



Sigma Sigma Sigma
Phoenix Alumnae Chapter
Fall 2020 Newsletter



President's Corner

Despite navigating through this global pandemic and other national crises I continue to be reminded of how very blessed we are. We have an abundance compared with previous generations. Let's remember to be thankful we are living in an era where we have news alerts intended to give us information that we can use to keep ourselves safe. We also have the possibility of communicating virtually. We can have food and other deliveries brought to our door when lock down is deemed necessary. One can only imagine what this situation would have been like when our Tri Sigma Founders were alive!

As Tri Sigma Sisters we can be a blessing and support to each other through the "little things". Below are a few ideas on how we can stay in touch and reach out to other sisters who may be in need of a little Tri Sigma sisterly caring:

- Check-in with back to school moms of the chapter. How is their plan working? Do they need a meal provided to lighten the load? If the kids are online all day and the mom is working full time, is there another member of the chapter that could step in to assist with an activity one or two days?
- Check-in on chapter members who are essential workers. How are they feeling? What are their fears? Can the chapter put together a special care basket of their favorite items to get them through a long week?
- Check-in on those 60 and older. When was the last time they visited with someone? Is there a member who could help download programs to their laptop or device to connect them with other members or family members? Can you tell if it might help to send a card or email?
- Check-in on unemployed members. How is the job search going? Do you know of other alumnae chapter members in the same industry she can connect with?

Together we will get through this! Looking forward to getting back to seeing you all in person in the months ahead!



Chapter Announcements

- **Phoenix Panhellenic Association celebrated their 100th Anniversary on August 8th, 2020.**

In 1920 Phoenix would see its first skyscraper, the Heard Building, Arizona had only been a state for eight years and sorority women formed Phoenix Panhellenic Association (known as Pan-Hellenic Club at the time). None of the NPC sororities had formed Phoenix alumnae groups in 1920, so Phoenix Panhellenic Association provided sisterhood and other events that would be available to any sorority women in the area.

Today, there are 26 member organizations with 64 delegates. Collectively they represent almost 1,000 alumnae women and around 8,000 collegiate women in Arizona (with a range of ages from '20s-'90s). And since 1975, Phoenix Panhellenic Association has raised over \$800,000 for scholarships awarded to collegians and alumnae continuing their education in the state of Arizona.

- **Congratulations to Chris LaBarge as the Phoenix Panhellenic Sigma Sigma Sigma Woman of Impact!**

The Phoenix Alumnae Panhellenic Association honored 23 “Women of Impact” at the Centennial Celebration. They represent sorority members who are leaders, philanthropists, and women who have made a difference. They have made an impact in sorority (or fraternal) life through their volunteer engagement. They value fostering relationships, believe in supporting one another and are authentic. They engage, inspire and empower women through their intentional desire to make an impact. Individually and collectively they represent what it means to live the Panhellenic values on a daily basis.



Chris LaBarge was initiated in 1972 at Arizona State University. She is, and has been, an outstanding leader in Tri Sigma and Rotary Club in the Valley of the Sun. She has helped hundreds of Valley teens through Rotary Valley Leadership Camps and High School Rotary Groups. Chris also served as a member of the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America for over 22 years in numerous Leadership Positions.

We are so proud of our sister - a true Woman of Impact!

- **Please keep your contact information current with Kathy Jackson for our local roster and on the TriSigma.org website.**

It is important to keep your email information current so you receive all evites and other announcements. The TriSigma.org website also needs to be kept current and edited by you when there are changes so that other sisters can locate you.

- **Don't forget to pay your dues!**

\$30 Local Dues (payment plans are available)

\$45 National

\$75 Total Dues

Mail Tri Sigma checks to Mary Schneider, Treasurer, at 4388 E St. John Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85032 or contact her at trisigmaphxtreasurer@gmail.com to pay by credit card.

- **Officer Nominations for 2021-2024**

Maryellen Baxter has agreed to lead a committee seeking nominations for a slate of Officers to present to the Chapter for vote in March. The positions are expected to serve for three years starting next spring. Please let her know if you are interested in helping with the committee or in serving as an Officer for our Phoenix Chapter.

- **Annual Stuffed Animal Collections for Phoenix Panhellenic**

According to the most recent information provided, Phoenix Panhellenic will still be collecting stuffed animals for charity to be donated at the first Panhellenic meeting in December 2020.

Please be sure your donations are new and have the tags on. Additional information on how our Chapter will arrange to collect them from you safely will be provided as soon as available.

- **Omega Chapter Announcement**

We recently received the sad news that Shari Stewart passed away in late August from cancer. You may recall that Shari graduated from ASU and was a Past-President of the Tri Sigma Tucson Sunshine Alumnae Chapter. She will be so missed!

- **Update on Donations in Memory of Sue Dusold**

Our member donations in honor of Sue Dusold totaled over \$700! They enabled our chapter to purchase two displays for Walton House in her name. The displays are currently on order.

Programming for 2020-2021 Events

Anne Ruiz and Rena Cruse have been busy putting together a revised calendar of events for this chapter year. Below you will see that we have scheduled a couple socially distanced events as well as a number of Zoom events/meetings after having success with other “Zooms” this summer. *Be sure to check official evites and emails for most current event details.*

Monday, September 14th	Assembly of Valleywise Calming Kits and Dessert. This event will be held at 7:00pm at two locations (North Valley and East Valley). Watch the evite for details.
Wednesday, September 16th	Monthly Zoom Happy Hour at 5:00pm. Links will be within the evite.
Saturday, September 26th	Fall Coffee Social and Virtual Luncheon at 10:30am. See evite for details.
Saturday, October 3rd	Virtual Chapter Business Meeting at 10:30am. See evite for details.
Tuesday, October 6th	Virtual Philanthropic Committee Meeting at 7:00pm. Contact Mary Schneider if you would like to be added to the committee.
Tuesday, October 13th	Monthly Zoom Happy Hour at 5:00pm. Links will be within the evite.
Tuesday, October 20th	Character Counts and Dessert. See evite for details regarding two locations. (tentatively planned 7:00pm)
Thursday, November 12th	Monthly Zoom Happy Hour at 5:00pm. Links will be within the evite.
Saturday, November 14th	Light the Night Virtual Walk for Leukemia.
Tuesday, December 8th	Monthly Zoom Happy Hour at 5:00pm. Links will be within the evite.
Saturday, December 12th	Holiday Brunch and Business Meeting. Details will be provided later.

Additional Pop Up Events 2020-2021

Last year we agreed to have an official calendar of events but still enable sisters to hold what we are calling “pop up events”. These are occasions where a sister may wish to gather a group on a more spontaneous basis.

These new “Pop Up” events will be emailed through our Tri Sigma Phoenix gmail account for all that are interested. You will not see the typical evite so be sure to follow all the instructions within the email as to responding, rsvp etc. Also work with Kathy Jackson about sending a chapter email if you wish to set up your own “Pop Up”.

During the pandemic you might consider hosting a virtual pop up event. Some Ideas might include:

- Virtual book club or movie club where a group meets online to discuss selections.
- Virtual game night. There are websites that offer ways to play virtual games with a group of people. Ideas include [CardzMania](#), [Pogo.com](#), [GooseChase](#) (scavenger hunts), [Drawful2](#), [Kahoot!](#), and [Jackbox](#)

Philanthropy

The Valleywise Health Family Learning Centers distributed more than 1600 backpacks to children in need at the first drive-through event this summer. Our Tri Sigma Chapter participated by members donating 24 backpacks, backpack contents and books.

As a reminder...Valleywise is continuing the Online Book Donation Program through Amazon. The books will not only be given at Christmas but all year to children through Valleywise Health. To donate go to https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/JNYBCD9ONJL3/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl. Be sure to let Anne Ruiz know how many books and/or how much you donated so we can track our sorority’s impact. (When purchasing the Amazon books on the site you may need to select the delivery address from a prepopulated list on the delivery screen. If you have shipped to different places it will show all past delivery addresses but it should also pull up the Maricopa Health Foundation and/or Valleywise Health Foundation for selection.)

Another way to contribute is to set up your Amazon purchases to go through Amazon Smile with Sigma Sigma Sigma Foundation as your charity of choice. That way your dollars can serve more than one good cause!

PHOENIX ALUMNAE CHAPTER 2020-2021

Your Chapter Officers

President	Chris Ahlstrand
VP Programming	Anne Ruiz
VP Membership	Sandy Beutler
Treasurer	Mary Schneider
Secretary	Kathy Jackson

Ex-officio

PanHellenic Representative Chris LaBarge
Alternate PanHellenic Rep Olivia Del Viscio

Your Chapter Committees/Chairs

Programming:

Event Calendar Rena Cruse

Social Media:

Facebook Judy Alspaugh
Instagram Lauren Leif

Membership:

Member Recruitment Chair open position
Relocation Member Outreach Olivia Del Viscio
Member Orientation Maryellen Baxter
Member Outreach Liz Hoffert
Senior Sigma Sisters Maryellen Baxter

Administrative:

Bylaws/Parliamentarian Mary Webster
Financial Review Stephanie Babb/Natasha Paris
Donaldson

Sisterhood:

Ritual Colleen Stangl
Character Counts Maryellen Baxter/Mary Webster
Crafts Mary Webster
Photographer Rachel Stewart

Tri Sigma.org:

Awards Chris LaBarge
Triangle open position
Website open position

Special Events:

Founders Day Vicki Corrigan
Joint Tucson Lunch Amy Corsi

Philanthropic Committee:

Co-Chairs Mary Schneider/Anne Ruiz
Walks Marlene Olsen/Sue Smith
Grants Mary Webster
Feed My Starving Children Sky Larsen
Raffles Sky Larsen/Joni Perisho