

*Would you tell me about the 1906 General Convention?* It was the 18<sup>th</sup> Convention, held in the auditorium of the Young Men's Christian Association in Madison. Grand President Elmie Warner Mallory, *Akron*, presided and the Wisconsin Chapter served as hostess. The 32 chapters and 22 associations were represented by delegates, and about 300 Kappas were present. This was the largest Convention in the history of the Fraternity to date.

This Convention brought together more alumnae than any previous Convention. They came prepared to give more to the Fraternity. They realized that Council, chapters and alumnae have more in common than merely name and badge and they brought their plans, ideals and loyalty to serve the Fraternity. They left with more inspiration and unity than even from previous Conventions.

For alumnae this Convention brought a peculiarly happy outlook for the future. The alumnae voted for a simple alumna organization, providing for three officers to be elected by the delegates of all alumnae associations complying with easy regulations. Convention recognized this organization and provided further for an alumna vote on granting and withdrawal of charters and the dismissal of alumna members.

A Scholarship Fund was started by an alumna to aid fellow students. It was hoped that by the next Convention it would be possible to formulate plans for its use and by then the sum raised would be large enough that the interest would support at least one Kappa.

In the words of the Grand President Mallory, "We are justly proud of the history made at Madison. So many splendid projects have been thought out and started during the past few years that will, in years to come, make us look back with thankfulness to those who labored so faithfully and hard to have Kappa Kappa Gamma stand for what is really worth while."

*Through the years, what clothes have been worn for the business meetings?* The first Convention picture to show the members of the Grand Council in Oxford gowns is that of 1896 at Evanston, Ill. It was not until 1902 at Ann Arbor, Mich., that the chapter delegates appear in cap and gown. In 1930, alumnae association delegates, Province Officers, national chairmen and former Council officers were all in academic dress. In 1930, the Fraternity Officers wore hoods with facing and lining of the two blues, each with a gold embroidered emblem of office upon it. Today the emblem of office is no longer worn on the hood, but is worn on the left lapel of the gown with the badge.

By looking at pictures from the early Conventions, we can trace the tradition of wearing white to the business meetings. In 1896, the delegates wore white or light-colored blouses with long dark skirts. In 1898, the blouses are all white and again with long dark skirts. In 1900, there was a mixture of white long dresses and white blouses with the street length skirts. In 1902, white dresses can be seen under the dark Oxford gowns of the Fraternity Council and delegates. *The Key* in 1938 reported that "the delegates and officers will wear caps and gowns during the formal business sessions and the Memorial Service. Guests are urged to wear white dresses for the Memorial Service. Delegates and officers should plan for one or two white dresses to wear under her academic gown. White adds so much to the dignity of such dress."

In 1952, *The Key* had sketches of "a well-dressed conventioneer: a dark sheer for travel, an evening dress for formal functions and afternoon dresses for informal affairs, a short jacket which may be worn if the evenings become chilly, the white dress for business sessions and Memorial Service and such sports clothes as the individual desires." White dresses, skirts and blouses are currently worn by all Kappas attending the Opening and Closing business sessions and the Memorial Service. In 2006, white is considered a "fashion trend" for spring and summer. So shopping for Convention will be easy for Kappas.

*The History of Kappa Kappa Gamma 1870-1976* states, "Through the years, Conventions of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity have grown from the early, tentative and informal gatherings of college girls to large-scale meetings of both active and alumna members from all over the United States and Canada. As Kappas gather at General Conventions, what they experience is a part of the quality that distinguishes Kappa Kappa Gamma and maintains the bonds of loyalty." Be a part of the Fraternity's history in the making. See you in Salt Lake City at the 66<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity.