Greek Risk Management: The Facts

Insurance companies once ranked their worst risks. Fraternities came in at #6, barely ahead of Hazardous Waste.

Facts like that can cause insurers not just to raise rates, but to refuse to sell any coverage. Without insurance, fraternities and sororities cannot:

• Own a chapter house
• Rent transportation for off-campus events
• Hold social events at the house

When faced with this crisis, Greek organizations stepped up, changed their models, and established risk management programs. The survival of the Greek system – all the philanthropy, service, and fellowship – depended on these corrections. With four deaths nationwide in 2017, it is time again for foresight and even stronger action.

As you plan for 2018-19, remember these 5 basics of Greek risk management:

1. It’s Your Process.
   Greek risk management developed because groups, advisors, and students cared to do things the right way. They had to. Remember that it is your idea and your responsibility.

2. It’s Important to You Personally.
   Lawsuits can be difficult to file against organizations. How do lawyers adjust? Sue the individuals. One recent case was filed against 86 individual fraternity members.

3. It’s Important to Your Future.
   Your reputation is your most valuable asset, and it can be fragile. Don’t let bad decisions today define your future.

4. Your Group is Already Managing Risks.
   Your chapter officers are already charged with this responsibility. The nationals, your university, and the courts expect it. Get with the program and be part of the solution.

5. It’s a Process – Stay Alert.
   As soon as you manage one hazard, another can arise. Remember the shampoo instructions: “Wash. Rinse. Repeat.”

Risk management can be the key to protecting your group, your reputation, yourself, and your future. Own it. Value it. Make it better.