



# Alumnae Advisory Committees

Alumnae Advisory Committee members shape the future of the Fraternity by sharing experiences and expertise with collegians and helping them to understand policy and implement programs.

## The Role of Alumnae Advisors

Pi Phi was the first women's fraternity to recognize the value of using its alumnae to give guidance and counsel to active chapters. As early as 1908, it was recommended Pi Phi alumnae living near a chapter should have contact with the chapter at least once per month.

On June 21, 1913, Grand Council authorized an amendment to the Constitution and Statutes,

providing the formation of Alumnae Advisory Committees (AAC). The amendment included provisions "that for each active chapter there shall be an advisory committee of five from the nearest chartered alumnae club" and that committee shall supervise in the areas of scholarship, house management, general social conditions, the publication of Fraternity news and the Panhellenic situation.



The June 1914 issue of *The Arrow* contained several reports on the concept. The Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, Alumnae Clubs reported: "Our chapter advisory committee has been interested and conscientious in solving the problems which have come to it. As the work of this committee becomes better defined and organized, it will be of great service to the Fraternity."

In 1922, Grand Vice President **ANNA ROBINSON NICKERSON**, Massachusetts Alpha, compiled a "Manual for the Use of Alumnae Advisory Committees." It proved to be of inestimable value.

Gradually, the duties of these committees increased until 1924, when the work was divided

as follows: Scholarship; House Management; General Social Conditions; Rushing and Panhellenic Situations; and Extra-Curricular Activities.

By the mid-1920s, AACs became required to meet with the chapter's Executive Council to review and approve the list of candidates eligible for initiation. By the 1930s, AACs were also named official counselors in the areas of recruitment and development of New Members.

In 1938, it was voted by Grand Council that the Grand Secretary be given the supervision of the Alumnae Advisory Committee, and the duties were expanded in 1939. By the end of "The Changing Years," the Alumnae Advisory

Committee had become a vital force in strengthening the internal development of each chapter.

From a Gatlinburg, Tennessee meeting held in June 1966, letters, AAC Calendars and procedure clarifications were sent to the committees to collect information for use of all advisory committees and national officers. Through these annual reports, it was evident that AAC members' personal interest in the collegians as individuals, their pride in chapter achievements, their concern and loyalty as Pi Phi sisters and their mature guidance to actives and pledges had built and developed strong chapters. It had been the AAC Advisors the Pi Phi alumnae most closely associated with





student members, who had cemented the bonds of sisterhood and a lifetime loyalty to Pi Beta Phi.

At the 1979 Phoenix, Arizona, Convention, AAC members were given the opportunity to meet for several hours by way of an AAC forum. Following that convention, “Grand Council realized the need for more time to be spent on AAC matters at convention and began making arrangements at the next convention for AAC personal to come in one day early for this purpose,” wrote Texas Alpha **ANN DUDGEON PHY**, Director of AACs 1979-81). Ann was responsible for planning the first AAC Seminar in Dallas 1981. In the years that followed, the seminars continued to benefit not only Pi Phi’s dedicated advisors, but also the chapters they served.

The role of AAC has grown overtime, but alumnae who serve on Advisory Committees deserve special recognition. Their guidance and objectivity, while carefully adhering to Pi Phi standards and procedures, are essential

to the well-being of the chapter they serve. Knowledgeable and dedicated AAC are the key to a happy and successful chapter.

Today, Advisors can serve chapters regardless of their proximity to the chapter. No matter their

background or skillset, alumnae Advisors have a unique perspective on the Pi Phi experience and can provide valuable insight and leadership for collegians while helping to shape the future of the Fraternity. ✨

