

Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority

The Chevron

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Number 1



Growth Crucial for OPhiA Survival

By Leslie Houston National President

of great things ahead.

this year is expansions. Last year creased membership - on all fully. the hard work proved successful levels -- is crucial to our contias we inducted our new sisters of nued existence. Lambda chapter. But there is still more to be done. One new chapter in three years is not a very good growth record. If every member - active, inactive, alumnae - would make at least is to increase alumnae involve- sit back and relax while the Natwo contacts at colleges and un- ment. We continue to have a tional officers run the sorority. iversities near her, we could very low rate of members joining Keep us informed, send your spreading our sisterhood.

Can You Help? See Page 3 . . .

We need to work to increase lack of maintaining contact or and strengthen our existing involvement with their graduate I'm looking forward to another chapters as well. Several chap- members. Our alumnae are a exciting year for all of us in O- ters have been struggling with valuable commodity. There is mega Phi Alpha. We have many small memberships for years. much we can receive from, as good things behind us - and lots They need support not only from well as give to, the sorority af-National officers, but also from ter graduation. Let's start ex-One of our main goals again alumnae and other chapters. In- ploring these possibilities more

I hope that each one of you will take an active part this year in making our sorority better and better. It's important for each one of us to be involved, to do our share, to take a responsibi-Our other major goal this year lity for what happens. Don't just make a great impact towards the Alumnae Association. And ideas, take an active interest in chapters seem to have a definite how the sorority operates. Likewise, don't let your local officers do all the work in your chapter. They need your input and your involvement.

> I wish us all a super good year. Let's make it the best ever! I look forward to sharing it with you.

New Prizes Presented

Among awards presented ab Convention '81 were two brand new ones.

The Chapter Excellence Award, to recognize distinction in many categories of chapter involvement and management. (See Page 8)



Shown participating in the induction and activation of Lambda chapter at the National Banquet are, I to r, founding members Jeanne Dubiel, Ellen Hayden, Mary Lynn McEvoy, Fana Reisenberg and Judy Smith. The group was unanimously endorsed at Convention '81. Story on page 3. (Photo by S. Kindig)

President's Project, 1981-82:

Sisters Join World Commemoration of Disabled

The National President's Project for this year is working with the disabled. This ties us in with the current international recognition of these individuals. As a service organization and a sisterhood of friends, we are an excellent position to work with physically challenged persons. Now would be an excellent time to actively recruit and welcome handicapped members into chapters. Or you may work on ways to reduce barriers on your campus that prevent these people from fully participating in all activities. Or provide some activities that disabled people in your area may need -- reading for blind students, or putting on a play in sign language for deaf children.

Chevron Seeks Writers

Zeta's airplanes. Epsilon's clowns. Delta's "Aggies." Every chapter has a special activity or tradition that sisters would like to read about.

This year's <u>Chevron</u> will offer the feature articles and photos that members are asking for.

I'll be contacting chapters, and asking your help in writing features about such activities. Remember, if you enjoy reading about other chapters, they'd most certainly want to know about yours — and you're the ones who can describe it best for all of us!

Should any members be especially eager to write a story about a topic you know will be a hit, please drop me a postcard with your story idea, name, address and phone number. I'll contact you in turn. If you're a journalism major, having your story published in the Chevron is not only excellent experience. It means having your by-line in a national newsletter. I'd be happy

The U.S. Council for the International Year of Disabled Persons makes these recommendations:

- If you don't know what to do or say, express your hesitation to the person with the disability. She or he may help put you at ease.
- Offer assistance if asked or if the need seems obvious, but don't overdo it or insist on it. Respect the person's right to indicate the type of help she or he needs.
- Let the person with a disability set the pace in walking or talking. Remember it may take her or him longer to say something or get something done.
- Speak directly to the disabled person. Don't assume their

companions are conversational go-betweens.

- Don't move a wheelchair, crutches or cane out of reach of someone who uses it.
- Never push a wheelchair without first asking the occupant if you may do so.
- Ask the person in the wheelchair how she or he wants you to proceed when pushing the wheelchair up or down steps, ramps, curbs, or other obstructions.
- Don't lean on someone's wheelchair when talking to her or him.
- Speak calmly, slowly and distinctly to a person who has a hearing problem or other difficulty understanding.

to send you an advance copy of the <u>Chevron</u> containing your story, for use in your portfolio. The same holds true for photographers, artists and advertising majors. But first, let me know what your ideas are.

In other publications matters, the newly-revised National Constitution and By-Laws will be printed and sent to you in about one month.

> Marge Gronski Nat'l Publications Editor

Send Dues by Nov. 1st

As your National Treasurer, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to Omega Phi Alpha. I hope the upcoming year is full of fun, friends, and service. I also want to inform you about dues and pledge fees. The fall deadline for sending to me your active dues (\$15 each), pledge fees (\$15 each), and membership rosters is November 1. I hope your chapter will be a participant in the Chapter Excellence Program. By submitting your fees and dues by the deadline, you receive points toward your bronze, silver, or gold award.

Bonnie Sue Edmund

National Treasurer

The Chevron is the national newsletter of Omega Phi

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Alpha, National Service Sorority.

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 ½ page
 \$ 25

 ¼ page
 \$ 50

 ½ page
 \$100

 1 page
 \$200

Please adhere to the above deadlines and charges so the Chevron will be published on schedule. The national publication welcomes written comment from any member or affiliate of Omega Phi Alpha. Articles may be edited to conform with news style and space limits.

Change of address:

Alumnae, please inform the National Alumnae Administrator should you move, so the sorcrity may continue to send the **Chevron** and provide other services to you.

Boosting Membership *1 Priority

For the second consecutive year, "increasing Board (NEB) for 1981-82.

schools or colleges to seek individuals interested in when they reach college. joining Omega Phi Alpha. Each liaison will submit Viktorin, on December 1, 1981, and May 1, 1982.

of expansions is a serious one. Omega Phi Alpha is active there, it's time to graduate or transfer. losing more chapters than it is gaining, and no organization can exist for very long that way.

National sororities normally lose chapters from able for guidance and advice. time to time. However, OPA is a smaller organization which cannot afford too many setbacks. Theta chapter wen defunct in 1979. Today, Eta and Iota chapters are on the brink of doing so.

The delegates to Convention agreed that OPA is an organization that many would like to join - if they only knew about us.

It is up to all of us to spread the word. This is why the delegates committed their chapters' active participation to expansions.

HOW TO HELP

The first step is for each chapter to notify the in the chapter packet sent to each local president.

Sorority Inducts Eleventh Chapter

Delegates to the 1981 National Convention voted to accept a colony at the University of Connecticut as the eleventh chapter of Omega Phi Alpha.

Ceremonies to induct Lambda Chapter were held on Saturday evening, June 20, in the University of Bridgeport's Bernhard Arts & Humanities Tower Room. overlooking Long Island Sound. Margie Gronski, 1980-81 National Vice President, presided over the candlelight ceremony held before other banquet activities.

Ellen Hayden accepted the charter for Lambda Chapter on behalf of the 11 members.

Charter members of Lambda include Ellen Mary Hayden, Judith A. Smith, Roberta A. Reed, Fana Robin Reisenberg, Nancy P. Keatings, Lisa Mittleman. Jeanne M. Dubiel, Diane Reekie, Mary Lynn McEvoy, Deborah Wyant, and Sandy L. Liss. The advisor to the group is Susan L. Council, Assistant Dean of the School of Business at UConn.

Service projects the group carried during colonization include offering assistance to a Motor Skills Clinic for the mentally and physically handicapped: conducting an interview of Willimantic area elderly for a needs assessment survey; observing National Environment Day by cleaning up the Mirror Lake

The second step is to evaluate your geographiexpansions efforts to form new colonies" is the cal area, and figure out just where you can best number one goal set by the National Executive concentrate your efforts. Preferably it will be at one of these: 1) at a university near yours; 2) one This priority was set after delegates to Conven- where you know someone who could organize a tion'81 voted to accept a proposal from expansions group; 3) one where an alumnae sister has transworkshop participants. It states that each chap-ferred from your chapter; 4) at a high school ter's liaison will make five contacts at either high where interested students could remember OPA

You are limited to one important restraint in a progress report and verification of these con- considering where to concentrate on. Limit your tacts to the National Expansions Director, Cindy targets to four-year schools. It has been the sorority's experience that in two-year schools chapters What does all this mean? Simply this: the issue never stabilize. Almost as soon as a sister becomes

> The third step is to work closely with the expansions director. She'll direct you, and be avail-

ONE SUCCESS STORY

"Establishing a colony take much advance planning," according to Marge Gronski, National Publications Editor, who worked with the former University of Connecticut colony last Spring. "You'll need several sisters to work together with the colony and some materials (OPA brochures, posters, Chevrons, and if possible, a display of scrapbooks. awards, etc. from a local chapter). Most of all, be spirited, and you'll find that the colony will catch OPA fever too!"

"The NEB is aware that colonization efforts expansions director of who their respective expan- cost money," she said. "If you're organized and in sions liaison is. A postcard for this was enclosed earnest, contact Cindy for funding. You shouldn't (See Page 8)

Alumnae BOD to Review Lifetime Dues

I'm Nancy Ater, your newlyelected Alumae Administrator, I am looking forward to keeping the undergraduate chapters informed about alumnae matters through Chevron, to let our college sisters become aware of the Alumnae organization.

Electing new Board of Directors members was our first task. Those elected to a two-year term beginning this Summer are Jan Schnack Sedory and Terri Beebe. Elected to fill my unexpired term until June of 1983 is

(See Page 8)

d

the new york

experience









Scenes from Convention '81 — Clockwise from top left: sisters climbed over 100 steps to reach The Statue of Liberty's crown, but most only made it to the second balcony; Epsilon delegates Hanna Grey, Marilyn Rockovitch and active Kim Stephens caucus over constitutional revisions; enjoying the cruise aboard Miss Liberty are Theresa Bush (Alpha), Janet Blake (Beta), Atha Blake and Cindy Brazeal (Zeta) and Katie Whelan (Delta); National Service Award accepted in behalf of Beta chapter by Jean Morgan, Convention '81 chairperson, Angela Papageorgiou and Risa Harshbarger.

kappa

COLUMBUS, OH — After a busy, but also a successful and enjoyable year, Kappa chapter elected officers for 1981-82. These are as follows:

President-Nancy Wilson Vice-President--Susan Kile Treasurer--Leanne Brisbrin Recording Secretary-Linda

Luikart

Pledge Mistress--Pam Moore Corresponding Secretary-

Beth Boehm

Alumni Secretary—Kathy Boehm Service Chairman—Lori

Cremeans

Social Chairman—Gretchen

Hickman

Chaplain-Karen Schaff Historian-Heidi Wagner National Liaison-Becky

Stellhorn

A few of the projects we participated in the past year were

Greetings, everyone from the Greater Nashville Area Alumnae Chapter. This has been one busy year for us! Last Fall we started out with a bang by answering phones for the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon. We have plans to do the same this

Some of us are literally surrounded by junk as we collect items for our Fall Yard Sale. We're hoping for a big success so that we can add to our scholarship fund, which now amounts to over \$700.

In January, we helped the Cookeville Alumnae make contestant numbers for Epsilon's dance marathon. We also participated in this year's superdance, with excellent results!

One of the highlights of our year was an Easter Egg Hunt and Party for Nashville MD patients, complete with a visit from the Easter Bunny.

sponsoring a Bowlathon with proceeds going to the United Way, Christmas carolling at a senior center, sponsoring a campus-wide dance with proceeds going to a local mental health center, sponsoring a child in Mexico, and collecting for the American Heart Association.

A Valentine formal, a Western party plus two pledge parties were the social highlights of the

Eleven pledges were activated. Pam Baurele had the most service hours for the Fall semester and Leanne Brisbrin had the most last Spring.

We are having a retreat at Jenny Bergerson's house on Long Lake close to Kalamazoo, Michigan from August 7 to August 9. A great time is expected to be had by all.

Our new president is Bekki Billingsley Pickney, who came to us from Cookeville last Fall. Terry Beebe is the new vice-president, with Becky Waters and Debbie Gleason as secretary and treasurer respectively. Pam McCullough, Cyndy Hamilton Hinton, and Melissa McDonald (also from Cookeville) have been appointed to work on expanding our membership.

(See Page 8)

chapters

PLAINVIEW, TX -- Zeta chapter is ready to get off to a booming start. We had a retreat in Palo Duro Canyon in July and made lots of exciting plans for the semester. We are talking "Handicap about having a Awareness Day" on our campus where students spend the day in wheelchairs, on crutches, blindfolded, etc. to better understand the lives of the handicapped. This will be followed by a field day for the handicapped here in Plainview. This should be an exciting experience for all of us.

We are changing our pledge session this year. We are having only one, with the first three weeks being at the end of the Fall semester and the last three weeks at the beginning of the Spring semester. Zeta thinks this will work better for us because we will have a lot more time and fun during pledging. We will let you know how this new idea works out for us.

We are excited about this semester and we hope you are too! Have a good one! We also want to say thank you to Beta for a super convention.

BRIDGEPORT, CT - All of us have been busy with individual projects, job hunting, interviewing, and job changes, since many of us are going into our senior year. For this reason, there has not been a good time to get the majority of us together. We will wait until the school year to hold a meeting where yearly objectives will be discussed. We have managed to keep in touch though, and excited for 1981-82.

for the coming year through the leges to raise money.

following activities: writing a letter to secure new insignia material for glasses; requesting fundraising information from a stationery company for the Fall (when stationery is usually a big seller), and from a candy company; sending a letter explaining

OPA and what we do to local United Way agencies.

Beta has been asked to parti-Wendy Molter, Beta president, cipate in an Easter Seal Carnival has been laying the foundation of Clubs held by three local colConvention, '81 in Bridgeport, CT:

Delegates Tackle Constitutional, Chapter Loan Issues

Here are the highlights of National Convention '81. Chapters will be receiving copies of the National minutes from Jean Morgan, National Executive Secretary, soon.

Revised the National Constitution and By-laws. Major changes included extending the Alumnae Administrator's term from one to two years; NEB members may not hold the same office for more than two, rather than four, consecutive years; each chapter shall hold two, rather than one, project for the

National President's Project each year; candidates for national president shall have served for at least one, rather than two, years on the NEB.

. Discussed plans to aid the weakening Eta and Iota chapters.

. Passed a national budget proposal which specifies a convention subsidy between 25-300 dollars for host chapters, and an NEB contingency fund.

. Passed an alumnae proposal which declares each chapter will plan activities for its alumnae

Project this year.

- . Passed an expansions proposal committing each chapter to make at least five contacts this year.
- . Approved procedures for granting and repayment of chapter loans from the national treasury.
- . Accepted a bid from Epsilon chapter for Convention '82, to be held during the second week of June, featuring a visit to the World's fair in Knoxville, Tn.

Nat'l Officer Manual to Enhance Professionalism

One of the biggest frustrations of a newcomer to the National Executive Board (NEB) is not knowing where to begin first. Often the predecessor will be from another state, and the new officer returns from Convention armed with lots of enthusiasm, a box full of files, and a head full of questions.

Last year's NEB set as one of its goals the publication of a document that would introduce newcomers to their office and to the Board and hopefully answer many of the questions a new officer faces. Although the transfer of files from one officer to another usually takes place at summer Convention, such is not always the case.

The

files do not always contain all the answers. The national president, of course, provides guidance and directions, but questions still arise.

Thus, last year's NEB pooled its resources and knowledge, and directed Leslie Houston, national president, drafted a document entitled "National Executive Board Manual." This manual was reviewed during this past convention by the 1980-81 NEB, and will soon be at the printing presses.

Other than containing detailed procedures for each national office, the manual describes seasonal responsibilities, general responsibilities, activities at midyear and summer conven-

tions, tips on managing time and guides for maintaining individual files.

The manual will be made available to any sister considering petitioning for national office. It will accurately describe what is expected of a national office, and serve as a reference book for those on the NEB.

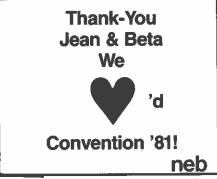
VP Taps Service Council to Revise Award Guidelines

I'm pleased as can be to serve on the National Executive Board for my first time.

Here are some of the things I'd like to accomplish in office this year:

National Service Council—
That's you Service Chairmen...
with whom I'd like to communicate regarding the "Chapter Guide to Completing the Service Hour Report Form." If you

haven't received a copy already, when you do receive it, review it carefully with your service committee and with your chapter. I want this Guide to be just that: a GUIDE, a very clear concise one. So please, if you have any questions regarding these guidelines, call me anytime after 4:30 p.m. Marge Gronski, my predecessor and current Publications Editor, worked her tail off



this past year trying to get enough input into finalizing these guidelines. Your input is most definitely needed and appreciated!

<u>Chapter Constitutions</u> — are needed from every chapter. Please send me your current constitution so I can have a copy for my files.

Alumnae Chapters — Hello, alums! You are our backbone and our foundation. I will be working with Nancy Ater, the Alumnae Administrator, in developing the constitution and guidelines for

(See Page 8)

Jean Dubiel.

It was great meeting you! Good " luck during the coming year.

Sandi

DJC (Hutch!)

I'll be up as soon as I can. Take care of the bookstore.

SDB (Starsky)

Linda Purdy Carter,

Can't wait to hear from you about your job status. Give Tommy our love from me and Frank.

Sheila

MCQG,

I'm green that Donna will be coming out to see you. Be sure and get together with Leslie. You'll make another neat friend! Love you!

SDBB

Debbie Wood Fly,

You're thought about often. Tell Jimmy to hug you for me.

Sheila B.

Karen,

Good luck this year, little sis! I know you're going to make one terrific president! Love you,

Bekki

Heidi,

We heard the great news -- congratulations on Jessica. Through Our Bonds,

Nashville Alums

Squirrel,

Are you still alive in Wobeck? Don't forget all of us back here. OPhiA Love,

Bugs

Sister Lent,

How's the Academy? Hope you'll Alpha, Delta, Eta, Lambda, make it to Homecoming.

Mrs. P.

Heidi Lewis.

Congratulations on your new ba- Pope Lent, by daughter. I know you and Come on up. We won't bite. Dave are proud.

Beaz

chevron freebies

Suzan,

You Turkey! You can't stay away too long. You're still our beloved president. Love you!

Epsilon Chapter,

Thank you for all your support. I'm counting on you to keep me in line.

Love, Sheila B.

Karen Smith,

Congrats on the presidency! Let me know if you need anything -my ear and shoulder are available.

Sheila

Warm welcome to Lise Blankenship, the new Director of Student Development at Amarillo College, and the new advisor to Eta Chapter.

How nice it is to hear from our Alumnae Administrator!

SK,

Welcome home! CV p.s. do you think I should come to Ohio a day early so we can compare slides and notes and experiences and stories and throat lozenges?

"We're not getting older, we're getting better!" a quote from our National President.

Wendy M.,

Good luck on the internship. If ing. you get it, we'll have to meet for lunch in NYC sometime!

Margie

in the November Chevron!

MG

AND, we understand... Sister Sheila

"I hope everyone helps themselves to my budget...and spends it all!" quote from our Nat'l Expansions Director

D.W.F.,

You take good care of those third graders! Keep in touch! Love, R.B.P.

Epsilon's Theta Pledge Class. We finally finished the tablecloth. We were only a few years

Fellow Pledge Sisters

Epsilon,

Have a terrific year! We can't believe your membership now. Hang in there! Through Our Bonds.

Nashville Alumnae

Margie,

Thanks for answering my 100 questions! I have a hard act to follow...your guidance has helped greatly. Love.

Sheila

Pamela.

You're a dear...thanks for your enlightening advice. You won't be left alone. I'll call again! Sheila B.

Ellen HAYden,

Good luck with the gang. I know you can do it! Even though I'm much farther away, I'll be call-

Margie

Beta,

Congratulations on the Service Award (again)!! We're proud. Are Be sure to let us hear from you behind you 100% to get membership high again.

Conn. Alumnae

Lambda, Weldome! Wishing you continued success,

Conn. Alumnae

New Prizes (From Page 1)

went to three chapters. Epsilon received a silver seal, and Zeta and Kappa won bronze designations.

The Individual Achievement in Service Awards, given to sisters who earned 100 hours or more of service, went to sisters from Beta, Delta, Epsilon and Kappa.

Winning the National Service Award for the second consecutive year was Beta chapter, with an average of 45 hours per member per year. Delta won the Display Award with the theme of their chapter's tenth birthday. Zeta took the Travel Award home to Plainview, Texas.

Alumnae BOD (From Page 3)

Liz Matheny.

Liz and Jan are returning to the Board. We all want to extend a warm welcome to Terri Beebe who is new. Debby Fleit Gray remains in office until June, 1982.

Our new task is establishing a base of consistent income for our Alumnae organization. Currently, our only source of income is a lifetime fee of \$25, and donations from members. These fluctuate with the interest and motivation of individuals. We need an income that will promote growth and stability.

Several proposals in this area are: 1) changing the lifetime membership fee to dues paid either annually, or every two, five or ten years; 2) raising the lifetime fee to cover more expenses, which at current postage and copying rates would more than double the current \$25 fee and still not provide a steady income; 3) raising the lifetime fee by \$10, and asking members to subscribe to services like the Chevron and Alumnae News. Also, members would pay for postage on ballots, minutes and other mailings.

Boosting (From Page 3)

have to spend a penny of your own on this."

"The method we used at UConn was a series of information meetings very similar to rushes.

Very effective was an advertising campaign in UConn's <u>Daily Campus</u>, featuring the slogan, 'Pay Hundreds of Dollars to Join a Sorority? We wouldn't.' The ads went on to explain what members receive from service work.

VP Taps (From Page 6)

your chapters. Nashville, Connecticut and Cookeville chapters, I am looking for your support and opinions so we will be able to firm up alumnae objectives. Call or write me anytime after 4:30 p.m.

Expansions — To grow, grow, grow! That's our goal. Already in the works are the efforts of Suzan Burnett, Terry Beebe and Epsilon chapter in pursuing the colonization of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). I will be working with these sisters to help in any way I can, and will keep our expansions director informed of significant developments.

And Finally — Please send me a list of officers from both your active chapters and your alum chapters by September 30. Thank you!

Sheila Bush National Vice-President

Alumnae (From Page 5)

Greetings from the Upper Cumberland of Tennessee. The Cookeville Alumnae have not been very busy this year. It seems we started out in 1980 like fireworks, and now we're slowing down, realizing that OPhiA for the alumna is less than OPhiA active chapter life!

But we still have purpose: we try to meet once a month and make Christmas ornaments that will be sold this Fall at the local Christmas Bazaar. In the Spring we met to elect new officers, and it was unanimously decided to retain our current officers: President — Suzan Burnett Vice-President — Mary Jackson Secretary-Treasurer —

Sheila Bush

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