

NABOR NUBBINS

Nabor House Fraternity - University of Illinois

Photo by:
Craig Pessman 81



2021 Edition

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Board Update - A Note From Scott

Greeting Nabors,

As we look toward the tenth anniversary of the completion of the construction of the new house in October of 2022, we plan for the Nabor House Annual Meeting to be held at Homecoming on October 8th. There will be a banquet to celebrate the tenth anniversary and the completion of our fundraising to "*Burn the Mortgage*". We hope that the advance notice of this event will allow many of you to keep this date open to help us celebrate.

As of the writing of this letter we are almost a quarter of the way to our goal of raising \$500,000 so we can pay off the loan for Nabor House.

One of the problems the fundraising has highlighted is the fragility of our Alumni database, especially our phone number directory. With the increase in use of cell phones and the abandonment of land lines we are missing a large segment of our contact information. Please help us keep our database up to date by going to www.NaborHouse.com and clicking on the update alumni information link on that page. Please do this even if you think we have the correct current information. It is easily done, doesn't take much time, and allows our members to be able to contact each other when the need arises. I encourage everyone to do this.

In our efforts to remedy our property tax problems we have filed another appeal with the Champaign County Board of Appeals. We anticipate a lengthy review, and will keep you updated as we move through the process. A big Thank You to Keith Honegger for his efforts in assisting us with this appeal.

I would also like to ask the Alumni to help the active chapter to help with the recruiting of future Nabors. It has become increasingly difficult to surface names of freshman planning on attending the U of I. The Board is asking that you take a moment to contact your local ag teacher, FFA or 4-H Advisor to see if there are any Juniors or Seniors looking to attend the U of I and forward their names to the active chapter or fraternity board. Personal contact from Nabor House alumni is valuable help in securing future pledges for our fraternity.

I wish to thank all Nabors for their generosity in donating their time and money to secure the future of Nabor House.

Naborly,

Scott Reifsteck
Fraternity Board President

Save The Date

Nabor House Annual Meeting
October 8th 2022
10th Anniversary Tribute - New House
Help Burn the Mortgage!

Fraternity Board

Scott Reifsteck ('76), President
reifst@prairiein.net

Victor Johnson ('11), Vice President
vkjohnson625@gmail.com

Greg Stierwalt ('01), Secretary
gregstierwalt@yahoo.com

Tom Bingham ('80)
thbingham@comcast.net

Merle Hall ('79)
merlewhall@gmail.com

Allen Holdsworth ('70.5)
aajje@frontiernet.net

Kevin Martin ('74)
Kevin.Martin@Hydrite.com

Josh Millard ('17)
josh.millard12@yahoo.com

Nick Wendling ('13.5)
nwendling@metgeotech.com

Larry Dallas ('75), Business Agent
lwdallas53@gmail.com

Dylan Reetz ('18), Asst. Business Agent
dylanreetz7@gmail.com

Active Chapter

Nabor House
1002 S. Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801
217.344.3532

Fall 2021 President
Jonah Miller

2021 - 2022 Rush Chairmen

Cooper Block
Charlie Hensley



Active Update - Spring 2021 Semester

Spring 2021 House Officers

President	Joseph Birritier
Vice President	Cooper Block
Treasurer	Jay Rosentreter
Secretary	Reagan Kulenkamp
Rush Chair	Jake Crane
Rush Chair	Cole Wall
Work	Dalton Knerrer
Chaplain	Sean Welch
Commissar	Charles Hoene
Historian	Charlie Hensley

Exec. Board	Jonah Miller
	Luke Crane
	Jonathon Myers
	James Walker



Spring of 2021 started off early as we activated four men into Nabor House and then welcomed our first spring pledge in years. Rustin Wertz of Clinton Illinois moved into Nabor House the day we activated our Fall pledge class.

Along with activating four members of Nabor House, I was proud of the fact we saw no COVID outbreaks within Nabor House the Spring semester. This is quite the achievement considering we were the only agriculture fraternity or sorority to do so. I credit it this to the men who were cooperative and flexible in dealing with the everchanging rules from the University. Along with the men of the house, I would like to especially thank the members of the Executive and Alumni boards for directing house policy.



Joseph Birritier

Another project of the semester was the creation of a fundraising committee with the intent of helping pay off the house deficit. They created the "Nabor House Bag Board Raffle". The committee created a Nabor House and Illini themed bag set and raised a thousand dollars for the house. In March, the committee also created the "Nabor House Bracket Challenge". Obviously, all of our brackets were broken when Sister Jean and Loyola Chicago shocked the world beating the Big 10 Champions in the second round. Nevertheless, we were extremely proud of this committee and its contributions to our house.

Unfortunately, beginning of the Spring semester was still held in a virtual world so we had to do a variety of events online. Thankfully we were finally able to do a socials in-person with sororities like 4-H House and Alpha Gamma Delta. Nabor House also had a successful year of recruitment. Credit goes to Rush Chairs Jake Crane and Cole Wall for navigating a difficult school year and still bringing nine Nabors into the house.

Overall, I am extremely proud of my fellow Nabors for all the effort they put into the house this Spring. As a house we survived the Covid school year and became better as a result. We were met with so many challenges this year from COVID, the deficit, and a small pledge class, but we still pushed through and made it together. Overcoming these challenges served as an example of the exceptional character the men of Nabor House exhibit. I am excited to see the next generation of leaders in Nabor House and finally see COVID fade away into memory.

Thank you,

Joseph Birritier

Spring 2021 House President



Active Update - Fall 2021 Semester



Jonah Miller

The men of Nabor House have been building fellowship and making memories that will certainly last a lifetime. A substantial pledge class of nine, combined with our outstanding group of nineteen actives continue to keep the experience at Nabor House exceptional. The past two years at Nabor House have been characterized by exceptional leadership despite crazy circumstances, and I couldn't be more proud of the current members and alumni for putting us in such an excellent position moving forward.

While Covid was certainly a burden last year, the University of Illinois and the City of Urbana have removed many of the restrictions that were in place for the house. Gone are the days of gloves, quarantines, and guest restrictions. Praise is deserved for the members of fraternity board as well as our past president, Joey Birritier, for the incredible efforts that they took to sustain our fraternity in such challenging circumstances. An interesting effect of Covid was how well the men homogenized with one another. Being in the same house with each other all day went surprisingly well, and I feel like I developed connections with my brothers that may not have happened if it weren't for the lockdown. Another effect of Covid was a very small pledge class of 2020. We managed to bring in nine young men this year thanks to the excellent efforts of our rush chairs, Cole Wall and Jacob Crane. However, we are still under capacity and our budget has taken a large hit. Our commissar, Sean Welch has managed to find ways to feed us well, despite a food budget that runs half as large as the one implemented when I joined Nabor House in 2019.

The year began with the activation of our spring pledge, Rustin Wertz. Everyone arrived to the house one week early and we were certainly glad to be back to assist him in becoming a member. House events quickly followed including Canoe Trip, Homecoming, Dad's Day, Walk Out, intramural football, and Tailgates. It was so refreshing to have these events back in full capacity and seeing the effort that was put in by those in charge of the activities to make sure that they were exceptional. Mr. Paul Stoddard, a well-liked and outstanding professor in ACES will be speaking for Scholarship Dinner. The future looks incredibly bright for our Fraternity. With the seven men listed above and surely more to follow in the Spring semester we believe that the pillars of Education, Cooperation, and Recreation will be upheld for years to come.

Fall 2021 House Officers

President	Jonah Miller
Vice President	Logan Grimm
Treasurer	Jay Rosentreter
Secretary	Reid Schilling
Rush Chair	Cooper Block
Rush Chair	Charlie Hensley
Work	Cole Wall
Chaplain	Jay Rosentreter
Commissar	Sean Welch
Historian	Rustin Wertz

Exec. Board	Joseph Birritier
	Jake Crane
	Cooper Block
	Reagan Kulenkamp



Thank you,
Jonah Miller
 Fall 2021 House President



Board Update - Burn The Mortgage

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALUMNI MEMBERS FUND DRIVE - BURN THE MORTGAGE

As you may know, we officially kicked off our **"Burn the Mortgage"** fundraising campaign at the Nabor House Annual Meeting this past July. Since our inception, our alumni base has been one of our biggest assets, and that is proven by the beautiful residence at 1002 S. Lincoln. Speaking for all former, current, and future Nabors, **THANK YOU** to all those who have helped Nabor House remain a successful fraternity.



During the 2012 "Build Nabor House" fundraiser, we were able to raise almost \$2 million from over 200 alumni: a remarkable achievement for a fraternity with fewer than 600 living alumni at the time. The new house has continually been a great marketing tool for incoming pledges, and it remains the newest agriculture fraternity on campus. Even with our modern home, because of our cooperative system, we maintain the title of most affordable housing on campus.

Although we had a hugely successful fundraiser to build the new house, it still left over \$500,000 on our mortgage. Because of this, our current **"Burn the Mortgage"** campaign serves as a continuation of the 2012 "Build Nabor House" fundraiser. We are facing problems that we cannot control – rising property taxes and a slight dip in numbers because of the pandemic, and that is why we decided to work towards cutting expenses we can control, our mortgage.

Our goal is to raise \$500,000 by October 2022, and we have started off extremely strong. Since announcing our campaign in July, we have had \$109,255 raised and pledged from several Nabors. We will be continuing to call our entire alumni base after taking a short break for harvest, so do not be alarmed if you receive a call soon! If you would like to support to **"Burn the Mortgage"**, there are several different ways to give:

1. Checks can be mailed to Dylan Reetz ('18), our Business Agent with the following information:
Make checks payable to: **Nabor House Building Fund**
Mail to: c/o Dylan Reetz
Attn: Nabor House
360 East Patton Street
Paxton, IL, 60957
2. For those wanting to make a tax-deductible contribution, please make a check payable to Nabor House Educational Foundation and mail to Dylan's address above.
3. Donations can be made online through this link: [Nabor House Online Donation](#)
Note: This will include a processing fee
4. (FOR FARMERS) Building with Bushels – donating grain directly to the building fund. If you would like to look into this option, please contact Dylan Reetz at dylanreetz7@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please contact me at jrmillard12@gmail.com or 217-320-8475. Once again, thank you and let's **Burn the Mortgage!**

Photos by:
Craig Pessman 81



Freshmen

Pledge Class of 2020

DJ Cain, Reagan Kulenkamp, Reid Schilling, Rustin Wertz



Junior

Pledge Class of 2018

Devin Koester, Joey Birritier, Sean Welch, Nick Torrance,
Peyton Ruwe

Class Photos

Pledge Class of 2021

Cooper Allaman, Kyle Durbin, Evan Link, Caleb Van Hovlin, Kasey Smith, Nathan Welch, Ryan Hacke, Jacob Lionberger, Seth Van Hovlin



Sophomore

Pledge Class of 2019

Cole Wall, Charlie Hensley, Dalton Knerrer, Cooper Block, Jonah Miller, Charlie Hoene, Logan Grimm, Matthew Myers, Jake Crane, Jay Rosentreter



Senior

An I.D.E.A.L. Nabor

For the 2020 - 2021 academic year

The IDEAL Nabor award rewards the member of the house that best exemplifies integrity, dedication, excellence, attitude, and leadership. These are traits that the founders sought in prospective members and traits that the house still strives for today. The member with the highest aggregate score from his peers earns the distinction of being that year's IDEAL Nabor.

Luke Crane was selected as the 2020-2021 Award Recipient.

Integrity *Leads by example and lives with integrity.*

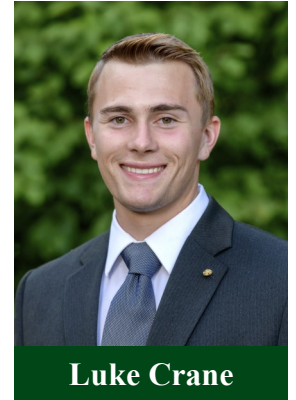
Dedication *Does more than his share of the work yet seeks less than his share of the credit.*

Excellence *Takes pride in doing the best he can do as a student, leader, and Nabor.*

Attitude *Uses a positive attitude to promote house harmony.*

Leadership *Respects each individual and is an effective leader in serving others.*

"Luke received the IDEAL Nabor Award for many reasons, but his accomplishments are best summarized by saying he was the most well-rounded man in the house. He did excellent upholding the Nabor House ideology as he valued his education while cooperating, and recreating very well with others, which made him a respected member and a huge asset to the house. I sincerely congratulate him on the well-deserved accomplishment of being the IDEAL Nabor!" - Nick Close '21



Luke Crane

Senior Sendoffs

Spring 2022 Graduates

Joseph Birritier Agriculture Science Education

Next Stop: Frito Lay, Peoria, Illinois - District Sales Leader

Note: My four years at Nabor House have not only led me to this career, but also shaped me as a leader because of my time spent as President (during COVID), Commissar, and on Executive Board. Some of my favorite memories in the house are: a crawfish boil social my freshman year, barn dances, and making lifelong friendships at the house. I wouldn't trade my four years at Nabor House and am forever grateful for all the lessons the house has taught me.

Logan Grimm Natural Resources & Env. Sciences

Next Stop: Seeking Masters Degree in Freshwater Ecology

Note: Nabor House has provided me with a multitude of life skills that I will be forever grateful for. It also allowed me to make lifelong friendships that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Devin Koester Crop Sciences - BT & Molecular Biology

Next Stop: Seeking Grad School or Industry Role

Note: I have enjoyed my time in the house while holding the roles of Treasurer, Assistant Commissar and will spend the spring semester as Commissar. While in the house I have made friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I also have acquired many personal and professional skills while at the house.

Nick Torrance Crop Sciences - Agribusiness

Next Stop: Returning to Family Farm Operation in Raritan, Illinois

Note: Before I came to Nabor House I was a very shy and quiet person, but throughout my time in the house I have grown to be more outgoing. I really cherish the bonds that I have made in the house, and I think there is no other way I would have relationships like I do with the guys in the house if it were not for the house.

Peyton Ruwe Technical Systems Management

Next Stop: Seeking Industry Role

Note: I have been very blessed in the opportunities that have been granted to me through the house the past four years. The people I have met and the connections I have made cannot have a cost put on them. Being around the house is always a blast and it still holds true there is always something to do.

Sean Welch Ag. Leadership, Com., & Education

Next Stop: High School Agriculture Instructor

Note: During my time at Nabor House, I have learned a lot about myself and the people around me. My pledge class consisted of 10 people, and although a few have gone different ways since freshman year, I know that we will remain friends. I know I have Nabor House to thank for that. College would have been a much different experience without them by my side.



Good Nabor Award: Jay Hageman

The Good Nabor Award is to provide recognition to an alumnus who exemplifies the goals and objectives of the Fraternity in his post-college career based on achievements in his professional field, leadership and accomplishments in community and civic activities, and holding fast to the ideals of Christian brotherhood and cooperation.

The 2021 Award Recipient is: **Jay Hageman '74 (1952 - 2018)**, accepting the award in his honor is his wife Tracy.

Outside of Nabor House Jay was known as a well respected Farmer (EAgCo), Philanthropist, Insurance Businessman (Honest Abe Insurance), Board of Director on the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Vermilion County Farm Bureau, and was very active on the Sidell Lions Club, and at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Broadlands. Jay participated in several mission trips and was a devote supporter of the Cunningham Children's Home.

Jay passed away on October 9, 2018 in an accident in rural Vermilion County at the age of 66.



From L to R: Jenny, Chris, Hadley, and Dylan Kirschner, Tracy Hageman



Jay Hageman '74

Award Recipients

By Year

1980	John F. Rundquist	2001	Joe Hampton
1981	Earl R. Swanson	2002	Craig A. Pessman
1982	Donald N. Duvick	2003	Gregory L. Olson
1983	Ellery L. Knake	2004	Keith A. Kelroy
1984	James G. McCurdy	2005	A. Kraig Krause
1985	C. E. Botterbusch	2006	Erman "Wink" Schairer
1986	Paul J. Ferree	2007	Rod Stoll
1987	Allan G. Mueller	2008	Patrick O'Rourke
1988	James A. Rogers	2009	Jerry Stoller
1989	Walter D. Parks	2010	Donald C. Beitz
1990	Samuel F. Ridlen	2011	Vernon R. Eidman
1991	Harold F. Reetz	2012	Charles Lewis
1992	Ed McMillan	2013	Bob Stewart
1993	Norbert Soltwedel	2014	Dr. Roger Higgs
1994	Gary Reynolds	2015	Jeff Ray
1995	Ken McMillan	2016	Dave Shockey
1996	Larry Dallas	2017	Bill Campion
1997	Don Moffitt	2018	Glen Broom
1998	Eugene Becker	2019	James Schoonaert
1999	Bonard S. Wilson	2020	Brian Millard
2000	Burdette B. Lutz	2021	Jay Hageman



9 Men Pledge During Fall Semester

Cooper Allaman (Fr.)	Bushnell, IL (McDonough Co.)	Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
Kyle Durbin (Jr.)	Taylorville, IL (Christian Co.)	Agricultural Leadership
Ryan Hacke (Jr.)	Highland, IL (Madison Co.)	Technical Systems Management
Jacob Lionberger (Fr.)	Dallas City, IL (Hancock Co.)	Technical Systems Management
Evan Link (Jr.)	DeLong, IL (Knox Co.)	Technical Systems Management
Kasey Smith (Fr.)	Clinton, IL (DeWitt Co.)	Undeclared
Seth Van Hoveln (Fr.)	Milford, IL (Iroquois Co.)	Mechanical Engineering
Caleb Van Hoveln (Fr.)	Milford, IL (Iroquois Co.)	Crop Sciences
Nathan Welch (Fr.)	Knoxville, IL (Knox Co.)	Undeclared

"I chose to live at Nabor House because I knew the values of this house would not only teach me valuable life lessons, but also make me a better man." - **Cooper Allaman**

"I chose to live at Nabor House because I knew a lot of great guys that lived there and they also had similar interests as me." - **Kyle Durbin**

"I chose to live at Nabor House because I wanted to be around a group of guys with the same interests and values I had to better my education and future in agriculture." - **Ryan Hacke**

"I chose to live at Nabor House because I liked the morals and structure that the house offered to me as a Freshman. I also thought that it was a nice living situation with a low cost." - **Jacob Lionberger**

"I visited Nabor House a few times and really liked the house and all the people here. The price was also a really large factor." - **Evan Link**

"I chose to live at Nabor House because of the foundations that it takes pride in. I felt that if I joined I'd become a better and more productive person." - **Kasey Smith**

"I chose Nabor House because it's a great group of guys and they want you to do your best and really do care that you are doing your best." - **Seth Van Hoveln**

"I chose to live at Nabor House because of the low cost and the community/brotherhood that I could see when I was on my rush weekend. I also wanted to be part of something that was bigger than myself." - **Caleb Van Hoveln**

"I chose to live at Nabor House not only because of the cost but also because of the network of people I knew I would meet in it and through it." - **Nathan Welch**



Alumni Tributes

Michael J. Still

Michael Jeffrey Still, 77, of Chandler, Arizona, passed away on Sunday, January 2, 2022, from complications of Covid and a weakened immune system after successfully beating lymphoma.

Mike was born in Decatur, Illinois on February 14, 1944, son of Cecil and Lula Still (née Corman). He is survived by his partner, Marla Wachter, brother Stuart, son and daughter-in-law Jonathan and Jennifer, and grandchildren Jack (20) and Laurin (17).

He graduated from Mt Zion High School in 1962, followed by attendance at the University of Illinois. While in college, he was a member of the Nabor House Fraternity and a US Navy reservist. He married Susan Grindol, also of Mt Zion, in 1965. After graduating with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree in 1966, he attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He and Susan were then stationed in Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, where he served as a Fuels Supply Officer for 3 years. After returning to the U.S. in 1969, he completed a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Illinois, and began teaching Agricultural Science courses at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. He also remained in the Naval Reserves for 27 years, and retired as a Captain (O-6).



In 1977, he was hired by the Woodford County offices of Country Companies Insurance, quickly establishing himself as a top agent and setting up an office in Metamora, IL. In 1984, he moved to Quincy, IL to lead Adams, Brown, & Schuyler counties as Agency Manager. In 1991, he became Executive Vice President of Agency for all of COUNTRY COMPANIES, and moved to their corporate office in Bloomington, IL. He stepped down from the V.P. position in 1995 to lead McLain County as its Agency Manager. In 1998, he moved to Gilbert, AZ to become District Director of Agencies for Arizona and Nevada. He retired in 2003, having greatly enjoyed his career and the people he worked with.

Throughout his life, Mike was an aviation buff, and looked skyward for inspiration. He shared this passion with his son, and they started taking flying lessons together in 1987. When Jon left for college, Mike began building an open-cockpit biplane. He went on to earn his pilot's license and build or restore six airplanes over the next 25 years, earning numerous awards for meticulous craftsmanship. He also put his leadership skills to good use in local aviation organizations, serving as President of EAA Chapter 1445 from 2007-2012, and as President of the Copperstate Fly-In Expo from 2008-2012.

Although Mike and Susan separated in 2017 and later divorced, they remained friends. He shared the remainder of his life with his partner, Marla Wachter, in Chandler, Arizona. She was by his side in loving kindness as his soul departed this world.

Mike was a loving father and grandfather, and a good friend to many people along the way. He was a generous man who gave freely of his time and talents, and was always eager to lend a helping hand to anyone he came across. In this spirit, he graciously donated his own body for scientific research, continuing to give freely of himself, even after his spirit had departed his mortal body.

A "Celebration of Life" Memorial is planned to be held at Valley of the Sun Mortuary in Chandler, Arizona on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at 2pm. Family and friends are welcome to attend, but will be asked to wear a mask to respect and protect other attendees.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in memory of Michael to the EAA Aviation Foundation (<https://www.eaa.org/eaasupport-aea/give/>), University of Illinois' Nabor House (<http://www.naborhouse.com/donate.html>), or Rotary International (<https://www.rotary.org/en/donate>).

Recently, Mike shared the following thoughts about his time at Nabor House:

"I was accepted to the University of Illinois to study Agriculture after high school. Fortunately, I also was accepted into one of the four agricultural student houses on campus. The "Nabor House" on 811 W. Oregon Street was my campus home for the next three years, and it benefited me greatly. The 24 house members had strict study, social, and participation rules. It had been owned by the alumni fraternity since its inception in 1939, and all active members participated in house activities, including kitchen duties, and caring for and maintaining the house. It was one of the top scholastic houses on campus, recognized by the agriculture faculty, and assisted greatly in my college success, both academically and with leadership development." - Michael J. Still



EDUCATE. COOPERATE. RECREATE.

NUBBINS - 2021



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www.NaborHouse.com