

# Chevron



OMEGA PHI ALPHA NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY ♦ WWW.OMEGAPHIALPHA.ORG

VOLUME 40 ♦ NUMBER 1

## THELMA RIEHLE, ON THE ROAD AGAIN

*by Ann DeMatteo, Chevron Copy Editor  
& Chelsea Morrissey, Vice President of Alumnae Relations*

Convention 2007's Alumnae Travel Award winner is calculated on the mileage the alum traveled from her home to the location of Convention multiplied by the number of years she has been alum. This year, Thelma Riehle, an Alpha alum, won this prestigious award. She traveled from Ohio to Jacksonville to celebrate Omega Phi Alpha's 40th anniversary.

Thelma graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1969. Because of her length of service to the sorority, Thelma will be one of the first alums to be inducted into the Diamond Society at next summer's Convention in Denver. This society honors alumnae who have been a member of the service sorority for 40 years or more and is the society that honors the longest-serving alums.

Except for perhaps holding an appointment or being on the alumnae board long ago, Thelma has never held a national office. Yet, she is the epitome of the word, "active alum." "She accepts the responsibility of attending the annual Convention with forthright conviction. In our 40-year history, there are few Conventions she has missed. Amazingly, her boundless spirit of the love of OPA shines through with each smile and connection she makes with each new alum or active sister she meets," said former



National President Ann DeMatteo, Beta Alum '78. "But maybe Thelma has it right. Because she has not held a position on the NEB, she can attend Convention, free to attend any meeting or workshop she desires, and free to attend any social event she wants," Ann continued.

"I remember plenty of times over the years when an NEB meeting would just be breaking up sometime in the early morning hours, and there's Thelma, hap-

pily coming down the hall after attending a party or night on the town with actives. While we were toiling away, she was focusing on the cardinal principle of friendship."

In Phoenix, site of the 2005 Convention, she joined some young alums and actives at a house party and everyone had a blast! Her high energy level had many young active delegates and younger alums in awe.

Thelma, quite the shutter bug, loves taking photographs at Convention. Her hobby has captured years of Convention friendships and activities.

Over the years, Thelma has taken on some personal projects that deal with historical OPA issues, Ann explained. When Thelma attended Bowling Green State University, she studied education, and upon graduation, taught for several years. She then chose a different life's path and for many years has worked for the U.S. Post Office.

Thelma lives with her mother in Edgerton, Ohio.

"Thelma has never married but make no mistake, when you see Thelma and I huddling at Convention, it's about boys, not the bylaws," Ann said.

# From the President

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The Chevron is a quarterly newsletter produced for Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority alumnae and active sisters.

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*Copy Editor* - Ann DeMatteo  
*Layout Editor* - Shelley Lai

## **Distribution:**

The Chevron is mailed out four times a year to all alumnae and active OPA chapters. Distribution dates are as follows: Oct. 1, Jan. 1, April 1, and July 1.

## **Submissions:**

Articles for the Chevron are written by active sisters and alumnae. If you would like to submit a feature story about an alumna or special project happening at your chapter, please email it to: [chevron@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:chevron@omegaphialpha.org)  
Pictures may also be submitted in jpg or bmp format.

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[www.omegaphialpha.org](http://www.omegaphialpha.org)

## **Complete Sorority Contact List:**

To request a complete contact list of all sorority officers, appointments, and chapter addresses, please contact the National VP Administration:  
Nichole Barnhart  
[sec@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:sec@omegaphialpha.org)

## President's Corner...

*by Pamela McEwen, National President*

After many years on the National Executive Board, primarily as treasurer, I was inducted as OPA's national president at the 40th anniversary Convention in Jacksonville, so let me introduce myself:

An alumna of Epsilon Chapter, I live in Nashville, TN with my sister and three cats. I am a long-time employee of the local government, specifically, chief financial officer for the Social Services Department.

Like many OPA sisters, I was first attracted to the sorority because of the service opportunities. Last year, our active sisters reported an amazing 29,000+ hours of service, and that does not include all the service that our alumnae perform. OPA sisters, both active and alumnae, are truly making a difference. Jan Titsworth, a former national president, sent me this poem that truly expresses the concept of serving, which is in the heart of every OPA sister:

### **“A Celebration of Who We Are”**

We do important work.

*And we do it because we want to.*

*We do it because we know at the end of the day;*

*We have made a difference in at least one life and maybe in many lives.*

*We do it because we love mankind,*

*humanity in the broadest sense of the word.*

*Not because that ill, elderly woman is OUR grandmother,*

*but because she is SOMEONE's grandmother...*

*Not because that hungry child is OUR child,*

*but because she is SOMEONE's child...*

*Not because the homeless man is OUR uncle,*

*but because he is SOMEONE's uncle...*

*We believe that by helping the weak, we are made strong;*

*that by stooping down, we stand tall; that by giving, we receive.*

*We are the hands and feet of the heart and soul of our community.*

## The Benefits of Convention

by Tiffany Landis, Epsilon sister

I've always thought of OPA as my stepping stone to becoming a stronger person. OPA is a great way to make friends, become a better leader and to get involved with community service. What I've learned from Convention is that there are hundreds of strong women from all over the country pouring their hearts and souls into community service. It was amazing to see the impact that OPA has

made in so many young women's lives. OPA means so much more to me since going to Convention. The sisterhood bonds that were formed at Convention were astonishing.

I learned so much about the inner workings of the sorority. I no longer see the national board as intimidating. They are truly amazing sisters working for the betterment of our sorority. They are there working for you and the chapters.

Convention was an amazing way to learn about how other chapters run and to gain new and greater ideas. I learned great ways of recruitment and I learned much more about the national constitution and how it applies to the chapters and the sisters. I am thankful that my chapter chose me as a delegate so that I could represent my sisters and I believe wholeheartedly I did just that. I love all my OPA sisters!

## McEwen Names Domestic Violence Awareness as President's Project

by Amy McConnell,  
Past National President

To honor Amy Daley's life and promote awareness among the sisters of Omega Phi Alpha, National President Pamela McEwen has named the 2007-08 National President's project to be domestic violence awareness. During her inaugural address at Convention, Pam noted that 5.3 million partner victimizations occur each year among U.S. women 18 and older, and of those victimizations, 2 million have been known to result in injuries and 1,300 in death.

This project touches O Phi A sisters particularly this year due to Amy Daley's tragic murder by her estranged husband, which occurred in the spring. Several sisters even went so far as to contact National Executive Board members regarding naming domestic violence as this year's president's project.

"I feel that it is not only necessary but mandatory to name domestic violence the national...project for the year," wrote Lauren Waring, a Chi Chapter alumna from South Carolina, in an email to the national service director. "This is a topic that affects every woman on some level, whether one has a friend who is dating an abuser or they themselves are a victim of some form of physical or emotional abuse."

McEwen hopes for very positive outcomes by having the sisters of Omega Phi Alpha conduct projects for this cause.

"We can raise awareness in our membership of how prevalent domestic violence is, and how it impacts not only the victim but the whole community. Our sisters will learn how to avoid becoming victims. They will know how and where to go for help if they ever need it. We can provide hope for the women who we touch during the

next year with the projects that we perform."

There are a variety of projects that chapters can conduct in order to promote awareness of domestic violence. Chapters can serve their university by hosting seminars to empower students to not become victims of domestic violence. Members can help at a local women's shelter either by conducting a drive for clothes or personal items or by hosting events during the holidays. Chapters can even think globally because domestic violence occurs everywhere.

"We may not be the largest sorority in America, but WE ARE MIGHTY," according to McEwen.

For ideas on how your chapter can help promote domestic violence awareness in your community contact the national service director ([service@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:service@omegaphialpha.org)).

# Convention

## 2007 Legislation Changes

by Nichole Barnhart,  
Vice President of Administration

Convention 2007 at Jacksonville, FL proved to be a big business convention, with many constitutional revisions taking place. Some of the big changes include:

Article III, Section 6, Clauses 2-4 has been updated to include specific time frames, deadlines, and lines of communication for the disassociation of actives and alums.

Article XII, Section 9 was revised to not include specific terms of office for Omega Phi Alpha chapter officers because some chapters must conform to university guidelines about officer terms and this conflicted with the previous wording.

Article XIII, Section 1, Clause 3 was amended to say that alumnae in each district will be represented by one voting alumnae delegate at Convention and this person should live in the district represented if possible.

Other changes include specifying how alumnae of affiliating local sororities may affiliate with Omega Phi Alpha, defining exactly what a chapter project shall include, changing the names of the positions of executive secretary and national membership director to vice president of administration and vice president of membership, respectively. There also were many grammatical and administrative revisions to both the Constitution and the By-laws.

## Omega Phi Alpha Scholarship Trust

by Pamela McEwen, National President

OPA's Scholarship Trust awards scholarships annually to deserving OPA sisters. We have been awarding scholarships since 1999. The Omega Phi Alpha Scholarship is a cash award that may be used to support tuition, fees, books or living expenses.

In 2006, we were not able to complete the evaluation process – so the awards for both 2006 and 2007 were made at Convention in Jacksonville.

### 2006

*Sanjana Mammen, Nu Chapter  
Emily Rice, Rho Chapter  
Rachel Thomason, Rho Chapter*

### 2007

*Tasha Himmatramka Tau Chapter  
Melinda Grooms Alpha Chapter  
Megan Schroeder Alpha Chapter*

*Scholarship applications are available on the national Web site or you can request applications from [scholarship@omegaphialopha.org](mailto:scholarship@omegaphialopha.org). The deadline is March 1. Plan now to make your application for the 2007 scholarship.*

## CONVENTION 2007 AWARDS

by Stephanie Hallman,  
Vice President of Business Operations

The 2006-07 school year proved to be a very successful one for many chapters that prevailed during the awards ceremony. Hosted by 2007 Awards Chairwoman Leann Williams, the treasure-themed awards reception provided a great closing to a fantastic Convention.

The following winners were selected by the Awards Committee, which reviewed all applications turned in by chapters. All chapters are eligible to apply for any of the awards listed in the Awards Handbook and will be considered as long as paperwork is turned in by the deadline.

As a whole, Omega Phi Alpha completed 29, 321 service hours in 2006-07. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this astounding number.

### **SERVICE AWARDS:**

**National Service Award – Phi**

**Service to the University – Phi**

**Service to the Members of the Sorority – Rho**

**President's Project – Alpha Gamma**

**Service to the Nations of the World – Epsilon**

**Permanent Project – Rho**

**Service to the Community-at-Large – Gamma**

*All of the above service award winners received \$25 as well as a certificate honoring their outstanding service project. Winners of the National Service Award and the National Membership Award will each receive one paid delegate (including registration fee, quad room hotel costs and banquet fee) to the 2008 Convention in Denver, CO.*

### **TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE AWARD WINNERS:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Julie Mate (Phi) – 255 hours            | 6. Whitney Mattingly (Rho) - 159 hours        |
| 2. Kim Cubit (Mu) - 216 hours              | 7. Callie Switzer (Phi) - 159 hours           |
| 3. Katie Burkett (Alpha Delta) – 176 hours | 8. Vanessa Hoagland (Alpha Theta) - 152 hours |
| 4. Allison Gerard (Phi) - 173 hours        | 9. Morgan Mercer (Chi) - 145 hours            |
| 5. Diane Basirico (Nu) - 164 hours         | 10. Shelby Hanke (Phi) - 139 hours            |

### **CHAPTER AWARDS:**

**National Membership Award – Tau**

**National Web site Award – Psi**

**National Travel Award – Phi**

**National Scrapbook Award – Epsilon**

### Chapter Excellence Program (CEP)

**Gold Seal – Epsilon and Nu**

**Silver Seal – Psi and Alpha Gamma**

**Bronze Seal – Rho and Alpha Theta**

**Outstanding Chapter President – Epsilon, Nu, Psi, Alpha Gamma and Alpha Theta**

**Outstanding Chapter Vice President – Epsilon, Nu, Psi and Alpha Gamma**

**Outstanding Chapter Service Director – Alpha, Epsilon, Nu, Psi, Alpha Gamma and Alpha Theta**

**Outstanding Chapter Treasurer – Alpha, Epsilon, Nu, Psi and Alpha Gamma**

**Outstanding Chapter Secretary – Alpha, Epsilon, Nu, Psi and Alpha Gamma**

**Outstanding Chapter Membership Officer – Nu and Alpha Gamma**

# *Alumna Feature*

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## From the Desk of the VP Alumnae Relations

*by Chelsea Morrisey, Vice President of Alumnae Relations*

I would like to start off the 2007-08 year by reflecting on Convention 2007 in Jacksonville. I would like to thank the 20 alumnae and dozens of active sisters who attended the 40th anniversary Convention. Alums who could not be there in person, were there in spirit by mailing in OPA items such as old OPA T-shirts and photos, which were displayed at the alumnae luncheon. Thanks to all who donated. No one who attended was able to be inducted into the Alumnae Societies, but look forward to inducting more alums next summer in Denver.

This year, I would like the alumnae organization to offer a variety of programs that target our varied audience of alumnae. There are so many types of OPA alums: mothers, grandmothers, professionals, grad students, law students, med students, brides-to-be, outdoors lovers, scrap-bookers, sisters and more. I believe each alumna of this organization can find her correct fit in OPA as an alum – no matter where she lives, what she is up to now, or how long she has been in OPA. Reach out to me or other alumnae, keep in touch and get involved.

With the unveiling of the national OPA online forum ([www.omegaphialpha.org/forum](http://www.omegaphialpha.org/forum)), sisters have been able to get in touch with old friends, meet new ones, find sisters who live near them and exchange OPA ideas and memories. This tool enables alums, as well as actives, to build and manage their own “OPA network.” Try to locate your big sister, little sister or best OPA bud from years ago. You’ll be amazed with who you will find.

In the next few years, I hope to see new alumnae chapters formed, involvement of alumnae from every chapter of OPA and a stronger alumnae base for Omega Phi Alpha.

### **ALUMNAE AWARDS:**

Alumae Travel Award – Thelma Riehle  
Alumnae Service Award – Chelsea Morrisey

## Alumnae Updates

**Melonie** (Syliva) **Hawn** (Epsilon) and husband Scott recently welcomed baby Emily Jane to their family. She was born on April 24. Melanie will be starting a job as a patient advocate at Cumberland Medical Center. She would like to say hello to all her Epsilon sisters and the wonderful sisters of Nu Chapter. The Hawns live in Crossville, TN and can be reached at [meloniehawn@charter.net](mailto:meloniehawn@charter.net) or on the OPA Forum.

**Laura Neidert** (Alpha) is living in Farmville, VA and is employed by Hampden-Sydney College. You can contact her at [laura.neidert@yahoo.com](mailto:laura.neidert@yahoo.com).

# Morrissey receives 2007 Alumnae Service Award

The alumnae service award is given to an alumna who demonstrates the cardinal principle of service after graduation. Service can be done to benefit the sorority or the community. Anyone can nominate an alumna for this award by sending your nomination to [alumnae@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:alumnae@omegaphialpha.org).

Chelsea Morrissey was the recipient of the 2007 Alumnae Service Award.

Chelsea was a valuable active member of Nu Chapter. She served in several officer positions, including president and continues to serve the chapter as an alumna, organizing the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter.

After graduation, Chelsea immediately became active on a district level with the sorority, serving as a District Alumnae Advisor. As a DAA working with the national organization, she personally developed the Young Alumnae Organization, taking on the role of the Young Alumnae Leader. As a part of this concept, she has worked on:

1. The development of exit packets for graduating seniors, providing information regarding ways to continue service after graduation;
2. Actively seeking alumnae to fill national and district positions (both elected and appointed) when they become vacant. She has basically served as a one woman HR department for OPA by getting qualified alums to run for office.



*Pamela McEwen presents  
Chelsea Morrissey with the 2007  
Alumnae Service Award*

At convention 2007, she was elected Vice President of Alumnae Relations.

Her continued dedication to her chapter, to alumnae everywhere and to Omega Phi Alpha as a whole makes her deserving of the 2007 Alumnae Service Award.

## Meet the New NEB



### **Pamela McEwen, National President**

I pledged Epsilon Chapter in 1973 when I was a junior at Tennessee Tech. Because I was an upper classman, trying to graduate and working full time, I did not have time to serve as an officer.

About seven years after graduation, I decided to get active on a national level and served on the Alumnae Board of Directors for a year. The following year I ran for the first of several terms as treasurer. After serving four years as treasurer, the maximum allowed, I was alumnae administrator for two years. I sort of moved from treasurer to alumnae administrator a couple of times, and most recently was elected to be national president. I have also served on the alumnae board, as the alumnae scholarship trustee and as the sorority's financial advisor.

I have been active on a national level in either an elected or appointed position, with the exception of three or four years, since 1982. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role, whatever it was, because of the wonderful women I have been able to work with over the years.

Professionally, I am a practicing public accountant and the chief financial officer for a mid-sized governmental agency with a budget of about \$9 million. I am responsible for accounting, budgeting and financial management for the agency. I have worked for local government for over 25 years and have worked my way up from an entry-level auditor to the position I now hold.

Personally, I am divorced with no children. I live with my sister, her two cats and my cat Wizard in Nashville. I have two sisters and three brothers, and we all live in the Nashville area with our father. Our mother has passed away. My interests are playing duplicate bridge, and someday I plan to become a life master; reading Stephen King, Anne Rice and spook novels, and a craft called "plastic craft" – sort of like needle point for the sight-impaired.



### **Anne Wilhoite, Vice President of Advancement Planning**

Anne pledged OPA at Nu Chapter in Spring 2004 and remained active until graduating in May 2007. At Nu, she served as sisterhood chair, active district officer, vice president and president.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in business management, she took a position as a research analyst for a residential property management firm in Valdosta, Ga. Anne plans to go back to school to earn an MBA in the near future.

She loves service, activism, enjoying the outdoors, traveling, having fun and her adorable dog, Pepper.

In her position as vice president of advancement planning, she plans to restructure the Omega Phi Alpha Foundation while coordinating a national fundraiser involving each chapter. Watch out, OPA sisters, because you will be hearing a lot from Anne in the next few months!



### **Heather Pritchard, Vice President of Leadership**

Heather Pritchard is an alumna of Nu Chapter at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She is going into her fifth year as a computational media major and materials science and engineering minor. She is originally from Clearwater, Fla. but currently calls Social Circle, Ga., home.

Heather pledged OPA in the Fall 2003 and has been involved ever since. At the chapter level, she was service director, membership director, and Web site chair. On the national level, she has served on the Vision 2010 Committee and on the Alumnae Board of Directors. She was the national publicity director in the last two years.

Some of Heather's academic interests include cognitive science, educational technologies, usability, graphic design, Web site design, and user-interface design. She plans to apply to graduate school to study human-computer interaction, starting in the Fall 2008, and hopes to work in the field of user experience design.

Outside of school, Heather enjoys cooking, college football (her favorite teams are Georgia Tech and any team that's playing the University of Georgia), traveling, ultimate Frisbee, going to concerts and hanging out with her OPhiA sisters.

## Meet the New NEB



### **Chelsea Morrisey, Vice President of Alumnae Relations**

Chelsea Morrisey pledged Nu Chapter in the fall of 1999. She has held the following local, district and national positions in recent years: Nu president, vice president and sisterhood chair; national database administrator, national young alumnae leader and DAA for District 3. Her love of community service started in Girl Scouting where she enjoyed being a camp counselor for middle school girls.

As VPAR, she is looking forward to getting more alumnae involved to strengthen and diversify the alumnae organization of Omega Phi Alpha. After serving on the Alumnae Board of Directors for the past three years, she feels she has a solid understanding of how to lead the ABOD and can focus on strategic development of the alumnae organization. She is proud of the ABOD members and is looking forward to the contributions from sisters all over the country. Chelsea is looking into new ways OPA can embrace technology to improve sorority communication and information management. She is excited about Convention 2008 and hopes more alumnae can take a vacation in Denver next summer.

Chelsea graduated from Georgia Tech with a B.S in computer science in 2004. She serves on the Georgia Tech College of Computing Alumni Council and works to create alumni events for computing alumni in the Atlanta area. She is a member of the Omega Gamma Greater Atlanta Alumnae Association. She lives in Mableton, Ga., with her fiancé, Chris, and is working as a software engineer in Atlanta.



### **Shayna Morris, Vice President of Finance**

Shayna pledged Delta chapter in 1995. She graduated from Texas A&M University in May 1996 with a BBA in business analysis and again in December 1998 with a master's degree in finance. She worked for five years in the treasury field in Houston before moving to the San Antonio area and staying home to raise her kids. She has two sons, Kyle, 5½, and Kaleb, 3. She lives in New Braunfels, TX. Shayna is very excited about holding this position and helping OPA.



*Standing left to right, front row: Stephanie Hallman, Shayna Morris, Pamela McEwen and Sarah VanDyke.*

*Back row: Heather Pritchard, Chelsea Morrisey, Ginger McGarity, Andie Bowman, Nichole Barnhart, and Anne Wilhoite.*

# Active Chapter Reports

## TAU CHAPTER

Lovely ladies,

This summer, three of our sisters traveled to National Convention in Jacksonville, FL. They had a terrific time getting to know the NEB, other chapter sisters and learning all things OPA. They can't wait to share what they've learned with the rest of Tau Chapter. At our first meeting, we're learning the OPA Weiner Song!

All of the officers and actives have been preparing for another fun fall semester full of sisterhood and service. Tau will once again be hosting a National Service Week dedicated to raising awareness of domestic violence, this year's President's Project.

We wish all our sisters the best of luck this semester.

## PSI CHAPTER

Our chapter is starting the fall semester with 13 service projects already planned. We started off with rush events, which many of the girls were excited about, on Aug. 26 and we initiated pledges on Sept. 8. Members baked goodies for a fundraiser on Aug. 26. Some more exciting news is our new social director has a variety of new ideas that will help build more sisterhood among the chapter. All of the new officers have done a great job planning and organizing for this semester. The chapter has a found a new student organization advisor, Crystal Seehorn, who works with community outreach programs on campus. These are

just some of the new and exciting things that are happening this semester.

## ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER

The Alpha Zeta Chapter at Kennesaw State University started the summer with BASH, KSU's annual summer recruitment and had a successful turnout. In July, we sent two delegates and three active sisters to the annual Convention. We are excited about the fall, which will be filled with a fantastic rush, our first ever annual Founder's Day, and working with great organizations such as the Make a Wish Foundation, YWCA and the Keep Cobb Beautiful organization.



## *Donations for Daley Scholarship*

**Please make checks payable to:**

Omega Phi Alpha,

**but mailed to:**

Shayna Morris  
177 Ridge Country  
New Braunfels, TX 78132

## Classifieds

*Traveling leadership consultants are needed for Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8. If you are interested, please contact Heather Pritchard, vice president of leadership development, at [leadership@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:leadership@omegaphialpha.org).*

*Kristen Walker is looking for alumnae sisters in the Washing D.C. area that may be interested in starting up an alumnae chapter. If you are interested or would like more information contact Kristen at [auburnyellowrose@yahoo.com](mailto:auburnyellowrose@yahoo.com)*

# What Can YOU Do For Your Active Chapter?

*by Elizabeth Anderson, Mu Chapter alumna*

I recently received an e-mail from a member of my local alumnae chapter asking for any available alumnae to attend and help out with my active chapter's rush. My chapter, which had been struggling with membership issues even when I was there, apparently is faced with the same problems as before—how to have a big rush with a small active population. As I read the e-mail, I was hit with waves of nostalgia from my active past. Memories of sisters working together as an active chapter on various decorations and plans for rush flooded my mind and I couldn't help but smile.

Ask not what your chapter can do for you; ask what you can do for your chapter...

What can I do for my chapter? As a former "lost" alumna who has come out of hiding after almost 10 years of self-imposed exile, I was struck with some uncertainty as to how to offer my services. How many things have changed since I was an active? Would I be uncomfortable around a group of young women who might look at me as an "old fogey?" Would they be comfortable with me? How much should I get involved with an active chapter? Would I overstep my

boundaries if I did more than just be there? What are the boundaries for alumnae members when it comes to the active chapters?

As these thoughts swirled around my head, I came upon my old photo album of a retreat my chapter had held in which alumnae were invited for a dinner. I remembered how interested I was in their O Phi A stories and I bombarded them with a million questions about what O Phi A was like when they were actives (I'm a history person—it's what I do). I listened with rapt attention to each story as they spoke of their "glory days" in O Phi A without realizing that I was in the midst of mine.

It was then that I knew the answers to my questions and my fears about involving myself with the active chapter were diminished. We are sisters! We are all members of the same organization and it is important that we work together as a cohesive unit to make and keep our sorority strong. Active sisters need our help, especially in the small and struggling chapters. We can impart our wisdom to the active sisters in little ways without appearing to "take over" the chapter. We can contribute to the active chapters by offering our services as they are needed. As alumnae,

we can prove to be a valuable support network for these young sisters even if that support is only needed during certain events.

I e-mailed my commitment to attend the last night of rush. Then, I fumbled around the dark corners of my jewelry box until I found that blue and gold sorority badge that I used to wear with so much pride. I fingered the tiny chapter guard that used to come unfastened all the time and I pondered over the officer dangles that hang on a delicate little chain. I had thought my O Phi A badge would be tarnished and dusty from years of neglect. I was surprised to find that it shines just as brightly as it did a decade ago! Could that be some sort of a sign?

What can I do for my active chapter or any other nearby chapter? Whatever they need to which I am able to commit. If we help our active sisters recruit future O Phi A's, then we are doing our part as alumnae to build a strong sisterhood for everyone. That's something I'll fill rushees' punch cups for any day!

*Elizabeth Anderson can be reached at [idgie33@hotmail.com](mailto:idgie33@hotmail.com)*

**OMEGA PHI ALPHA**  
**NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY**  
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Russells Point, OH 43348-0757

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# *National Calendar*

## **OCTOBER**

*First Full week is National Insignia Week*

*First Full week is National Fundraising Week*

- Oct 15: President's Council post due on the OPA Forum  
Oct 15: Pledge roster from each chapter due to virtual assistant  
Oct 15: Membership status form and updated active addresses due to virtual assistant

## **NOVEMBER**

- Nov 1: Active and pledge fees transmittal form and money due  
Nov 15: Chapter Newsletter #2 due  
Nov 15: President's Council Report posted on the President's Council area in the forum  
Nov 15: Chevron #2 (Winter issue) submission deadline

## **DECEMBER**

*Pledge Summary due 2 weeks before activation*

- Dec 15: Midyear report due from all chapters  
Dec 15: Midyear Service Project Report Form due from all chapters

*(To add your events and activities, please email them to [chevron@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:chevron@omegaphialpha.org) with "Chevron Calendar" in the subject. Issue 2 (the winter issue) will identify events and activities for January through March)*