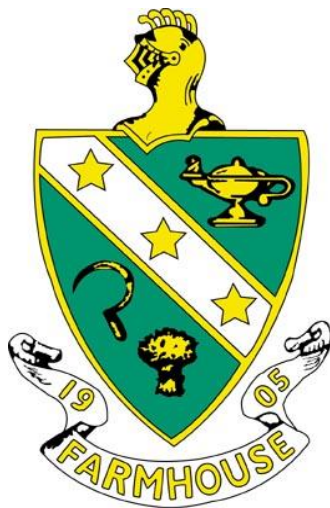


# **An Overview of Chapter Resources, Services, Programs & Support**



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**The FarmHouse International Fraternity Headquarters** has a wide range of resources, services, programs and support available to chapters, colonies, alumni associations, chapter advisors, and individual members. The following list is just a brief synopsis of the many services and programs available through the International Fraternity. Please contact the headquarters staff with questions about any of these resources and to share how the headquarters staff can best support your chapter/colony.

## **Hands-On Support**

### **Consultation Visits**

Each chapter receives at least one consultation visit by headquarters staff or appointed volunteers each academic year. Consultation visits consist of a primary presentation with several smaller workshops as well as 1-on-1 meetings with chapter officers, advisors, association leaders, and campus officials. These visits are designed to best support each chapter/colony individually while offering a larger prospective of their local concerns and provide resources for improvement. The staff and volunteers are available to help chapters and colonies in all facets of chapter life and operation, including organization, motivation, and leadership development.

### **Targeted Programming Visits**

Chapters may also receive a targeted programming visit by headquarters staff. These visits will be decided based on the need of each chapter/colony and any recent policy violations. Targeted programming visits may include, but are not limited to, 1-on-1 meetings with chapter members or other key stakeholders, specific programming with required attendance, a chapter retreat, and direct assistance in hosting or planning chapter events. As time permits, the staff will also be available to provide additional educational programming as requested.

### **Regional Directors**

An advisory group of volunteers focused on assisting their assigned chapters in one of five geographic regions by helping to provide resources, support and onsite visits to chapters and associations. These volunteers are appointed biennially at each conclave.

### **Association/Advisor Support Visits**

This program led by staff covers issues related to housing, operating and leading Association Boards and working closely with chapters on a variety of issues.

# Educational Programs

## Conclave

The FarmHouse Conclave is the biennial gathering of all chapter and alumni association delegates from throughout North America. The legislative portion of the Conclave sets policy, conducts business and gives direction to the Fraternity for the next two years. In addition to the many educational programs, Conclave programming features keynote speakers, entertainment, cultural activities, and opportunities for networking with members from every chapter.

## FarmHouse Leadership Institute

FarmHouse Leadership Institute (FLI) is designed to provide leadership training and build a platform for chapter leaders to promote growth and change at their chapters. The Institute includes sessions on leadership, motivation, risk management, and strategic planning among other topics. This 4-day program builds on each piece of curriculum and culminates by developing a plan for improvement at each chapter. Held in Kansas City, MO each January.

## Regional Leadership Conference

The goals of each Regional Leadership Conference (RLC) is to explore leadership topics, address risk management issues, and provide a forum for chapter members to informally share ideas while developing a broader sense of brotherhood beyond the local chapter. The conference focuses on topics that directly relate to chapters such as recruitment, membership education, and alumni relations. Additionally, each RLC focuses on personal development for members through career focused sessions and a local cultural activity. Held in three regional locations biennially in February during odd-numbered years.

## FarmHouse GROWS

So that the fraternity may continue to expand and grow our membership, FarmHouse GROWS specifically addresses the identification, recruitment, and retention of members. This program is held over a weekend in Kansas City, MO on a biennial basis in even-number years, in late January.

## To Be and Become...Emerging Talent Retreat

First held in 2009 in partnership with the Monsanto Company, the To Be and Become...Emerging Talent Retreat is a 3-day outdoor adventure program hosted at Camp Heartland, just outside Kansas City. To Be and Become is specifically developed for FarmHouse men who have completed their new member education experience within the academic year and is held in late May annually. The retreat is fully funded for one man from each chapter to attend.

## The Journey: FarmHouse

FarmHouse men are called to show our promise of service to our fellowmen and to the world. This international service immersion trip held at the end of the academic year is an outstanding opportunity to experience personal growth, develop a greater cultural perspective, and apply skills in much-needed relief areas of the world. The week-long trip is led by a team of facilitators to Central America in partnership with a local international aid organization.

## **Officer Webinars**

Each semester officers receive continuing education and updates from FH HQ through a series of topical webinars for various alumni and chapter officers. Topics range from risk management to chapter planning and recruitment preparation to budgeting. Archived editions of the webinars are housed on the FarmHouse web site for further use as needed by officers. The webinars are an effective and interactive way to get information out to our officers in a timely and responsive manner.

## **Chapter Awards**

Every year the International Office makes available certificates (fees for certificate, plaquing, and shipping apply) for each chapters' recipient of the:

- Doane Award (outstanding graduating senior)
- Snyder Award (outstanding alumnus)
- Joan "Chad" Skinner Award (honoring the contribution of a woman to the Fraternity)
- Friend of FarmHouse Award (honoring those who have demonstrate a special friendship)

## **FarmHouse International Awards**

The International Fraternity also sponsors:

- The Chapter Award of Excellence for chapters that excel in performance of their chapter operations (meeting 90 percent or more of standards).
- 12 Chapter Programming Awards (two divisions – Green and Gold Chapters)
- The traveling Ruby Cup is presented to the overall Outstanding Chapter each year.
- The Summa Cum Laude Award (for those with a chapter GPA 30% above the all men's average)
- Most Improved Chapter
- Outstanding President of the Year
- Recruiter of the Year Award
- Outstanding Community Service Man of the Year
- The Duane LeTourneau Chapter Advisor of the Year Award

## **Conclave Awards**

Additional awards presented solely at Conclave include:

- The Master Builder of Men Award, the highest honor that FarmHouse can bestow on an alumnus, is presented in recognition of the member's unselfish leadership, lifetime achievement, and service to his fellow man, both within the Fraternity and beyond.
- In addition, Honorary Membership is bestowed on outstanding non-members whose lives fulfill the objectives and high standards of FarmHouse Fraternity.
- The President's Trophy is presented to the chapter with the most men traveling the combined furthest distance to attend.

## **The FarmHouse Foundation**

The Fraternity's Educational Foundation provides scholarships and grants to members, chapters and the International Fraternity for educational projects and programs. The Foundation also holds the Power of Seven Seminar each spring for seven upper-classmen chapter members to be paired with an alumni mentor. The weekend includes dialogue about the current and future state of local, regional, national and international affairs in agriculture, business, technology, public service, finance, economics, and beyond.

# Publications

## ***Pearls & Rubies***

A magazine published 3 times per year and sent to all FarmHouse members around the world. It is designed to strengthen the ties of brotherhood, provide a medium of communication among members of all ages, and to aid in more fully acquainting the general public, particularly parents of members, prospective members, and university administration and faculty with the men of FarmHouse and their ideals.

## **Inside FH**

A bi-weekly online newsletter to chapter leaders, advisors, association leaders and other Fraternity leaders - keeping all updated of Fraternity news, notes and reminders.

## **The FarmHouse Flash**

An official membership publication of the International Fraternity designed to focus on providing risk management information as well as assist in keeping chapter, colony and association officers up-to-date with current issues. This is a tool to promote communication between the International Fraternity and chapters about happenings, concerns, deadlines, and special notes of interest.

## **The Recruiter**

A newsletter produced each semester that provides recruitment suggestions and ideas to our members.

## **Online Media**

The International Fraternity hosts Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Flickr pages which highlight FarmHouse related news items, stories, photos, milestones and noteworthy achievements of chapters, chapter members, and alumni. Chapters are welcome to add their own content to these online resources through the International Office and are encouraged to utilize these FarmHouse sites in recruitment, external relations, and career networking as appropriate.

# Resources

## Chapter Planning Guide

Chapter/colony presidents, advisors and association presidents are supplied with a handbook including policies, applications and forms that will be required throughout the year as well as a detailed academic year calendar complete with notes concerning special dates and deadlines to assist in chapter organization and planning. Each attendee of FarmHouse Leadership Institute is given a copy of the guide, which is also available online at [www.farmhouse.org](http://www.farmhouse.org) under the officer resources tab.

## FarmHouse Leadership Institute Notebooks

A comprehensive handbook of resource materials for those officers who attend the annual Farmhouse Leadership Institute, including the Chapter Planning Guide and the Chapter Operations Handbook, the Chapter Blue Print.

## Exhibit Displays

The International Fraternity has stand-up exhibit displays that can be utilized for expansion, recruitment and alumni events by our chapters. The displays can be lent upon availability for a short period of time at no cost except shipping by contacting the International Office. We also offer the displays for sale at cost to chapters. Contact FarmHouse Headquarters (816-891-9445) for more information

## Jewelry

Members receive the standard badge upon payment of their initiation fee, but there are more jewelry items available online. New member pins, monogram lapel pins and several styles of membership badges are in the jewelry brochure along with chapter letter guards and officer dangles. Visit [www.farmhouse.org](http://www.farmhouse.org) for pictures, descriptions, and order forms.

## Media Library

A variety of DVDs dealing with topics ranging from risk management to communications and leadership skills are available through the International Office at no charge, except postage.

## Membership Records and Directories

Maintaining accurate and up-to-date addresses and other alumni information is an on-going project of the International Office. The Office makes available to chapters and associations, computer print-outs and/or adhesive labels of alumni addresses sorted by chapter, geographical location, initiation year, etc.

The web site also includes an on-line membership directory that is accessible to members. Each member, chapter or alumnus, may access his own record and update his contact, family and career information.

In addition, alumni directories are also made available to chapters and individual alumni.

Commercially printed directories arranging alumni by alphabetical, chapter and geographical listings; a new edition is published every five years. The 2011 edition included a 30-page history section with photos of each FarmHouse Chapter House. One copy was distributed to each chapter for chapter use.

## **Newsletters / E-Newsletter Distribution**

Copies of individual chapter newsletters and assistance in preparing a chapter newsletter are available from the International Office upon request. Additionally, the International Office can assist a chapter or association in formatting and sending an e-newsletter for special reunion events, chapter reunions or chapter alumni relations outreach efforts. This service is provided at no charge to our membership.

## **Historical Archives**

A history of the International Fraternity as well as individual chapters are kept on file, as well as memorabilia, past award winners, chapter newsletters, *Pearls and Rubies*, interfraternal publications, copies of recent Chapter Programming Awards entries and other numerous documents are available, or a photocopy of them, upon request.

## **Online Resources/Officer Handbooks**

Hundreds of documents, resources and handbooks are available at [www.FarmHouse.org](http://www.FarmHouse.org) to assist chapter leaders, advisors and Associations. The resources include resource handbooks specific to officer roles along with a specific file to help each chapter officer with his position. A variety of other new resources and handbooks are available on the site in the Resources section as well.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## IEB Appointed Committees

FarmHouse International Fraternity has long relied on the generous support of a network of volunteers comprised of alumni, faculty, campus staff, and friends of the Fraternity to support the needs of the Fraternity's chapters, the undergraduate members, local housing corporations, alumni associations, and the International Fraternity's educational programs. The purpose of this volunteer committee network includes the following:

- 1) Assist the International Executive Board and Fraternity staff in meeting the needs of the Fraternity.
- 2) Connect alumni with undergraduate and alumni brothers to further the bonds of brotherhood.
- 3) Educate alumni on the business and trends of the fraternal movement.
- 4) Create a network of engaged alumni for continued and future service to FarmHouse Fraternity.

Volunteers serve a two-year appointment beginning at each Conclave. Those eligible to serve on an International Executive Board Committee are members of the Fraternity or topic-specific experts, who may not necessarily be members of FarmHouse.

## Appointed Committees

- Nominations & Elections
- Awards
- Finance & Investment
- Special or Standing Committees as assigned
- Regional Directors

## Additional Appointed Officers

As prescribed by the International Bylaws, at the direction of the International President and/or the current operating procedures of the International Fraternity, the following officers may be appointed:

- Legal
- Counsel
- Insurance/FRMT Director
- Parliamentarian
- Sentinel
- Counter
- Chaplain
- Ritualist
- Archivist
- Editor
- Executive Director/ International Executive Board Secretary

Beyond service to the International Fraternity's Board-Appointed Committees, there are number of other volunteer opportunities that include the following:

- Geographic alumni club volunteer
- Local chapter advisor
- Local alumni association board service
- Educational program volunteer facilitators

Add your name to our growing list of alumni who are interested in supporting our great organization through the sacrifice of their time, pleasures and comforts – fulfilling our call to what it means to be a FarmHouse man. Sign-up today and learn more at: <http://www.farmhouse.org/volunteer.htm>.