



Bylaw Revisions

Have suggestions for the National Bylaws? Send your proposed bylaw amendments to Jaimie Shipe at secretary@sigmaalpha.org by February 6. Bylaw amendments will be voted on by Chapter Congress at this year's National Convention in St. Louis.

From the Sigma Alpha President

[Click here](#) for a monthly update from National Sorority Board President Lindsey Liebig.



Take Advantage of the Member Portal

Have you used your [Member Portal](#) account yet? This is a great way to stay current on all Sigma Alpha happenings! Update your contact information; pay national dues and more, all in one easy-to-use location!

Spark the Fire...Fuel the Flame



The 2015 Leadership Seminars offer valuable content for both collegiate and alumni sisters! The Leadership Seminar Steering Committee is working hard to ensure this year's seminars are educational and exciting in every way.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this year's programming. If you have any questions, contact Lisa Campion, Leadership Seminar Coordinator at lisac@sigmaalpha.org.

White House Honors Sigma Alpha Alumna



Emeralds

Emeralds are our way of recognizing sisters for their outstanding achievements. Here is an Emerald for January:

An Emerald to Beta Zeta Chapter at the University of Wisconsin--River Falls for placing second place in the national Animal Agriculture Alliance 6th annual College Aggies Online (CAO) scholarship competition and for receiving \$2,500!



In 2014, the White House honored Carrie Vollmer-Sanders (pictured at right), Director of the Western Lake Erie Basin Project for The Nature Conservancy and Sigma Alpha alumna, as a “Champion of Change”.



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The honor recognizes her efforts to promote a healthy Lake Erie by working with farmers, agribusinesses, researchers, government agencies, and conservation groups to improve nutrient management and drainage practices through the use of 4R Nutrient Management (applying the Right source of fertilizer at the Right rate at the Right time, in the Right place). Vollmer-Sanders was one of 14 recognized in the 2014 “Champions of Change” program. President Obama created the Champions of Change program as an opportunity to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities.

Says Vollmer-Sanders: “Sigma Alpha has helped me with the foundation of my leadership skills. On March 18 of (2014), I was one of 14 people awarded the Champion of Change: Engaging the next Generation of Conservation Leaders award from the White House for my work at The Nature Conservancy. I work with a lot of people in my job to make change happen and Sigma Alpha helped too, allowing me to expand my network and build my skills.”

Learn more about Vollmer-Sanders’ [“Champions of Change” recognition](#).

National FFA Convention Recap

By Wendi Snider, National Sigma Alpha Outreach Director

The Sigma Alpha was a proud exhibitor at the 87th Annual FFA Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky. The 2014 convention theme was “Going All Out,” and we did just that...taking the opportunity get our name out to the Agri-Science community! We talked to thousands of students and networked with alumni from all walks of the industry.



Additionally, it was great to get to catch up with sisters both new and old while attending. We are eagerly looking forward to this year’s convention and hope to have some scheduled activities for all sisters to take part in!

Jubilation in the Pineywoods

By Paige Sumney, Alpha Eta Chapter President

When the members of the Alpha Eta Chapter at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, elected me as President last semester, I was excited but incredibly nervous. Where do I start? What do I do? What do they expect from me? It was overwhelming to think that these 13 girls looked to me to lead our

organization into another successful year.

Although this semester has been a roller coaster, I want to say I am incredibly proud of my girls. The Executive Board demanded a lot out the members: late-night meetings, last minute changes, revised decisions and new standing policies.



This semester, we were able to double our funds, double our active numbers and collectively participate in over 900 volunteer hours.

Some of our volunteer hours went towards Ag in the Classroom, where the children at Christ Episcopal Elementary School received an educational lesson on different parts of a cow. Afterwards, we received thank you letters in the mail from each child. My favorite picture was two cows fighting with light sabers!)

Then as a group, we participated in Homecoming Week events: organization board decorating contest (we won 1st place!), quiz bowl, canned food drive and blood drive. We also bought motivational links for our Ladyjack volleyball team as they went into playoffs. Through our efforts that week, we won the Homecoming Spirit Organization Award, along with \$1,000! I have never seen our girls jump so high or smile as much as they did when they announced our name at the Homecoming Bonfire.

If our efforts and motivation continues, I can only think of how blessed I am to be a part of this wonderful group of girls. Thank you to the members of the Alpha Eta Chapter for all your efforts!

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