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2013 - 14

# ANNUAL

## REPORT

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National Panhellenic Conference  
*the voice for sorority advancement*

The  
VOICE  
— for —  
SORORITY  
ADVANCEMENT



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



*NPC is the voice for sorority advancement.*

During the past year, we carried out the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) brand, “the voice for sorority advancement.” Our shared commitment has produced positive outcomes, as depicted in this annual report.

Everyone has a story to tell. The NPC Executive Committee has heard story after story about how Panhellenic women feel more confident with alumnae support and experienced sisters who serve as mentors in their sorority communities. These stories inspire us to stay the course and advocate for the sorority experience.

Campus visits with university officials and Panhellenic women allow us to collaborate and help empower sorority leaders to work together as a unified coalition of women. Our physical presence at these face-to-face meetings truly demonstrates that friendship extends beyond badges.

NPC received positive feedback on the Gallup-Purdue Index that verifies what

we have stated for generations — the sorority experience contributes to the overall well-being of women. We can clearly say that sororities add value, with statistics to reinforce our claims. This research enables our voices to be heard by our constituents in higher education.

NPC's visibility increased with coverage in various publications and online media outlets. We are shaping our messages.

NPC's impact extended with interfraternal partners, specifically with the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), on matters of university documents and student success. This was evident as we combined resources and coordinated our voices in response to the Gallup-Purdue Index results at the May press event. Conversations will continue.

The NPC Foundation made progress in building the board, raising funds and developing strategic plans to underwrite the ongoing and future needs of programs for sorority women. The dialogue has just begun.

From college campus visits to the steps of Capitol Hill, we are advocating for

the sorority experience with a legislative agenda that includes student safety and success, college affordability and the Collegiate Housing Infrastructure Act (CHIA). The Hill visits promote our cause for the greater welfare of sororities and fraternities.

Indeed, strides have been made on campuses, in communities and on the Hill. And our work continues. Looking ahead we will launch a College Panhellenic Academy, we will adopt a 2015-20 strategic plan, we will strengthen our financial base, we will reaffirm our standards and we will share additional educational tools so we can continue to shape our message and extend our reach.

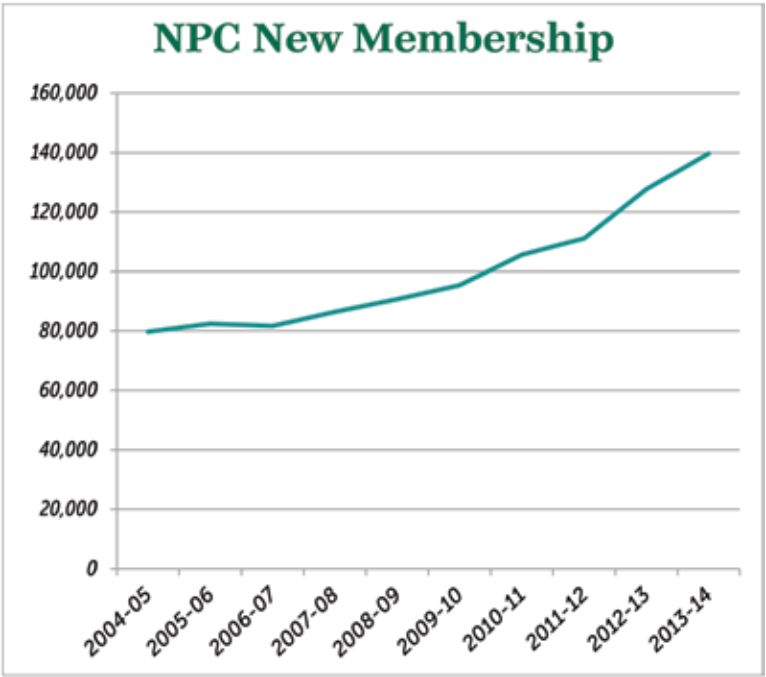
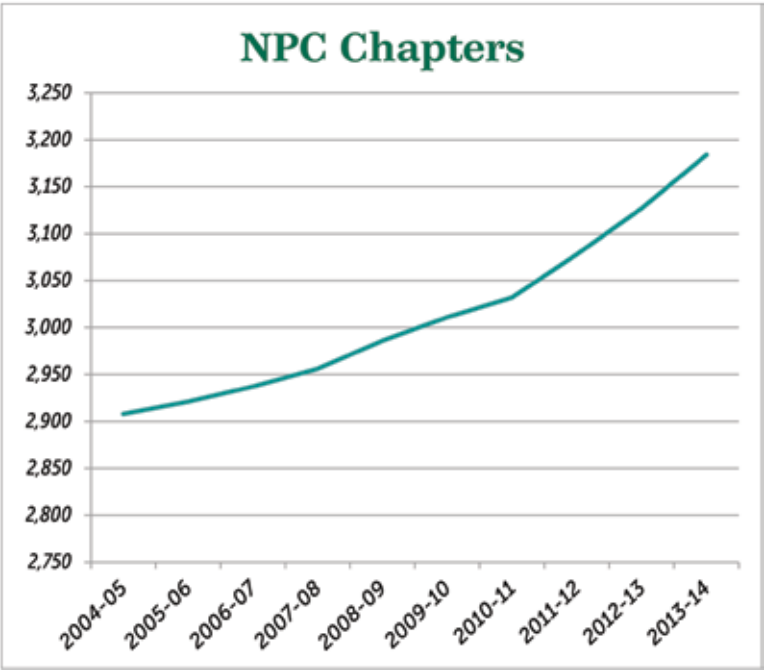
As our NPC creed states: “Cooperation for furthering fraternity life, in harmony with its best possibilities, is the ideal that shall guide our fraternity activities.”

Our voices are united in harmony. We are advancing sorority — together.

Jean M. Mrasek  
Chairman 2013 - 15

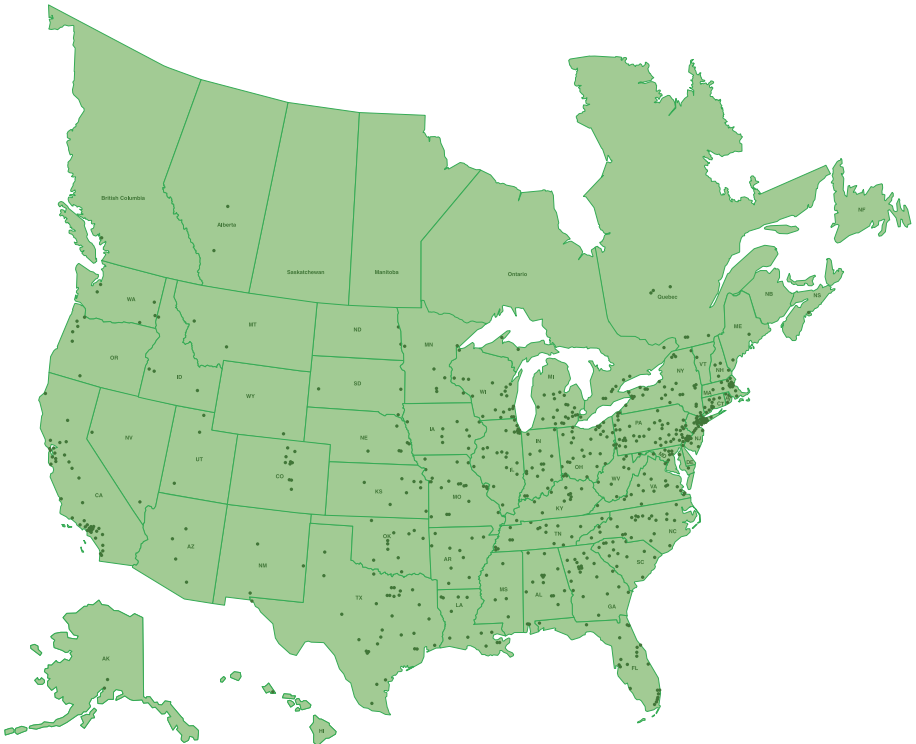
NPC STATISTICS

- 26 member organizations
- 672 campuses in the U.S. and Canada
- 3,184 undergraduate chapters
- 353,345 undergraduate members
- 131,683 new initiates
- 3,773 alumnae associations



NPC SORORITIES

Twenty-six member organizations comprise the 112-year-old National Panhellenic Conference. Below is a list of each member organization along with the year and the school at which it was founded.



Alpha Chi Omega	1885	DePauw University	Delta Zeta	1902	Miami University
Alpha Delta Pi	1851	Wesleyan Female College	Gamma Phi Beta	1874	Syracuse University
Alpha Epsilon Phi	1909	Barnard College	Kappa Alpha Theta	1870	DePauw University
Alpha Gamma Delta	1904	Syracuse University	Kappa Delta	1897	Longwood University
Alpha Omicron Pi	1897	Barnard College	Kappa Kappa Gamma	1870	Monmouth College
Alpha Phi	1872	Syracuse University	Phi Mu	1852	Wesleyan College
Alpha Sigma Alpha	1901	Longwood University	Phi Sigma Sigma	1913	Hunter College
Alpha Sigma Tau	1899	Eastern Michigan University	Pi Beta Phi	1867	Monmouth College
Alpha Xi Delta	1893	Lombard College	Sigma Delta Tau	1917	Cornell University
Chi Omega	1895	University of Arkansas	Sigma Kappa	1874	Colby College
Delta Delta Delta	1888	Boston University	Sigma Sigma Sigma	1898	Longwood University
Delta Gamma	1873	Lewis School	Theta Phi Alpha	1912	University of Michigan
Delta Phi Epsilon	1917	New York University	Zeta Tau Alpha	1898	Longwood University



NPC LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee

**Chairman:** Jean M. Mrasek, Chi Omega  
**Vice chairman:** Donna C. King, Sigma Kappa  
**Budget and Finance Committee chairman:** Lynnda Wolf Hoefler, Delta Zeta  
**Advocacy Committee chairman:** Mary Jane Beach, Kappa Alpha Theta  
**Panhellenics Committee chairman:** Julie L. Johnson, Kappa Delta

Board of Directors

Alpha Chi Omega: Donna Chereck  
Alpha Delta Pi: Chris Dickey  
Alpha Epsilon Phi: Dana Katz  
Alpha Gamma Delta: Rie Hoehner  
Alpha Omicron Pi: Carole Jones  
Alpha Phi: Sally Grant  
Alpha Sigma Alpha: Lynne Chambers  
Alpha Sigma Tau: Elizabeth McOsker  
Alpha Xi Delta: Deanna Detchemendy  
Chi Omega: Jean M. Mrasek  
Delta Delta Delta: Sarah Lindsay  
Delta Gamma: Sharon Malone  
Delta Phi Epsilon: Stacy Segal  
Delta Zeta: Lynnda Wolf Hoefler  
Gamma Phi Beta: Sandra Burba  
Kappa Alpha Theta: Mary Jane Beach  
Kappa Delta: Julie L. Johnson  
Kappa Kappa Gamma: Patricia Gesell  
Phi Mu: Donna Stallard  
Phi Sigma Sigma: Gina Kerley  
Pi Beta Phi: Ana Miller  
Sigma Delta Tau: Lynn Marano  
Sigma Kappa: Donna C. King  
Sigma Sigma Sigma: Laura Sweet  
Theta Phi Alpha: Erin Nemenoff  
Zeta Tau Alpha: Laura Mauro

Committee Chairmen

**Advisory:** Elizabeth Quick, Gamma Phi Beta  
**Advocacy:** Mary Jane Beach, Kappa Alpha Theta  
**Alumnae Panhellenics:** Kathi Heatherly, Delta Zeta  
**Board Development:** Donna Chereck, Alpha Chi Omega  
**Budget and Finance:** Lynnda Wolf Hoefler, Delta Zeta  
**Bylaws/Minutes Review:** Dana Katz, Alpha Epsilon Phi  
**College Panhellenics:** Patricia Gesell, Kappa Kappa Gamma  
**Editorial Team:** Suzanne Zorichak, Alpha Sigma Alpha  
**Extension:** Carole Jones, Alpha Omicron Pi  
**Measurable Outcomes:** Erin Nemenoff, Theta Phi Alpha  
**Panhellenics:** Julie L. Johnson, Kappa Delta  
**Recruitment:** Phyllis Davis, Delta Zeta  
**Release Figure Methodology (RFM):** Laura Malley-Schmitt, Alpha Phi  
**Strategic Planning:** Laura Sweet, Sigma Sigma Sigma  
**University Document Review:** Elizabeth Searcy, Delta Gamma  
**University Housing Initiatives:** Donna Stallard, Phi Mu

NPC Staff

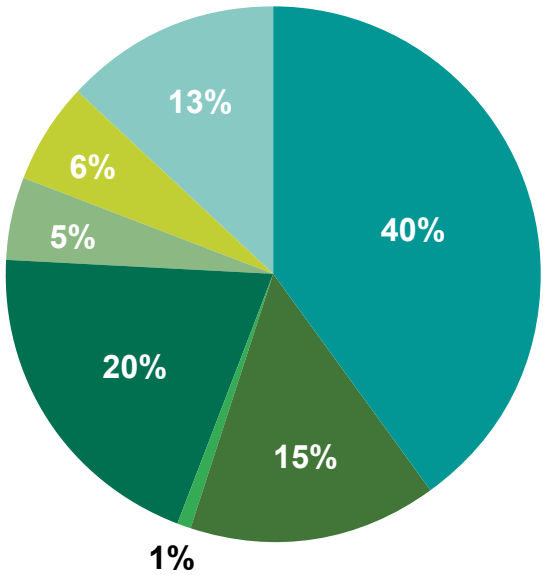
**Executive director:** Nicki Reas Meneley, Alpha Chi Omega  
**Business operations coordinator:** Marci Kolb, Pi Beta Phi  
**Marketing and events manager:** Julia Schenk, Kappa Kappa Gamma  
**Panhellenic support coordinator:** Caitlin Moulton, Zeta Tau Alpha  
**Training and curriculum design coordinator:** Jenny Greyerbiehl, Alpha Xi Delta  
**Office assistant:** Gina Griffin



NPC FINANCIALS

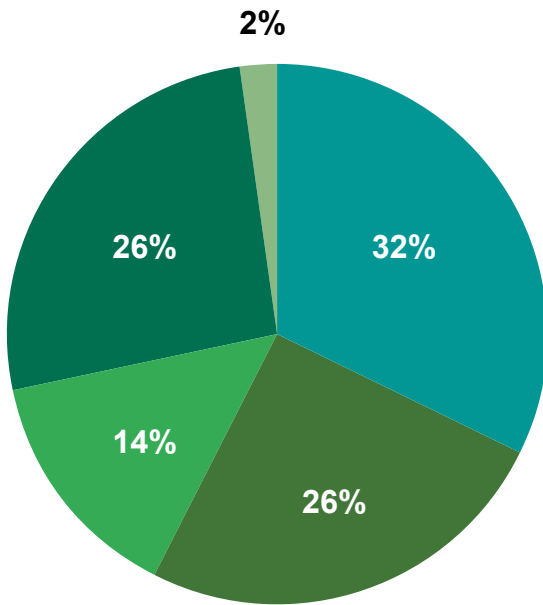
Revenue

Member organization dues	40%
College Panhellenic dues	15%
Alumnae Panhellenic dues	1%
Registration and meeting income	20%
Publication and jewelry sales	5%
Contribution income - grants	6%
Other	13%



Expenses

Personnel expense	32%
Office expense	26%
Meetings expense	14%
Other program services	26%
Publications services	2%



# The VOICE ~ on ~ CAMPUS

## ON CAMPUS

**From Delaware to Arizona**, the National Panhellenic Conference Executive Committee members traveled to 14 college and university campuses to meet and converse with College Panhellenics and campus officials. The purpose of their visits was to talk to sorority women and administrators about the power of Panhellenic.

The visits provided an opportunity for the NPC Executive Committee members to connect with not only students and campus officials involved with Panhellenic, but with various administrators involved in student life. They have shared the message of sorority women by advocating for and educating campus communities about sorority life.

In addition to meeting with campus officials, NPC Executive Committee members sat down with students in the Panhellenic community. They shared their personal sorority stories and their Panhellenic experiences. Likewise, College Panhellenic members shared with our leaders. Each story is unique as is each member's Panhellenic experience, but these stories are what link us together as Panhellenic women. This moment during the campus visits has been interesting for advisors and students.

"My favorite experience [was] when the NPC Executive Committee was telling us about their Panhellenic experience over the years. It was nice to get to know them outside of their jobs. It made them easier to relate to and allowed us to see them as fellow Panhellenic sisters," said Jesyca Ramirez, Alpha Omicron Pi, Rollins College.

Adam Cantley, assistant director of fraternity and sorority life at the University of Delaware, described the member's stories as "inspiring."

"It was great for me as an advisor to hear why our women are inspired to be involved at the University of Delaware. As advisors, we get wrapped up in the rules, rosters and phone calls. We forget we are giving women the ability to have an experience that is truly unique and life changing," he said.

College Panhellenics have the power to come together to affect change in their communities and "be the best brand ambassadors to spread the good news about sorority membership," said NPC Chairman Jean M. Mrasek. The NPC Executive Committee will continue these visits through the next year.







## EXEMPLARY COLLEGE PANHELLENICS

**College Panhellenics** bring together women from all chapters on a campus, and together they accomplish great things. NPC applauds the efforts of College Panhellenics through academic recognition and awards. This year, 123 campuses received academic recognition and 32 campuses earned awards. Congratulations to our exemplary College Panhellenics:

### Academic Recognition

*All-sorority average is above the all-women's average for at least one term*

Arkansas State University  
Ashland University  
Austin Peay State University  
Babson College  
Ball State University  
Bethany College  
Brenau University  
Butler University  
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
California State University, Fullerton  
College of William and Mary  
Colorado State University  
Creighton University  
Delta State University  
Denison University  
Drake University  
Drexel University  
East Carolina University  
East Tennessee State University  
Eastern Illinois University  
Emporia State University  
Florida Southern College  
Florida State University  
Franklin College of Indiana  
Furman University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Houston Baptist University  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Indiana State University  
Indiana University  
Indiana University - Southeast  
Iowa State University  
Kettering University  
Lake Forest College  
Lenoir-Rhyne University  
Lindenwood University  
Louisiana Tech University

Millikin University  
Minnesota State University - Mankato  
Mississippi State University  
Moravian College  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
Nicholls State University  
Northeastern State University  
Northern Kentucky University  
Northwood University  
Oklahoma City University  
Oklahoma State University  
Penn State University  
Pittsburg State University  
Purdue University  
Quincy University  
Randolph - Macon College  
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey  
Roanoke College  
Robert Morris University  
Rockhurst University  
Salisbury University  
Spring Hill College  
St. Joseph's University  
St. Mary's University  
St. Norbert College  
Stevens Institute of Technology

Texas Christian University  
Texas State University  
Towson University  
University of Akron  
University of British Columbia  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of Central Arkansas  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Delaware  
University of Evansville  
University of Georgia  
University of Idaho  
University of Iowa  
University of Kentucky  
University of Louisville  
University of Maryland - Baltimore County  
University of Michigan - Flint  
University of Mississippi  
University of Missouri - St. Louis  
University of Montana  
University of Montevallo  
University of Mount Union  
University of Nebraska - Kearney



University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
University of Nevada - Las Vegas  
University of Nevada - Reno  
University of North Carolina - Pembroke  
University of North Dakota  
University of North Georgia  
University of Northern Iowa  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Richmond  
University of San Diego  
University of South Alabama  
University of South Carolina  
University of South Florida  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas - Pan American  
University of Texas - San Antonio  
University of Texas at El Paso  
The University of Toledo  
The University of Tulsa  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin - River Falls  
Valdosta State University  
Valparaiso University  
Virginia Wesleyan College  
Washington & Jefferson College  
Washington State University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Western Carolina University  
Westminster College (PA)  
Wichita State University  
Widener University  
Wittenberg University  
Wright State University  
Youngstown State University

### Excellence Award

*Met the requirements for all seven award criteria*

College of William and Mary  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Indiana State University  
Mississippi State University  
Texas Christian University  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Kentucky  
University of Oklahoma  
University of South Carolina  
University of Southern Mississippi



### Achievement Award

*Met the requirements for five or six out of seven award criteria*

Auburn University  
Baldwin Wallace University  
Ball State University  
Butler University  
Clemson University  
College of Charleston  
Duke University  
East Carolina University  
George Washington University  
Hanover College  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Quinnipiac University  
Robert Morris University  
University of Akron  
University of Alabama  
University of Arizona  
University of Arkansas  
University of Central Missouri  
University of Georgia  
University of Vermont  
Western Kentucky University







## WORKING TOGETHER: FSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**NPC is committed to** collaborating with campus professionals to encourage sorority women to strive for excellence and advance the fraternal experience. Last October, NPC selected eight campus professionals from colleges and universities throughout North America to serve a two-year term on the NPC Fraternity/Sorority Advisor (FSA) Advisory Committee to work toward this mission. The FSA Advisory Committee serves the NPC Executive Committee as a sounding board for discussion of new ideas, programs, trends and campus issues. This collaborative effort works to bring desirable outcomes for member organizations present on college and university campuses. It also provides valuable feedback to NPC as a whole.

- The 2013-15 FSA Advisory Committee members are:
- Mandy Womack, University of San Diego
  - Adam Cantley, University of Delaware
  - Parice Bowser, University of Arkansas
  - Blake Bradley, Illinois Wesleyan University
  - Courtney McKenna, Quinnipiac University
  - Katelyn Getz, University of Akron
  - Michelle Guobadia, University of North Carolina – Charlotte
  - Dave Conner, The College of New Jersey



## COLLEGE PANHELLENIC STATISTICS (399 out of 575 reporting)

- 575 College Panhellenics
- 672 total campuses with NPC chapter(s)
- 977,567 hours donated to community service efforts
- \$5,793,394.84 raised for philanthropies



*“The NPC Executive Committee’s visit to Rollins gave our general community members a better idea about the role that Panhellenic plays on our campus. It illustrated that on the inter/national level, each of our organizations works together to better Panhellenic as a whole. The visit helped our Panhellenic community see the larger picture: that in order for us to flourish we need to work together. We now have a stronger sense of community thanks to the Executive Committee’s visit.”*

- Jesyca Ramirez, Alpha Omicron Pi, Rollins College

*The*  
**VOICE**  
*~ in ~*  
**COMMUNITIES**



The opportunity for wide and wise human service, through mutual respect and helpfulness, is the tenet by which we strive to live.

With the help of more than 190 active Alumnae Panhellenics across the world, sorority alumnae find many ways to make their communities better. By participating in canned food, winter clothing and school supplies drives, members consistently demonstrate the Panhellenic values of service and community engagement. Some Alumnae Panhellenics give their time and resources to families in financial need, while others invite speakers to meetings for education about the needs of their towns and cities. The list of activities to help those in need is varied. With over 65,500 hours devoted this year to the betterment of their local communities, Alumnae Panhellenics are displaying the commitment of Panhellenic organizations to "wide and wise human service."







## ALUMNAE PANHELLENICS: CONTRIBUTING FOR 100 YEARS

**Formed in 1910**, Alumnae Panhellenics have provided support to the fraternal world and their communities through various programs over the years. Alumnae Panhellenics, originally named City Panhellenics, were formed eight years after the founding of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) to assist NPC in its quest to “improve the methods of rushing and pledging and to consider questions of general interest to the sorority world,” (Report of the Fifth Inter-Sorority Conference from Sept. 14, 1906).

Today there are 193 Alumnae Panhellenics and the NPC member organizations also have 3,773 alumnae clubs or chapters supporting their own initiatives. Alumnae Panhellenics exist to inform sorority women of current trends, promote the sorority system, improve the

Panhellenic image and stimulate a continuing interest in Panhellenic affairs. Some are more social, some fundraise, some do massive community outreach efforts and some still maintain the recruitment support role.

2014 marked the 100-year anniversary for two: the Cleveland Alumnae Panhellenic Association (CAPA) and the Indianapolis Alumnae Panhellenic (IAP). Both held a Centennial Celebration to celebrate its history, service and friendship.



### Cleveland celebration:

The Cleveland Alumnae Panhellenic Association (CAPA) opened its centennial celebration in January. Sorority women met at a local restaurant to bite into a birthday cake decorated in NPC green to kick off the year.

The Centennial Luncheon was held at the recently restored Silver Grille in the historic Higbee Building in downtown Cleveland on May 17. Honoring its history, CAPA kept with tradition by selecting this venue for the event. The Higbee Building served as the group's home base for 53 years. The members held meetings, events, dances, card parties and “pin parades” here in addition to storing files and recruitment records on the 10th floor.

NPC Chairman Jean Mrasek served as keynote speaker at the luncheon and CAPA presented \$2,000 scholarships to 10 Cleveland area sorority women. The event also featured a parade of sorority flags, a display of historical items and a Prezi presentation on CAPA history. Attendees included 300 women representing all 21 of the 23 Panhellenic chapters in the area. Past CAPA scholarship winners and presidents also attended.



### Indianapolis celebration:

The IAP celebrated its 100-year anniversary in service, scholarship and sisterhood at the Indiana Landmarks Center on Oct. 12. The celebration featured a traditional high tea and an exhibit of historic memorabilia of IAP's member organizations with vintage photos, quotes and memoirs from 1914 through the decades. IAP delegates, leaders representing alumnae groups, VIPs and sponsors were present to celebrate together.

The preparations for the Centennial Celebration began four years ago when the group set out to find each one of its past presidents. The group also began to feature one or two of its member organizations at each meeting in a

segment called “Moments in History.” Delegates shared history and facts about their group's early days, traditions, philanthropies and notable alumnae. At the celebration, the IAP recognized past presidents, paraded the flags of all 26 NPC organizations and showcased its history through a multimedia presentation. Fraternity and sorority historian, Fran DeSimone Becque, Pi Beta Phi, was the guest speaker.

Ilene Garret, co-chair of the Indianapolis Alumnae Panhellenic Centennial Celebration, said, “A centennial is a milestone worth celebrating! One hundred years is a very long time for an organization to endure – a group must change and grow with the times while maintaining its traditions, values and sense of purpose. A centennial celebration gives a group an opportunity to examine its heritage, to appreciate and recognize individuals who have made contributions through the years and to consider how the group will position itself for the future in order to be relevant to those who follow.”

*The Cleveland Alumnae Panhellenic Association (CAPA) was established on April 14, 1914 to create a closer relationship between sorority women and the city of Cleveland. At the first meeting on May 15, 1914, the founders established their purpose: “The purpose of this organization shall be to promote interfraternity friendship, collaboration and awareness of current trends; to promote educational projects by offering scholarships to deserving students; to closely unite the College Panhellenics and Alumnae Panhellenics in study of programs and developments interesting to all member group fraternities; to promote the Panhellenic image through social service, civic affairs and philanthropic fields; to promote the fraternity system and to demonstrate that Panhellenic has high purpose and lasting values.” We strive to support sororities as a positive element of the higher education experience and community. CAPA has a membership of 1,200 women covering eight counties in Northeast Ohio. 23 of the 26 NPC sororities are represented with 34 regional groups.*

*The Indianapolis Alumnae Panhellenic promotes interfraternity cooperation, furtherance of scholarship at the collegiate level and philanthropy in the community. The IAP is represented by 21 of the 26 NPC member organizations.*



EXEMPLARY ALUMNAE PANTHELLENICS

NPC recognized 59 Alumnae Panhellenics across 27 states for their outstanding service to the sorority community during the 2013-14 year. NPC applauds these groups for their efforts to inform sorority women of current trends, promote the sorority experience, improve the Panhellenic image and stimulate a continuing interest in Panhellenic affairs. This year’s recipients are:

Albuquerque Metropolitan Alumnae Panhellenic  
Atlanta Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Birmingham Alumnae Panhellenic  
Birmingham Area Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Boulder Area Alumnae Panhellenic  
Central Orange County Alumnae Panhellenic  
Charlotte Alumnae Panhellenic  
Chattanooga Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Chicago Alumnae Panhellenic  
Chicago North Shore Alumnae Panhellenic  
Chicago Northwest Suburban Alumnae Panhellenic  
Clear Lake Area Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Cleveland Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic  
Colorado Springs Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Columbus Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Dayton Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Denver Area Panhellenic  
Escondido Alumnae Panhellenic  
Fort Walton Beach Area Alumnae Panhellenic  
Frisco-Allen Texas Alumnae Panhellenic  
Glendale Area Alumnae Panhellenic  
Greater Buffalo Alumnae Panhellenic  
Greater Huntsville Panhellenic Association  
Greater Long Beach Alumnae Panhellenic  
Hinsdale Area Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Houston Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Jackson Area Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Lafayette Alumnae Panhellenic  
Los Angeles Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Louisville City Panhellenic  
Lyons Township Alumnae Panhellenic Association

Melbourne Alumnae Panhellenic  
Mid-Cities Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Nashville Area Panhellenic Alumnae Association  
North Dallas-Hebron Area Alumnae Panhellenic  
Northern Virginia Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Oklahoma City Alumnae Panhellenic  
Omaha Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Overlake Alumnae Panhellenic  
Panhellenic Club of Annapolis  
Philadelphia Area Alumnae Panhellenic  
Phoenix Panhellenic Association  
Pittsburgh Alumnae Panhellenic  
Rancocas Valley Panhellenic Association  
Reading Alumnae Panhellenic  
Salt River Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
San Diego Alumnae Panhellenic  
Sonoma County Alumnae Panhellenic  
St. Louis Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Toledo Area Alumnae Panhellenic  
Topeka Alumnae Panhellenic Council  
Tucson Alumnae Panhellenic  
Tulsa Area Alumnae Panhellenic  
Twin Cities Alumnae Panhellenic Association  
Wichita Alumnae Panhellenic  
Wilmington Alumnae Panhellenic  
Youngstown Alumnae Panhellenic Association



ALUMNAE PANTHELLENIC STATISTICS  
(123 out of 193 reporting)

- 193 Alumnae Panhellenics
- 65,552 hours donated to community service
- \$593,330 raised for scholarships
- 457 scholarships awarded
- \$136,585 raised for philanthropies



*“I can truly say that sorority membership has been a huge part of my life. Starting as a freshman at Carnegie Mellon University in 1968, I embraced the sisterhood concept. The Chi Omegas were there for me, guiding me into a whole new world. In the next phase of my life, the alumnae reached out to me as a new bride and new resident of Cleveland. I immediately found my sisters again! Over the past 40-plus years, they have led me to learn many new skills as we worked together, sharing responsibilities. Through Panhellenic I increased my sisters to include many more sororities. Of course my connections with my pledge sisters remain strong and true. In a nutshell, sisterhood has built bonds that have supported me for a lifetime.”*

- Nancy Toth, Chi Omega, Cleveland Alumnae Panhellenic Association



The  
VOICE  
— in —  
WASHINGTON



# IN WASHINGTON

The National Panhellenic Conference partnered once again with the Fraternal Government Relations Coalition this spring to serve as the voice for sororities on Capitol Hill.

The Fraternal Government Relations Coalition (FGRC), a collaborative effort between NPC, the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) and the Fraternity/Sorority Political Action Committee (FSPAC), advocates for public policies that support the work of fraternities and sororities.

In April, 215 student and alumni leaders of fraternities and sororities traveled to Washington to lobby Congress on behalf of the fraternal movement.

The legislative priority of these men and women was the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 1449/S. 654). CHIA eliminates an arbitrary distinction in the tax code that prevents not-for-

profit organizations (such as fraternities and sororities) from using charitable contributions to support student housing projects, even though colleges and universities are allowed to do so. Currently, charitable contributions made to support fraternity and sorority housing projects can only be used to support educational spaces, such as libraries or study areas.

During the April Hill visits, fraternity and sorority members held 441 meetings with Senators, Representatives and Congressional staff and added 26 new sponsors in the House and two new sponsors in the Senate for CHIA. CHIA is also endorsed by 108 colleges and universities.

The FGRC's support of CHIA is part of its four-part public policy agenda:

**1. Student success and safety** — engaging in the conversation about areas such as hazing, sexual assault and alcohol misuse

**2. College affordability and charitable giving** — helping more students afford college by maximizing the power of charitable gifts given to fraternities and sororities

**3. Access to safe and affordable housing** — supporting efforts such as CHIA that would make it easier for fraternities and sororities to provide safe, modern and affordable housing for the more than 250,000 college students who live in fraternity and sorority properties

**4. Preservation of a student's constitutional rights** — supporting students' rights to freedom of association and freedom of speech

In a time when student debt is already increasing, students find that room and board costs can outweigh tuition costs at most public universities. Sororities and fraternities can provide an affordable alternative housing option for students to help reduce the cost of attendance, but their facilities are often smaller and older — and therefore struggle to compete with university-owned housing. CHIA would allow fraternal organizations and other



not-for-profit providers of student housing to make necessary safety upgrades and improvements to their facilities.

We believe in the value of the experience we provide to collegiate women, and CHIA will allow us to continue to provide that value as well as provide safe and affordable housing for our members. Allowing our members to make tax-deductible charitable contributions that can be used for housing costs will allow our organizations to invest more money in improving and maintaining their housing infrastructure while keeping costs as low as possible for their members.

The work of the FGRC is important to our vision of advancing the sorority experience together. Our organizations are better able to do their work when public policies are in their favor. As leaders of our fraternal organizations, we should be interested and invested in the creation of these policies to make our work more effective.



## FGRC STATISTICS

- 110 fraternities and sororities
  - 650,000 undergraduate members in 12,000 chapters on over 800 campuses
  - 9.9 million living members
  - 140 members of Congress
  - House 250,000 students each year in fraternity/sorority housing
- April Hill visits
  - 215 students and alumni leaders of fraternities and sororities lobbied
  - 441 meetings
  - 26 new sponsors in the House to H.R. 1449
  - Two new sponsors in the Senate to S. 654



## LISTENING SESSIONS ON CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

**The White House Task Force** to Protect Students From Sexual Assault created an act to do just that in January. In support of the Task Force, The White House held 27 Listening Sessions on Campus Sexual Assault to hear as many views as possible to find a solution to this problem. According to The White House Task Force Report, one in five women is sexually assaulted on a college campus, and this initiative was developed to help schools meet their obligation to protect students from sexual violence. NPC attended two of these listening sessions to discuss how to help schools and campuses combat the problem of sexual assault, increase transparency, measure success programs and solutions and raise public awareness of what is being done and what can be done.



*I was inspired by what I learned, and though I was nervous about being on Capitol Hill, I was mostly excited by all I learned. I was in awe of who I met and what I saw, and I do not think I have been so motivated in my life to become involved with politics in my community, state, country and the world.*

- Alyssa Canestro, Alpha Xi Delta, Boise State University

The  
VOICE  
— of —  
ADVOCACY



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## THE SECRET TO HIGHER WELL-BEING? SORORITY MEMBERSHIP.

The National Panhellenic Conference partnered with Gallup and the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) to include fraternal membership as part of the Gallup-Purdue Index. The survey of more than 30,000 college graduates was designed to better measure the relationship between the college experience and critical lifetime outcomes.

For generations, NPC's message has been that sorority membership enhances the college experience and also provides lifelong support networks for members. And the release of the 2014 Gallup-Purdue Index helped validate what we know to be true: Sororities contribute to the overall well-being of women.

Members of sororities develop characteristics that contribute to their success professionally and personally in their undergraduate years and beyond. In fact, 43 percent of fraternity and sorority

members who are employed full-time are engaged in the workplace compared to 38 percent of all other college graduates who are employed full-time.

Even more specifically, other findings from the research determined fraternity and sorority members scored higher in all elements of well-being — purpose, social, financial, community and physical, workplace engagement, emotional support from their college, experiential learning experience as a student and alumni attachment — compared to unaffiliated students.

It's safe to say that our members continue to be more prepared for post-graduate life than their unaffiliated peers, particularly the 37 percent who strongly agree that their fraternal organization or institution better prepared them for life after college than other college graduates. This preparedness comes from the wide spectrum of leadership, involvement and personal development opportunities offered to our members. From attending regular meetings to holding officer positions to committee participation that mimics real-world

experiences, the transition from college to the workplace is less intimidating and more exhilarating. Members also learn the importance of working together efficiently and effectively, which applies directly to the work environment and overall life.

Throughout the sorority experience, our women absorb valuable skills while also learning the significance of mentorships. The research revealed that 16 percent of graduates who participated in fraternal organizations had a mentor who encouraged them to pursue their dreams, which can instill a new level of eagerness about the future.

Our organization knows that long-term success and well-being is not measured by employment and salary, but by the quality of support our women receive. We believe that sororities are authentic communities that provide a network of support throughout life, and we continue to strive to provide environments where today's women and future leaders can thrive.

## WELL-BEING STATISTICS

- Fraternity and sorority members are more likely to be thriving in each of the five elements of well-being
- 43 percent of fraternity and sorority members who are employed full time for an employer are engaged in the workplace
- 37 percent of fraternity and sorority members strongly agree that their institutions prepared them for life after college
- 22 percent of fraternity and sorority alumni of national organizations are emotionally attached to their alma maters

## TAKE THE LEAD

In February, NPC partnered with **Take The Lead**, a nonprofit organization designed to prepare, develop, inspire and propel women to close the pay and leadership gaps among men and women across all sectors by 2025. The organization held its Take The Lead Challenge Launch Event Feb. 19 to give women the tools they need to succeed in work, civic leadership and personal life. NPC invited Panhellenic women across the world to watch the event and engage in a Twitter discussion using #taketheleadlaunch and #sororityview hashtags. Many NPC organizations participated in the launch event and have joined the movement to find solutions and make change.



## VISION 2020 NATIONAL CONGRESS

**NPC Chairman** Jean M. Mrasek attended the Vision 2020 National Congress in May where she participated in a panel presentation discussing the topic, Connecting Resources for Action. Mrasek shared how NPC empowers sorority women to make changes on campus, how sorority women benefit from intergenerational support from alumnae advisors and how we work together as a unified coalition of women with a shared commitment. She educated others about NPC and advocated for the sorority experience. One-hundred and fifty women attended, representing a national coalition of organizations and individuals united in commitment to achieve women's economic and social equality by the year 2020. NPC has been a national ally since 2011 communicating the Vision 2020 Campaign for Equality to our members. Mrasek sat on the panel accompanied by Michele Ozumba, president and CEO of the Women's Funding Network and Deborah Brittain, former president of the Association of Junior Leagues International.

## THE SORORITY LIFE GOES ON THE ROAD

NPC took **The Sorority Life** initiative on the road this summer and exhibited at the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) annual conference. Hosted by Ocoee High School in Ocoee, Florida, the conference was an opportunity for high school student council groups to gather for leadership, training and networking. NPC staff members and volunteers from Rollins College Panhellenic talked to hundreds of high school women about the benefits of sorority membership during the conference, resulting in 132 new subscriptions for the monthly The Sorority Life e-newsletter. NPC also introduced student council advisors to The Sorority Life, and showed high school teachers and guidance counselors how they can approach the topic of sorority membership in conversations with student leaders. Many of these advisors are sorority women themselves and appreciated the opportunity to learn how they can share their sorority experiences with their students. NPC hopes to attend more conferences like the NASC Annual Conference in the future as a way to introduce more high school women to The Sorority Life and its resources.



*The values instilled by sorority life are comparable to those I have embraced throughout my life. As we know, sorority membership provides an opportunity for young women to develop a resilient character, cultivate their own interests and develop a culture of mutual support.*

- Lynn Yeakel, Delta Delta Delta, Vision 2020 executive director



## ***National Panhellenic Conference***

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***[npcwomen.org](http://npcwomen.org)  
[thesororitylife.com](http://thesororitylife.com)***

*On Facebook: [Facebook.com/NPCWomen](https://www.facebook.com/NPCWomen)  
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***The National Panhellenic Conference is the premier  
advocacy and support organization for the advancement  
of the sorority experience.***



**National Panhellenic Conference**  
*the voice for sorority advancement*