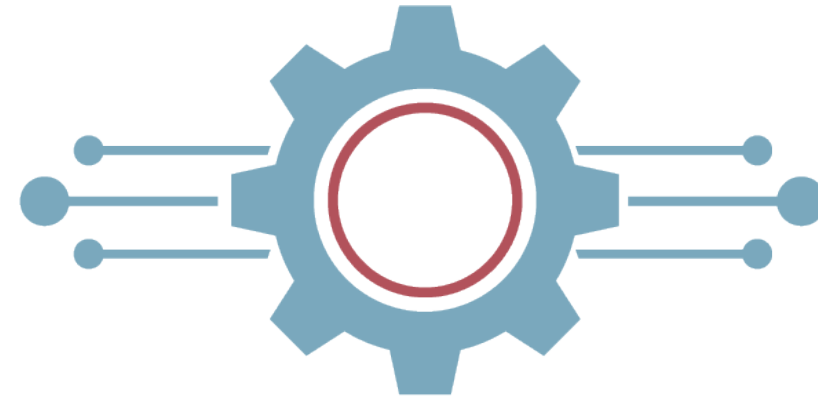
## Digital Chapter Meetings

Our pick for chapters and house corporations: **OmegaOne**

- Post resources like budgets and agendas
- Host discussion on key topics
- Announcements, email and texting
- Open voting on agenda items for set periods
- Many other modules: study hours, points, event check in and more.

Why we love it?

*Many tools offer resources or discussion or voting, but OmegaOne does it all in a single app. This simplifies business for members and key leaders. It also allows you to have a meeting over the course of hours or days rather than all at once.*



# OmegaOne

Learn more:  
[omegafi.com/solutions/omegaone](http://omegafi.com/solutions/omegaone)



## Project Management

Our pick for chapters and house corporations: **Trello**

- Free
- Easily organize projects into Kanban board with to-do lists, notes, progress and resources
- Always know your next step in any project

Why we love it?

*Eliminate the feeling of being overwhelmed as a student or alumni leader when you group your tasks by project. This bite-size approach makes accomplishing big things without the stress.*



Learn more:  
[trello.com/en-US/guide/](https://trello.com/en-US/guide/)

# Tools To Stay Operational

## Tools You Already Have

Your billing system (**Vault**, **LegFi**, **Billhighway**) has budgeting tools that you should get started with *today*.

Advanced budgeting systems (**Vault** and **Greek Resource Services**) can pay your bills for you, a convenient tool if alumni and student leaders are no longer local to your chapter or facility.

Your recruitment tool (**OmegaRecruit**, for example) has live voting features that you can use to conduct business during a virtual chapter meeting.



Omega**Recruit**





# Staying Connected

- Share any connection tools you have...
- Men and women bond differently...
- Do a service project...
- Ask what volunteers and advisors need right now...
- Communicate frequently... Connection is better than polish...
- Do what only you can do...
- Different emotions are valid... Grief, fear, uncertainty...
- Get ready for finance questions...

# Don't Leave Anyone Behind

Brotherhood and sisterhood are intentional not accidental, so let's make sure we don't leave anyone behind.

New Members	Seniors	Advisors & Alumni/ae	Chapter Leaders	Jane & Joe Member
<i>These are the members that didn't get the traditional joining experience.</i>	<i>These members missed an important membership change and milestone.</i>	<i>These members want to know how to help but still need support themselves.</i>	<i>Chapter leaders seek tools and guidance to determine what is important right now.</i>	<i>These members are the easiest to take for granted but are essential to our return.</i>
Focus on personal relationships that are likely an important part of why they joined.	Focus on developing recognition for their accomplishment and connecting them with great examples of their new membership.	Provide opportunities to give time and treasure.	Narrow the daunting to-do list down to a manageable 3-5 key things.	Ensure that each member is accounted for in new, digital versions of social interaction. Don't allow anyone to slip through the cracks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big brothers and sisters</li> <li>• Mentoring programs</li> <li>• Engage in fall recruitment planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule your senior send-off for Homecoming</li> <li>• Professional workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some are ready and able to make donations. Be sure to be delicate.</li> <li>• Workshops.</li> <li>• Include in virtual social events since you don't need to be on campus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not know what help they need. Avoid, "how can I help" and instead offer specific things you can do.</li> <li>• Leaders often "eat last". Make sure they have eaten.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print the roster and assign every member to an officer for personal connection.</li> <li>• Some of these members won't opt-in to your fun online activities.</li> </ul>



# More Bullets on Audience

- You may have many audiences or just a few...
- Keep in mind your timeline...
- Focus on intentionality...
- You are an audience, too. Ask for help and delegate.

# Fraternal Values on Display



**Tri Delta** @TriDelta · Mar 26  
Grace Dodd, @AggieTriDelta and her sister Annie, a member of @ChiOmegaXO, are spreading kindness by fundraising to help service workers impacted by the current situation. [bit.ly/2xuimU5](https://bit.ly/2xuimU5) ❤️



Dallas Sisters Turn Brainstorming into Action: Putting... During tough times, the helpers are never that hard to find. They always step forward when needed most. ... [nbcdfw.com](https://nbcdfw.com)

2 7

Partner First Book®  
books in the face of  
able to help



Those in Bowling  
are writing letters  
looking for letter w  
(today/Thursday) i  
Panhellenic Assoc

8



Relevant

## As coronavirus takes its toll SC workers, one USC fraternity steps up to help

CORONAVIRUS

BY LUCAS DAPRILE

MARCH 30, 2020 12:09 PM, UPDATED MARCH 30, 2020 12:09 PM

Every day, Alberta Garcia comes to work at USC's Kappa Alpha Order fraternity with a smile on her face.

Garcia cleans the fraternity's house at the University of South Carolina. But as soon as coronavirus shut down restaurants, bars and schools, many jobs dried up.

Not Garcia's. The fraternity has kept Garcia, their "right hand woman," on part-time to help clean the house. She has started a [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com/clean-the-house) to raise money for the house.

## LunarNYC Inc. and Nu Alpha Phi Fraternity Inc. Launch "Mask for Heroes" Fundraising for the Frontline Medical Professionals and First Responders in the Fight Against Coronavirus (COVID-19)

CISION PR Newswire March 31, 2020

NEW YORK, March 31, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Lunar NYC Inc., also known as Lunar New Year Celebration™, also known as LunarNYC, in conjunction with Nu Alpha Phi Fraternity Inc., launches the "Mask Our Heroes" movement to assist medical professionals and first responders on the frontlines in the struggle against 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Due to the exponential increase of COVID-19 cases flooding medical sites all over the world, we hear of horror stories directly from the network of healthcare workers in New York about supply shortages and colleagues taken out of service because of infections. Our heroes are now running dangerously low on protective equipment to keep them safe while doing their job.

The partnership has already identified domestic and international sources for quality Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) with the first 1,200 N95 masks expected to arrive in the first week of April, closely followed by 20,000 KN95 masks. Expected delivery of these masks to various doctors, nurses and other medical practitioners is expected on April 10th.

University of Georgia's Campus Kitchen donated some ingredients. Closed sororities offered up what was in their pantries. ACCA's culinary program kitchen was stocked. Students were instructed not to return to campus. Pickles and hot sauce given out during the food drive produced by students.

## Omega Psi Phi Fraternity donates to senior citizens during coronavirus crisis



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity donates to senior citizens during coronavirus crisis

THINK YOU KNOW DR. TYLER JURY?  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
MONDAY, MARCH 30TH  
[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/123456789](https://zoom.us/j/123456789)

Dr. Tyler Jury, 29, is a Dentistry to prevent a 30-year-old business Louisville leather goods staying six or more feet apart. The men, who met while making leather belts fraternities in 2012.

Engaged Online in Sexual Assault Awareness Month  
Online events and actions can be just as powerful.





# Key Messages

- Brotherhood and sisterhood don't happen by accident, we must be intentional about maintaining our bonds.
- Be flexible, supportive and patient with students, advisors and staff that all are adjusting to study-, volunteer- and work-from-home.
- Physical distance over social distance.
- Let's come back stronger than ever.
- Fraternities and sororities can and should be the reason students return in the fall. We represent the very best of the residential college experience.

## Your Questions



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# CARES Act Information

- We are learning more every day.
- Please be in touch with your own tax and legal advisors as well as national organizations.
- OmegaFi will likely be ready to support your application within a few days, particularly for our billing clients on Vault, LegFi, GRS and Pennington & Company clients.

<https://nicfraternity.org/covid-19/>

<https://www.npcwomen.org/coronavirus-resources/>

*Content from public health experts, house corporation financing experts, admissions counselors and much more.*

We are here to  
help



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## Content Adapted From

- The Compass of Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity, Fall 2005/Winter 2006 Issue: After the Hurricanes, Hope
- AARP Livable Communities Website: [How to Effectively \(and Respectfully\) Help a Community in Crisis](#)