



Sigma Sigma Sigma
Phoenix Alumnae Chapter
Fall 2019 Newsletter

President's Corner

This year our chapter will continue to focus on celebrating what makes our sisterhood special. We are starting to reorganize some of our procedures for membership in an effort to improve our lifelong bonds.

Membership Committees have been formed to establish improved guidelines for membership. One change is that now new members and their sponsors are asked to complete forms prior to them being considered for membership. We want to be sure that all new members are well aware of what is expected upon joining the sorority and that it is a lifetime commitment.

Other examples of probable procedure changes include expectations for existing members. Our local dues are only \$30 annually and Mary Schneider is even willing to accept payment plans for those who find the \$30 to be a hardship. Also, we previously have not significantly recognized those who steadfastly pay dues, attend events and contribute with time and talents. That may change.

More information to come. Ever forward!!!

Upcoming Fall Events*



October 9th 6:00pm in Scottsdale:	Pound Party – Hostess Sandy Beutler
October 16th 6:30pm in Tempe:	Character Counts and Halloween Bags for Charity – Hostesses Maryellen Baxter/Mary Webster
October 29th 11:30am in EV:	Lunch at Stone and Vine in Queen Creek – Hostess Anne Ruiz
November 12th 6:00pm in Phoenix:	Tai Chi Class – Hostess Mary Schneider
November 16th 4:45pm in Tempe:	Dinner at Rosita's and Leukemia Light the Night Walk – Hostess Sue Dusold
December 1st 1:00pm in Phoenix:	Holiday Pops Concert and Dinner at CIBO's – Hostess Rena Cruse
December 7th time TBD:	Walk, Picnic and Activities at Papago Park – Hostess Anne Ruiz
December 14th 9:45am in Tempe:	Holiday Brunch and Business Meeting – Hostess Maryellen Baxter

December 18th 11:30am in Phoenix: Lunch at Chelsea's Kitchen – Hostess Anne Ruiz

**Be sure to check official evites for most current event information.*

Chapter Announcements


- **Please keep your contact information current for our roster.**
Kathy Jackson, Secretary, maintains the Chapter Roster and is the person to notify of all changes to your contact information. Email is still our preferred method of communication at this time so it is important to keep your email information current so you receive all evites and other announcements.
- **Please pay your annual dues.**
\$30 Chapter and \$45 National dues are due to be paid as of the first meeting of the year which is the Salad Luncheon in August. Contact Mary Schneider if you wish to pay by credit card or on a payment plan.
- **Improved Communication and Publicity for the Phoenix Alumnae Chapter needed.**
We are hoping to expand our chapter's social media footprint to areas that may provide additional publicity for our charity efforts. So far we have had some suggestions that include Instagram and/or a public Facebook page.

Currently our chapter uses the following as communication tools:

- Email: phoenixtrisigma@gmail.com
- Facebook closed group: Tri-Sigma Phoenix Alumnae
- Public website through TriSigma.org: <http://phoenix.trisigma.org>

If you have an interest in this "Public Relations" area we would appreciate any ideas. You can email Chris at TriSigmaPhxPresident@gmail.com.

Philanthropy

- **Change Jars.** Please start collecting your spare change in a jar for Valleywise Health (previously Maricopa Integrated Health System). We will be collecting change and emptying jars at events throughout the year. 
- **Fry's Food Stores** will donate a percentage of purchases every time you use your rewards card. You must register your card online with the charity selected as "Sigma Sigma Sigma Foundation". This is easy to do online yourself or with the help of the service desk at your favorite store. You do not need to reregister if you did so last year.
- **Amazon** will donate a percentage of purchases each time you purchase through AmazonSmile and select your charity as "Sigma Sigma Sigma Foundation". This is a program for anyone across the US as long as they select us as a charity.

Convention 2019 Highlights

This year the 45th Sigma Sigma Sigma Convention was at the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa. What a place! Our Phoenix Alumnae Chapter was proud to have 18 members attending. Sue Dusold did a great job of marketing the event and getting us all on board so that we had a good representation in Las Vegas.



You may have heard that we also won a couple awards at Convention!

We won **Alumnae Chapter of the Triennium 2016-2019!**
As you can imagine all our members were so excited when it was announced! What an honor!



Our own Liz Hoffert won the **Philanthropist of the Triennium 2016-2019 Award!** So well deserved!



And the next day we also won recognition from the Foundation as an **Outstanding Alumnae Chapter Partner.**

Delegate Voting Update:

The delegates at Convention voted on sixteen amendments to the Bylaws. You received the original proposed amendments last spring and below are the results of the final votes:

Amendment #1: Article V, Government, A-Convention, Sections 3 and 4

An Amendment was presented to include Past National Presidents as voting members of the “alumnae class” of the National Convention. Amendment passed.

Amendment #2: Article XI, B-Alumnae/Collegiate Advisory Committee, Sections 1 and 2

An Amendment was presented to remove these sections as this type of Committee is considered a permanent committee, appointed by Executive Council as identified under Article IV, Appointed National Positions & Committees, B-Committees, Section 1 and 2. A similar Amendment from the 2016 National Convention was presented and the outcome was referred back to a special committee. After that committee made its recommendations, a pilot program was established entitled Member Advisory Panel (“MAP”) whose charge was to empower the collegiate and alumnae voice in offering ongoing input, ideas and feedback about relevant issues, trends and changes in society which impact the National Organization. The members of this Panel would be more diverse of our membership instead of consisting of just award-winning members and chapters. Amendment failed. Subsequently, Executive Council at its July 2019 meeting voted to change the naming of Article XI, Awards, B-Alumnae/Collegiate Advisory Committee, Sections 1 and 2 to Member Advisory Panel and applicants to this Panel will be selected from a cross section and representation from different sectors of chapters, chapter size, award winners, geographic location, profession or area of interest.

Amendment #3: Article II, Degrees and Membership, C-New Members, Section 5

An Amendment was presented to clarify that a woman must have a 2.5 cumulative average on a 4.0 scale to pledge and be initiated. Amendment passed.

Amendment #4: Article III, Elected Officers, A-General, Section 2

An Amendment was presented to clarify who can serve on the Nominating Committee for Executive Council. Amendment was tabled.

Subsequently, at its July 2019 meeting Executive Council agreed to form a new task force at the beginning of 2020 to review the entire Executive Council election process, review and update the nominating committee process, and seek recommendations on how and what to communicate to those nominated but not slated members.

Amendment #5: Article VI, Executive Director, Sections 2-5

An Amendment was presented to refer to this position as Executive Director rather than the use of the pronoun “she”. Amendment passed.

Amendment #6: Article II, Degrees and Membership, D-Collegiate Members, Section 6

An Amendment was presented to clarify that members on a phase of Honor Council still have the right to vote (except in motions to accept new members), elect chapter leaders and make changes in their dues structure. Amendment failed and therefore, the Honor Council process remains as written.

Amendment #7: Article II, Degrees and Membership, D-Collegiate Members, Section 6

An Amendment was presented to be consistent with the practice that Chapter Officers whose cumulative scholastic average below a 2.5 or a semester scholastic average below a 2.0 are not eligible to serve. Amendment passed.

Amendment #8: Article II, Degrees and Membership, D-Collegiate Members, Section 9a

An Amendment was presented to clarify that only Chapter Officers can grant Special Consideration. Amendment passed. The process remains as written in the collegiate officer manuals.

Amendment #9: Article II, Degrees and Membership, E-Member Accountability, Section 1

An Amendment was presented to clarify that it is the responsibility of Honor Council, not the Chapter, to hold members accountable. Amendment passed.

Amendment #10: Article III, Elected Officers, A-General, Section 9

An Amendment was presented to clarify that according to parliamentary authority, the National President has the same rights and privileges as all other members of Executive Council, including the right to make motions, to speak on debate, and to vote on all questions. Amendment passed.

Amendment #11: Article VII, Collegiate Chapters, B-Recruitment, Section 9

An Amendment was presented to align with the National Panhellenic Conference (“NPC”) Unanimous Agreements for someone who wishes to repledge Tri Sigma. A woman whose pledge is broken is ineligible to be pledged by another NPC sorority on that same campus until the next primary recruitment; however, she may repledge Tri Sigma at any time prior to the next primary recruitment. This Amendment passed.

Amendment #12: Article VII, Collegiate Chapters, A-Admission of Collegiate Chapters, Section 4

An Amendment was presented to eliminate this section as redundant. Executive Council votes to establish a new chapter at the time Tri Sigma is invited. Amendment passed.

Amendment #13: Article XIV, Amendments of Bylaws, Section 3

An Amendment was presented to clarify that Amendments can be emailed to voting delegates at least 60 days prior to a National Convention and that Executive Council shall use its best judgment to determine which Amendments are presented to the voting delegates. Amendment was further amended to read that potential Amendments are to be submitted by members to Executive Council by December 1st preceding Convention and shall be provided electronically to the Convention delegates by March 1st preceding Convention. Amendment passed.

Amendment #14: Article IV, Appointed National Positions & Committees, C-National Panhellenic Conference Delegate, Section 3

An Amendment was presented that the National Panhellenic Conference Delegate (“NPCD”), Ex-Officio, is a non-voting member of Executive Council and is not subject to term limits. Pursuant to parliamentary authority, an ex-officio member is given the same rights and privileges as Executive Council members unless otherwise stated in the Bylaws. Amendment was tabled and further research and consultation with parliamentary experts will be sought.

Amendment #15, National Policy: Visitation and Conduct in Collegiate Housing Facilities

An Amendment was presented to add a new RESOLVED to this National Policy that any conduct which is intimate or sexual in nature is prohibited in all areas of Sorority housing facilities. While the Amendment failed, it only removed the proposed new RESOLVED and the rest of the National Policy remains intact. The National Policy still reads that the *“Presence of male visitors or any visitor and member (regardless of gender, sexual orientation or membership status) whose intentions and/or actions are intimate or sexual in nature is prohibited in bedrooms, bathrooms, and any other private areas of Sorority housing facilities.”*

Amendment #16, National Policy: Controlled Substances

An Amendment was presented which stated that in the event federal and state laws differ, the stricter of the two laws will be what members are expected to uphold. Also, that any member found accountable for violating this National Policy may be (rather than will be) terminated immediately from membership. Amendment was further amended that *“in the event the federal and state laws differ, the law in the municipality of the activity at the time of the activity will be what members are expected to uphold.”*

In consultation with Harold Bucholtz, Tri Sigma’s legal counsel, subsequent to the meeting, he rejected the amendment stating “if federal law differs from state and local law, compliance with state and local law (and not federal law) is what would be required. From a legal standpoint, however, I think the phrase, “the law in the municipality” should mean *all* laws applicable in the municipality, which would mean federal, state *and* local laws. Under that interpretation, if the federal and state laws differ, members would be required to comply with both federal and state law. In other words, it would mean exactly the same as the language that was changed – members would be required to comply with stricter of the two laws. I don’t think that is what was intended as, if it was, you would have, and should have, just stayed with the earlier language, which is much clearer.”

Therefore, this policy will be revised based on his recommendations to uphold the stricter of the two laws if the state and federal laws are not aligned.

The National Policy was amended, however, and reflects the change to state “that any collegiate or alumnae member of Sigma Sigma Sigma who is found through the collegiate and alumnae accountability processes to have violated this policy through prohibited involvement with a controlled substance *may* be terminated from membership,” instead of “*will* be terminated...”

PHOENIX ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Your Chapter Officers

President	Chris Ahlstrand
VP Programming	Anne Ruiz
VP Membership	Sandy Beutler
Treasurer	Mary Schneider
Secretary	Kathy Jackson
<u>Ex-officio</u>	
PanHellenic Representative	Chris LaBarge
Alternate PanHellenic Rep	Olivia Del Viscio

Your Chapter Committees/Chairs

Programming:

Event Calendar	Rena Cruse
Facebook/Social Media	Judy Alspaugh

Membership:

Member Recruitment Chair	Amy Corsi
Relocation Member Outreach	Olivia Del Viscio
Member Orientation	Maryellen Baxter
Existing Member Outreach	Liz Hoffert

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
Historian/Scrapbook	Jan Timmerman
Senior Sigma Sisters	Jan Timmerman
Photographer/Digitizer	(new) open

Tri Sigma.org:

Awards	Chris LaBarge
Triangle	open position
Website	open position

Special Events:

Founders Day	Vicki Corrigan
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Philanthropic Committee:

Chair	Mary Schneider
Gong Auction	Colleen Stangl
Baby Crochet/Knitting	Connie Geyer
Grants	Mary Webster
Walton House	Vicki Corrigan
Feed My Starving Children	Sky Larsen
Raffles	Sky Larsen/Joni Perisho