CHAPTER 9

1970 to 1976

Historians: Nancy Martin Williams, XX; Lillie M. Greer, ΔΔ; Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE



MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH

Dear Pearl:

Thinking back to my years as national president of Alpha Sigma Alpha, I cannot help but remember the great opportunity I had to learn from women such as Wilma Sharp, Evelyn Bell, Helen Corey and June Smith, who had preceded me as national sorority officers. Being in their company, I came to appreciate the true meaning of sisterhood and exactly what my challenge was to inspire others to pledge membership in Alpha Sigma Alpha.

My councils strongly advocated diversity of membership. Although Alpha Sigma Alpha was founded by women primarily in the educational field, we stressed that a diverse chapter would produce a strong chapter, and that a diverse campus would produce a strong national identity for Alpha Sigma Alpha.

Further, the councils promoted increasing the total number of chapters significantly and simultaneously structuring the province program to work closely with chapters both as colonies and chapters, and then as alumnae chapters.

Membership was to be viewed as lifelong, not merely as the three or four collegiate years. Also, we promoted that larger chapters lasted longer than small chapters and that large chapters competed more successfully than small chapters on their campus.

Another area my national councils worked to improve was the concept of volunteerism and how important it is for young women to pledge themselves to do for others, especially as products of higher education and members of a national organization.

As national president I was able to show young women that regardless of background, chapter location or school location, Alpha Sigma Alpha could give them friendships to have and cherish for a lifetime. And more important, without pledging a national sorority, these friendships would be less likely to occur given today's mobile society.

Finally, being entrusted with the national presidency was a great honor and exciting privilege and as I took my oath of office, I pledged myself 100 percent to my term of service and to the continuance of Alpha Sigma Alpha.

MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH
National president, 1970-1976

1970 to 1971

Setting sights on the '70s

Members came from across the country to the seaside resort of Virginia Beach, Va., for national convention June 28-July 2, 1970, at the Cavalier Hotel. "Set Your Sights on the Seventies," organized by Helen L. Corey, KK, convention chairman, and Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, registration chairman, is now a part of history.

President Mary Goeke Backsman, AA, presided at the opening business session. National officers were introduced, followed by a processional of collegiate and alumnae delegates.

After that, everyone gathered for the national officer reception on the glass-enclosed porch and a buffet dinner in the Pocahontas Room. The evening's entertainment was held under the stars of the Beach and Cabana Club. Collegiate workshops that week included standards, rush and Greek unity and campus protests. Alumnae met to discuss the privileges, responsibilities and opportunities as applied to state days, magazine sales and chapter organizations.

Other activities included the ritual service, traditional white dinner and memorial service, which paid tribute to those members who had died during the past triennium. The formal banquet was held in the Cavalier Room with the Cincinnati Alumnae as hostess. Mary Backsman acted as toastmistress and gave the main address.

Mistress of ceremonies Ruth Newcomb Fletcher, TT, national awards chairman, announced the convention awards at the formal banquet: Beta Delta Chapter, collegiate chapter with largest delegation; Ginny Garrett, EE, collegiate nondelegate from the greatest distance; Akron Alumnae Chapter, alumnae chapter with largest delegation; and Constance Beadle Naylor, AA, alumnae nondelegate from greatest distance (Casper, Wyo.).

Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, officiated at the installation of officers, while Viola Caraway Brewer, ΨΨ, represented the alumnae and Lynda Hudson, ΓH, represented the collegians. The council for the 1970-1972 biennium was to be led by a new national president, MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH. All too soon the 26th convention had drawn to a close, and once again, Alpha Sigma Alphas prepared to leave the state of their founding.

National council 1970-1972

President
MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH

Executive vice president
Lynn Peters Fountaine, BE

Vice president of development
Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB

Vice president of collegiate program
Ethel Schmitz Keeley, BH

Vice president of alumnae program
Judy DeMasters Winter, ZZ

Secretary
Jean Moore Weaver, BN

Treasurer
Bonnie Payne Koenemann, ZZ

Special officers
NPC delegate
Mary Goeke Backsman, AA

Phoenix editor
Judith A. Holman, ΘΘ

Headquarters executive
Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ

Province program is born

After convention the province program was launched under the direction of Lynn Peters Fountaine, BE, extension director. The country was divided into 10 regions and 10 province directors were named.

Their purpose was to offer assistance to collegiate and alumnae chapters in their geographic area and serve as a channel of communication between the chapters and national officers and the national organization. During their first year, directors were given the assignment of establishing five new alumnae chapters within their region.

Just a year later in 1971, the program was expanded to 13 regions; 13 directors were named with an additional director appointed to work only with alumnae in the central and southeast sections of the country.



Lynn Peters Fountaine, BE

And in the world ...

1970
18-year-olds receive the right to vote.

The first Earth Day highlights the world's environmental problems.

Two founders die

Shortly after convention, the sorority received news of the death of founder Juliette Jefferson Hundley Gilliam. She died July 10, 1970, in Richmond, Va.

Juliette was the daughter of Judge George Jefferson Hundley, who advised the young founders and helped them obtain the Virginia charter. For more information on Juliette Gilliam, see p. 321.

On March 31, 1971, the last living founder, Louise Cox Carper, died in Charleston, W.Va. Women from around the country were privileged to meet this "delightful, silver-haired older sister" at the conventions at Old Point Comfort, Va., Chicago and Roanoke, Va. For more information on Louise Carper, see p. 316.



Members of the 1970-1972 council are, seated from left: MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH, president, and Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, president emerita. Standing from left: Lynn Peters Fountaine, BE, executive vice president; Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB, vice president of development; Ethel Schmitz Keeley, BH, vice president of collegiate program; Judith A. Holman, ΘΘ, Phoenix editor; Mary Goeke Backsman, AA, NPC delegate; Bonnie Payne Koenemann, ZZ, treasurer; Judy DeMasters Winter, ZZ, vice president of alumnae program; Jean Moore Weaver, BN, secretary; and Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, headquarters executive.

Three more chapters

The sorority installed three collegiate chapters that school year: Delta Epsilon at Mansfield State College, Mansfield, Pa., on May 17, 1970; Delta Zeta at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, on Feb. 6, 1971; and Delta Eta at DePaul University in Chicago on May 15, 1971. President MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH, presided over the Delta Zeta and Delta Eta installations.

The sorority also announced the formation of the Las Vegas, N.M., Alumnae Chapter and the Greater Dallas Area Alumnae Chapter.

Alice Montgomery Petitt, HH, was honored by the Greater Kansas City professional chapter of Theta Sigma Phi for her contributions to the field of community service. Alice is a member of the Greater Kansas City Alumnae Chapter. Another member of that chapter, past national officer Mary K. Reiff, HH, was installed as president of the Kansas City Altrusa Club.

1971 to 1972

42nd session of NPC

"Facing Today's Realities — A Challenge," served as the theme of the National Panhellenic Conference's 42nd session Nov. 5-10, 1971, in Scottsdale, Ariz. Delegates were challenged to develop new and decisive patterns of action to fit the realities of today's campus (especially the declining interest in Greek organizations and the unrest stemming from the Vietnam War) and to serve the changing needs of collegiate and alumnae members.

Alpha Sigma Alphas attending the NPC meeting were Judith Holman, ΘΘ, Phoenix editor; Mary Goeke Backsman, AA, delegate; Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB, vice president of development; MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH, president, Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, headquarters executive; Barbara Johnston, BΨ, field representative; Loyce Gambrel, ΓY; Betsy Harris, BI; Maryanne Herbst, BY; and Carolyn Talbot, A.

Three chapters installed

The sorority installed its sixth Illinois chapter, Delta Theta at Southern Illinois University, on May 13, 1972. Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB, vice president of development, represented the national officers.

Other chapters installed that year were Delta Iota at the University of Delaware on April 22, and Delta Kappa at Indiana State University in Evansville on May 6.

Louise Stewart dies

Louise Neely Stewart, YY, the sorority's much loved and respected past national officer, died during the spring. Miss Stewart served as national historian from 1938 to 1958 and edited Alpha Sigma Alpha's first history, "The Years Behind Us."

She took great pride, and rightly so, in presenting that edition at the golden anniversary convention in 1952. She also was a loyal member of the Newark-Zanesville [Ohio] Alumnae Chapter.

1972 to 1973

Springfield convention

The theme of "involvement" characterized convention in Springfield, Mo., June 21-26, 1972. Southwest Missouri State College served as the setting for the exchange of ideas and friendships, and convention chairman Juanita Roberts Rowe, BΣ, made all the dreams come true.

After the national officer reception in the Billsborough Lounge, MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH, president, convened the opening business session. Marie Anne Abney Cordle, ΠΠ, ritual chairman, planned the initiation service, and Mrs. Kent R. Morgan, Pi Beta Phi, served as the guest speaker at the white dinner.

The patio at the Riverside Inn in Ozark, Mo., provided a beautiful setting for the installation of the national council and the formal awards banquet, hosted by the Springfield Alumnae Chapter. Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, president emerita, presided over the installation ceremony. She was assisted by Helen Corey, KK, former convention chairman, and Marie Anne Cordle. Colonies chairman Marlys Jarrett White, BB, was the mistress of ceremonies at the banquet. Georgiana Jaglinski Calvert, BP, nominating committee chairman, presented the slate of officers.

New alumnae chapters

Spring 1973 brought new growth to Alpha Sigma Alpha as the national council announced the formation of five new alumnae chapters. In March the Chicago Metro Alumnae Chapter was chartered.

April saw the formation of the Adrian, Mich., Alumnae Chapter; the Mount Pleasant, Mich., Alumnae Chapter; and the Southwest Arkansas Alumnae Chapter. The Central North Dakota Alumnae Chapter was chartered in May.

National council 1972-1974

President
MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH

Executive vice president
Geraldine Vang Cox, NN

Vice president of development
Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB

Vice president of collegiate program
Ethel Schmitz Keeley, BH

Vice president of alumnae program
Judy DeMasters Winter, ZZ

Secretary
Frances "Dee Dee" Jobson Francis, BE

Treasurer
Margaret Angelcyk Neff, HH

Special officers
NPC delegate
Mary Goeke Backsman, AA

Phoenix editor
Judith A. Holman, ΘΘ

Headquarters executive
Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ

And in the world ...

1971
The first Starbucks coffee shop opens in the Pike Place Market, Seattle.

1973 to 1974

Council plans for convention

National council convened at national headquarters in June to plan for, among other things, the 1974 convention in Pittsburgh.

Fall brought more new growth to the sorority with the formation of the Twin Cities, Minn., Alumnae Chapter in September. National council also announced the formation of the Moraine, Pa., and the Greater Harrisburg, Pa., alumnae chapters in November.

Members make a difference



Members of the 1972-1974 council are, seated from left: MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH, president, and Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, president emerita. Standing from left: Ethel Schmitz Keeley, BH, vice president of collegiate program; Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB, vice president of development; Frances "Dee Dee" Jobson Francis, BE, secretary; Judith A. Holman, ΘΘ, Phoenix editor; Mary Goeke Backsman, AA, NPC delegate; Geraldine Vang Cox, NN, executive vice president; Margaret Angelcyk Neff, HH, treasurer; Judy DeMasters Winter, ZZ, vice president of alumnae program; and Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, headquarters executive.

Many outstanding members were honored during the year. Helen B. Lortz, HH, Food for Peace officer for Latin America, was presented a Superior Honor award by Food for Peace Coordinator Irwin R. Hedges. Mildred Hanthorn Trenchard, ZZ, was elected president of the Women's Council — University of Missouri-Kansas City.

After a 35-year teaching career, Ruth Bryant Pennell, ZZ, chairman of the pilot program "Crime Prevention Against Older Americans" in Independence, Mo., received the key to the city from Mayor Phil K. Weeks. Karen Torme Olson, ΓΛ, was named Outstanding Young Professional Woman in St. Louis.

Three of Louisiana's "first ladies" were presented in The Phoenix: Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ, wife of Dr. John H. Allen, president of Centenary College; Juanita Cardozier Kilpatrick, ΨΨ, wife of Dr. Arnold Kilpatrick, president of Northwest State University; and Mary Ellen Neal Walker, ΨΨ, wife of Dr. George T. Walker, president of Northeast State University. All three women were cited for their work with the sorority and their volunteer activities within the state and their communities.

In the same year, Christine Covani Vogel, BΠ, published "How to Convert the Metric System into the U.S. System and Vice Versa," considered a significant authority on the metric system.

NPC meets in Memphis

The 43rd session of the National Panhellenic Conference was held in Memphis, Tenn., during October. Alpha Sigma Alpha was represented by NPC delegate Mary Goeke Backsman, AA, and first alternate delegate Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB. Judith Holman, ΘΘ, Phoenix editor, attended the editors conference, and Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, headquarters executive, attended the Central Office Executives Conference.

NPC took the important action of amending the Panhellenic Compact so that pledges of a chapter whose charter has been rescinded or relinquished would be eligible to pledge another fraternity immediately after the official release of the pledges.

Philanthropies flourish

Collegiate chapters during this time, while feeling the brunt of anti-Greek attitudes on campuses, used open rush techniques to increase membership. Philanthropies flourished, and Beta Epsilon Chapter, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va., was recognized for outstanding work.

In the fall of 1970, the chapter adopted Camp Virginia Jaycee in Blue Ridge, Va., a summer program for children with mental and physical handicaps, as its philanthropic project. At the end of the year, Beta Epsilon, with financial backing from other collegiate chapters, secured at the camp a park and playground that the Jaycees named "ΑΣΑ Park." The park remains as a permanent reminder of the love and friendship experienced by the chapters that shared in this goal.

Delta Lambda installed

On April 27, 1974, collegians from Beta Iota, Beta Epsilon and Beta Pi chapters helped welcome the sorority's newest members at the installation of Delta Lambda Chapter at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blackburg.

Installing officers were Frances Jobson Francis, BE, secretary; Marlys Jarrett White, BB, colonies chairman; Lynne Rachal Chambers, A, province IV director; and Debra Bukas, ΓΛ, field representative.

Alpha Sigma Alpha also saw alumnae growth when the Peninsula, Va., Alumnae Chapter was chartered in February 1974. The Boston Alumnae Chapter was reorganized, while the State College, Pa., Alumnae Chapter was added in April and the Southern Illinois and the Columbus, Ind., alumnae chapters were chartered in May.

1974 to 1975

"As I Live, I Affect"

Under the direction of Mary Kay Collier Kuno, ΑΓ, convention chairman, the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh hosted the 1974 national convention June 18-22. Laurel King, ΓΟ, registration chairman, arranged the accommodations while Michele Delverny Yasinsky, ΓΟ, hospitality chairman, helped delegates and visitors feel at home in Pittsburgh.

After delegates checked in, members gathered at the national officer reception to meet and talk with the national officers. MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓΗ, president, presided at the daily business sessions.

At the opening session, MaryAnn Linton presented the national officers. Ethel Schmitz Keeley, BH, vice president of collegiate program, presented the collegiate delegates, and Judy DeMasters Winter, ZZ, vice president of alumnae program, presented the alumnae delegates. Gerry Vang Cox, NN, executive vice president, presented the province directors, and Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ, chairman of chapter advisers, presented the advisers.

In her opening speech, MaryAnn Linton emphasized the convention theme "As I Live, I Affect" when she spoke of the losses, the growth, the purposes, the ideals and the future of Alpha Sigma Alpha.

And in the world ...

1973
The United States withdraws from Vietnam.



The 1974 province directors are, seated from left: Marcia Gross Harris, ΓΛ, province VIII; Jane Schaffer Peters, ΑΓ, province II (alumnae); and Peggy Schalk Hull, BN, province IV. Standing from left: Patricia O'Toole, AA, province V; Viola Adams Walters, NN, province I; Barbara J. Johnston, BΨ, province VI; Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ, province X; Marilyn Manion Stratton, BB, province II (collegiate); and Lynne Rachal Chambers, A, province III.



From left, Catherine Weible, ΓΩ, Connie Lamkin, BN, Paula Halfast, BΓ, and Cheryl Stagon, NN, accept the exhibit and scrapbook awards at the 1974 convention.

National council 1974-1976

President
MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH

Executive vice president
Geraldine Vang Cox, NN

Vice president of development
Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB

Vice president of alumnae
Margaret Angelcyk Neff, HH

Vice president of collegiate program
Elaine Rahaim Shiverdecker, BΔ

Secretary
Frances "Dee Dee" Jobson Francis, BE

Treasurer
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Special officers
NPC delegate
Helen Hooper Malone, BΓ

Phoenix editor
Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ

Headquarters executive
Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ

Through the efforts of Barbara Johnston, BΨ, convention workshop chairman, workshops on leadership, group dynamics, collegiate/alumnae relations, Panhellenic, pledging and standards also emphasized the convention theme.

Elaine Rahaim Shiverdecker, BΔ, rush chairman, organized rush workshops, a rush banquet and sample rush parties, while Judy Winter held alumnae workshops.

Guest speakers were Dr. John H. Allen, president of Centenary College, and Dr. James H. Wright of the Westinghouse Electric Co. Many members' fondest memory of convention was the speech given by Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, president emerita, at the scholarship luncheon. Speaking of past conventions and her experiences in Alpha Sigma Alpha, Mrs. Sharp brought tears to the eyes of all who listened as she proved that as one lives, one does indeed affect. Officers were elected at the final business session, and Mrs. Sharp installed the new national council.

Mary Turner Gallagher dies

On Aug. 8, 1974, the sorority sustained a great loss with the death of Mary Turner Gallagher, first initiate and former adviser of Chi Chi Chapter. A devoted Alpha Sigma Alpha, Mrs. Gallagher had been the first recipient of the Wilma Wilson Sharp Alumna award in 1943.

In 1967 her husband established a national scholarship in her name from which many members have benefited. Her love for Alpha Sigma Alpha continued throughout her life, and her memory will be a lasting reminder of all that is beautiful in the sorority. For more on Mary Gallagher, see p. 320.

The fall of 1974 and spring of 1975 brought more alumnae growth: chapters were established in Murray, Ky.; Des Moines; Sun City, Ariz.; Charlotte, N.C.; Joplin, Mo.; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Scranton, Pa.; Flint, Mich.; and Lexington, Ky.

Alumnae in the news


Dr. S. June Smith, KK

Individual alumnae were active and honored throughout the country. The Retarded Children's Day Care Services of Lancaster County (Pa.) Inc. announced its new name, the S. June Smith Center, after Dr. S. June Smith, KK. The William Watson Woollen School of Indianapolis dedicated its new media center to Helen S. Noblitt, XX, who composed the "Hymn to Alpha Sigma Alpha."

In honor of Edna McCullough's, EE, tremendous contributions to physical education for women throughout Kansas and the nation, Kansas State College-Emporia dedicated the new Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletic Center to her. Patricia Murphy Simmons, BΣ, published a book of devotions, "Between You and Me, God." Dr. Alpha Cornne Mayfield, AB, was given an award for 50 years of dedicated service to opera by the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Delta Nu installed

On May 10, 1975, Delta Nu Chapter was installed at General Motors Institute in Flint, Mich. Collegians from Beta Theta, Beta Psi and Gamma Mu assisted Esther Kauffman

Gatseos, BB, vice president of development; Silvana Filippello Richardson, ΓΛ, rush chairman; Barbara Johnston, BΨ, province director; and field representatives Diane Yencic, HH, and Marcia Oliverio, NN, with the installation.

And in the world ...

Aug. 8, 1974
President Richard Nixon becomes the first president in U.S. history to resign from office.

1975 to 1976

Program to replace field reps?

The national council met at national headquarters in June. At the meeting, council made plans to carry out a national officer/chapter involvement program to replace field representative visits. Councilors reviewed chapters in detail and sent individual letters to each chapter to communicate what the council defined as that chapter's needs for 1975-1976.

In other business, the report of the aims and objectives committee was presented for evaluation, and council authorized action in the areas of finance, The Phoenix, leadership, pledge education, communications and public relations.

Delta Xi installed

On Sept. 20, 1975, Delta Xi Chapter was installed at Dallas Baptist College in Texas. Alumnae from Dallas, Houston and Tulsa, Okla., helped with installation preparation and joined MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH, president; Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB, vice president of development; Helen Hooper Malone, BΓ, NPC delegate; Marilyn Manion Stratton, BB, province XI director; and Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ, province X director, in welcoming the first Texas chapter.

Scottsdale hosts NPC

In October the 44th session of the National Panhellenic Conference was held in Scottsdale, Ariz. Alpha Sigma Alpha was represented by Helen Hooper Malone, BΓ, delegate; MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH, first alternate; and Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB, second alternate.

Helen Malone was appointed to the extension committee, MaryAnn Linton to the housing committee, and Esther Gatseos to the college panhellenics committee. Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ, was the delegate to the editors conference, and Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, was the delegate to the Central Office Executives Conference.

Gerry Cox awarded

To cap an already outstanding year for Alpha Sigma Alpha, members were proud to learn that Geraldine Vang Cox, NN, executive vice president, was selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Women of America for 1975. At the time, Dr. Cox was technical coordinator of environmental program for Raytheon Oceanographic and Environmental Services.

A beautiful red, white and blue cover on the spring issue of The Phoenix depicted Alpha Sigma Alpha's 75th birthday in 1976. The magazine carried a hearty welcome to the anniversary convention and announced the planned activities.

National council 1976-1978

President
Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ

Executive vice president
Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ

Vice president of development
Paula D. Cyrus, PP

Vice president of collegiate program
Elaine Rahaim Shiverdecker, BΔ

Vice president of alumnae program
Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ

Secretary
Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE

Treasurer
Marilyn Ramsey Garbee, BΣ

Special officers
Phoenix editor
Dr. Helenmarie Herbert Hofman, AΓ

Headquarters executive
Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ

NPC delegate
MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓH

1976 to 1977

Home to Virginia

"Come Home to Virginia," the theme of the diamond jubilee convention at the Hospitality House in Williamsburg, Va., June 27-July 1, reflected the historic founding of the sorority at Longwood College on Nov. 15, 1901. Past presidents and 50-year members joined national officers, alumnae and collegians from across the United States to recall memories and outline goals.

The convention began on Sunday afternoon with a reception. Richmond alumnae were hostesses for the welcoming affair, and it was followed by the opening session. The national officer buffet was held in the Empire Room, and president MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton's after-dinner address brought the day to a beautifully effective close.

Monday was filled with an array of activities, beginning with the business sessions and followed by a series of workshops, the rush luncheon and a special evening program.

"The Years Behind Us" dinner was unique in that it had almost 50 years of past and current leadership present. President emerita Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, and past national presidents Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ; Jean Raup Grady, BE; and Mary Emerson Blackstone, AΓ; and Helen B. Lortz, toastmistress (on behalf of Mary Goeke Backsman, AA), along with MaryAnn Linton, ΓH, stood before the convention body and guests to relive in words the events of the sorority and the world during their terms of office.

A visit to Farmville

Everyone boarded buses early Tuesday morning for the journey to Farmville. A tour of the campus, hosted by Alpha Chapter, included a visit to Alpha's chapter room, the Alpha Sigma Alpha Garden and the rotunda. After the tour, members assembled in the dining hall for the white luncheon. Dr. Henry I. Willett Jr., president of Longwood College, spoke on "The Role of Sororities on the College Campus."

The luncheon concluded with the special presentation of a check by MaryAnn Linton to Dr. Willett. This money, given by Alpha Sigma Alpha in honor of its 75th anniversary, is to be used to buy books for the library. The initiation of one Alpha pledge and a memorial service concluded the visit to Longwood.

Collegiate workshops were held all day Wednesday. The late-afternoon installation of officers, conducted by Mrs. Sharp, took place in the courtyard. Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ, was the new president.

The awards banquet closed this most memorable convention on Wednesday evening. A special presentation was the awarding of five Diamond Jubilee scholarships. These were given in commemoration of the sorority's 75th anniversary to Pamela S. Darnell, ΦΦ, Suzanne Marie Hillis, EE, Linda Kay Hobble, EE, Melanie Ann Lanyi, ΔN, and Denice Cheryl Marsh, BI.



Richmond alumnae served as hostesses for the welcome reception at the diamond jubilee convention in 1976.

Special Olympics

Another convention highlight was the acceptance of service to Special Olympics as the national philanthropic project. The purpose of the Special Olympics is to contribute to the physical, social and psychological development of individuals with mental handicaps.

For many years sorority members have participated in projects that have contributed to the welfare of children and adults with mental handicaps. Now members will also become involved in Special Olympics activities on the community, state and national levels, with the primary objective of educating the public about the program and participating as volunteers.

The Diamond Jubilee had come to an end, and with it, the passing of another quarter century. Alpha Sigma Alphas left the convention — as well as the period of time — with happy memories, the satisfaction of accomplishment and anticipation of another anniversary.



From left, Wilma Wilson Sharp, ΖΖ, president emerita; MaryAnn Sidehamer Linton, ΓΗ, president; and Betty Urban Wallick, ΖΖ, Phoenix editor, cut the sorority's 75th anniversary cake at the 1976 diamond jubilee convention.