CHAPTER 11

1980 to 1982

Historian: Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE



Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ

Dear Pearl:

Reflecting on my term as national president has brought back many wonderful memories as well as the many challenges that our council faced. The revival of the Greek system and the renewed interest in sororities and fraternities created a need to review, evaluate and revise, if necessary, what we were doing. It definitely was a time of redirection and rededication for everyone.

However, the strength of the sorority has been enhanced by the fact that we have adapted to change when change has been in the best interest of Alpha Sigma Alpha. With the understanding that our future was based on the parallel growth of financial as well as people solvency, without forsaking quality for quantity, council goals were determined and we focused on the following areas:

- *Increasing membership of collegiate and alumnae chapters*
- *Improving pledge programs and chapter education*
- *Seeking increased operating income*
- *Stressing lifetime commitment*
- *Promoting aggressive but selective extension*
- *Restructuring national council*
- *Improving communication in all areas*
- *Strengthening weak chapters*
- *Taking a stronger stand on hazing*
- *Reviewing our alcohol policy*
- *Recruiting more volunteers.*

The above issues were but a few of the problems we faced and addressed.

Many positive things happened from 1980 to 1984. We saw more chapters taking quota and reaching total. We saw the "birth" of the ΑΣΑ *Development Fund, the piloting of a chapter support system, the revision of our pledge manual, the formation of a national development team to work with extension, the development of new extension materials, the restructuring of council from 10 to seven members, the establishment of chapter advisory boards, the formation of a policy and procedure notebook for national*

officers and the installation of Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ, as treasurer of NPC, to name a few.

What was accomplished during this term was a result of the forward thinking, cooperation, loyalty and devotion of all Alpha Sigma Alphas, be they council members, appointed officers, collegians or alumnae. When thinking of those with whom I worked closely for four years, an anonymous quotation comes to mind: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

When I think of all those who touched my life in a special way during my term of office, there is no doubt that I reaped far more than I sowed.

Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ
National president, 1980-1984

1980 to 1981

Rainbow convention

Coming together, keeping together and working together also aptly describes what happens at Alpha Sigma Alpha conventions. Lillian Ford Donnally, BI, Phoenix feature editor, filed this report in the summer 1980 issue of the magazine:

"Alpha Sigma Alpha held its Rainbow convention in the Niagara Falls Hilton June 29-July 2, 1980. Each day of the convention opened with a 7 a.m. exercise class led by a field representative, province director or national chairman.

"After the opening session, the Buffalo Alumnae Chapter hosted the Buffalo icebreaker reception in the Rainbow Ballroom foyer. Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, past national president and Buffalo alumna, presided as the mistress of ceremonies at the whirlpool welcome dinner.

"After a welcome and introduction of people at the head table by Ev, the Hon. Anthony P. LoRusso, Buffalo City Court judge and husband of convention co-chairman Jacqueline Vito LoRusso, ΠΠ, welcomed officers and convention delegates to the Niagara Frontier. Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ, then presented her presidential address to the delegates and officers.

" 'Sorority Spectrum' workshops directed by national officers were held the second day. Collegiate workshops included sessions on the pledge program, ritual program and parliamentary procedure. Alumnae delegates attended a workshop titled 'Changing Patterns' presented by Marci Bieger Ralicki, ΠΠ, a personal effectiveness expert and Buffalo alumna.

"Just before noon officers and convention delegates shuffled off for an international luncheon at the Niagara Falls Country Club and a tour of both the American and Canadian sides of Niagara Falls.

"After the second business meeting, officers and delegates convened for the 'rush razzle dazzle,' in which they and a judging committee viewed four collegiate chapter slide presentations submitted for convention competition.

"The third day officers and delegates divided themselves among the 'positive prospective workshops' covering such areas as rush programs, philanthropic programs, publications

National council 1980-1982

President
Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ

Executive vice president
Marilyn Ramsey Garbee, BΣ

Vice president of development
Helenmarie Herbert Hofman, AΓ

Vice president of collegiate program
Silvana Filippello Richardson, ΓΛ

Vice president of alumnae program
Marlys Jarrett White, BB

Secretary
Helen Hooper Malone, BΓ

Treasurer
Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE

Special officers

Phoenix editor
Rosemary Carucci Goss, BΠ

Headquarters executive
Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ

NPC delegate
Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ

and adviser responsibilities. All then listened to Dr. Marvin A. Block, international expert on alcohol abuse.

"Marilyn Ramsey Garbee, BΣ, treasurer, met with collegiate and alumnae delegates and discussed national finances. The afternoon workshops were titled 'Color Your World Sisterhood.' Michael Schardein, an authority on fraternity rush and pledging, spoke to collegiate delegates on hazing alternatives, while Marlys Jarrett White, BB, vice president of alumnae program, spoke to alumnae delegates on building membership.

"In late afternoon officers and convention delegates, dressed in all white, met outside at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. They filed silently into the church and witnessed two Pi Pi pledges, Lisa Bernhardt and Liz Mathews, and two alumnae associate members, Mary Ann Anzel of Niagara Falls, N.Y., and Nelle Davis of Huntington, W.Va., be initiated into sorority membership. Immediately after the ritual, members listened as a memorial service was held to commemorate the passing of members over the last two years.



In 1980, Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE, left, received the first Evelyn G. Bell award from Ev herself.

"Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB, philanthropic chairman, presided as mistress of ceremonies at the maid of the mist white dinner. A representative of the Erie County Special Olympics Committee gave the keynote address and presented a film.

"Rainbow Refraction workshops were presented on the final day. Presented by Marlys White and Cynthia Rhoades Christfield, ΔI, province II director, the highlight was the film narrated by actor James Whitmore titled 'Time of Your Life.' Small-group discussions led by province directors followed. The theme of this workshop was time management. All province directors met with their delegates in round-table discussion as a finale to the Rainbow '80 convention workshops.

"After Evelyn Bell, ΠΠ, installed the national officers for the 1980-1982 biennium, officers and delegates met in the Rainbow Ballroom for the pot o' gold awards banquet. MaryAnn Sidehamer Shepard, ΓH, past national president, gave the keynote address. Paula Halfast, BΓ, scholarship chairman and mistress of ceremonies, presided over the awards for the convention, chapters and individuals.

"The awards banquet ended with a friendship circle and song. Officers and delegates then took a final walk to close the 1980 Rainbow convention as they crossed over to the Canadian side of Niagara to view the illuminated falls."

Hiwana Crompton honored

One highlight of the 1980 convention was the presentation of the first Evelyn G. Bell award. National council established the award to honor those who have shown outstanding leadership and loyalty to the sorority by having served as a collegiate, alumnae and national officer. The award was presented to Hiwana Cupp Crompton, who completed 25 years of national service at this convention.

As a Beta Epsilon at Madison College (now James Madison University), Hiwana served as editor for two years and received the national Elizabeth Bird Small award in 1952. Later, as a member of the Richmond Alumnae Chapter, she served one term as secretary and one as treasurer.

Beginning in 1955, Hiwana served nationally as scholarship chairman, the first standards chairman, constitution chairman, Phoenix editor and secretary. She also served as historian from 1974 to 1980, and in 1976 edited the history supplement to "The Years Behind Us." She was a middle school counselor in Leesburg, Va. For more on Hiwana Crompton, see p. 342.

Another convention highlight was the display of two beautiful quilts exemplifying the work of alumnae chapters under the direction of Marlys Jarrett White, BB. Each alumnae group was asked to prepare a 12- by 12-inch square, which depicted something of its area or the sorority. The Denver Alumnae Chapter helped Marlys to complete the two twin-size quilts, which were used on the beds at national headquarters in Springfield, Mo.

And in the world ...

Nov. 4, 1980
Iranian militants take over the American Embassy in Iran and hold 90 people hostage for almost a year.

National development program

With a mission to "make use of all past and present ΑΣΑ resources and people to provide the necessary support to our chapters, which are our future," the national council approved the formation of a new ad hoc development advisory committee July 4, 1980, during convention in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The committee's charge was to guide and advise the national development team on expansion and chapter support.

The committee members were selected from more than 80 women who had served the sorority extensively over the years. They represented a variety of chapters, ages, offices and geographic areas. Members of the first development advisory committee were Dr. Geraldine Vang Cox, NN, chairman; Marcia Brenner Knopp, BE, East/South; Elaine Rahaim Shiverdecker, BΔ, South; Mary Goeke Backsman, AΓ, Mid-Atlantic/East; Janice Hinrichs Haydel, BZ, Midwest; Margaret Angelcyk Neff, HH, Southwest; Nancy Gibson Mathisen, ΣΣ, West; and ex-officio members Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ, Judy DeMasters Winter, ZZ, and Jacqueline Vito LoRusso, ΠΠ.

The two major systems in this development were a chapter support system for assisting existing chapters in need and an expansion system for establishing new chapters.

Under the supervision of the national development team — Helenmarie Herbert Hofman, AΓ, vice president of development, and Lori Sue Tiller, BE, colonies chairman — and the development advisory committee, three interest groups were established during 1980 and 1981.

A group of women new to the Greek system first formed an interest group, and then after meeting certain requirements were pledged as an Alpha Sigma Alpha colony. The groups were given assistance in recruitment, sorority management, securing acceptable housing and other areas where a beginning group may need support.

The aim of the development team was to provide each group with an alumnae advisory committee consisting of a team leader and five chapter advisers in the areas of finances, membership, rush, standards and scholarship.

The first of these interest groups was the reorganization of Rho Rho Chapter at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. After working as an interest group for almost a year, Rho Rho was established as a colony Nov. 14, 1981.

Delta Omega at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y., began as an interest group in the

fall of 1980 and was pledged as a colony Feb. 22, 1981. October 1981 brought the Epsilon Alpha interest group at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia into the ΑΣΑ family. The group was pledged as a colony Dec. 6, 1981.

Busy with Special Olympics

Assisting in Special Olympics projects continued as the sorority's major philanthropic project. Many chapters contributed countless volunteer hours. Among alumnae chapters Indianapolis rated high enough to receive the Philanthropic Award at the 1980 convention. Members of this group served as scorers for Special Olympics bowling tournaments and in the spring of 1979 sponsored a banquet for Special Olympic bowlers.

Alumnae in Springfield, Mo., assisted Beta Sigma Chapter in bowling activities, while Beta Nus at Murray State raised almost $600 for Special Olympics.

Central Pennsylvania Alumnae Chapter made a contribution after hearing the regional director of Special Olympics speak, and the greater Dallas alumnae volunteered their services as huggers at the Dallas Special Olympics track and field meet.

Elkhart-Goshen, Ind., alumnae aided the Association of the Disabled by making ribbons and heat sheets; Milwaukee alumnae — through the United Association for Retarded Citizens — sponsored a child at summer camp; Metro Atlanta members staffed booths and sold holiday items at a festival; Chicago West Suburban sponsored a "forgotten child"; Pittsburg, Kan., alumnae donated canned goods to the Salvation Army to fill Christmas baskets; and Jackson-Purchase alumnae assisted the handicapped children and adults in western Kentucky.

The collegiate chapters were just as busy. Alphas held a Christmas party for underprivileged children; Beta Epsilon members gave time to the Pleasant View Home for those with mental handicaps in Harrisonburg, Va.; Delta Omicron worked for the United Way; and Zeta Zeta gave a Halloween party for those with mental handicaps. These few projects don't begin to tell the entire story.

New and old

New alumnae chapters established during the biennium were South West Virginia, Pikes Peak, Colo., North California-San Jose, and Alamo, Texas. Gamma Mu, Beta Upsilon and Beta Eta chapters held special anniversary celebrations.

Gamma Mu celebrated 15 years as a chapter at Adrian College in Adrian, Mich., with an alumnae weekend on Founders' Day 1980. Marlys Jarrett White, BB, vice president of alumnae program, was the featured speaker.

Three charter initiates — Carolyn Eder, Paulita Martin McNeill and Janet Raines — attended Beta Upsilon's 30th anniversary as a chapter at Indiana State University Nov. 14, 1981, in Terre Haute. Also present was Jane McDavitt, XX, the extension officer who installed Beta Upsilon 30 years ago.

The year 1980 marked Beta Eta's 40th year as a sorority at Dickinson State College in Dickinson, N.D. The chapter dedicated the year to its first two advisers, Leila Woods and Loraine Schumacher. Together the two had given 58 years of service, devotion and love to

Alpha Sigma Alpha. Beta Eta crowned the two co-sweethearts at the chapter's annual sweetheart formal.

1981 to 1982

Sidney moves through NPC chairs

The fall Phoenix featured highlights of the national council meeting during the summer of 1981. The minutes of Helen Hooper Malone, BΓ, secretary, reflected that emphasis would continue to be placed on all categories of the sorority's enrichment program; the new development program was reviewed; collegiate chapters were reviewed for individual needs; and plans for the National Panhellenic Conference to be held in Denver that fall were finalized.



Members of the 1980-1982 national council, shown here at the 1981 NPC meeting in Denver, are, front from left: Hiwanna Cupp Crompton, BE, treasurer; Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ, president; Rosemary Carucci Goss, BΠ, Phoenix editor; Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ, newly installed NPC treasurer; and Marlys Jarrett White, BB, vice president of alumnae program. Back from left: Silvana Filippello Richardson, ΓΛ, vice president of collegiate program; Marilyn Ramsey Garbee, BΓ, executive vice president; Helen Hooper Malone, BΓ, secretary; Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ, NPC first alternate delegate; Helenmarie Herbert Hofman, AΓ, vice president of development; and Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, headquarters executive.

Reported Rosemary Carucci Goss, BΠ, in the winter 1982 Phoenix:

"The elegant Brown Palace Hotel, in the midst of a bustling downtown Denver, served as the site of the Nov. 1-4, 1981, 47th session of the National Panhellenic Conference.

"Representatives of each of the 26 member groups explored issues and concerns of today … concerns such as hazing, extension ethics, rushing and pledging procedures, alcohol abuse and the economy that affect each member group, and therefore, NPC. Throughout the conference the need for cooperation, not competition was reaffirmed as members were reminded that they are ethically bound to abide by and uphold the Unanimous Agreements.

"The Alpha Sigma Alpha delegation: Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ, first alternate delegate; Rosemary Carucci Goss, BΠ, Phoenix editor; Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ, second alternate delegate; Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, headquarters executive; and Helenmarie Herbert Hofman, AΓ, third alternate delegate, watched proudly as Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ, was installed as treasurer of NPC.

"Sidney will hold the office of treasurer for two years before becoming secretary, then chairman in 1985. We will not have the opportunity to be in this leadership role again for 52 years.

"Sidney was honored at a pre-luncheon reception hosted by the Denver Alumnae Chapter. Denver alumna and former national officer Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB, headed the receiving line. Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson and NPC delegates also greeted guests, while other members of national council and the Denver alumnae visited with guests informally.

"The Denver alumnae also hosted a buffet dinner in honor of Sidney and the national council at the home of Elizabeth Brock Allison, ΨΨ. Liz was Sidney's little sister at Psi Psi Chapter, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La."

Members in action

As reported in The Phoenix over the course of the biennium, collegiate and alumnae

And in the world ...

1981
AIDS is identified as a new disease.

chapters alike "fill their days [and nights] with satisfying activity."

For example, the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., alumnae met for a membership tea and celebrated Founders' Day with a luncheon at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. The Houston alumnae had an old-fashioned slumber party. Members took sleeping bags, wore old college sweatshirts and snuggled down for a long night of planning their year and just getting to know one another better. The group also served more than 300 luncheons for the patrons of Houston Panhellenic's third annual sorority sampler bazaar.

Chicago North Suburban alumnae raised funds by inviting local businesses to demonstrate their products, among them pizza and household items. Dayton, Ohio, area alumnae gave the proceeds of their annual benefit card party to those with mental handicaps, while Fort Wayne, Ind., Alumnae Chapter celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Akron, Ohio, alumnae sold stationery as a money-making project, and Jackson Purchase, Ky., alumnae washed and painted walls of Beta Nu's chapter room, which was then redecorated. Chicago West Suburban alumnae learned about the Japanese gardening technique of bonsai. Denver alumnae visited Colorado Women's College for a demonstration by Chef Paul Martin of the National Cooking Institute.

Collegiate chapters, meanwhile, focused on rushing, pledging, philanthropic projects, fund-raisers and social activities — and schoolwork. Alpha Chapter, for example, used a Polaroid camera to give rushees a picture of themselves sitting in a deck chair, wearing a captain's hat and holding a life buoy that read "ΑΣΑ Cruise Party."

Alpha Beta had alumna Denise Stottlemyre speak to rushees about what the sorority meant to her. "Sounds of ΑΣΑ" was the theme for fall formal rush for Epsilon Epsilon Chapter, which also used it as a theme for a rush party for its alumnae.

Chi Chi held a "Rainbow Party," while Delta Rho held a more casual "Meet the Gang" rush party. Beta Beta invited rushees to the house to enjoy the football game on Super Bowl Sunday, and Eta Eta had two hair stylists show rushees how to care for and style their hair.

Homecoming was an exciting day on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Two of eight maids on the homecoming royalty were Gamma Zeta Chapter members. The group also won $250 for first prize in the float competition.

Twenty alumnae returned for the festivities Beta Epsilon held during homecoming at James Madison University, while Beta Delta won second place for the theme contest at the University of Southern Mississippi. Delta Chi reported its homecoming activities in an original poem published in the winter 1981 Phoenix.

Thomas, Wilcox, Foltz, Swisher die

At each national convention a memorial service is held to honor members who have died during the biennium. At the 1980 convention, among those included on the memorial list were two past national officers — Hattie Virginia Kelly Thomas, A, and Leona Wilcox, II. They were a vital part in establishing and preserving the heritage the sorority enjoys today.

The record of the sorority's first initiation states that "On Jan. 3, 1903, Hattie Virginia Kelly, Richmond, Va., was made a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha." Hattie served in many

capacities at the national level. She died Nov. 18, 1980, in St. Petersburg, Fla. For more on Hattie Thomas, see p. 334.

When Alpha Sigma Alpha went onto the Drake University campus in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1922, Leona Wilcox was a charter member of Iota Iota Chapter. Leona and Hattie served the national organization at the same time — Leona was on the board of supervisors on standards from 1926 to 1930, and was national undergraduate secretary from 1928 to 1936.

In 1928, while Leona was supervisor of standards, she was one of the national officers who installed Phi Phi Chapter, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1978. She died Dec. 22, 1979.

Genevieve Steel Leib Foltz, XX, former long-time national officer, died June 1, 1981, at 91. Gen, as she was known to her friends, was Phoenix editor from 1934 to 1952, serving longer than any other editor in the history of the sorority. She also held the offices of philanthropic chairman from 1932 to 1934, and chairman of chapter secretaries from 1952 to 1961. For more on Genevieve Foltz, see p. 342.

Amy M. Swisher, AA, adviser emerita of Alpha Alpha Chapter and professor emerita of art education at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, died Oct 10, 1981, just two months after her 100th birthday. Fondly called Miss Amy by Alpha Alphas, in 1952 she established a graduate scholarship in her name at the Golden Anniversary convention in Roanoke, Va. This became the sorority's first "name" scholarship. Alpha Alpha Chapter was installed on the Miami campus in 1913, and "Miss Amy" became the adviser and an initiated member shortly after she came to the campus in 1917. For more information on Amy Swisher, see p. 333.

And in the world ...

April 12, 1981
The first space shuttle flight occurs. The shuttle Columbia is the first reusable manned space vehicle.

Convention set for Chicago

The fall 1981 and winter 1982 issues of The Phoenix carried exciting news of the Chicago 1982 convention scheduled for June 30-July 3. At the time, Chicago was the home of two collegiate chapters: Gamma Lambda at Loyola University and Delta Eta at De Paul University, and four flourishing alumnae chapters: Chicago, Chicago Metro, Chicago West Suburban and Chicago North Suburban.

The Windy City also was the site of the 1918, 1926 and 1941 national conventions. No other city has hosted the national convention more times, and only the state of Virginia, where the sorority was founded, has been the site of more conventions than Illinois.