

HANK SUOMINEN HONORED with ORDER of CONSTANTINE!

Brothers, we are thrilled to announce that **Henry "Hank" Suominen '78** has officially been honored as an esteemed member of the Order of Constantine! I believe you all agree that Hank is most deserving of this honor.

Each year, the Order of Constantine recognizes a group of Sigma Chi brothers for their commitment, dedication, and service to the Fraternity. Induction into the Order of Constantine is considered to be the highest honor that the Sigma Chi Fraternity bestows upon one of its members. The honor of being named an Order of Constantine Sig has been conferred on just over 829 brothers since the Order's inception in 1948.

Hank is the reason that the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi has not only survived but is now thriving. He built upon the work of others, but it is not hyperbole to say that without Hank's dedication to Sigma Chi over more than 20 years, there is no way we would be



Hank Suominen '78

celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Psi Psi Chapter at Syracuse University.

Hank joins only two other Psi Psis to be so honored. **Joe Durzo '67** and **Bill Beach '69**. All served as House Corporation President.

Brother Suominen has also been our primary interface when dealing with the Syracuse University IFC and CNY Alumni Association. He has been a source of experience and inspiration for the AAB and a mentor and guiding influence for the undergraduates.

His dedication and service to the organization, through his hard work and unwavering support of the ideals of the White Cross, give us great pride to share this exciting news.

Ted Collins '84
Alumni Advisory Board
Saltine Sig Editor
tedcollins1@gmail.com



HOUSE CORP WINTER 2025 UPDATE



January 2025 – Much "business as usual" so far as property management is concerned, so I won't bore you with those details. The chapter has continued to demonstrate a very positive approach toward keeping the chapter house well taken care of.

A good example is Homecoming 2024, when a well-decorated Halloween party took place Friday night with a clean up that left the property spotless for the annual meeting and Homecoming, which was very well-attended with over 70 alumni coming back. The chapter gets mega snaps for a great effort at Homecoming weekend. More on that elsewhere in this edition.

On the subject of the SU Ostrom dormitory project, the ad hoc Comstock Greek Alliance made considerable progress with the university, getting the project to be scaled back to exclude the proposed "T" extension of the building from Ostrom through to Comstock with a massive structure to the north of our chapter house. A driver to the plan revision was the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board (SLPB) action to designate 721 Comstock as a property worthy of preservation as a historical landmark.

The university will now have to preserve 721 Comstock in an "as is" state or renovate it up to its historical standard. There is an active initiative to designate the entirety of Comstock as an historical landmark. Such an action would not be in our best interest financially as it would effectively "down zone" the property from its Planned Institutional District status to one with oversight of the SLPB, as they would have the right to approve or deny demolition of the property. While we have

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HOUSE CORP OFFICERS

Term Ends 2025

Hank Suominen '78
President & Treasurer

Phil Oldham '66
Vice President

John Bersani '79

Chris Dowd '12

Term Ends 2026

Bill Beach '69
Past President

Paul Artruc '83

Dante Sesti '19

Hunter Viscarello '16

Joe D'Eramo '16

Term Ends 2027

Connor Wilson '15

Steve Oliva

Brad Short '80
Alumni Association President

Bill Gerbig '81
Secretary

ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

Jim Fini '83
John Honis '83
Greg Sozek '83
Ted Collins '84



PSI PSI OF SIGMA CHI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

February 20, 2025

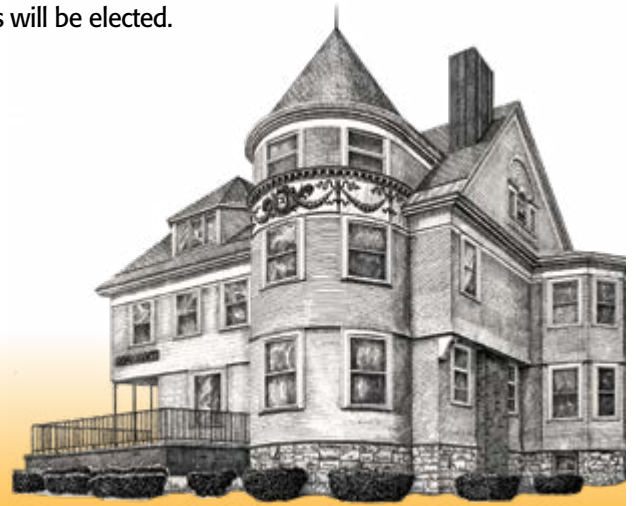
To the Alumni of the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity:

The Annual Meeting of 737 Comstock Avenue Inc. will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the chapter house and virtually; call details are on the calendar at www.psipsi.org.

General members are welcome to attend and speak at the meeting. Active members, who are dues-paying members in good standing of the Central New York Sigma Chi Alumni Association, will vote on corporation matters coming before the annual meeting, including election of the board of directors. There will be a House Corporation meeting following the annual meeting, at which officers will be elected.

In hoc signo vinces,

Hank Suominen '78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.
(aka House Corp.)
hank@suomi33.com
617-312-6800



HOUSE CORP *(continued from page 1)*

no desire to knock down 737 Comstock and have every intent of preserving the property for future generations of Psi Psi brothers, having a highest and best use for a private housing project with over 200 beds allows for underwriting a redevelopment value of the land in excess of \$3.6 million. Such a valuation affords a prospective lender the ability to present a comfortable loan to value ratio in line with the other property valuation methods. There are others in the Comstock Greek Alliance who share our point of view that the Landmark Designation is not in their best interest.

A building permit application was filed in August of 2024 in an effort to give us a freeze on zoning in the event the

Landmark Designation was imposed on the Comstock block. The application is slowly grinding its way through the City of Syracuse bureaucracy, no doubt in part due to the desire to support the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board. I will continue to keep the pressure on, ideally without having to involve attorneys.

For those of you who might have interest in having an active role on House Corp., please do not hesitate to contact me.

IHSV,

Hank Suominen '78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.
(aka House Corp.)
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617-312-6800



DERBY DAYS 2025

As many of you know, Derby Days is one of our chapter's most impactful and exciting events. This year, we aim to break our fundraising record once again, and we need your help to make it happen!

treatment. Whether you're donating to our GoFundMe, participating in our cash wars, or contributing to one of the many other fundraising activities, your involvement helps us make a lasting

To donate, please visit our link:

hope.huntsmancancer.org/gentoend/syracuse-university

In the past two years, we've seen incredible support from all of you, raising a combined total of \$168,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation (HCF): \$91,000 in 2024 and \$77,000 in 2023. We're not stopping there. With a "Sigchella" theme this year, we are bringing the energy of a music festival to the philanthropy world and we are more determined than ever to surpass last year's total.

We are calling on all alumni to help us hit a new fundraising goal. Every donation counts and your contributions will directly support HCF's mission of advancing cancer research and

impact on the fight against cancer.

As Derby Days chairman, I'm proud to lead this effort and excited about the potential we have to continue making a difference. Thank you for your unwavering support; let's make this year's Derby Days our best yet!

Brother Dave Pietrowski '85 has kicked off this year's Derby Days with a \$10,000 donation!

IHSV,
Christopher Biniaris
Derby Days Chairman

CONSUL MESSAGE

The fall 2024 semester was another great success for the Psi Psi Chapter. We initiated two new brothers, and we are thrilled to announce that the spring 2025 pledge class has 26 prospective brothers, four of them Sigma Chi legacies!

In the fall semester, we returned to Montreal, this time for a formal, which was an amazing experience for the brotherhood. In addition, we enjoyed a relaxing day in the sun at Catherine Valley Winery with the sisters of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Beyond that, each member living in 737 Comstock built inseparable bonds this semester as we all got to know our brothers even more.

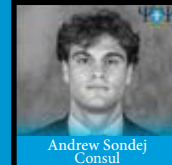
During the fall semester, we had our inaugural fall philanthropy, Sigma Sluggers. It

was a Wiffle ball tournament with both a sorority and fraternity bracket. Delta Delta Delta was the champion of the sorority bracket, and our very own Sigma Chi was victorious in the fraternity bracket. The event was a great success, and we raised nearly \$2,000 toward Derby Days, which gives us a head start on the highly coveted \$100K club. At Sigma Sluggers, we had a visit from the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, who presented us with a plaque for raising over \$91,000 at Derby Days last year.

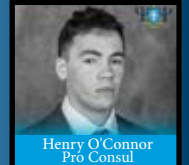
For the spring 2025 semester, we will have our annual Sig-fil-Aphi with Alpha Phi sorority. All of this leads up to Derby Days, spearheaded this year by Chris Biniaris. For

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PSI PSI OFFICERS



Andrew Sondej
Consul



Henry O'Connor
Pro Consul



Rich Lugo
Annotator



Nate Margolin
Quaestor



Thomas Mackey
Magister



Pierce Honeyman
Risk Manager



Andres Jara
House Manager



Simon Nyeu
Recruitment Chairman



Edward Garcia
Philanthropy Chairman



Gianluca Zurlo
Social Chairman



(L-R) Jack Cohen, Nick Hartzell of the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, Jack Grieder, and Andrew Sondej being presented with the chapter's plaque for Derby Day Fundraising.



Robert M. Curran '54

May 21, 2024



Robert M. Curran entered Chapter Eternal in 2024. Bob was Psi Psi Consul in 1954 and was the Alumni Association's longest, continuous dues payer in history. Bob's obituary, which can be read at tinyurl.com/bobcurranobituary, mentions Sigma Chi.

I had a conversation with Bob a few years ago. As he approached 90, he still held the Psi Psi Chapter in his heart. You can read about him at tinyurl.com/bobcurran.

In that same *Saltine Sig* issue, I wrote about Tom Woods, Consul 1950. I find it remarkable that I was friends with Psi Psi Consuls from 75 years ago, and now enjoy friendship with the current and most recent past Consuls. Bob was proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially at Psi Psi. All honor to his name.

Ted Collins '84

Charles E. Summerall '69

January 27, 2025

Charles E. Summerall entered Chapter Eternal on January 27, 2025, after a long bout with Alzheimer's. Known to his friends as Charlie, he was born on September 10, 1947. After graduating from Ankara High School in Ankara, Turkey, Charlie went on to attend SU. He was initiated into the Psi Psi Chapter on May 5, 1968. Graduating from SU in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree, Charlie went on to the Maxwell School, graduating in 1970 with a master's degree in international affairs.

Charlie's big brother was none other than Bill Beach, with whom he worked in the summer of 1968, along with many other brothers, to undertake restoration work on the newly purchased 737 Comstock Avenue chapter house. Charlie was fond of telling the story about brothers using heat guns to strip down the varnish off woodwork throughout the first floor. At one point, there was a small fire behind the woodwork, which was fortunately quickly extinguished.

Charlie attained the rank of first lieutenant in the Army. After being honorably discharged in 1973, Charlie and Sally (Suominen) married. They met at Syracuse through the Sigma Chi Little Sister program. Charlie attended George Washington University, earning a master's degree in Russian studies and international affairs, and went on to work as a U.S. government civil servant for Naval Intelligence and the CIA, earning many accolades for his research and writings. He retired in 2019.

Charlie and Sally lived in Burke, Virginia, raising their son, Alex. Currently, Alex's son, Ethan, is a member of Sigma Chi at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Charlie and Sally later moved to Bluemont, Virginia. Please reach out to me, Hank Suominen, Charlie's brother-in-law, for more details if you choose.

SAVE THE DATE

HOMEcoming

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

Save the date for Homecoming 2025 on Saturday, October 18, 2025, which is also when we will hold the annual meeting. Football vs. Pitt at the Dome. We hope to exceed the great turnout we had for Homecoming 2024. We'll be celebrating Hank Suominen being honored as a member of the Order of Constantine. More details to follow.

We are saddened to learn of the passing of our brothers:

Robert M. Curran '54

May 21, 2024

Huntington T. Hatch '55

December 7, 2022

C. Vincent Minnella '63

December 17, 2023

Charles E. Summerall '69

January 27, 2025

David Poole '70

October 18, 2024

Dennis J. O'Brien '72

June 4, 2024

Scott A. Singer '73

May 2, 2024

FOLLOW US

Follow the undergraduate chapter online at:

FACEBOOK:
Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity

TWITTER: @sigmachisu
INSTAGRAM: @sigmachisu

LINKEDIN:
[www.linkedin.com/groups/8811881/Syracuse Sigma Chi](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/8811881/Syracuse-Sigma-Chi)

Visit our website at: www.psiPsi.org

CONSUL MESSAGE

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further information about what we aspire to be another record-breaking year, check out Chris' segment, which is also in this edition of *The Saltine Sig*. I am grateful to represent such an accomplished chapter with such a bright future, and I am confident that even bigger things are to come. Proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially a Psi Psi.

In hoc signo vinces,
Andrew Sondej
Consul