



Grand Council

Grand Council serves as the governing body of Pi Beta Phi and is elected biennially at convention.

The creation of a governing body

Inspired by the men's fraternities at Monmouth College, 12 women founded I.C. Sorosis on April 28, 1867, making it the first fraternity for women. From 1867 until about 1880, the Alpha Chapter—Illinois Alpha—at Monmouth College was Pi Beta Phi's governing body and made final decisions for the Fraternity as it began to extend to other campuses.

In the late 1870s, Monmouth College began intensifying pressure on fraternities and sororities to disband, forcing Illinois Alpha to exist sub rosa—in secret—for several years. Operating

in secrecy weakened the chapter's influence and led other chapters to support the entire Fraternity.

Because of the restrictions, Illinois Alpha struggled to maintain regular correspondence and failed to call the 1884 Iowa City Convention, resulting in the successor chapter—Iowa Iota—to take its place. To ensure consistent leadership during interims of conventions, a revised Constitution was accepted, stating that general officers were to be elected to serve as the official leaders of the Fraternity.

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gold covered programs with pink pages, to which was attached a fresh pink carnation.

Mrs. Byars' message at the opening of the Conference set a tone of dignity, of friendship, and



National Panhellenic Conference officers for the 1955-57 biennium are (left to right) Mrs. Joseph Grigsby, Delta Delta Delta, treasurer; Mrs. Cicero F. Hogan, Gamma Phi Beta, chairman, and Mrs. Darrell E. Nordwall, Alpha Chi Omega, secretary. They took their offices at the close of the thirty-fourth NPC meeting, held November 14 to 18 at the Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

At the 1884 Iowa City Convention, Illinois Alpha relinquished its charter, and the Fraternity officially implemented the Grand Council structure. The inaugural Grand Council was composed of all collegians and included Grand President **NELL CUSTER SWISHER**, Iowa Kappa, Grand Secretary **EMMA LIVINGSTON WING**, Illinois Beta and Grand Treasurer **CLARA POEHLER SMITHMEYER**, Kansas Alpha.

Titles and positions have evolved over our history and currently consist of:

- Grand President
- Grand Vice President Collegians
- Grand Vice President Alumnae
- Grand Vice President Finance/Housing
- Grand Vice President
- Fraternity Growth
- Grand Vice President Inclusion /Community Relations
- Grand Vice President – Member Experience.

Below is a list of the Fraternity's Grand Presidents and the years in which they served:

NELL CUSTER SWISHER
Iowa Zeta 1884-1885

RAINIE ADAMSON SMAL
Illinois Beta 1885-1890

EMMA HARPER TURNER
Indiana Alpha and D.C. Alpha 1890-1893

HELEN B. SUTLIFF
Kansas Alpha 1893-1895

GRACE LASS SISSON
Illinois Delta 1895-1899

ELISA BRADFORD JOHNSON
D.C. Alpha 1899-1901



SARAHJANE "SALLY" PAULSON VANASSE
Washington Beta 1969-1973

ELIZABETH TURNER ORR
Oregon Alpha 1973-1979

JEAN WIRTHS SCOTT
Pennsylvania Beta 1979-1985

CAROLYN HELMAN LICHTENBERG
Ohio Alpha 1985-1991

JOANN MINOR RODERICK,
Oklahoma Beta 1991-1995

BETH VAN MAANEN BEATTY
Texas Gamma 1995-2001

SARAH RUTH "SIS" MULLIS
South Carolina Alpha 2001-2003

EMILY RUSSELL TARR
Texas Beta 2003-2009

MARY LOY TATUM
Oklahoma Beta 2009-2013

PAULA PACE SHEPHERD
Texas Epsilon 2013-2019

MARLA NEELLY WULF
Kansas Beta 2019-2021

LISA GAMEL SCOTT
Colorado Alpha 2021-2025

JENN PLAGMAN-GALVIN ✨
Iowa Gamma 2025-present

ELIZABETH GAMBLE
Colorado Alpha 1901-1908

MAY LANSFIELD KELLER
Maryland Alpha 1908-1918

ANNA LYTLE TANNAHILL BRANNON
Nebraska Beta 1918-1921

AMY BURNHAM ONKEN
Illinois Epsilon 1921-1952

MARIANNE REID WILD
Kansas Alpha 1952-1958

ALICE WEBER MANSFIELD JOHNSON
Missouri Beta 1958-1967

DOROTHY WEAVER MORGAN
Nebraska Beta 1967-1969

