

History

Delta Theta Chi was founded in 1920 by seven young women who met in Chicago while engaged in post-graduate studies. Conceiving the idea of forming an adult organization based on principles broader than those of the undergraduate sorority, they formed Delta Theta Chi Sorority for the purpose of furthering mutual development in friendship and culture.

The organization maintained its identity but developed no history and attained no growth until after its incorporation in 1930. The original charter was granted in the State of Delaware to the founders, who established Delta Theta Chi as a non-stock, non-profit fraternal organization whose purposes were declared to be “the promotion of cultural education; the fostering of personal development and good citizenship; and, through establishing a nationwide fellowship, the enjoyment of contact with those of similar purposes and ideals.”

The national officers, desiring to expand the organization to national proportions and to develop an adequate educational program which would further the cultural purposes of the Sorority, adopted a program of adult education outlined by the University Forum. The Forum assisted the Sorority during its formative years in both its educational and its expansion programs.

In 1936, the Board of Directors, still composed of the original founders, resigned its powers to a new Board composed of younger members who had shown both national vision and executive abilities. The new board, in its desire to establish Delta Theta Chi as an entirely self-governing organization, eliminated all outside assistance and created a national office, under the supervision of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The following year, in order to forever establish the legal identity of the organization, the original charter was dissolved, and “Delta Theta Chi Sorority” was granted a charter under a special Act of Congress in the District of Columbia.

Administration of Business

The Constitution of Delta Theta Chi as adopted at the first National Convention in June, 1953, delegates the executive power of the sorority to a National Executive Council (the NEC). The NEC consists of the National President, the National Vice President, the National Trustees (one from each organized province), and the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer, who is appointed by the Council and is an ex-officio member of the NEC.

The business of the national organization is carried out in the Office of the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer, which is maintained in the home city of the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Each Province is guided by its Executive Board, which directs the general activities of its membership. And like the national organization, each province has its Constitution and Bylaws, which conform to the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Each Chapter is guided by its officers, who direct the members at the local level. The chapter has its Constitution and Bylaws, which conform to both National and Province Constitution and Bylaws.

Membership

Membership in Delta Theta Chi Sorority consists of women 18 years of age or older, interested in the promotion of cultural education, the fostering of personal development, and the enjoyment of social contact with those of similar purposes and ideals.

Delta Theta Chi members wear the Delta Theta Chi badges, each of which has its special significance.

Initiation fee and National dues are set out in the National Constitution and Bylaws. Provinces and Chapters determine their unit's dues.

Delta Theta Chi Sorority



Educational Programs

Community Service

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Educational Programs

In that continuing education was the original purpose of our organization, educational programs are offered at the chapter, province and national levels.

An Educational Program Outline, composed by the National Education Committee, is distributed to the chapters by the National Executive Council. Planned in great detail, the outline offers program ideas from the traditional cultural realms of art, music and literature, but also includes today's internet arena. The chapter is free to incorporate the outline suggestions into its educational programs, or it may choose to devise its own set of programs.

Chapters strive to make the program meetings meaningful, informative and fun! Guest speakers or sorority members prepare and present the educational programs. Members are not only enriched by the program content, but find that presenting a program is beneficial, in that it provides a practical opportunity for public speaking.

A year's list of chapter programs might include—

- Financial Planning & Creative Retirement
- A Dietitian's Plan for Healthy Living
- A book review: *Eleanor Roosevelt as I Knew Her*, Mollie Somerville, author
- Music and biography of Billie Holiday
- A survey of the artwork of Grandma Moses
- A theater play
- A visit to a local museum or art gallery

The importance of continuing education is expressed in the national motto of Delta Theta Chi Sorority:

Non progredi est regredi

Community Service

The national organization has adopted Literacy and Breast Cancer Awareness for philanthropic purposes and encourages each chapter in every province to choose its own method of participation in these causes.

Chapters and individual members are involved in various community services and share their ideas with the membership through the national newsletter of Delta Theta Chi—the *National Pleiad*, and on the Delta Theta Chi Sorority web site—www.deltathetachi.org.

Chapter involvement in Community Service includes—

- Participation in and/or sponsorship of “Walk/Race for the Cure”
- Donations to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation and other breast cancer awareness programs
- Literacy programs (tutoring or reading to children)
- Collection and donation of food labels to local elementary schools for the purchase of computers and school supplies
- Book donations to local libraries and schools
- Donations of classroom supplies to local schools
- Donations to women's shelters
- Donations of food baskets to needy families
- Awarding scholarships to college-bound students

Chapter skills are matched to the needs of the local community. Opportunities for involvement in community service are wide and varied.

Scholarships

A National Scholarship Fund, which grows with contributions from individuals and from chapters, provides funding for no fewer than three scholarships annually. Applicants must be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college, and scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement and evidence of financial need.

Additionally, the provinces have their separate scholarship funds and distribute scholarships according to their province rules and procedures. Numerous chapters award scholarships to students in the local community, as well.

Fellowship

The success of Delta Theta Chi Sorority, and its growth, are due in large measure to the spirit of cooperation found in our Sisterhood. This is reflected in each committee, in each Chapter, in each Province and in the National Executive Council.

Chapter social events—picnics, buffet suppers, holiday parties—often include spouses or guests. Annual Province Conclaves/Conventions, and biennial National Conventions all provide opportunities for members to gather in fellowship, to make new friends, and to embrace old friends. Delta Theta Chi Sorority is unique in the close friendships of its members, and sisters from many chapters have enjoyed long lasting friendships with sorority sisters within their own province, as well as with sisters in other provinces across the country.

Contact:
Phone:
E-mail: