



Charlotte Chi Omega Alumnae Association

Minutes: August 8, 2011

I. Welcome and introductions

- a. Samantha Starling, President, A.H. (present)
- b. Dara Rickles, Vice President, A.T.B. (absent)
- c. Becky Pietro, Secretary, A.K.A. (absent)
- d. Manisa Capling, Treasurer, A.N.V. (present)
- e. Emma Balmain, Membership Director, A.M. (present)
- f. Ronda Brooks, Philanthropy Director (absent)
- g. Cyndi Thilo, ARI director (absent)
- h. Nicole Solis, APH Co-Director (present)
- i. Barbara Stein, APH Co-Director (absent)
- j. Chantal Gerst, Collegiate Relations Director (absent)
- k. Elizabeth Ann Bond, IT Director (absent)
- l. Vacant, New Member Director (N/A)
- m. Vacant, Marketing Director (N/A)
- n. Molly Nass, Book Club Chair (present)
- o. Alli Gruntz, Lake Norman Subgroup Chair (present)
- p. Stephanie Hillcher, Lake Norman Subgroup Chair (absent)

II. Events/Socials

- a. **August – Shrimp Boil**; Sat., Aug. 20, 6 p.m. @ Sister Manisa Capling's home in south Charlotte. Live music is still being worked out for the event. The musician who performed at the Make-A-Wish event at Maggiano's has given a recommendation to Manisa and she'll handle the details. As an additional bonus, Manisa was able to arrange for a great discount on floral arrangements for the event. The board members chose from several designs featuring white carnations. Since the only dessert provided by the caterer is banana pudding, several of the board members have offered to make some other desserts. Manisa's daughter Lauren (a Chi Omega in training) asked to be allowed to set up a jewelry booth to sell owl necklaces she's made to raise money to adopt an owl at the Carolina Raptor Center. Everyone was more than happy to agree but asked if she could man her regular post at the Owl Tree to accept donations for the Chi Omega Foundation as well. Manisa assured everyone Lauren would be thrilled!
- b. **September – Owl Prowl**; Sat., Sept. 24, noon @ Carolina Raptor Center. Lake Norman Subgroup Chairs Sisters Alli Gruntz and Stephanie Hillcher have arranged for the event and lunch prior to the event. The Owl Prowl itself will include a tour of the aviaries and a private owl session in the amphitheater. Lunch and the entry fee will be free to all members as the first member event of the 2011-2012 year. Members are encouraged to bring their friends and families,

especially children. Non-member adults will be \$10; children \$5. Lunch will be a traditional picnic menu.

c. Subgroup Events

- i. **Lake Norman Subgroup** - Bowling night was great with four alumnae attending. Everyone managed to get a strike as well as a few gutter balls. Dinner followed at Galway Hooker Pub. There won't be a LKN event in September during the regular time at the first of the month with the Owl Prowl being the same month and in the area.
- ii. **Book Club** – Book Club continues to grow each week. Next month's book will be the classic, *The Great Gatsby*. The date is set for Tues., Sept. 13 @ 7 p.m. Location TBD
- iii. **Night Owls** – Next Night Owls will be Sat., Aug. 13, 7 p.m. at NC Music Factory's VGBG Beer Garden. Tentative date for next Night Owls will be Friday, Sept. 19.

III. Budget/Finances

- a. Our end of year balance is around \$1,500. \$1,000 of that will be used to establish the scholarship fund. Manisa and Samantha will look into the details on getting that set up. We will have our standard carry over amount to start the year and take care of the expenses due in the next month as the 2011-2012 dues start coming in.
- b. Next year will be the 75th anniversary of the Charlotte Chi Omega Alumnae Association. In order to have a celebration for that, we'll need to plan for the additional expense when preparing the budget.

IV. Membership

- a. Dues are now due for the 2011-2012 year and remain at \$40.
- b. Membership this year was down about 6 members from the prior year to only 80. It was hoped that 2010-2011 would reach 100. Each board member will be assigned a set of current members and will be reaching out to them in the coming weeks about rejoining the chapter.
- c. Each member will also be given the contact information for a member from the prior year that did not rejoin to see what we can do to create an atmosphere where they'll consider rejoining.
- d. It was suggested board members reach out to members through Facebook so they would be able to put a face with the name and make a more personal connection.

V. Marketing

- a. **Marketing Director** – Sister Cassie Carden (Sigma Lambda, Virginia Tech) will be serving as the new Marketing Director for the Chapter! She will be responsible for social media posts, messages, newsletters, etc.
Thanks, Sister Carden!
- b. Everyone was encouraged to help generate buzz about the chapter in marketing events on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

VI. Philanthropy

- a. **Walk for Wishes** – The Walk for Wishes will be Sept. 10 at Carowinds. The link to join the team will be sent out to Alumnae as well as the Collegiate Chapters. We currently have 14 team members and \$150 in donations. Everyone is encouraged to invite friends and family to participate. T-shirt designs were presented to decide which would be used for Team Chi Omega this year. The board selected a yellow one with the Alumnae and Collegiate chapters represented. A Paypal button will be set up on the Web site for purchasing. Since we are bound by IRS regulations to maintain our 501(c) status, the button will be linked to Samantha's Paypal account and she will give A.N.V. Manisa Capling access to her account for auditing. Proceeds will be transferred to the Chi Omega account for donation to Make-A-Wish once the shirts have been paid for.

VII. Alumnae Panhellenic

- a. Sister Nicole Solis attended her first meeting as the Chi Omega representative to the Alumnae Panhellenic. Dues are \$40 and due in October. The APH has a vacancy for a VP of Programming. Nicole is considering serving in that position.
- b. UNCC has 145 girls going through recruitment and is need of alumnae to assist with bid cards. However, they need alumnae of chapters not present on the UNCC campus. Nicole will check to see if none volunteer that Chi Omega will be allowed to participate alongside the other alumnae chapters that have active chapters at UNCC.
- c. Alpha Phi Charlotte Alumnae will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in Charlotte and would like to increase its membership from 40 to 60 members. Board members offered to provide tips on how our chapter recruits.
- d. It was suggested that meetings move to public restaurants instead of rotating amongst members' homes. Currently, attendees are required to bring a snack to share and that has been difficult for people coming straight from work. The group decided to leave it up to the hostess for the meeting to decide if she wanted a restaurant or her home.
- e. The Greek lofts were torn down at Queens to make room for a new Greek Village. It is projected to be finished in 7-10 years. Until then, Greeks will meet in the basement of a dorm.
- f. The Greek 101 event held over the summer was good but needs more attendees next year.

VIII. Web Site

- a. Sister Elizabeth Ann Bond has worked diligently to get the new Web site up and running and it looks great! Everyone is extremely happy with the new look. There are still a couple additions to make but most all of the site is complete. Board members suggested the links to documents and other sites be set to open in a new window rather than the current one and that the round buttons along the left side to the other pages be cardinal and straw instead of black. Snaps to Sister Bond for her great work and dedication!

IX. Other business

- a. The board discussed ways it could reinforce the great working relationship between the members, especially with there being several new members on the board. Since some of the members didn't get to attend the board retreat in January it was suggested we hold an informal retreat just for bonding and fun.

Samantha had to give her word there would be no work! Manisa offered up her mountain house that was the location of the first board retreat several years ago. The last weekend of September was suggested but dates will need to be discussed among everyone.

- b. Convention – Since alumnae can attend Convention as part-time delegates, the cost is relatively inexpensive. Samantha suggested arranging for a group of rooms be blocked for all Charlotte area alumnae who want to go to Convention 2012 in Phoenix. There was also discussion on the our chapter organizing/hosting an Alumnae only event after the regularly scheduled Convention programming one night.
- c. 75th year anniversary – Since 2012 will be the 75th anniversary of the Charlotte Chi Omega Alumnae Association, the board discussed having Eleusinia be a celebration of that. We would like to have members of the Governing Council, headquarters, our Regional Alumnae Director and the Chi Omega Foundation attend. Budgeting for this event will need to be a priority.

X. Next meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. Location TBD.