

*Could you tell me the background of today's Province Meetings?* During the next few months, Kappas in each of the Fraternity's 17 provinces will meet "to elect province officers, to provide leadership training, to discuss matters of mutual interest and to make recommendations to the Fraternity Council." (Fraternity *Bylaws*) Council officers will be present at these meetings, which are considered to be of great value to Kappa Kappa Gamma as a whole. The high regard in which Province Meetings are held today did not always exist. Although the Fraternity was first divided into provinces in 1881, no formal provision for meetings was made until over half a century had passed.

The first gathering, in 1885, was called a sub-convention, of two chapters only, Kappa and Xi, in Hillsdale, Mich. Chapters in three of the Fraternity's four provinces met spasmodically between 1891 and 1901. The next 18 years were devoid of province conventions. Iota Province was responsible for the next activity, with Beta Pi as hostess chapter in Seattle. Seven of Kappa's 10 provinces met during the 1923-1925 biennium, but it wasn't until 1931 that all provinces (then nine in number) held meetings during the same year. Since then, province conventions have taken place regularly in the years alternating with Fraternity Conventions, with the exception of 1933, because of the hardships of the Depression, and during the wartime years of 1943 and 1945. In 1970, the term "Convention" was changed to "meeting" to allow for greater flexibility of format.

Some comments from the past regarding Province Meetings: The 1925 report of the first National Director of Provinces, Georgia Hayden-Lloyd Jones, *Wisconsin*: "Among the provinces, Alpha, Gamma and Theta Provinces have held conventions. Several others are intending to hold theirs at the opening of the school year. The three province conventions held have been more than usually successful, and it is very encouraging to a council member to note the number of questions of importance to the Fraternity nationally that the provinces are considering and the suggestions of policy that come in from them. It bodes well for the strength of Kappa." Rheva Ott Shryock's, *Pennsylvania*, 1934-1935 Director of Provinces report: "Province conventions were put to a vote of the chapters at the beginning of the year, but while the majority voted to discontinue them, the minority was so loud in its praises of what the conventions accomplished, that it was felt best to continue them this year, and then, if necessary, to take another vote on the question at the next national convention. I believe everyone has been amazed at the enthusiasm with which the delegates have returned from their province convention... all, everyone, asking that they be continued."

Province presidents, appointed by Council from lists submitted by the chapters, first took office in 1915. In 1917, province vice presidents were added. Their titles were changed to Province Directors of Chapters (PDCs) and Province Directors of Alumnae (PDAs) in 1954. A Fraternity Director of Provinces was added to the Council in 1924. This office was replaced in 1940 by Director of Alumnae, Director of Chapter Organization and Director of Chapter Programs. The latter two were combined into one office, Director of Chapters, in 1946.

The evolution of the geographic location of provinces provides another interesting aspect of Fraternity organization. There were only three provinces in 1881. Delta Province was added in 1890, Epsilon and Zeta in 1906. The Fraternity map was redrawn in 1914 to include four more provinces. Two more appeared in 1930. The next change occurred 40 years later after the Centennial Convention when the total was increased to 16 provinces. Rho, the 17<sup>th</sup> province, was added in 1979.

Chapters and alumna groups have, of course, been affected by these structural changes. UC Berkeley, *Pi Deuteron*, when it was simply Pi Chapter, was a part of Gamma Province in 1881. Since that time it has found itself subsequently in Delta, Zeta, Kappa and Pi. And there must have been some confusion in Alpha and Beta Provinces between 1914 and 1923, when their territories were interchanged.

Important maps from various periods of the Fraternity's development were destroyed in the 1965 Headquarters fire. Perhaps there are similar maps in chapter or province officers' archives. If anyone has access to *any* of these historic maps, will you please contact Fraternity Archivist Kylie Towers at Fraternity Headquarters, [ktowers@kkg.org](mailto:ktowers@kkg.org)?