

Subject: Montana Alpha Chi Omega Newsletter for March 2013

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To: janebshort@yahoo.com;

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Volume 8, Issue 1

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Happy March! Happy Spring! Happy Easter!

Welcome to Nu Sigma Nu! This is our first newsletter of 2013. We had a very successful membership drive, with 14 returning members and 2 new members for a total of 16! I am pleased to introduce our two new members, Florence Wohlschlegel Black of Billings, and Antoinette "Toni" Canepa Scully of Ennis. You'll hear more about them later in the newsletter.

I hope you have had a wonderful winter. March is a very busy Alpha Chi month, what with Hera Day and National Ritual Celebration Week. I have included some suggestions for participating in these two Alpha Chi Omega events below.

Here's what's new with me.

I had arthroscopic knee surgery on December 14, and my recovery has gone very well. Thanks to some excellent physical therapy I received, I was skiing groomed slopes 2 weeks after surgery, and I was skiing everything I would normally ski 4-5 weeks after surgery. My knee feels completely normal now and don't even think about it any more. You can't do much better than that! I'm glad I had it done.

The skiing has been great in Big Sky this winter, particularly in February. Things have gotten a little spring-like recently, so I think my plan to head back to Nashville soon is a good one. We have a nice road trip planned. Along the way back to Nashville, we plan to do some skiing (in Idaho, Utah, and Arizona), watch an NCAA basketball tournament game in Salt Lake City, visit the Grand Canyon (my first time), and attend a golf academy in Phoenix in hopes of improving our golf games.

That's the "skinny" on me; now let me know what's going on with you! Happy March, Happy spring, happy Easter, and let's talk soon!

National Ritual Celebration Week

Alpha Chi Omega is proud to join with Phi Mu Fraternity and the many other Greek organizations for National Ritual Celebration Week, March 3-9, 2013! (These dates have already passed for us, but if you think about it, this could be an ongoing celebration.)

Collegians and alumnae are encouraged to take time each day to reflect on the meaning of Alpha Chi Omega Ritual and how that Ritual positively impacts each person's life.

The following are some suggestions for how you and/or your chapter can participate in National Ritual Celebration Week:

1. **Participate in the National Panhellenic Conference 'International Badge Day' on March 4, 2013.** Wearing your badge to work, on campus, to community gatherings, and for any other public outing not only honors Alpha Chi Omega, but gives you a chance to connect with other sorority women in your area and celebrate the history of women's fraternities.
2. **Use social media to share your love of our Ritual.**
3. Change your [Facebook profile picture](#), your [Twitter profile picture](#), and your [Facebook cover photo](#).
4. Post and tweet your sisterhood reflections and Alpha Chi Omega stories. Don't forget to tag [AlphaChiOmegaHQ](#); use #NRCW, #AXO, and #sisterhood; and post your pictures and thoughts to [Alpha Chi Omega's Facebook page](#).
5. **Organize a Hera Day activity** on March 1 or during National Ritual Celebration Week. If you are not a member of an active chapter, take time this week to give service to others.
6. **Connect with a sister.** Go to lunch. Have a phone date. Send a card. Send a text. Make time to reach out to someone and tell her why you are glad she is your sister. If you have regular conversations with sisters, take time this week to talk about the common bond you share with your closest Alpha Chi Omega friends.
7. **Follow 'Coffee with Celia' on Facebook and Twitter.** [Coffee with Celia](#) has awesome thoughts, insights and pictures connected to our Ritual. Please share, comment and interact with Coffee with Celia throughout the week and encourage your sisters to do the same.
8. **Reflect on the meaning of the Alpha Chi Omega's Symphony and how you personify Alpha Chi Omega's values of wisdom, devotion and achievement.** Re-read the [Symphony](#) at least one time during the week. How does it relate to where you are in life right now? How are you actively living the values set forth in the Ritual of Alpha Chi Omega?

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Jane Short, President

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Happy Belated Birthday!

Antoinette "Toni" Canepa Scully -
February 8

Happy Birthday!

Jane Bonnell Short - April 1
Leslee Purdy Haylett - April 13
Karin Mikkelsen Utzinger - April 22
Helen Hales Elliott - April 23

Members

Anne Freeman Ball, Billings
Florence Wholschlegel Black, Billings
Helen Hales Elliott, Conrad
Leslee Purdy Haylett, Helena
Marilyn Blanche Hertz, Anaconda
Susan McCarl Hills, Billings
Rosemarie Jager Iverson, Kalispell
Darla Davis Jones, Billings
Virginia Henningsen Lisac, Butte
Susie Webb Park, Kalispell

9. **Perform the rededication of the bond ceremony.** Collegians, invite area alumnae to your collegiate chapter meeting and perform the ceremony for both collegians and alumnae. Alumnae, if you do not live near a collegiate chapter, if you do not have an alumnae chapter, or if your alumnae chapter does not have a meeting scheduled this week, take a minute to reflect on your initiation ceremony.

Bonnie Smith Rigg, Kalispell
Antoinette "Toni" Canepa Scully, Ennis
Sara Lauer Sheldon, Missoula
Jane Bonnell Short, Big Sky
Kristin Hagwell Stayner, Missoula
Karin Mikkelsen Utzinger, Bozeman

Our Website and Facebook Page

We are getting with the times! If you haven't already, get on and check out our new website:

NuSigmaNuMontana.weebly.com. In case you didn't know, you can now pay your dues with a credit card via Paypal from our website. We also have a direct link to the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation's website, so you can make donations to the Foundation there. We have our old newsletters posted, as well as a large photo gallery.

I am also planning to start a Facebook page for our chapter so we can keep in touch easier and let each other know what's happening, both with our chapter and in our personal lives. Watch for an invitation to join soon! I would like to have one other member as an administrator in case something happens to me, so if you are willing to help out, let me know.

Next Event!

Stay tuned for more information!

Website

Keep on top of things by regularly visiting our website,
NuSigmaNuMontana.weebly.com.

Member News

When I received a Christmas card and letter from former member **Noelle Clark Kent** of Billings, I now understand why I haven't heard from her in a while! From Noelle: "On October 5th we were graced with our identical twin girls, Julie Ann and Margaret Ann (Maggie)! Julie was born first at 8:02 a.m., weighing in at just 5 lbs., 4 oz. and a length of 18 inches; while Maggie came at 8:04 a.m., weighing 6 lbs. and measuring 19 ½ inches. Maggie dealt with some minor jaundice issues from the get go but was done after 8 days. Both are doing very well and growing quite quickly. Our tiny little babies are growing so fast." The twins join big brother Maxwell, in 6th grade, and big sister Frannie, age 3. I think we have our first Alpha Chindness recipient for 2013 lined up here! A photo of the family is included below.



I had the pleasure of skiing at Bridger Bowl with **Karin Mikkelsen Utzinger**, her husband Robert, and her daughter Tia, all of Bozeman, this winter. Robert has unfortunately been diagnosed with prostate cancer and needs our prayers. He has a positive attitude and is staying active, and he's a fantastic skier, so for now the outlook is good for him. I think we have our second Alpha Chindness recipient for 2013 here! Karin, please keep us posted on Robert's recovery progress.

Jerry Park, the wonderful husband of **Susie Webb Park** of Kalispell, has been in and out of the hospital since September with prostate cancer and needs our prayers. So does Susie. Our chapter sent Jerry and Susie flowers for Christmas.

A memorial service was held for former member **Phyllis Seeley Burroughs** on March 13 at Blessed John Paul II Catholic Church in Bigfork. Our chapter sent flowers. Phyllis passed away on November 21, 2012 of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. I had the pleasure of meeting her several years ago. She contributed several poems to our newsletter and was a truly special woman. She will be missed.

Here is some information on new member **Florence Wohlschlegel Black** of Billings: "Graduated from University of Idaho in 1951, married 3 March 1951, 3 children, John (Jan. '52), Susan (March '53), Allen (Sept. '54). We spent 30 years in the Army, retiring in 1977. Moved to Idaho Falls until Nov. 2010. Moved to Billings (Mission Ridge) Nov. 2010. We have 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren." Welcome, Florence! She has been a member of Alpha Chi Omega for 64 years!!

Meet our other new member, **Antoinette "Toni" Canepa Scully**: "I grew up in Baraboo Wisconsin. I met my husband (a Sigma Chi) at University of Wisconsin in Madison. John was born and raised in Ennis, Montana. We have lived in Bozeman, MT, Denver, CO, and Seattle, WA. I am an interior designer, my husband, an attorney. We are both retired, have 4 grandchildren (our 2 daughters live in Novato, CA and Des Moines, IA) and are living in Ennis where we are both involved in volunteer work." Toni is a 45 year member of Alpha Chi Omega. Welcome, Toni!

Below is a photo from **Kristin Hagwell Stayner** of Missoula and her family, from her beautiful Christmas card.



Area Social Chairmen

Susie Webb Park has come up with a great idea that I would like to implement in our chapter. Because our chapter encompasses the whole State of Montana, it is so difficult for me to personally organize events in different parts of the state, and it is so difficult for members to travel to these events, Susie suggested that we break up the state into four areas and have a social chairman for each area. The social chairman can organize several events per year for that area, so that members won't have to travel so far to events, and so that we can have more events per year. As a guideline, Susie suggests planning activities for October (Founder's Day), March (Hera Day), and August (to kick off "Rush Week".) Susie has volunteered to be the Social Chairman for the Flathead area. Leslee Purdy Haylett has volunteered to be the Social Chairman for the Helena/Butte area. Karin Mikkelsen Utzinger has volunteered to help with the Bozeman area. I am still looking for a volunteer for the Billings area. My only stipulation is that the Social Chairmen do something (inactivity is not acceptable), keep me informed of what they do (before and after), and provide me with photos to document the events. Every member must be included in an area; I don't want anyone to be left out. I am hoping that this strategy will result in more Alpha Chi Omega activities statewide, greater interest, better retention of our members, and more new members. If you would like to volunteer to be a Social Chairman for your area, please contact me! Thank you, Susie, for your great idea!!! Let me know what YOU think of this idea. If you're not sure which area you belong to, please let me know. Please communicate with your social chairman!

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