

# AGR ACTION

JANUARY 2014

## Leadership Seminars' deadline approaching!



Register for one of the upcoming Leadership Seminars by visiting our website at [alphagammarho.org/events/-/type/leadership-seminar](http://alphagammarho.org/events/-/type/leadership-seminar).

Register by January 31 to receive a discount of \$25 per attendee. Discounted fees will no longer be available starting February 1, so register today!

## Fire up your grills, brothers!

The Central Tennessee AGR Alumni Chapter and seven local AGR chapters invite all AGRs around the nation to participate in the 2nd Annual AGR National BBQ Competition on April 11-13, 2014 in Lebanon, Tenn. You can come to compete in cooking, camp out with brothers for the weekend or just come Saturday evening for the dinner and social.



The 2013 event was an overwhelming success with 19 teams and more than 250 participants in the Saturday evening dinner and alumni social. More than \$1,800 in prize money was awarded, and collegiate and alumni teams laid claim to bragging rights for various cooking, rope pull and corn hole toss tournament prizes. We expect this year to be even bigger and better.

Cooking team registration fees are \$250 for each five-man team. Col-

legiate chapters can only have one team, but there can be multiple alumni teams. Teams will compete in four separate categories: pork, ribs, chicken and steak. Registration fees cover registration, T-shirts, several meals, access to utilities and showers and admission to the Saturday evening event. We will be having a Friday evening "Pig Pullin" social for all weekend participants.

We will also be holding the 2nd annual AGR Olympics with a rope pull, corn hole toss and "closest-to-the-pin" competition. Trophies and prizes will be given to the winners of each competition.

Many brothers will just choose to come and camp out for the weekend, and they can purchase a "weekend pass," which includes all meals and camping for \$40. The James E. Ward

## Peek into this issue...

### Second Annual AGR National BBQ Competition...

Mark your calendars! The 2nd annual AGR National BBQ Competition is April 11-13, 2014.

### AGR Partners begins "Gold" level partnership with Alpha Gamma Rho...



AGR is proud to announce that AGR Partners has joined a growing list of corporate sponsors to the organization.

### Save the date for National Convention...

### What are officers saying about AGRconnect?...

### Why Gen Y should save now for retirement...

### Upcoming events...



### Fire up your grills, brothers! (cont.)

Agricultural Center grounds are perfect for camping, with ample grass for tent camping and plenty of RV camping spots with water and electrical hook-ups. There are also plenty of showers and shelters in the event of inclement weather.

Many local alumni and guests will come to the Saturday evening social and awards dinner. We will have a big catered dinner, and this year we will move to a large covered pavilion that can seat over 300 guests. Dinner tickets cost \$20 in advance or \$25 at the

door.

Host chapters include Beta Theta (Middle Tennessee), Alpha Upsilon (Tennessee-Martin), Alpha Kappa

(Tennessee-Knoxville), Alpha Chi (Western Kentucky), Beta Mu (Austin Peay), Alpha Omega (Murray State) and Omicron (Kentucky).

Checkout our website at [www.agrbbq.com](http://www.agrbbq.com) and "like" our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/middletnalphagammarhoalumni](http://www.facebook.com/middletnalphagammarhoalumni). For more information contact Chad Bradshaw at 615-708-8307 or [chadbradshaw@tds.net](mailto:chadbradshaw@tds.net), or Robert Elliott at 865-207-5513 or [robertelliott922@gmail.com](mailto:robertelliott922@gmail.com).

Article courtesy of  
Tracey Binkley



### AGR Partners signs on as Alpha Gamma Rho Corporate Partner

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity is proud to announce that AGR Partners, a private equity firm making investments in companies along the agriculture and food value chain, has joined a growing list of corporate sponsors to Alpha Gamma Rho in a partnership to bring new personal and professional development opportunities to fraternity members.

"Alpha Gamma Rho provided me with lifetime friendships coast to coast, leadership training opportunities and a professional network that has been of increasing value over the past 25 years. AGR Partners wouldn't have been possible without the betterment Alpha Gam-

ma Rho and its brothers provided at multiple life intersections over the past three decades," founder Ejnar Knudsen said.

AGR Partners has committed to become a Gold Sponsor for Alpha Gamma Rho and intends for this partnership to be a multi-year agreement. As a Gold Sponsor, AGR Partners will receive prominent recognition in the SICKLE & SHEAF, Alpha Gamma Rho's quarterly publication mailed to more than 44,000 members, plus prominent corporate recognition on the Alpha Gamma Rho website and at the National Convention and regional Leadership Seminars. In addition, the com-

pany's Gold Sponsorship provides an opportunity for the young men of Alpha Gamma Rho to interact with leaders from AGR Partners.

**About AGR Partners** – AGR Partners, based in California's San Joaquin Valley, is a private equity firm that makes strategic, non-controlling equity investments, domestic and abroad, in public and private companies along the agriculture and food value chain. The group made its first investment of \$56 million for a 20 percent equity stake in a feed company. Learn more at [agrpartners.com](http://agrpartners.com).

## National Convention 2014



The 63rd AGR National Convention is coming up August 1-4 in Indianap-

olis, Ind. Mark your calendars now, and start making plans to attend!

Everybody loves a road trip, and Indianapolis is within a day's drive (or two) from many AGR chapters. So, pack your favorite road food, dig out your CD collection and save your gas money for a trek across America's heartland. For those from farther reaches, don't despair! Direct flights to the Indianapolis International Airport are available from most major cities at reasonable prices (but book your flights soon!).

AGR does not handle room reservations, so visit [alphagammarho.org/events/-/type/national-convention](http://alphagammarho.org/events/-/type/national-convention) or call the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown at 317-822-3500 and request the Alpha Gamma Rho group rate. The group rate is available several days prior to and after the Convention dates.

We hope to see as many of you at Convention as possible. Additional details will be made available on our website as they are determined, so stay tuned. See you in Indy!

## What are officers saying about AGRconnect?

Our officers have a lot to say about AGRconnect, and how it's both contributing to the brotherhood in their chapters and helping them carry out their duties more effectively. Here are some of the things we've overheard lately:

"As a new member for the fall 2013 semester, AGRconnect allowed me to gain a better understanding and appreciation for the values and purpose of Alpha Gamma Rho. It was a great way to spend time with my new brothers as well as learn about the organization that had brought us together. AGRconnect was a great way to bring us together as brothers."

*Beta Epsilon VNR Planning, Eason Dearin*

"AGRconnect has helped our Chapter resolve some of the challenging issues that we faced. AGRconnect

gave us suggestions and advice to better overcome our situation. It also allowed our chapter to spend time together as brothers and to communicate our plan of action. I would recommend AGRconnect to any chapter who seeks to build a better brotherhood by learning the true meaning of Alpha Gamma Rho."

*Beta Epsilon Noble Ruler, J.R. Haywood*

"The training officer module was very helpful. It made the transition from the previous planning officer to myself seamless. It was clear in describing the responsibilities I would be assuming and how to most effectively carry them out. This is a great tool for anyone who needs a quick and effective orientation for any position he or she may be filling."

*Phi VNR Planning, Ben Fromuth*

"AGRconnect has dramatically improved the relationship the Sigma chapter has to the National Organization, and has also improved the overall consistency of information received by all our officers. The fact that there is a central hub to answer all questions regarding proper protocol and action has been extremely helpful in my term as Noble Ruler. In addition, the position descriptions of all officers has really improved both responsibility and accountability within our Chapter. I have no doubt that AGRconnect will continue to improve as the years progress and continue to simplify the attainment of vital information to all respective Chapters of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity."

*Sigma Noble Ruler 2013-14, James Murrell*

## Why Gen Y Should Save Now For Retirement

You're finally on your own and out of your parents' nest, so the last thing on your mind is retirement. While having a social life is great, it would be even greater to have a solid financial future. The earlier you start saving for retirement, the more money you'll have to keep living the lifestyle you'll be accustomed to.

Here are a few reasons you should start now to invest in your retirement plan:

### Employer Match Benefit or Profit-Sharing

Many companies offer to match a certain percentage of an employee's contributions or contribute an amount from an employee profit-sharing or similar plan.

### Pre-tax money

If you decide to start a 401k plan, contributions come directly from your paycheck into your retirement account. It continues to grow tax-free until you start making withdrawals.

### Compound interest

Your investments will grow over time because you'll have a longer

time to compound. In other words, a 22-year-old who saves \$100 per month will have more value than a 42-year-old starting to save at twice the rate.



### Personal control

You have personal control over how much is contributed

and when to stop saving or start saving more.

### Availability

If you change jobs, you have the option to move your retirement account to an IRA or roll it over to a new employer's retirement plan tax-free.

Do you know how much your retirement can grow over the years? Calculate your contribution by using this retirement plan savings calculator: <https://vanguard.newkirkone.com/plansavings/?cbdForceDomain=true>

Also, start your saving today and complete a quote with GEICO. By being an AGR brother, you could be eligible for an additional discount with GEICO! Plus, your completed quote will benefit the Fraternity.

*Article courtesy of GEICO*

## Upcoming events...

**Feb. 14-15, 2014:**  
**Leadership Seminar**  
*Memphis, Tenn.*

**Feb. 21-22, 2014:**  
**Leadership Seminar**  
*Kansas City, Mo.*

**Feb. 28-March 1, 2014:**  
**Leadership Seminar**  
*Reno, Nev.*

**March 7-8, 2014:**  
**Leadership Seminar**  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

**March 8, 2014:**  
**AGR House Assessment  
Workshop**  
*Nashville, Tenn.*

**March 21-22, 2014:**  
**Recruitment School**  
*Kansas City, Mo.*

**April 11-13, 2014:**  
**AGR National BBQ Competition**  
*Lebanon, Tenn.*

**Aug. 1-4, 2014:**  
**National Convention**  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*