

ACTIVITIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Most graduate chapter activity focuses are social events, allowing graduates to connect with one another. These can range from luncheons to happy hour events, from holiday parties to cookouts, and from river boat dinner cruises sporting events.

When planning events:

- Location is important. Areas where brothers tend to live and/or work, and are convenient to as many as possible, will increase participation.
- For events such as lunches and happy hour events, try to arrange space with the venue in advance. Reserve a table or area where brothers can more easily connect and talk.
- Most groups prefer to arrange “pay as you go” events, allowing brothers to cover their own costs. This tends to be the easiest approach.
- Multiple electronic payment services are available for instances where pay as you go is not a good option (ex: a block of baseball game tickets). We suggest asking brothers to RSVP and pay prior to the event.
- Be cautious and conservative with advance estimates, guarantees or deposits you may need to make. Most venues will more easily allow you to increase your numbers rather than decrease them.

While the above tips are useful in planning the most popular graduate chapter events, there is no single type of event that is most successful in all areas, but the following are several other ideas you may want to consider:

- The **Norris Pig Dinner** is a great event for a graduate chapter to hold for all local Phi Gams. Many graduate chapters invite wives and significant others to their Pig Dinner. You might want to honor a brother at the dinner (area graduate award). Headquarters staff can assist in finding a speaker, but you may also know of local brothers who could do a great job.
- Presentation of **Diamond Owl Awards** to brothers who have been members of the Fraternity for 75 years or more. Many times, this requires brothers to visit the homes of elderly brothers in the area since they may not be able to travel. If a Diamond Owl brother can travel to an event, this can be a wonderful day for him as well as the graduate chapter. This is a great opportunity for graduate chapters and requires follow-up on your part with these older brothers. IHQ can provide you with a list of brothers in the area who are eligible for the Diamond Owl award and will also provide the certificate. Pictures of the event, if provided, are often published in *The Phi Gamma Delta* magazine.

- **Gold & Silver Owl certificates** are presented to brothers who have been members for 50 and 25 years, respectively. These are usually given at a dinner or the Pig Dinner, whichever is more appropriate. Brothers are more likely to attend an event when they know they are being recognized. IHQ can get you the names of brothers in the area who are eligible for Gold and Silver Owls.
- **Founders Day** (May 1) is another opportunity to hold a royal purple celebration. A Founders' Day celebration held as a luncheon, dinner or happy hour can be a good opportunity to generate event attendance. Remember to mark May 1 on the chapter calendar and reference it in all correspondence leading up to that date.
- **Social service projects** can be as varied and plentiful as anything you do. Look around the community for appropriate groups and organizations needing help. Think also about adopting an agency or program for a specific time frame. You may consider getting a local undergraduate chapter to help. If the chapter takes advantage of the relationship, it can be a good opportunity for positive public relations.
- **Honor a local brother** who has made a difference in the community with the "Outstanding Phi Gam Graduate Award." This can be a great tradition. Let the chapter or executive board decide the winner. Hold a big presentation and invite both brothers and non-brothers to attend. (This idea can be expanded to recognize outstanding youth and other citizens who are not brothers.)
- The **Ekklesia** is the governing body of the Fraternity and amends the laws of the fraternity. Ekklesia attendance should be arranged by the graduate chapter so that at least the one voting delegate for the chapter is present. This requires a time commitment of about four days. The Ekklesia is a royal purple event that every brother should experience at least once.
- Establish a **Graduate Chapter Scholarship Fund** for undergraduates. Contributions are taken on a regular basis for the fund. It is managed and coordinated by the Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation. Remember some brothers prefer to give their dollars instead of their time, so make both available.
- **Nominate brothers** to become actively involved with a local chapter as Purple Legionnaire, House Corporation member or on Board of Chapter Advisors. This can be rewarding work for graduates and volunteers are always needed.