

**Template Letter from House Corporations to Alumni about Substance-Free Housing**

**August 2018**

[Date]

Dear [chapter name] Alumni:

Brothers and friends, we are writing today to update you on some important changes at [chapter name] that will help keep our undergraduate brothers safe and preserve the investment many of you have made in our beautiful chapter home.

Earlier this month at Beta’s 179th General Convention, delegates voted to adopt substance-free housing for all chapters. This decision was based on data that shows most insurance claims and injuries come from housed chapters that allow alcohol. The decision was also impacted by the many new restrictions imposed by IFCs and campus administrations across North America. The fraternity world is moving in this direction at a rapid pace and, by adopting this change proactively, Beta can be a leader.

*[Note to house corporation volunteers: this next section is written assuming chapters may take the full two years to transition. House corporations and chapters are free to make the transition sooner, if that’s in your best interest. Please adapt the language accordingly.]*

As of August 15, 2018:

* No hard alcohol is allowed in the chapter house.
* Beer and wine are only allowed in the sleeping rooms, not in the common areas.
* Essentially, this means all parties with alcohol must be held outside the chapter house.
* By August 2020, the entire facility must be alcohol-free.

However, for alumni-engagement purposes, Beta Theta Pi’s Risk Management Policy provides for up to six events per year with alcohol if those events are planned by and for alumni. This exception allows us to host our game day homecoming/parents’ weekend events, but they must be beer and wine only and served by a third-party vendor. BYOB and common-source alcohol are not allowed. The full details of the transition to substance-free housing are in Beta’s Risk Management Policy.

Brothers, no doubt this risk management adjustment may take some getting used to, as we may all have had different experiences at the house or have different views on the topic. However, Beta’s policy on the matter is very clear. The convention delegates have adopted this measure and are being held responsible for enforcing the rules. Our house corporation board is committed to helping the chapter make these changes, and we need **all** alumni on board. We hope we can count on your support.

Of course, some undergraduates have expressed concern that “alumni won’t return unless we have alcohol.” We have assured them that’s not the case – that it is the deep friendships and love for the Beta Theta Pi that keeps you coming back year after year. Please show our men that you care about them and their Beta experience. There are plenty of places for us to enjoy a drink together around town that won’t compromise the position or standing of our beloved undergraduate chapter.

Suffice it to say, we are very, very proud of our exec team for facing this change head-on. They are an outstanding group of young men. We hope you’ll reach out to [Name and Contact Info] if you have questions about these changes, or if you’d like to volunteer with our board.

We look forward to seeing many of you at [insert date, time, location of next alumni event, game day event, or annual house corporation board meeting]. Until then, [insert something campus-specific like “Go Cougs!”].

Yours in *\_\_\_*kai\_\_\_*,*

*[names, years, and positions of house corporation or alumni board members]*