



national panhellenic conference

College Panhellenic Conversations

From the Desk of the NPC Panhellenics Chairman

RFM: Adjusted Recommended Recruitment Events Formats

The NPC Board of Directors approved in the fall an adjusted [recommended recruitment event format](#). The updated formats include a change from three-event preference rounds to two-event preference rounds for campuses with fewer than 20 chapters.

The RFM leadership team reports positive results for campuses that have already made this change. Affected campuses that have not yet made this transition should work with their RFM specialist to implement this for the next primary recruitment.

If you have questions, please email npcrfm@gmail.com.

Financial Transparency Program Tools

The NPC Financial Transparency Program is designed to ensure everyone involved in recruitment realizes the importance of financial education for the “lifetime investment” of the sorority experience.

To help College Panhellenics who vote to allow chapters to share detailed financial information with potential new members during a specified round of recruitment (Chapter Costs (1963, 2017 - Best Practice), NPC has developed tools and an approved Panhellenic template to help College Panhellenics implement the Financial Transparency Program. These tools are listed below and can be accessed on the NPC website in the [Resources](#) section.

- [Financial Transparency Program - Overview](#)
- [Financial Transparency Program - Form and Templates](#)

Dear friends ...

NPC is proud of the work so many sorority women have done to advance sorority and the causes of all women. In March, we will remember and recognize the accomplishments of women in history and women making history. If you’ve not done so already, please take a moment to view the NPC “[Courage and Conviction](#)” video to learn about some of these women.



Please also encourage sorority women to wear their badge on [International Badge Day March 5](#) and share photos using #badgeday18.

In keeping with the March theme, we are sharing an article about how to use Panhellenic history and values for reflection and discussion to help empower women on your campus.

Thank you for your efforts to educate sorority women. Please let me know if there is anything NPC can do to assist you.

Interfraternally,



Frances Mitchelson

Frances Mitchelson
Panhellenics chairman
panhellenics@npcwomen.org

NPC programming update

The National Panhellenic Conference offers [programs](#) for College Panhellenics to help them succeed on their campuses. Our goal is to provide programming that meets a need at a reasonable cost. As part of our programming efforts, we have partnered with LaunchPoint to develop programs to bolster recruitment success.

- **NEW: Potential new member orientation** provides online pre-recruitment education regarding recruitment and the sorority experience for potential new members. The curriculum covers the history of fraternity/sorority life, an introduction of NPC and College Panhellenics, definitions, explanations of primary recruitment, tips to make the recruitment experience a success and more. More information will be published in the coming weeks. You also can email info@launchpointconsulting.com for more information.
- **Recruitment counselor training online** allows you to train your recruitment counselors, no matter where they are. This five-part, self-guided program features supplemental activities for the recruitment team to facilitate. See the [NPC website](#) for details.

Empowering Panhellenic Women Through Their History and Values

By Chris Smithhisler, director of chapter programs and training at Because I Said I Would and member of Sigma Sigma Sigma

I was asked to join a sorority in 2007—when I was over 40 years old. Why did I join? Why does anyone join? I ask these questions often. I had been working in a consultant capacity for the organization I joined for more than five years, so some would say it was a natural progression. But the truth was I believed in the mission and values of the sorority. I ultimately said “yes” because I believed in the history of empowerment and giving women a voice in society and in their communities.

With our numbers and our influence, sororities could be a social movement that begets positive change in communities. But what has happened? How have we gotten so off course and deviated from our founding stories? We have allowed the status quo, tradition, and others’ actions to guide and drive us for too long. Is that who we are? And more importantly is that who we want to be? I watched an inspiring [video](#) of a young boy speaking the words of Prem Rawat about what we practice. *We become what we practice*. If we practice complaining, we become really good at complaining. If we practice living our values, we become really good at living our values.

I believe we need to focus on the values of our organizations; the empowerment part of our history. And not just memorize those values and our mission, but *live* them. Live them every day. Let them guide us to the best possible decisions. If we did this... if we encouraged this... if we modeled this, then we would eliminate the bad that has infiltrated most of our fraternal organizations.

I have three challenges for you for the next month. My hope is these actions become habit and you continue to affect positive change so sororities remain relevant and sustain our organizations for the long run.

#1 - Focus on your values

One of my favorite quotes is from Roy Disney and says, “It’s not hard to make decisions once you know what your values are.” Make a list of your organization’s values and then spend a week really living and experiencing each value—one at a time. This may seem like a big task, but honestly doing this will be the path that saves our organizations. It will help to move us all forward. And, only then will we be a value-added experience for institutions of higher education.

What I am asking you to do here is more than a surface evaluation of values. I want you to *explore*. As an example, power is one of my organization’s values. I start by asking these questions:

- What does power look like? feel like?
- How has power been exhibited throughout our history?
- What are the ethical implications?
- Where do I see positive use of power?

Dig deep with your values.

#2 - Walk the talk!

Do you walk the talk? And please don’t just yell out a resounding “Yes!” Really think about it. Do you make decisions, even daily decisions like the theme of a party shirt and whether you participate in a campus event, with your organization’s values in mind? Do you stop and think before making important decisions or creating a strategic vision for your organization? You can’t say one thing and then do the opposite! Know what your organization was founded on and then live those daily. Walk the talk.

#3 - Be compassionate

I wholeheartedly believe compassion will change this world. I like to say compassion is kindness on steroids. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, compassion is a “sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it.” You recognize someone is suffering, and you try to help. There is a lot of suffering in our world, in our communities, and in our chapters. What are we doing, individually and collectively, to alleviate suffering?

Through your daily interactions for the next month, try putting yourself in another’s shoes. Ask yourself, “What can I do to help this person?” Sometimes the answer will be simple, but often it will require more. Doing this will make a difference. Give it a try.

To help you get started, I will send the first 10 people to email npccentral@npcwomen.org a set of “[Compassion It](#)” bands. They will help remind you to make compassion an action in your daily life.

Focus on your values, walk the talk and be compassionate. Three steps to living our history and values in order to sustain our future. I hope you take the challenge.