



THE ANCHOR

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALPHA CHI ALUMNI

Sailing in this our 103rd year!

Alpha Chi Sorority prides itself on love, loyalty, leadership, and justice since 1918.



Who knew Alpha Chi Alumni Weekend 2019 would be our last in-person gathering for two years! WE'RE BACK! See you Oct. 2, 2021.

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Alumni Weekend Oct. 1, 2 & 3

SAVE THE DATE! AX Alumni Weekend is Oct. 1, 2 & 3, 2021. Special hotel discount. RSVP & pay dues by Sept. 15. Book hotel by Sept. 10. See details below & on pg. 5 & back page.

The President's Message

Navigating work from home while making lemonade from some very sour lemons. Cynthia Rachel updates us on persevering through a two-year period like no other.

Alumni Exec & Actives Messages

Alumni Membership Chair, Treasurer's Report & VP Update inside. Actives update on turning Rush Week into a virtual event with lots of creativity & outside-the-box thinking.

AX Alumni Meeting Will Be Earlier This Year: Oct. 2, 2021

The Alpha Chi Alumni Meeting will be earlier this year due to the extraordinary events of the last 24 months! While the pandemic has cramped our style it hasn't knocked us out! The date change was needed to ensure we had meeting space & accommodations that best meet guidelines for distancing and safe socializing. To do this, our venues are either outside or large enough for appropriate distancing. This helps to better protect both the vaccinated & those who may not be. See an overview of the weekend, which starts on Friday, at right.

KEY DATES

- ☑ Sept. 10: Last day to book hotel for special discount.
- ☑ Sept. 15: RSVP for meeting.
- ☑ Sept. 15: Pay Dues
- ☑ Oct. 1: AX Finance Mtg 5p
- ☑ Oct. 2: AX Alumni Biz Mtg 10A. (Meet & greet: 9A)

Business mtg at the home of AX alum Candi Solari

AX Weekend Itinerary

Friday, Oct. 1: AX Finance Mtg. 5p
Location: The Alpha Chi House

Saturday, Oct 2: AX Business Mtg. 10A

Location: 730 Esplanade Chico, CA. 95926. Thank you to AX alumni Candi for the use of her beautiful gardens for this year's meeting. We'll open at 9A for a Meet & Greet. Coffee, juice, and snacks will be provided.

House Tours & Social Noon

Location: AX House
We're negotiating with Chicobi's food truck for onsite food for purchase. Obi and his team prepare delicious meals with generous portions at a reasonable price. Hope to get that confirmed soon.

Accommodations Note

We have secured a special discounted per-night rate at The Doubletree Hotel in Chico for Oct. 1, 2 & 3 with checkout as late as Monday, Oct. 4. See inside back page for details and booking info.



The President's Update

Hello Sisters!

It has been 24 months since our last newsletter, *The Anchor 2019*, was published. We celebrated our 101st anniversary and shortly after, the world shut down. I know that we all have had unique experiences and there are strong feelings on all sides of the illness, the governmental response and what the next season of life will look like for us all. Last fall, we hosted our first ever virtual Alumni Business Meeting. It had a different feel but the focus on serving Alpha Chi was strong. Through all this, we have seen something that has remained steady for 103 years - sisterhood among the women of AX.

While members of the Alumni Assoc. were learning to navigate working from home, supporting their children in schooling from home, and how to make

lemonade out of some very sour lemons, the Alumni Exec Board worked to support the Active Chapter through campus closures, actives living away from Chico during the school year and developing a virtual rush & pledge process to move the sorority forward as in-person events were not allowed.

This was a learning year for us all. Our Active Chapter is small and many of the members have not experienced a "typical" semester (The last typical semester was Fall 2019; many Actives were not active back then or were pledging that semester). We did have three pledges in the Spring of 2021 who participated in Virtual Rush and Virtual Pledging. Unfortunately they did not complete the program. While all of this poses a challenge, it also allows us to look at things from a new perspective and evaluate our program & processes to determine how impactful they are for our organization. *(continued below)*

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This was a learning year for us all... We will need to be creative & flexible to grow our sorority...



With a small Active Chapter and a small number of women living in the house, we will need to be creative and flexible to grow our sorority and accomplish our goals as an organization. We plan to bring some new ideas and recommendations to the Fall 2021 Alumni Business Meeting and we are eager to hear ideas from all of you.

Collectively, we are a brilliant group of women. Make sure to mark your calendar for October 2,

2021, to be a part of moving the sorority forward and keeping our ship sailing.

Thank you to the Exec. Board members for the countless hours of calls, meetings, and group texts to explore options. Thank you to Jim for being our eyes and ears locally, sharing updates and presenting ideas. Thank you to the Active Chapter for being flexible and creative, finding ways to host Rush Parties and regular semester activities including Sunday Night

meetings and Sisterhood Events.

I am honored to serve as President and I am truly proud of the official work of our organization as well as the "work of life" you all have done to support each other as we navigate our lives. I have seen pictures from virtual happy hour calls among sisters, driveway social distancing gatherings, support during difficult times, financial assistance in light of tragedy, phone calls, texts,

snail mail & now as things reopen, vacations with sisters. We have known that sisterhood was true all along and times like this strengthen that connection ...even from a distance.

Love in AX,

Cynthia Rachel, Fall 2000
Alumni Chapter President
661-400-2019
cynndi.rachel@gmail.com

AX Active Chapter Update



Alpha Chi Active Chapter Executive Board.



Left to right: Elizabeth Herndon and Madeira Machado donating clothes remaining from the AX Clothing Swap.



Daisy Chavez, Sisterhood Chair, out delivering/ mailing ice cream making materials for a virtual sisterhood event.

In Spring 2020, Alpha Chi business and activities came to a halt due to the global pandemic. During the Fall 2020 semester, AX business and activities were suspended so the active sisters could take time to adjust to online school, focus on staying healthy, and focus on their needs during these trying times. During winter break 2020-21, the active President, Alyssa Gonzales, and the alumni President, Cynthia Rachel, and their executive boards came together to build an online semester so the girls could come back and be together again. For our active President Gonzales to execute this format and get the sisters together after 10 months, it took a lot of hard work, perseverance, and the help of her executive board and the active members. During the Spring 2021 semester, sisters were able to put on a rush week, sisterhood events, volunteering events, a formal, and a senior farewell. During rush week, led by Molly O'Shea, the sisters hosted an Info Night, a Hollywood Night and House Tours all virtually. The Info Night was the same as an in-person semester, but transferred to the online format. During Hollywood Night, the sisters and rushees played a couple rounds of kahoot and got to know each other. During House Tours, the sisters showed a recording of some of the actives talking about why they love Alpha Chi and some positions presented on what they do during an active semester. The house girls talked about the house, their rooms, and we got to know the rushees better. During the semester, our Sisterhood Chair, Daisy Chavez, threw a lot of online events like ice cream making, movie night, paint night, self-care night and more!

There were two in-person events, a picnic and tie-dying, where the Sisterhood Chair went early to measure out six-foot apart sitting areas. All the sisters had to wear masks and practice social distancing.

The PR Chair did not rest when it came to the sisters volunteering. She had trash pick up days, made cards for front-line workers, and even had a clothing swap.

Vice President, Jordann Klein, and the class of S'20 came together and hosted an online formal. All the girls still dressed up and sent in pictures that were shown on a slide show. There were also games played and sister superlatives that were awarded. To enhance the formal experience, all the sisters who attended received a gift bag which had items that matched the Fairy Garden theme. Lastly, the Vice President hosted a senior farewell where the seniors were able to say their goodbyes and were presented with gifts. During this event, Sisterhood Chair announced the top three sisters who earned the most sisterhood points and sent them prizes. Every other sister who participated in sisterhood events got an Alpha Chi sticker!

Overall, this past year was unforeseen to all of us, but when the sisters, active and alumni, work together, anything can happen. Even with the online challenges all the girls faced, it was a fulfilling semester with a lot of hard work and even more fun. The active chapter still has a lot of new challenges to face in the future as we slowly work our way back to an in-person semester in the Fall, but we can't wait to see what the future holds for all of us.





Alpha Chi Alumnae Database Update/RSVP Form 2021

Please return this form & your payment in the enclosed envelope to ensure all of your contact info is correct.

First _____ Maiden _____

Married _____

Pledge Semester (circle) Spring/Fall Year _____

If any of your contact info has changed, please check the box at left and update below.

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: (circle) Home / Mobile (_____) _____ - _____

Email Address _____

Currently receiving AX emails? (circle) Y / N

Do you have any news to share?

Favorite AX memories:

AX Alumni Annual Business Meeting - Saturday, Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. Meeting is offsite at the home of Alpha Chi Candi Solari: 730 Esplanade - Chico, CA. (Garden doors open at 8:45 a.m. for snacks and meet & greet.)

AX Open House/KOP — Noon to 3 p.m. (May begin earlier if business meeting ends sooner.)

Will you be attending Alumni Weekend? Please check all that apply

_____ **Yes!** Count me in for the snacks and meet & greet and the Business Meeting.

_____ **Yes!** I am planning to hang out for the Open House/KOP

_____ **NO...** sadly I can't make it but please email the link that allows me to attend virtually.

I am enclosing payment for:

Annual Alpha Chi Alumnae Dues \$ 40.00

Please accept my donation of \$

Total Amount Enclosed \$

NOTE! You can pay AX dues with VENMO - make payment to:

@AshleyCaseyGreen

Payment type:

_____ **Check.** Make payment to: AX Alumnae Treasurer Ashley Casey Green

_____ **PayPal** (ax_alumnitreasurer@yahoo.com) - Please be sure to select "friends and family"

RSVP online <https://forms.gle/R3e5fJQHa4m8cmZq9> Please respond by no later than Wed.; Sept. 15

Mail form & check to: AX Alumnae Treasurer Ashley Casey Green, 4504 Romano Dr., Stockton, CA. 95207



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ABOUT DOUBLETREE by HILTON

Alpha Chi has a special discounted rate at the Chico Doubletree, located just off Hwy 99 at 685 Manzanita Ct., (which runs off Mangrove Ave). Our special rate is \$150 + tax per night for a standard room with 1 King or 2 Queen beds. Rooms are limited & the rate is good for bookings thru Sept.10th so don't wait too long. The hotel offers complimentary self-parking, 24-hr Fitness & Business Center, pool, and restaurant.

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BOOKING THE DOUBLETREE

To book the Doubletree, simply call the Chico hotel directly **530.345.2491** Reading this online? Click the link below or go to the AX website to access hotel link https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CICCCDT-ACS-20211001/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

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DOUBLETREE NOTES

For eCar drivers, a new universal charging station is located in the hotel parking lot. And Tesla offers a Supercharger in the Target parking lot on East 20th Street.

Alumni Membership Chair Update

Hello my fellow Alphies! I hope you have all had a wonderful year; it's definitely been one for the books. I just want to say congratulations to the recent Alpha Chi graduates. I can say on behalf that we are so proud of you and your accomplishment of moving on to the next chapter in your lives. We officially welcome you to the Alumnae Active Chapter. Personally, I cannot imagine the transition that you all had to go through in school. On top of that, all the fun things that you didn't get to fully experience – your last formal, senior farewell, initiation, and sisterhood events. Those were all special moments for me and I am so sorry that you didn't get to fully experience those memorable events. Gladly, we will get to make fun memories as alumni that we will be able to look back on for years to come.

This past year I updated the database with information that has been sent to me and added new members to the

Facebook and Google groups. I also took the liberty of creating the Alpha Chi Google Groups. We decided to do this since Yahoo groups is no longer available. If you still have not been added please reach out to me and I will add you as soon as possible. Unfortunately, I did have technical difficulties with some emails not cooperating. I will definitely advocate utilizing it more so we can all be in touch more.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time, whether it is to update information for the database, being added to the Google Groups, or anything else. You can reach out to me and I will respond pretty quickly. My phone number is 925.642.5847. My email is kbrandt425@gmail.com.

In AX & In Mine,

Katie Brandt - Fall 2014
925.642.5847
kbrandt425@gmail.com

Reminder: Update the Alumni Membership Chair With Your Contact Info & Life Events

Have you moved? Did you get married? New phone number or email address? Don't forget to keep Katie Brandt, your AX Alumni Membership Chair, up to date with your contact information. Let's keep it up and do our best to find those long lost sisters. It's never too late to become an alumni; and the process is very simple. All you have to do is contact the alumni membership chair online at ax_alumnimembership@yahoo.com or privately message Katie on Facebook: Katie Brandt. And provide the information listed below:

- ❖ Full Name (include maiden)
- ❖ Current Mailing Address:
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
- ❖ Pledge class (semester/year)

Sisters in good standing with the sorority will be added to the AX Alumni Database. All members must pay dues for 2020-21 (\$40/year) in order to attend functions, vote, and maintain alumni status.

Special Thanks & Recognition to These Alpha Chi Alumni

Thank you to our sisters who have paid their dues every year for the past five years! Thank you for your unwavering support

Alicia Gonzales Spring 2005
 Angela Miller Richardson Spring 2012
 Ashley Casey Green Fall 2003
 Ashley Johnson Wittwer Spring 2004
 Brianna Bryant Brown Spring 2000
 Caitlyn La Haie Fall 2011
 Carla Camerotto Roope Fall 1981
 Carrie Izant Steffes Spring 1995
 Carol Jessen Sprecher Fall 1987
 Chantel Richards Jaeger Fall 2011
 Cyndi Denning Rachel Fall 2000
 Debbie Jones Tarke Fall 1983
 Ellen Peace Fall 1982
 Heather L'Amoreaux Heidi Spring 2005
 Matejka Tank Fall 2002
 Holly Dussel Feeney Fall 1973

Jackie Domine Fall 2010
 Jennifer Von der Lieth Tinkelenberg Fall 2003
 Jenny Davenport Brooks Fall 1995
 Joan Bottum Mora Spring 1982
 Julie Moreno Laskin Fall 1980
 Kayla Mora La Rosa Spring 2010
 Kelley Rothrock Valentine Fall 1982
 Lashaun Schwenk Byer Fall 1986
 Laura Stever Spring 2004
 Lyndie Aquila Spring 1997
 Melissa Duque Murray Fall 2004
 Nicole diLorenzo O'Hehir Spring 2013
 Sheila Crawford Carney Spring 2004
 Sophie Whelan Kirk Fall 1983
 Stephanie Murphy Bennett Spring 1998
 Susan Peckham Horstkamp Fall 1981
 Teri Harbour O'Keefe Spring 1980



Special Thanks to You, Our 2020-21 Above & Beyond Donors

Platinum \$250 or more

Debbie Jones Tarke F'83
 Jenny Davenport Brooks F'95
 Julie Moreno Laskin F'80
 Shivon Riley Meblin F'75
 Teri Harbour O'Keefe S'80
 Winona McLean Lee F'91

Gold \$175 to \$249

Heidi Matejka Tank F'02

Silver \$100 to \$174

Brianna Bryant Brown S'00
 Carol Sprecher F'87
 Carrie Izant Steffes S'95
 Chantel Richards Jaeger F'11
 Ellen Peace Berens F'82
 Katelyn Brand F'14
 Lisa Torney Morrill F'88
 Mary Bowes Tobol S'92
 Nicole Dilorenzo O'Hehir S'14
 Jim Davis

Bronze \$50 to \$99

Andrea Wong Savage S'01
 Barbara Holland Chapman S'64
 Deborah Green Padberg F'90
 Jennifer Miller Chavez S'95
 Keriann Brennan S'00
 Lashaun Schwenk Byer F'86
 Laurel Snarski Dalton F'87
 Lisa Bridges S'90
 Liz Yonge Goodrich F'86
 Megan McDermott Gwilliam F'95
 Michelle Margolis Simmons F'90
 Niki Davis Jones S'95
 Sharon Culbertson Anderson S'04
 Sharon Fitzgerald F'91
 Sheila Crawford Carney S'04
 Stacy Lynn Cissney S'00



The Treasurer's Message

If you received a hard copy of this Anchor in your mailbox, you paid your dues for the 2020-21 year and are an active member of the Alpha Chi Sorority Alumni Association. If you received a soft copy of this Anchor in your inbox, please, pay your dues and become active. If you're reading this Anchor because you found it on our website, or because a sister shared it with you, that means your contact information is not current in our Alumnae Database, please contact our Membership Chair (Katie Brandt) to update your information and pay your dues. All of our dues go towards the Alumni association which pays for the website, insurance, Alumnae

THANK YOU to those who gave above and beyond their dues last year as we had \$4,170 in monetary donations and about \$124 in non-monetary donations for the Alumnae newsletter from Heidi Matejka Tank Fall 2002. Our oldest active donor was Shivon Riley Meblin Fall 1975. And also thank you to Shivon for her generous donation of three vacuums for the house. I hope you all received your blessing in return. Our donation campaign resulted in a permanent plaque in the AX house listing those who contribute designated amounts over the annual dues for the following categories:

\$50 - \$99 = Bronze
\$100 - \$174 = Silver

\$175 - \$249 = Gold
\$250+ = Platinum

Shortly after each annual meeting, our donor names are displayed until the next group is revealed the following year! See recognition to our 2020-21 Donors on the facing page.

Our ship is still sailing in large part due to the diehard support from you, our Active Alumnae! On the next page see the Alumnae who have continued to pay their dues for the last FIVE years. Paying your dues and making a donation is pretty easy:

- You may send a check made payable to the "AX Alumni Assn."
- Or you may remit via PayPal to:

AX_Alumnitreasurer@yahoo.com (remember, depending upon your method of PayPal payment i.e. Pay for goods or services, our account will be hit with additional fees, so please be sure to gross up your payment so that your \$40 dues are received by us in full). Please process your PayPal payment "Send money to friends and family" we should not incur a fee.

- If you're a last minute attendee to our annual meeting, you may pay your dues in person of course! Please bring your dues and fill out the google RSVP form in advance form so we can know who to expect at the meeting and you can update your information for the database.

If you are interested I would like to invite you to attend the budget and finance meeting which will occur at the AX house at 5 pm the Friday before the meeting on Saturday. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at my email ashleycasey85@gmail.com.

Love in AX and mine,

Ashley Casey Green, CPA, Fall 2003
AX Alumni Treasurer, 2014-21



We will go over in detail the spending at our Budget and Finance meetings which are Friday's at 5pm before Alumni Weekend.

activities with the actives, to help the actives when they need it, and restoration support for the houses when needed. We will go over in detail the spending at our Budget and Finance meetings which are Friday's at 5pm before Alumni Weekend. Please contact me if you have any questions.



Vice President's Message

Hello Sisters!

Since our 100th birthday in 2018, the women of Alpha Chi have been thrust thru a series of unprecedented events – from cataclysmic fires to an unparalleled worldwide pandemic – to say nothing of this current season of fire and drought. Yet, we continue to find our way through. "...And still [we] rise!" (To paraphrase a line from Maya Angelou's famous poem, Still I Rise.) Now here we are, in the post (or waning?) pandemic summer of 2021.

After a two-year hiatus, we'll resume our in-person business meeting this October, albeit a few weeks earlier, on the first Saturday, October 2. Moving from the third to the first weekend enables us to better support safe distancing and responsible socializing.

We will hold our business meeting in one of the loveliest gardens in Chico at the home of Alpha Chi Candi Solari. The beautiful surroundings will be a spirit refresher and a great venue for some long overdue sisterly reconnects. An outline for the Alpha Chi Weekend is printed in the columns on the right.



AX Weekend Itinerary

FRIDAY OCT. 1

Alpha Chi Finance Mtg - 5p.
The Alpha Chi House.

Side note: *Following the Finance mtg at the house I invite my sisters to join me at the "O" (Oasis). The first four pitchers are on me! Tables will be reserved to allow some distance for safe interactions. We'll get to the "O" at 8p Friday night. Look for the tables reserved for AX with lavender balloons. Please stop by and help us warm up the weekend at the Oasis, 1007 W 1st St., Chico 95928*

SATURDAY OCT. 2

The Alpha Chi Alumni Association Business Meeting – **At the home of AX Candi Solari: 730 Esplanade Chico, CA. 95926**

9:00A to 9:45A – Pre-meeting Meet & Greet in the Garden. This will be your time to catch up with sisters and to take care of any business such as registration and/or dues. We will serve coffee, tea, juice and snacks.

9:45A – Ladies, please take your seat! We need to begin promptly at 10A. It's a packed agenda and we want to ensure plenty of time to update you and get your in-person feedback.

10:00A – Business Meeting begins

Noon – Lunch & House Tours

Once the business meeting adjourns, the Alpha Chi House will be open for tours until 3 p.m. We'll arrange for a lunch trunk onsite with food for purchase. Iced tea, water and lemonade will be provided; however, due to liability that's as strong as

it will get. You, however, are welcome to bring your beverage of choice.

SUNDAY OCT. 3

As per usual, there are no organized sorority events on Sunday. However, I am extending an invitation to all my sisters to come to Paradise, CA., for brunch. I hosted an AX brunch eight months after the Camp Fire when things looked a bit different, even so we had a great time. Today the town is coming back with a flourish that's both exciting to see & to share. So my Sunday Brunch for Alpha Chi's would work like this:

Brunch: 10A to 2P. (You are welcome to come early and stay late.)

Menu: pancakes, assorted breads, fruit, eggs, bacon, coffee, juice and a special AX Brunch Punch.

My address: 6475 Apple Creek Dr. Paradise, CA. 95969 c: 678.429.3848

RSVP text would be appreciated to 678.429.3848 to ensure there's enough for all.

This is a rain or shine event. (Rain...ha, ha... right...)

An excerpt from **Still I Rise** by Maya Angelou

*Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise...*

*Rolawn (Brown) Rehmann Fall '78
rbrehmann@gmail.com
678.429.3848*