

NPC



national panhellenic conference



ADVENTURE IN FRIENDSHIP

A History of the National Panhellenic Conference



Compiling a history of the National Panhellenic Conference is an honor and a humbling experience. The organization's past is so rich that only a volume the length of an encyclopedia could do it full justice; distilling that past into a document this brief is, in many ways, an impossibility. Nevertheless, it's hoped that "Adventure in Friendship" touches on most of NPC's landmark events and accomplishments and, more importantly, conveys something of the spirit that has always characterized the Conference.

The title "Adventure in Friendship" comes from a phrase in the 1957 publication "NPC: An Historical Record of Achievement," to which this project owes a great deal. The 2007 "Historical Review" and materials created for the Centennial observance were also invaluable resources. Thanks are extended to everyone involved in the research, writing, editing, graphics, design and printing of the history — in its original 2009 version, in the 2012 version and in this updated edition.

Adventure in Friendship:

A History of the National Panhellenic Conference

Even before they joined forces, they were forces to be reckoned with. The first women's fraternities had been defying expectations for decades, just by being what they were: fraternities for women.

They'd advanced their organizations in the face of restrictive social customs, unequal status under the law and the underlying presumption that they were less able than men. Simultaneously, they'd contended with the same challenges as their male counterparts — including, at various times and places, hostile administrations and the threat of being outlawed by state legislatures.

Possessing an unshakable belief in the power of women's friendship, they came to understand that the one thing they could not afford was to be at odds with each other.

Spurred by this awareness, Kappa Kappa Gamma invited Alpha Phi, Delta Gamma, Delta Delta Delta, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Theta and Pi Beta Phi to gather in Boston. The meeting was held April 16-17, 1891, with Lucy Evelyn Wight of Kappa Kappa Gamma presiding. "Rushing" (recruitment) was a key topic, the consensus being that "lifting" a woman who already belonged to another fraternity was dishonorable and that the initiation of preparatory students was "incompatible with the highest development of chapter life." According to the minutes, the discussions "plainly indicated that the fraternities were desirous of knowing more of each other and ... had caught the true fraternity spirit."

A more informal gathering, no records of which exist, took place during the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Then the collaboration fell dormant for nine years, until Alpha Phi issued a fresh invitation to the same fraternities, with the addition of Alpha Chi Omega and Chi Omega. Although the two new organizations could not attend, the others came together in Chicago on May 24, 1902, and the world's first interfraternal association — the Inter-Sorority Conference (ISC) (later, the National Panhellenic Conference) — was born. The delegates resolved

to convene annually, and Laura Hills Norton of Kappa Alpha Theta was elected chairman.

Amy Olgen Parmelee, who became chairman in 1905, was only a few months out of college when she represented Delta Delta Delta at the 1904 meeting, held at Chicago's Columbus Safety Deposit Vaults. She described the venue's "subterranean caverns" and "barred passages" as echoing the solemnity and guarded atmosphere of the first several gatherings: *[Ten] delegates assembled, mainly residents of the area ... The very air in that small, windowless room ... seemed heavy with a sense of secrecy. Fostered, no doubt, by tall tales of Greek brothers regarding secret meetings at midnight, disguised insignia, [and] buried archives, these women were deeply conscious of the sacredness of their vows to their respective orders. Great care was taken not to utter inadvertently some word which might possibly reveal the meaning of*



First image: Lucy Evelyn Wight presided at the 1891 meeting. Second image: A record was kept of the first Panhellenic convention.

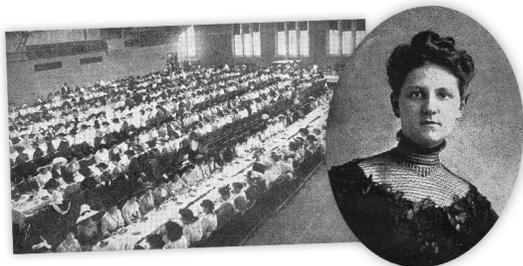


Laura Hills Norton, the first chairman of NPC

secret motto or emblem. They did not quite realize what William C. Levere, [leader of Sigma Alpha Epsilon], meant when he called both men and women his “Greek cousins,” telling them that there were only about half a dozen Greek words basic to the meanings of rituals, aims or insignia of organizations in the Hellenic world.

However cautious the delegates felt initially, they forged strong bonds of trust and friendship in the early years, and they made an astonishing number of important decisions — most of which endure, in principle if not procedurally, to this day.

Before the Inter-Sorority Conference came into being, every campus’ system had been



First image: 1913 Panhellenic luncheon. Second image: Amy Olgen Parmelee, delegate to the 1904 meeting, who later served twice as chairman.

an island. While some were paragons of Panhellenic spirit, others were so lacking in cooperation that their modus operandi could scarcely be called a “system” at all. In 1903 the ISC specified that wherever there were two or more national sororities, the groups should found a Panhellenic

association with a rotating chairmanship; in 1905 it clarified what it meant by “national” (having at least five chapters at institutions of collegiate rank); and the next year it drafted a model constitution for College Panhellenics.

The most basic and urgent questions centered, as they always had, on recruitment. The pioneers of the sorority world were realists in their belief that competition was not only a natural impulse but also a beneficial one, as long as it was tempered by a commitment to fair play. The ISC was quick to address the ways that healthy rivalry could go wrong. Records of the 1891 meeting provided a blueprint for the delegates’ discussions, and a number of the first official agreements pertained to membership: for example, that each local Panhellenic should set a Pledge (Bid) Day and that initiations should take place out of the public eye. Together the representatives denounced double membership, established matriculation as a prerequisite to pledging and as early as 1904 — in a foreshadowing of the no-frills initiative of the 1990s — went on record against the “rush evils” of undue expense and “elaborate parties.”

The earliest years also saw milestones in the organization of the ISC itself. In 1910 it defined the officer-rotation plan still in effect today (based on date of admission to NPC), and the next year it authorized what for almost 100 years was the composition of the Executive Committee: a president (now chairman), secretary and treasurer. The body met annually until 1914, when it decided to meet every biennium beginning in 1915. Biennial conclaves were then the rule until annual meetings were reinstated in 1993.

Although the ISC renamed itself several times beginning in 1908, its essential character as a conference was established at the start. It claimed no authority to legislate, except in matters of its own governance and in a handful of precepts so fundamental that they were ratified by every sorority as binding rules. These precepts were called the Panhellenic Compact. As time went by, the Compact became part of a larger collection of similarly ratified and binding policies, now known as the Unanimous Agreements.

Of all the original groundwork that remains in place today, arguably the most outstanding element is the way that NPC is governed. In 1910 NPC considered whether it should operate as a house of representatives — that is, with one vote allotted per 10 chapters. This model was rejected in favor of a “one sorority, one vote” rule that honors the sovereignty and equality of every member organization.

If there had been any question along the way that Panhellenism was a galvanizing concept, NPC’s rapid growth in its first decade eradicated all doubt. NPC more than doubled in member sororities — from seven to 18 — and what had once been a promising experiment revealed itself to be a full-fledged movement.

Nothing spoke more clearly to the power of the movement than the fact that, for a number of organizations, admission to NPC came at a cost. Among other entrance criteria, a sorority was required to have its chapters exclusively at “senior colleges and universities ... authorized to confer a bachelor’s degree.” Some organizations had already branched out to subcollegiate schools; a few had even been founded at them. Having to relinquish chapters, particularly mother chapters, was heartbreaking — and it was not the only sacrifice that had to be made. There were also women who had joined non-Conference sororities in junior college and later, NPC organizations at senior institutions. Because of the prohibition against dual membership, these women had to choose one affiliation over the other before the second of their sororities could be admitted. Rosters were compared and purged, and although the organizations and individuals involved handled the process with grace, the experience was bittersweet.

After 1912, the makeup of NPC remained nearly constant until a surge of activity in 1947. That year, 11 organizations, including the six members of the Association of Education Sororities, were granted associate status. All became full members in 1951.

At its largest, in 1957, NPC was composed of 32 sororities. A few have passed from existence, but more live on, through mergers with other organizations.

NAME CHANGES

- 1902 Inter-Sorority Conference
- 1908 National Panhellenic Conference
- 1911 National Panhellenic Congress
- 1945 National Panhellenic Conference

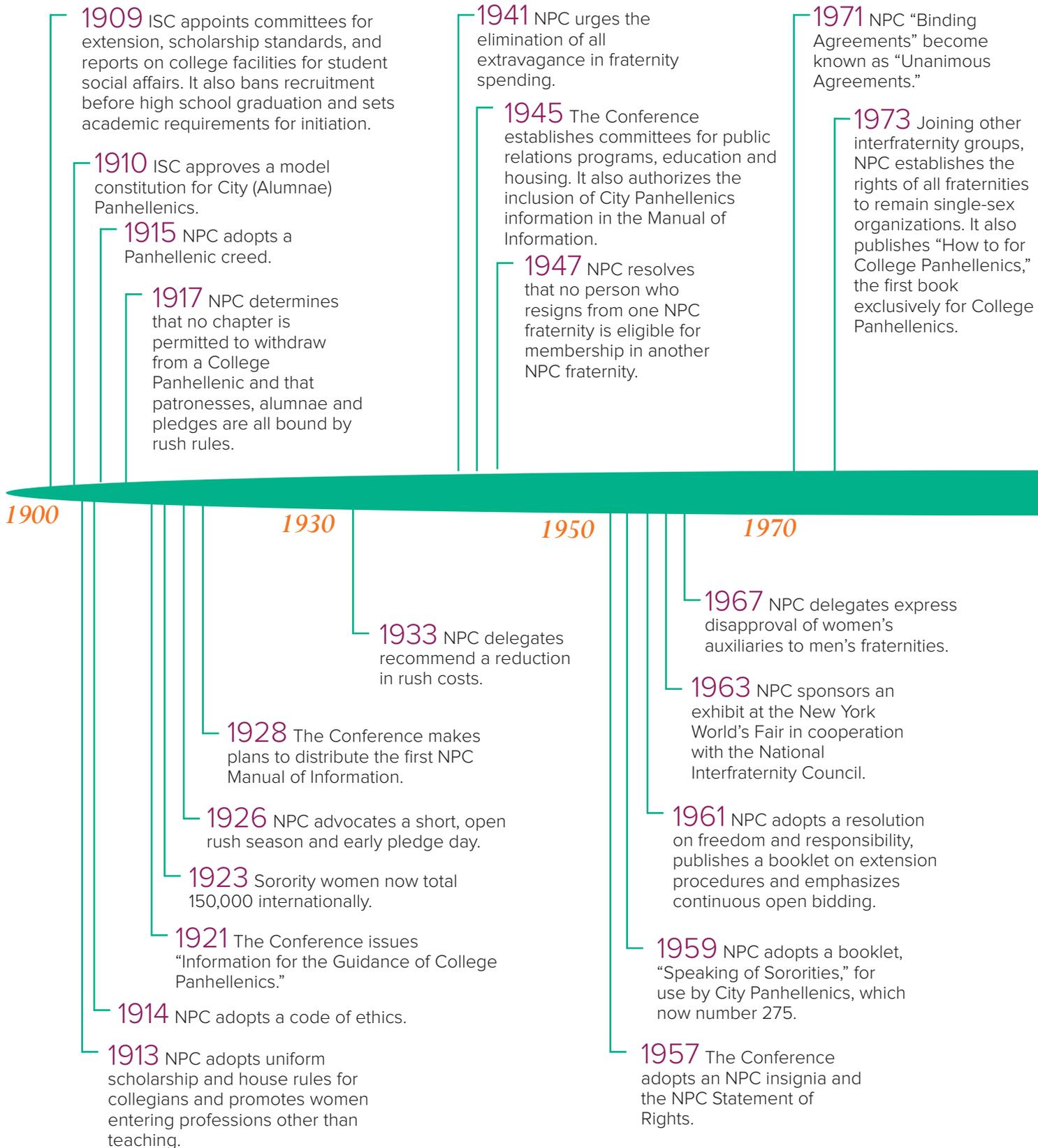
Thanks to the speed and foresight with which the Conference invented itself, it was well-prepared early on for the future — equipped not only to adapt to change but also to help create it. NPC was not a political entity, but it was made up of highly educated women, who naturally held the conviction that members of the so-called weaker sex had far more to offer the world than society had given them credit for. At the same time, while the common premise of their sororities was friendship, it was not friendship for its own sake but rather for the sake of mutual support and inspiration, as women set out to lead lives of the greatest possible purpose and worth.

With these values in mind, NPC took an active interest in the social, educational and health issues that affected its individual members and the institutions they attended. Its first official effort in this area came in 1914, when it made a \$200 donation to the Chicago Collegiate Bureau of Occupation, an organization that sought to place females in careers besides teaching. At the 1923 biennial meeting, NPC hosted speakers on “social hygiene” (a movement that promoted sex education) and “vocations” and accepted an invitation from the League of Women Voters to assist in its educational projects. The year before, member organizations had embarked on a spectacularly ambitious enterprise: the construction and operation of a 26-story residential facility in New York City, which would provide affordable short- and long-term housing for collegiate women and alumnae, many of whom were entering the work force.

(Continued on page 8)



M I L E S



T O N E S



1975 NPC prohibits alcohol use during rush as well as the participation of men. It also changes the term City Panhellenic to Alumnae Panhellenic.

1977 NPC adopts a resolution encouraging member fraternities to forbid hazing.

1979 NPC endorses The Center for the Study of the College Fraternity and encourages collegiate chapters to hold parties in locations not requiring overnight accommodations. Alumnae Panhellenics now number 323.

1981 NPC introduces the slide show "Going Greek in the Eighties."

1997 NPC adopts the Year of the Scholar programming and a resolution supporting men's fraternities that have implemented substance-free housing.

1998 The Conference launches its own website.

2003 NPC joins with NIC in lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill in support of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act and establishes the Government Relations Committee.

2005 NPC Foundation adopts the sunflower as its official flower.

2006 The Conference creates a Public Relations Tool Kit and posts it on the website for use by Alumnae and College Panhellenics and member groups.

2008 NPC launches a website, TheSororityLife.com aimed at changing attitudes, misperceptions and common stereotypes. NPC adopts the term "annual meeting."

2009 NPC launches SororityParents.com to better inform parents about the "real" sorority experience. The Manual of Information goes "green" by being made available online.

1980

1990

2000

1993 NPC reinstates annual meetings with Biennial Sessions in odd years and Interim Sessions in even years; Delegates consent to be part of the Hand-in-Hand breast cancer project and the Adopt-a-School project.

1989 NPC affirms human dignity and frames a Rushee's Bill of Rights for use by College Panhellenics.

1987 The Conference establishes the NPC Archives at the University of Illinois and outlines guidelines for computer bid-matching.

1983 NPC affirms the quota-total method of bid-matching.

2016 Board of Directors adopts Government Relations Platform

2015 Launched first College Panhellenic Academy

2014 Established task force on Student Safety and Sexual Assault Awareness

2013 Participated in the Gallup-Purdue University Index Study of U.S. College graduates on well-being in which graduates who were members of fraternities or sororities are more likely to be thriving in five areas than those graduates who did not join a fraternity and sorority

2012 RecruitmentPREP.com launched to prepare women for the recruitment experience; Executive Committee members are chairman, vice chairman, advocacy chairman, Budget & Finance Committee chairman, and College Panhellenics Committee chairman.

2011 NPC annually recognizes February as Month of the Scholar.

2010 Executive Committee officer rotation is changed to only vice chairman and chairman. Treasurer becomes Budget & Finance Committee chairman and becomes an appointed position.



The 1943 meeting was held in Chicago with 21 delegates in attendance.

Over the years, the majority of NPC's issues and related endeavors have been targeted, in the form of programming and awareness-raising, to College and Alumnae Panhellenic associations (the latter, once termed "city" associations, have existed since at least 1908). The Conference has formulated a number of its own materials but has also served as a conduit for programs developed by its constituent groups and others. It has thus played a unique role in disseminating valuable information while working to prevent duplication of effort.

Given its long commitment to bettering women's lives, NPC's decision to establish a foundation was a logical step. In 1995, the same year that NPC itself was legally incorporated in the state of Indiana, so was the National Panhellenic Conference Foundation. Because of the tax advantages it affords, its existence has amplified NPC's capacity to fund educational pursuits. Among other projects, in the past the Foundation has underwritten a newsletter for collegians called *The Scholar* as well as NPC Focus, a series of life-skills programs for collegiate members on such topics as self-esteem and positive confrontation. It has also awarded or co-sponsored several annual scholarships.

As NPC's aspirations burgeoned, so did its need for additional hands, hearts and minds. As of 1921 each sorority was permitted two alternate delegates and, in 1971, a third. In 1984 NPC brought its operation to a new level of professionalism with the opening of a central office in Indianapolis. Inter/national presidents, executive directors and editors have also met regularly with their Panhellenic counterparts.

Its long record of success notwithstanding, the road that NPC has traveled has not been smooth.

There have been periods of extreme strain, caused sometimes by external pressures and sometimes by circumstances closer to home.

From its second decade on, the organization spent the better part of 30 years dealing with the upheaval of two global wars and the Great Depression. Financial considerations were of enormous impact; NPC had always urged moderation in local spending, but after the collapse of the American economy in 1929, its message of belt-tightening took on unprecedented seriousness. In a troubling first, the biennium beginning in 1933 saw more chapters closed than colonized. Fortunately, NPC had introduced a preferential bidding system in 1928 that contributed to balancing membership numbers.

Without this innovation, many more chapters would no doubt have been lost.



Central office executives (pictured at the 1951 meeting) were first recognized by NPC in 1945.

NPC became more focused than ever on its role as a problem-solving forum and, in 1939, launched a multi-year “Program of Progress” designed to facilitate that process. Citizenship was another leading priority. NPC curtailed unnecessary travel during World War II — as did its member organizations — and created a Committee on War and College Women to advance the Allied effort on the home front. It sent representatives to meetings held by the U.S. War Department and passed a resolution encouraging female college graduates to consider joining the armed forces.

Ironically, it was with the return of prosperity and relative peace that NPC entered one of its most challenging eras. Despite a boom in sorority expansion after the war, there were disquieting developments. As the result of a wave of traditionalism, female college enrollment in the mid-1950s dropped to its lowest level since before 1920. Concurrently, there was a cyclical upsurge in public criticism of Greek-letter organizations; as early as 1943, NPC had been studying conditions on certain campuses via a special committee on “anti-fraternity agitation.” (During the Cold War some of this antagonism was suspected to be rooted in political subversion, and NPC redoubled its support of patriotic causes.) In 1961, recognizing that negative opinion was not subsiding, NPC adopted a two-fold strategy. In addition to reaffirming the constitutional right of fraternities to exist by virtue of freedom of assembly, it took an energetic stance toward re-educating the public — in particular, students and administrations — about the value of sororities.

For more than a decade, while many campuses became epicenters of social unrest for reasons that went far beyond the sorority community, NPC walked a precise line in asserting the autonomy of its member organizations and maintaining constructive communication with host institutions. It sent out an array of public relations materials to College and Alumnae Panhellenics and viewed the scrutiny to which it was subjected as an opportunity to restate its adamant opposition to hazing and to frivolity and excess in activities like Greek Week. One triumph of collective action was NPC’s lobbying for the continued legality of single-sex status for sororities. This status gained protection in 1974, when the U.S. Congress passed an exemption to Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972.



The 1963 meeting was held in New Orleans with 27 delegates in attendance.

The 1960s and early '70s took a toll on every fraternal group. However, a time of severe pressure — when the sorority world might easily have splintered into self-serving factions — proved to be a time of magnificent solidarity.

The same era brought tremendous cultural change. Social mores shifted, and colleges and universities, which had enforced curfews and other parental rules, distanced themselves from acting in loco parentis. As they took a more hands-off approach, fraternities and sororities found new ways to support students in making responsible choices. In the ensuing years NPC has offered initiatives on eating disorders, substance abuse, relationship safety and a host of other subjects. At the 1997, 1998 and 2001 sessions it adopted resolutions encouraging alcohol-free social events, and its values-based risk-management program “Something of Value,” piloted in 1996, has been implemented at institutions across the continent.

In working to bring about solutions on campuses, NPC has also embraced partnerships with a number of other entities. In 2003, when institution presidents called upon fraternal organizations to join them in reinforcing greater congruence between values and student behavior, NPC responded eagerly by developing the “NPC Standards” document; and with the North-American Interfraternity Conference, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. and the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations, it formed a coalition to conduct on-site assessments at the request of school presidents.





Editors (pictured at the 1981 meeting) of sorority magazines first met in 1913.

The National Panhellenic Conference started its second century with a membership of 26 sororities, 2,900 installed chapters on 630 campuses, and a total of 3.5 million initiated women. Its year-long anniversary celebration culminated Oct. 11-12, 2002, in Oak Brook, Ill. — not far from where, many years before, 10 visionaries had gathered warily but hopeful in a little underground room. The Centennial attendees came together for friendship and festivity but also in the knowledge that they had a priceless legacy to safeguard.

They did not pause to rest on historical laurels. In 2003 NPC established the University Document Review Committee, whose function was to collaborate with administrators in shaping fraternity/sorority standards and expectations that preserve the organizations' rights to privacy and self-determination. The same year the Conference unveiled a milestone redesign of recruitment — the greatest modification to the process since the quota/limitation (quota/total) system was inaugurated in 1949. The new model features a marketing plan, a menu of four different recruitment styles, and a ground-breaking methodology for determining release figures. These changes are aimed at showcasing the relevance of sororities to an increasingly diverse student population and at bringing about size parity among chapters. Shortly afterward, the Long-Range Planning Committee was charged with the monumental task of preparing NPC for an in-depth consideration of its future. With the guidance of a strategic-planning firm, the committee spent several years collecting data from key stakeholders; as part of its research, it interviewed every delegate and inter/national president by telephone before the 2008 session.

At that October meeting, the conversations of the Conference body, coupled with constituent input, helped define NPC's direction as it approached its 110th anniversary. NPC hired its first executive director, reconfigured the Executive Committee, streamlined the number of standing committees and began to shift support of Alumnae Panhellenics primarily to the Central Office. It reinforced its commitment to the eradication of hazing and the preservation of single-sex status for fraternal organizations. More broadly, it engaged in such issues as Vision 2020's goals of achieving pay equity for women and increasing their numbers in senior leadership positions in American life.

In 2013, NPC engaged in research on the value of sorority membership and impact on retention. NPC participated in the Gallup-Purdue University Index Study of U.S. College Graduates on well-being in which graduates who were members of fraternities or sororities are more likely to be thriving in five areas than those graduates who did not join a fraternity and sorority. In addition, NPC commissioned research on the correlation of sorority membership and retention. Findings confirmed the strong impact of sorority membership on women who feel a sense of belonging and community.

NPC celebrated its inaugural College Panhellenic Academy in 2015 and provided Panhellenic officers and advisors an opportunity to engage with like-officers and learn the basics on policies and procedures needed for success in their position.



A highlight of the Centennial celebration was a re-enactment of NPC's founding.



Alpha Phi called the 1902 meeting and served as chairman (Sally Grant) for the 2001-03 Centennial.

In the same year, collaboration between NPC leaders, inter/national sorority leaders and top campus administrators was facilitated through the NPC Sorority Symposium. NPC partnered with Texas Christian University to invite college and university presidents and vice presidents of student affairs to discuss such issues as the benefits of single-sex organizations, sexual violence on campus and how NPC can help address the issue, inclinations toward moratoriums or suspensions of the fraternity and sorority community on campuses, and the trends in higher education that are directly impacting women. NPC also continued to forge new relationships with inter/national sororities outside NPC with an intersorority dialogue to share updates and address common concerns.

Through NPC sexual assault awareness projects and escalated lobbying efforts, NPC broke the silence on sexual assault. In partnership with other organizations, the Conference sought to advance solutions to address growing concerns about campus sexual assault. A Day of Advocacy was launched with visits in Washington D.C., with like-minded organizations for possible collaborations—Running Start, RAINN, AAUW and the White House Council on Women & Girls.

NPC demonstrated focus as a caring sorority community by forming a task force on Student Safety and Sexual Assault Awareness, approving an NPC position statement on sexual assault, encouraging bystander intervention education, creating a social media awareness campaign to promote the Red Zone, and pushing out resources from RAINN and other organizations to our member organizations.

As the premier advocacy and support organization for the advancement of the sorority experience, NPC has a responsibility to regularly monitor national issues and legislation impacting its member organizations and their members. Educating, communicating and updating the membership and other key stakeholders is essential for advancing successful advocacy efforts. In March 2016, the NPC Board of Directors approved a government relations strategy and then called on the Government Relations Task Force to develop a formal government relations platform. This three-pillar platform: Preservation of the Sorority Experience, Financial Parity and College Affordability, and Student and Campus Safety, now guides NPC's government relations activities and shapes our communication with key government officials.

As NPC looks to the future, the descendants of those who met in 1891 still stand for the protection, perpetuation and growth of the finest ideals of women's friendship. Fraternalism and those who believe in it have made it possible for a volunteer alliance of distinct and autonomous organizations to remain unified for more than a century, growing stronger together than they could ever have hoped to become separately. In the process, they have come to comprise one of the largest volunteer networks in the world.



The 2015-17 Executive Committee: Lynnda Hoefler, finance chairman; Carole Jones, vice chairman; Donna King, chairman; Donna Chereck, advocacy chairman; Frances Mitchelson, Panhellenics chairman.



NPC CHAIRMEN

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1902-1903 | Laura Norton | Kappa Alpha Theta |
| 1904 | Grace Telling | Delta Gamma |
| 1905 | Amy Olgen (Parmelee) | Delta Delta Delta |
| 1906 | Ella Leib | Alpha Xi Delta |
| 1907 | Jobelle Holcombe | Chi Omega |
| 1908 | Anna Lytle | Pi Beta Phi |
| 1909 | L. Pearle Green | Kappa Alpha Theta |
| 1910 | Florence Roth | Kappa Kappa Gamma |
| 1910-1911 | Marguerite Lake | Delta Gamma |
| 1911-1912 | Cora McElroy | Alpha Phi |
| 1912-1913 | Lillian Thompson | Gamma Phi Beta |
| 1913-1914 | Lois Crann | Alpha Chi Omega |
| 1914-1915 | Amy Parmelee | Delta Delta Delta |
| 1915-1917 | Lena Baldwin | Alpha Xi Delta |
| 1917-1919 | Mary Love Collins | Chi Omega |
| 1919-1921 | Ethel Weston | Sigma Kappa |
| 1921-1923 | Lillian McCausland ¹ | Alpha Omicron Pi |
| 1923-1926 | Dr. May Hopkins | Zeta Tau Alpha |
| 1926-1928 | Louise Leonard | Alpha Gamma Delta |
| 1928-1930 | Irma Tapp | Alpha Delta Pi |
| 1930-1931 | Rene Smith | Delta Zeta |
| 1931-1933 | Nellie Prince ² | Phi Mu |
| 1933-1935 | Gladys Redd | Kappa Delta |
| 1935-1937 | Harriet Tuft | Beta Phi Alpha ³ |
| 1937-1939 | Violet Gentry | Alpha Delta Theta ⁴ |
| 1939-1941 | Beatrice Moore | Theta Upsilon ⁵ |
| 1941-1943 | Juelda Burnaugh | Beta Sigma Omicron ⁶ |
| 1943-1945 | Helen Cunningham | Phi Omega Pi ⁷ |
| 1945-1947 | Amy Onken | Pi Beta Phi |
| 1947-1949 | L. Pearle Green | Kappa Alpha Theta |
| 1949-1951 | Edith Crabtree | Kappa Kappa Gamma |
| 1951-1953 | Margaret Hutchinson | Alpha Phi |
| 1953-1955 | Helen Byars | Delta Gamma |
| 1955-1957 | Beatrice Hogan | Gamma Phi Beta |
| 1957-1959 | Rosita Nordwall | Alpha Chi Omega |
| 1959-1961 | Ernestine Grigsby | Delta Delta Delta |
| 1961-1963 | Mary Burt Nash | Alpha Xi Delta |
| 1963-1965 | Elizabeth Dyer | Chi Omega |
| 1965-1967 | Ruth Miller | Sigma Kappa |
| 1967-1969 | Mary Louise Roller | Alpha Omicron Pi |
| 1969-1971 | Harriet Frische | Zeta Tau Alpha |
| 1971-1973 | Myra Foxworthy | Alpha Gamma Delta |
| 1973-1975 | Virginia Jacobson | Alpha Delta Pi |
| 1975-1977 | Gwen McKeeman | Delta Zeta |
| 1977-1979 | Adele Williamson | Phi Mu |
| 1979-1981 | Minnie Mae Prescott | Kappa Delta |
| 1981-1983 | Mary Barbee | Sigma Sigma Sigma |
| 1983-1985 | Cynthia McCrory | Alpha Sigma Tau |
| 1985-1987 | Sidney Allen | Alpha Sigma Alpha |
| 1987-1989 | Beth Saul | Alpha Epsilon Phi |
| 1989-1991 | Louise Kier | Phi Sigma Sigma |
| 1991-1993 | Harriett Macht | Delta Phi Epsilon |
| 1993-1995 | Harriet Rodenberg | Sigma Delta Tau |
| 1995-1997 | Jean Scott | Pi Beta Phi |
| 1997-1999 | Lissa Bradford | Kappa Alpha Theta |
| 1999-2001 | Marian Williams | Kappa Kappa Gamma |
| 2001-2003 | Sally Grant | Alpha Phi |
| 2003-2005 | Martha Brown | Delta Gamma |
| 2005-2007 | Elizabeth Quick | Gamma Phi Beta |
| 2007-2009 | Julie Burkhard | Alpha Chi Omega |
| 2009-2011 | Eve Riley | Delta Delta Delta |
| 2011-2013 | Jane Sutton | Alpha Xi Delta |
| 2013-2015 | Jean Mrasek | Chi Omega |
| 2015-2017 | Donna King | Sigma Kappa |
| 2017-2019 | Carole Jones | Alpha Omicron Pi |

¹Lillian McCausland died shortly before the Biennial Session. It was chaired by Laura Hurd.

²Nellie Prince could not attend the Biennial Session because of illness. It was chaired by Clara Rader.

³Beta Phi Alpha affiliated with Delta Zeta in 1941.

⁴Alpha Delta Theta affiliated with Phi Mu in 1939.

⁵Theta Upsilon affiliated with Delta Zeta in 1962.

⁶Beta Sigma Omicron affiliated with Zeta Tau Alpha in 1964.

⁷Phi Omega Pi affiliated with Delta Zeta in 1946.