

*What special meals have been held at Convention?* As early as the 1938 Convention, the dinner the night when everyone arrives has been a "Province Dinner." Undergraduates sit in the province where their chapter is located and the alumnae sit in the province where they currently live. This is an opportunity to renew friendships between Kappa sisters who have not seen each other recently. At times a Heritage Dinner telling the story of Kappa's founding was held, a Sweetheart Dinner or a Powdered Banquet in 1916. Singing adds to the fun at the meals!

A custom that became difficult to observe as the number of chapters increased was one of inviting each chapter delegate to the Grand Council table for a meal during the Convention. At Glacier National Park in 1922, the former Grand Presidents had a table and vied with the Council to entertain the active delegates. It was an inspiration for the delegates when Tade Hartsuff Kuhns had a table and told about Kappa's early days.

In 1946, 13 former Grand Presidents were honored guests at the Convention. The first night's dinner paid homage to the former leaders of our Fraternity. Even though they no longer guided the destiny of our organization, their love for it never wavered. This tradition of a dinner when the current President and Fraternity honored former Fraternity Presidents continued until 2002 when it was changed to a Presidents Luncheon. In 2006, the event honoring the former Presidents will be combined with the traditional Panhellenic Luncheon, which began in 1978. Each of the 26 National Panhellenic Conference members has been invited to send a representative to this luncheon.

*Have the members of the Fraternity Council always been elected by the Convention delegates?* No, during its first 11 years, the Fraternity was governed by the Grand Chapter and the chapters at Monmouth, Indiana or Illinois Wesleyan acted in that capacity. The officers of the Grand Chapter were also the officers of the Fraternity. They conducted necessary correspondence with the other chapters and signed charters. When the form of government changed to a Grand Council at the 1881 Convention, the President was elected not by a single chapter but the chapter delegates who attended the Convention. The Fraternity Council was elected in this manner until the 1992 Convention when the Regional Council was added to the officers elected by the Convention delegates.

Until the 2004 Convention, the Nominating Committee with representatives from the chapters and alumnae associations met at Convention to prepare and present a slate to the Convention. Doing this important work during Convention placed a huge time restriction on the Kappas serving on the committee. At the 2002 Convention a resolution was adopted that recommended studying the then current nominating procedures.

A Task Force was formed that recommended the procedures that have been followed since 2004. The Nominating Committee continues to be composed of representatives from the chapters and alumnae associations in the regions. The revised procedures call for one four-day meeting to be held Thursday thru Sunday in March to prepare the slate. This allows plenty of time for additional meetings via conference calls if the need arises. If there is an emergency, there would be time for an additional face-to-face meeting prior to reporting at Convention. The slate will be sent to the voting delegates 30 days before the Convention and the Fraternity President will open each position for nominations from the floor at the Friday morning Business Session.

*Will awards be announced at Convention?* Chapters and alumnae associations will receive awards for excellence at the Awards Dinner on Thursday. The awarding of such recognition continues the long-standing tradition begun in 1926 when the Efficiency Award first was presented to a chapter. The first award given to alumnae associations was in 1940, the McNaboe Award. Since 1946, Alumnae Achievement Awards have been presented to outstanding alumna members in recognition of achievements in careers and professional life. The Loyalty Award first presented at the 1956 Convention is given to an alumna in recognition of her long, faithful and distinguished service to her Fraternity.

Conventions show the value of traditions and how they strengthen our 136 year old Fraternity. In the words of Winston Churchill, "...the longer you can look back, the farther you can look forward." See you in Salt Lake City to look forward together and look back celebrating Kappa Kappa Gamma's leadership and traditions.