

Would you please give me a preview of the history to be made at the 2010 Convention? Fraternity President Denise Rugani, *UC Davis*, will use the historic Westermann Gavel to open and close meetings at Convention. May C. Whiting Westermann, *Nebraska*, served as President from 1902 to 1904 and from 1926 to 1930. She edited *The History of Kappa Kappa Gamma 1870-1932*, the first complete history of the Fraternity. The gavel was given to her by her 1902–1904 Council; she later gave it to the Fraternity.

Monmouth Gavel: Old Main, built in 1863, was the centerpiece of the Monmouth College campus until destroyed by fire in 1907. It served as the administration building, housed classrooms and had a grand central staircase. After the fire, the college president's wife, Mrs. T.H. McMichael (a Pi Beta Phi), salvaged pieces of the walnut banister from the building's rubble. She had two gavels made from the wood: one for Kappa and one for Pi Phi. The Monmouth Gavel was first used at the 1928 Convention and continued to be used through 1964. In 1965, the gavel was charred in a fire at Fraternity Headquarters in Columbus and thus was retired from use. Both the Westermann and Monmouth gavels will be on display in the Heritage Museum in Kaibab at Convention 2010.

Regional Dinner: At the banquet on the opening night of Convention, Kappas will be seated by region. Alumnae will sit in the region where they currently live; undergraduates will sit in the region where their chapter is located. The evening will include an orientation to Convention and the traditional Parade of Flags.

Tradition of Leadership – Education to Enfranchisement: A new exhibit created by Edith Petersilia Mayo, *George Washington*, curator emerita of the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Political History, will premiere at Convention. The exhibit begins in mid-19th century America when women were denied many legal rights because of their sex and were, indeed, second-class citizens in their own country. The prevailing concept was that women did not need higher education for their roles as wives and mothers. Most women were educated in female academies and were denied access to the higher education opportunities available to men. This exhibit will set the founding and development of Kappa Kappa Gamma in the context of the women's movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and demonstrate the important role women's fraternities played in opening higher education to women.

Panhellenic Luncheon: Since the 1970s, it has been the Fraternity's tradition to invite a representative of each of the 26 National Panhellenic Conference members to attend a luncheon at the Kappa Convention. Diana Turk, author of *Bound by a Mighty Vow, Sisterhood and Women's Fraternities 1870-1920*, will be the speaker. She will explore the founding and development of the earliest women's fraternities and explain how these groups served as support networks to help the first female collegians succeed in the hostile world of 19th-century higher education. She also believes that, by not speaking out about their accomplishments, Greek organizations allow the media and others to define them, usually negatively.

Friends of the Museums Breakfast: Kappas who have joined the Friends of the Museums at the Partner Level (\$250) or above are invited to a special breakfast featuring Edith Petersilia Mayo, *George Washington*, curator emerita of the Division of Political History of the Smithsonian Institution, and author Diana Turk. If you would like to be included on the invitation list, please send your Friends of the Museums contribution to Fraternity Archivist Kylie Towers; P. O. Box 38; Columbus, OH 43216-0038.

Reading Rocks: During an afternoon of service modeling Reading Is Key, Kappas will partner with groups of children from the Phoenix area who will come to Convention to participate. Kappas will donate books collected at registration to Southwest Human Development, which works with more than 1,100 children in Head Start

programs in the area. Southwest Human Development is one of many outstanding Reading Is Fundamental partners throughout the country.

Passing of the Light: No chronicle of Convention is complete without a tribute to Charlotte Barrell Ware, *Boston*, second Grand President, 1884–1888. Few members have made such a contribution to the Fraternity as she did in creating the Passing of the Light Ceremony.

This tradition began in 1935, when former Grand President Charlotte Barrell Ware, *Boston*, attended the Alpha Province Convention. At the closing banquet, she spontaneously passed one of her candlesticks (since donated to the Fraternity) to the delegate from the oldest chapter in the province and one to the youngest, to hold as a symbol of the eternal flame, which lights the way for each generation to seek the attainment of Kappa's high ideals. The inscription on the candlesticks reads, "How far that little candle throws his beams. So shines a good deed in a naughty world." (from *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare)

The Ware Candlesticks were retired after the 1998 General Convention because of their fragile condition. The Wells Candlesticks, given by the Atlanta Alumnae Association in memory and honor of Jean Hess Wells, *Georgia*, Fraternity President, 1976–1980, are now used for the Candlelight Banquet and for installation of new chapters.

In preparation for this service, guests and uninitiated Kappas are asked to leave the dining room while the *Banquet Song* is sung. Previously selected delegates from each province take their assigned positions, forming a circle around the head table. The Alpha Deuteron Chapter delegate always represents Epsilon Province.

Following the service, the Kappas move quietly to form a circle while singing *I Love You Truly*. Once this is finished, the banquet concludes and everyone begins to say her goodbyes to long-time friends and new ones made at this Convention, each vowing to return to the next General Convention two years later. The 69th Biennial Convention will be held in Jacksonville, Fla., in June 2012.