



*Cultivating professional women. Advancing agriculture.*

## President's Message

September 5, 2017

Wow! Is what best describes the energy we had at the 2017 Sweet Home Sigma Alpha National Convention in Columbus August 10-12. Sisters from all over the United States gathered to grow their sisterhood and develop their skills. They did important committee work, they participated in leadership development workshops, found time to complete a service project and enjoyed lots of sisterhood activities.

We had some amazing speakers and we had the unique opportunity to hear from two of our founders Amy Mathews and Jennifer McMillian! I've been so moved by all the great emails and cards from all of you sharing your positive experiences at convention.

We had more workshops than ever before and we had the first ever sisterhood symposium which was a huge success thanks to all the great questions our chapters had. The work that delegates and members completed in committee meeting was invaluable to the National Board when we met the day after convention concluded. Your input and ideas are going to have a direct impact on the strategic direction and priority setting for the National Sorority Board.

On Thursday night the National Sorority Board launch the new logo and brand items to convention attendees. We are thrilled about the new look and will be sharing resources related to that as the year progresses. One exciting new resource for chapters that each chapter went home from convention with was our new recruitment rack cards that you can order from headquarters, just email [angelle.bujol@sigmaalpha.org](mailto:angelle.bujol@sigmaalpha.org).

Many members and chapters have been sharing their favorite thing about convention on their social media platforms. These posts and seeing that you are already using your new recruitment rack cards, makes my heart so full. My favorite part of convention was getting to serve all of you, answering your questions about how you can improve your chapters and seeing all of your pride and enthusiasm for Sigma Alpha!

Looking forward to another great year!

In sisterhood,  
Kelly

Kelly Lawler  
National Sorority Board President

### **Sigma Alpha Sisters Make Sweet Memories in Columbus, Ohio!**

Sigma Alpha sisters kicked off the celebration for the Sorority's upcoming 40th Anniversary during the 2017 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. The theme, Sweet Home Sigma Alpha, was fitting as we went back to where it all started and welcomed special guests and founders, **Jennifer McMillan Rubin and Amy Mathews Viets**, who shared fond memories of how Sigma Alpha got its start.

In addition to taking a trip down memory lane, sisters got a glimpse of the future when they participated in the launch of the Sorority's new logo (see above). Details regarding how and when to use the logo and when to use the crest will be forthcoming.



L to R: Jennifer McMillan Rubin;  
Kelly Lawler, National President;  
and Amy Mathews Viets at the  
Founders' Celebration during  
Convention..

Attendees also participated in the activation of the Beta Chi chapter (Eastern Kentucky University) and its 8 charter members who were all in attendance at convention.

Collegians and alumna alike had many professional and personal development programs to choose from while the collegians also participated in the inaugural national officer training program.

### **National Chapter Congress - Dues Increase**

During the National Chapter Congress, delegates voted to increase collegiate annual membership dues and new member fees to \$85 each. Additional details and processing information will be forwarded to Chapter presidents in the coming weeks.



### **National Award Winners Announced!**

Sigma Alpha Sorority has a dynamic awards program to annually recognize the successes and contributions of chapters as well as the accomplishments and dedication of individual sisters. Some awards are presented based on the information provided in a submitted application. Other achievement awards are given if the chapter or individual has met certain criteria set forth by the National Sorority Board. The awards are presented at each year's National Convention/Conclave!

The following links will take you to select lists of award winners:

#### [2017 Chapter Award Recipients](#)



2017 Founders' Cup Winners  
Alpha Chi Chapter  
University of Missouri - Columbia

#### [Regional Pillar Awards](#)

#### [2017 Individual Award Recipients](#)

#### [2017 Emerald Scholar Recipients Individuals](#)

### **A Thank You to the Sigma Alpha Sorority Educational Foundation**

We would like to thank the [Sigma Alpha Sorority Educational Foundation](#) for their partnership and support in helping to host this year's convention.



One of the ways to help support the Foundation is by joining [Club 1978!](#) The exclusive donor club was created in celebration of the upcoming 40th Anniversary of Sigma Alpha's founding. This multi-level annual giving club offers options to fit any budget. Join now and challenge your sisters to match or beat your gift before January 26, 2018. All donors will be acknowledged on the Sigma

Alpha website, but always have the option to have their donation listed as Anonymous if they wish to remain so.

### **Mark Your Calendars - 2018 Leadership Seminar Locations are Here!**

Leadership Seminars offer sisters the ability to connect with other sisters in their regional area, along with the brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho. These seminars offer leadership and professional development programming for all collegiate members.

In 2018, Sigma Alpha Leadership Seminars will be located at:

- **Memphis, TN** - Feb. 2-3
- **Reno, NV** - Feb. 9-10
- **Kansas City, KS** - Feb. 16-17
- **Philadelphia, PA** - Feb. 23-24

To find out more details about registration, deadlines, and dates - please check out our [2018 Leadership Seminar Page](#)

### **National Conclave is heading to Texas!**

In 2015, Sigma Alpha Sorority began holding its National Convention on a biennial basis in odd numbered years while holding a National Conclave in even numbered years in which there is no National Convention. The National Conclave is designed as a concentrated leadership development session for collegiate and alumni leaders. Chapter delegates work with other sisters, national leadership team members and sorority staff to identify sorority priorities, develop policies, and impact programs within the national organization.

National Conclave will be held in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas August 3 - 4, 2018 . To start planning, see who can attend, and find out more information as the event draws near, check out our information page [here](#).

### **Meet Your New National Sorority Board Members!**

The Executive Board is excited to share with you Sigma Alpha Sorority's National Sorority Board's newest members. The candidates were voted upon by Chapter Congress during National Convention.

- Vice President - **Kim Stassen**
- Treasurer - **Megan O'Connell**
- Development Director - **Tasha King**
- Collegiate Membership Director - **Megan Lutrick**
- Communications Director - **Molly Lass**
- Professional Development Director - **Jessica Graham**

We would also like to thank the following outgoing volunteers for the dedication and service:

**Taylor Bryant**, Development Director  
**Samantha Anderson**, Collegiate Membership Director  
**Caroline Roper**, Communications Director

Congratulations to the newest members of the [National Sorority Board!](#)

### **Chapter Consultants Introduced!**

Our chapter consultants offer consistent and timely delivery of Sorority services, resources and communications; provide a consistent and timely review and evaluation of chapter activities for compliance with the Sorority's mission, objective and policies; and support, mentor and guide collegiate chapter officers in the performance of their duties!

Meet our newest chapter consultants:

**Alacyn Cox** - *Region 4: TX, AR*  
**Lisa Ecker** - *Region 5: IL, MI, IN, OH, PA*  
**Emily Bartusiak** - *Region 7: KY, TN, WV*

We would like to thank **Christina Roling**,  
**Megan Lutrick** and **Katie Oliver** for their service as  
Chapter Consultants!



To learn more about our consultants, make sure to check them out on our [National Website](#).

**Our address has changed! Please note in your records.**

**Sigma Alpha Headquarters Office**  
P.O. Box 1604  
Milwaukee WI 53201-1604

### **Thank You to Our Sponsors**

**MONSANTO**





### Connect with Us

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