

Alpha Xi Delta Parents' Association

Mission of Alpha Xi Delta

The mission of Alpha Xi Delta Fraternity is summed up in one phrase, "*Inspiring women to realize their potential.*" This embodies the ideals of our ten founding sisters and has served as a guide in our 108 years of history. With the mission in mind, Alpha Xi Delta invites mothers and fathers of our collegiate members to become an integral part of their daughter's sorority experience.

Supporting your Daughter

Alpha Xi Delta encourages parents to become an interested party your daughter's social and academic development by learning more about the unique aspects of fraternity lifestyle.

Support comes in many forms. Whether you reside close to the school your daughter has chosen or if you live away, communication will facilitate in the strengthening of this relationship. Many parents choose to support their daughter socially as well as financially. Parents are willing to give time, resources and skills to better their daughter's experience. Unleashing this generosity is a key to a stronger chapter.

Supporting your daughter in her social development may involve assisting in philanthropic events, assisting in recruitment preparation, affiliating with the Housing Corporation, driving a campaign for housing renovations or raising funds.

A Parents' Association will function separate from the chapter. The *Parents' Association* will work closely with either the Building Corporation or Chapter Advisory Board to provide a strong relationship.

Every chapter of Alpha Xi Delta can benefit from a Parents' Association. Our members are faced with many challenges including the increasing cost of education, scarcity of funds, and room and board.

Please assist us in making your daughter's Alpha Xi Delta experience one that she will continue for a lifetime. Together, we can assist her in realizing her potential.

History

Alpha Xi Delta has had many variations of the Parents' Association. There are chartered Mother's Clubs, Happy Pappy Clubs, and Parents' Clubs. The activities range from assistance in decorating for recruitment to raising capital to break ground for a new chapter house.

Partnering with your daughter and her sorority will provide you with a greater understanding into why Alpha Xi Delta holds such a deep meaning and it may strengthen the family bond.

Any parent is eligible, you need not be Greek to affiliate. Each group may write their own Constitution and Bylaws, establish officers or chairs, assess dues, set meeting times,

and plan activities to support the chapter. The Association may meet as often as they wish. Some meet around activities with the chapter such as Founder's Day and Homecoming.

Instructions for Establishing your Association

How do we get started?

The best time to begin is after formal recruitment. Collegiate members will send a letter of interest to the parents' of new members following the Pledging of their daughters.

The Fall is normally a busy time and if the women have a Parents' Weekend planned, this is a perfect opportunity to select chairs or offices and hold a planning meeting. When an association is established, parents will meet in conjunction with the collegiate chapter. This allows for the chapter to appoint a collegiate to serve as a liaison and gather a list of needs and priorities. A member of the House Corporation Board must be present at this meeting, as she is a key element in the success of the Parents' Association.

At the start of the next school term, a letter should be sent to all parents soliciting their time, talents and treasures. If they have said no, or not responded, the situation may change year to year. With an explanation of the goals from the wish list you may have someone likely to provide a household furnishing versus giving a monetary contribution. Consider an informational card sent with the Fall letter asking for background information on the parents. You might find a builder or designer that can assist with projects.

Develop the priority assistance

Look at the needs of the chapter and the five-year plan developed by the Housing Corporation Board. Your Parents' Association can help the chapter by providing new furnishings, supplying additional kitchen equipment, televisions, guest linens, stationary, phones, and maintenance supplies. Helping the chapter with draperies, paint, carpet, and accessories can cut many of the expensive costs that make the environment more enjoyable.

Do not forget curb appeal when planning. Look for parents with experience as landscapers or gardeners. Look into adding screens, bike sheds, and security elements to make your daughters safe.

The chapter may have simple needs like food for a retreat or exam. The Parents' Association may also want to assist in holiday events and celebrations. Sometimes the furnishing of special pieces such as cake knives can make the difference in recruitment or ceremonies. Consider donation of a magazine subscription to Cosmopolitan, for example, from the Parents' Association.

Events and Activities

Fundraising Events

Progressive Dinners arranged at local restaurants

Chef's Specialty classes – join a chef at one of the favorite restaurants for a private lesson with a small group.

Auctions (where permitted) using goods donated by parents or contacts of parents

House Tour or Holiday Tour of Homes

Original Sale – Selling of items baked, created or grown by self.

Mini Course offerings drawn on experience of Parents' Association members – taxes, real estate, wills, etc.

Tennis or Golf Scramble

Social Events

Dinner out

Card parties

Fraternity Education night

Theater memberships

Sporting events

Guest speakers – political, insurance, educational, travel, etc.

Newsletters/Publicity

Contents of your communication

- A greeting from your Parents' Association president
- Special plans for the year in advance.
- Goals and priorities set with the Housing Corporation Board
- List of new officers and special committee appointments
- Reminders of fees, tickets, items to sell
- Collegiate chapter honors and awards
- Chapter calendar

Frequency

- Your communication can go out monthly, quarterly or annually

- An issue completed before your fall gathering may generate interested parents
- Send a copy to new members following pledging
- Set a schedule and stick to it

Publicity Ideas

- Take pictures of events or accomplishments and send with a story to the local newspaper
- Submit happenings to radio and television for coverage
- Submit pictures and article to the *Quill* at Fraternity Headquarters
- Give calendar of events to the Women's editor or Lifestyle editor of the local paper at the beginning of the year
- Provide event information to the school newspaper and public relations

Constitution and Bylaws for Parents' Association **Alpha Xi Delta** *Sample*

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Parents' Association for Alpha Xi Delta of _____ Chapter.

ARTICLE II – Objects

Section 1. The objects of the association shall be to create an atmosphere of friendliness and cooperation among the parents of Alpha Xi Delta; to help our daughters in every way possible to achieve the most from their collegiate experience; cultivate Alpha Xi Delta for a lifetime commitment; and to learn more about Alpha Xi Delta and the fraternity system.

Section 2. This association shall complement the collegiate chapter, national organization, and local housing corporation board. It is understood that no Alpha Xi Delta Parents' Association has jurisdiction

over the chapter, advisors or the housing corporation but is an auxiliary support entity.

ARTICLE III – Membership

Any parent of a collegiate or alumna member of Alpha Xi Delta, a relative, or any person acting in the capacity of a parent or guardian may affiliate with the Parents' Association.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

The officers shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer.

Section 1. Officers may be elected for a term of one or two years.

Section 2. Officers are limited to two consecutive terms in the same office.

ARTICLE V – Executive Board

Officers named in Article IV shall constitute the executive board. They have authority to conduct business between regular meetings.

ARTICLE VI -- Committees

The committees shall be developed at the discretion of the members of the Parents' Association.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

The Parents' Association should meet a minimum number of times each year determined by the board.