

EFFORTS IN FINDING LOST AGR BROTHERS INVOLVES THE ABILITY OF UNDERSTANDING THE THOUGHT PROCESS OF A PRIVATE DETECTIVE, PERSISTENCE AND PURE LUCK.

Though the VNR Alumni Relations is responsible for locating lost brothers, often after a few days, he will run into dead ends and give up. With summer break, recruitment activities in fall and other stresses of college life, often very little is accomplished in finding lost brothers.

The Alumni Secretary involves working year round and those filling this role often stay in that position for many years, if desired. This means the Alumni Secretary's efforts can be a long term time of continuity and can help to establish techniques for maintaining the finding of lost brothers.

The following examples give you an idea of some of the techniques that had been found to be successful in finding lost brothers. There have been many more similar experiences besides the five examples furnished. Once found, many lost brothers notify their chapters when they move to a new address.

FOLLOWING ARE A SET OF SUGGESTED GUIDELINES WHEN ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE LOST BROTHERS:

- Consider having an alumni officer or an interested retired brother be in charge of finding lost brothers.
- The internet should be a last resort for finding lost brothers. It's more time consuming and often there are five or more listed with the same name which can lead to a dead end.
- Try calling the lost brother's current listed phone number the chapter has. Often this number is a cell phone number.
- Contact the Membership Coordinator at AGR's Home Office to get the name, address and phone number of the lost brother's parents if the brother is younger than 45-50 years old.
- Have a brother who is living in the community where the lost brother has resided go to the old residence and talk to the new occupant and the neighbors. Most neighbors will know where the lost brother moved.
- Call brothers who were initiated the same year as the lost brother. Often this lost brother has been or is in contact with one or more of these brothers.
- Sometimes a lost brother has other family members who are/were AGR members who can be contacted.
- Call the local funeral home or the newspaper's obituary department if the lost brother is over 75. Both are extremely helpful. This way you'll know if the lost brother has died.
- If known, call the business the lost brother worked.
- Always use the telephone when making helper contacts. This way both parties know exactly what information is wanted. Also, use the long distance telephone operator as much as possible to obtain a phone number. That one minute call can save you hours of groping around.
- Always call the lost brother's newly found telephone number to verify he is the alumni brother you're looking for.
- Immediately look for brothers who have been lost two years or less. They are the easiest to find. In most cases, they can be found within two hours.
- Send the new contact information (address, phone number and email address) to the Membership Coordinator at AGR's Home Office as soon as it is obtained so the office records can be updated for future mailings. Success means using Private Detective ingenuity and persistence, persistence, persistence and with some luck.



FINDING LOST BROTHERS: A GUIDE FROM OUR EXPERTS



EXAMPLE #1:

Steve Walsh was initiated in 1968. He had been lost for at least 30 years. His last listed address was in St. Paul, MN. I called the University of Minnesota Alumni Office to find out if Steve was listed as an Alumni Member. I explained my position and the person I talked with verified that Steve was a member. I asked for his current address and he refused due to the University's privacy rules. I asked if he had any lost members who majored in Agriculture, and he gave me two names. I looked in our directory and found they were AGRs, so I gave him their addresses and phone numbers. I then asked again for Steve's address, and he again said no! I asked if he could tell me which state Steve lives in. Reluctantly he said Georgia.

I then called the Georgia long distance operator and told her I'm looking for the phone number of Steve Walsh but that I didn't have his exact address. The operator looked in the directory and found only one Steve Walsh listed in Georgia. She told me he was living in Alpharetta and gave me his phone number.

I called the number and lo and behold, it was the correct Steve. He later moved and actually notified me of his new address.

EXAMPLE #2:

Neal Kazanowski was initiated in 1948. He had been lost for at least 25-30 years. His last listed address was in Michigan. I called the Michigan long distance operator and told her I wanted the telephone number of Neal Kazanowski but didn't know which city he was living in. She gave me his phone number, which I then called. I told Neal I was our chapter's Alumni Secretary and what I wanted. He said, "I'm Neal Kazanowski, but I attended and graduated from the University of Michigan." I said "I'm looking for a Neal Kazanowski who was last living in Michigan, attended the University of Minnesota, and was a member of AGR fraternity." He then said he'd just met a Neal Kazanowski who lives about 30 miles away. He gave me Neal's phone number and address.

After calling the number, I verified I was speaking to the Neal Kazanowski I was trying to find. Just imagine the coincidence of two Neal Kazanowskis whose names were spelled the same, living in the same state and living only 30 miles from each other.

EXAMPLE #3:

Peter Piper was initiated in 1949. He unintentionally ended up being lost for 40-45 years. Our fraternity mailings were always delivered to the Roseville, MN address that was on record. About three years ago, a Crescent was returned with a note requesting no further mailings be sent. Peter's address was only three miles north of the U of M Farm Campus, so I drove over to find out what the matter was and I spoke to Peter's wife. She said her husband attended the U of M Engineering College but wasn't an AGR and was now in a rest home. Her husband always read the AGR mailings and threw them away without notifying AGR that he wasn't a member. Oddly, this Peter Piper had attend the U of M the same time our chapter's Peter Piper attended.

I mentioned to my wife, who was born and raised in the area where we now live, that years ago someone in our chapter saw an address for a Peter Piper and assumed that the Peter Piper with a Roseville address was the lost brother without doing any further investigation and that I don't know of any leads to finding the right Peter Piper. She said there are many Pipers living in Princeton, MN. Princeton is about 10 miles north of where we live. So, I looked in the phone book, picked out a Piper listed and called this person. This person knew Peter but told me to call his niece who knew Peter better and gave me her phone number. His niece informed me that Peter had three strokes that affected his memory, and he now resides in a rest home at Elk River, MN, which is 10 miles south of where I live. I visited Peter and verified that he was the lost brother.

Our chapter's Peter Piper never married and had worked most of his life at the New Mexico State Conservation Department. He'd only come back to Minnesota because of failing health. It's sad our mailings were being sent to the wrong Peter Piper for years because of a wrong assumption, and the correct Peter Piper was deprived of no AGR information during this time.

EXAMPLE #4:

Jack Johnson was initiated in 1962. He was listed as being lost for three years. His last current address was in France. I called the Membership Coordinator at AGR's Home Office to look up

Jack's parents' home address and phone number. The address I was given was a Marshall, MN address, and the phone number was discontinued when I tried it. I then called the Minnesota long distance operator to obtain a number for a Johnson living in Marshall. There was one Johnson listed. When talking with him, he informed me he was Jack's brother but he didn't know Jack's address. Jack's brother owned a jewelry store in Marshall.

I then called another brother, Mike, who lives about seven miles from Marshall and asked if he knew the Johnson at the Marshall Jewelry Store. I informed Mike that I was trying to obtain Jack Sanders' address. Mike said he buys jewelry at that store and would stop in to see what he could find out. About a half an hour after Mike arrived, in came Jack. Jack came to Marshall from France to do some pheasant hunting, so Mike was able to obtain the information I needed. That's what you call luck.

EXAMPLE #5:

Bill Davis was initiated in 1979. He was temporarily lost. A recent Crescent we sent by permit mail was sent back labeled "ADDRESS UNKNOWN" with no forwarding notification. We didn't have Bill's phone number and the number the Minnesota long distance operator had was an unlisted number. Bill's address we had was a PO Box in Hawley, MN.

I looked in the chapter directory and noticed that there was another brother who is living in Hawley. He was older than Bill and was initiated in 1941. I called this brother and asked if he could find out where Bill Davis moved. He said he knew Bill and didn't know Bill was a fraternity brother. He said he'd find out Bill's phone number and address and would get back to me. This brother called later and said Bill is living in Hawley and gave me Bill's phone number.

I called Bill and found out he was still living in Hawley. He said his address is the same as what we have except his PO Box number had changed. Hawley, MN has a population of 1,650. Why couldn't the Post Master at this small post office just put the Crescent in the proper PO Box instead of returning it or why didn't this person put on a forwarding address label when the Crescent was returned?