



ΓΑΩ

Vision to
REALITY

NATIONAL CONVENTION

2021 REGISTRATION PACKET
June 26th & 27th






MESSAGE FROM THE

Convention
PLANNING
COMMITTEE

Rifeta Badic-Grady, Vice President
Luhui Whitebear, Vice President of Programming
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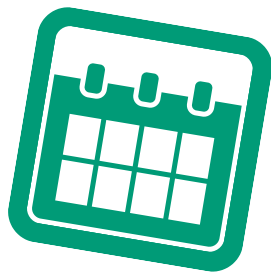


As the pandemic develops and mutates, it is our time to adapt as well. Coronavirus has postponed our National Convention a few times already. Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet each other in Houston this summer. Instead we will meet virtually on June 26th & 27th, 2021 via Zoom and other software that will allow us to connect with each other from a distance. The National Convention Planning Committee's main priority is that we deliver a safe and beneficial experience, smooth registration process, developmental breakout sessions and an opportunity to network with members from all over the country.

In this packet you will find the revised schedule, registration procedures, registration cost, and additional information about convention. All items in this packet are subject to change at the discretion of the National Executive Board (NEB) and the National Convention Planning Committee.

We appreciate all your input and feedback. We look forward to seeing you virtually. Join us June 26-27th, 2021. Again, we cannot express our gratitude to you, our membership, enough and we thank you for your patience.

If you have any additional questions, please email programming@gammaalphaomega.com.



CONTENTS

- CONVENTION INFO
- CONVENTION SCHEDULE
- PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE
- WHITE ROSE AWARDS
- FEATURED SPEAKERS
- VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT
- FORMS
- POLICIES
- FAQs

Convention INFORMATION

Gamma Alpha Omega hosts National Convention on opposite years as regional conferences. The Sorority's 23rd National Convention will take place virtually on June 26th & 27th. All information will be posted to the GuideBook app, available on Apple and Android App stores. Our theme for the 2021 convention is "Vision to Reality". The virtual registration is \$200 and includes promotional items that will be mailed to attendees.

The conference will be presented virtually ONLY and will still include workshops on personal and professional development, creating and continuing a legacy through Gamma Alpha Omega, and bonding with sisters from across the country and around the globe. In this packet you will find registration information, more on the conference location, payment options, and a brief overview of the conference.

If you have any questions, you can email programming@gammaalphaomega.org



JUNE 26-27 2021
NATIONAL CONVENTION

REGISTER TODAY!
<http://bit.ly/NC2021Virtual>

CONVENTION *schedule*

While virtual, majority of our sessions will be live. If you'd like to present a presentation or submit a previously recorded video to be included in our already scheduled programs, you can contact programming@gammaalphaomega.org

This schedule was created to provide a balance of educational sessions, while also creating a virtual space to make connections to sisters worldwide. Each day will begin at 10AM CST and will close by 4:30PM. An evening workout will also be available for any participants to join in.



- Keynote Speaker
- Hermandad Virtual Luncheon
- Breakout Sessions
- Virtual Commencement
- Closing



- World HIV Testing Day & Morning Workshop
- HOD Meeting



Download Guidebook where all sessions, speaker information, how to join, and sponsors will be listed.



PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE

The reason for the date change from an earlier weekend in June, also has something to do with HIV & AIDS Awareness Philanthropy. June 27th is also World HIV Testing Day. Here's a few ways you and your chapter can support this initiative.

GET TESTED

First observed on June 27, 1995, National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) is a day to encourage people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment. We will host an educational webinar on June 27th during convention. We encourage all of you to know your status and get tested.

For more information and to find a testing site near you, visit this HIV.gov website:

<https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/hiv-testing-day>

DONATE

We encourage each chapter to donate \$100 to the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. We are collecting monetary donations via GCM, where it will be donated as a lump sum at once on behalf of all chapters of Gamma Alpha Omega. You should see it on your chapter's account under the contribution tracker.

For more information on the Elizabeth Glaser Foundation, visit

<https://www.pedaids.org/>

TAKE ACTION



WHITE ROSE Awards

Eligibility

Awards are awarded to chapters or individuals. Each award requires the nominee to meet the following requirements:

- Must be in good standing with chapter and Sorority
- Must be active members of their chapter.

The White Rose Awards Ceremony will occur virtually and will honor the nominees and winners. Individuals or chapters who go above and beyond to better our Sorority and/or community and meet eligibility requirements may apply for the following awards:

- Collegian of Excellence Award
- "Gamma por Vida" Alumna Award
- Emerging Leader Award
- Rising Alumna Award
- Servant Leader Award
- Diamond Chapter Award
- Collegiate Academic Achievement Award
- Philanthropic Excellence Award

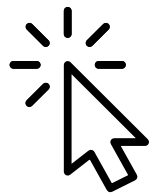
APPLY NOW!!

Nominations/applications are due on April 11th, 2021 at 11:59PM at this link: <http://bit.ly/WRA20App>





FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dede Gamez

@dededoesit_

Keynote Speaker for Virtual Commencement

At 29 years old, born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, this mother is also a writer, part time singer, and community advocate. After graduating college she noticed a gap for multicultural women. "I believe that New Age minority women are stuck in between two cultures and need an extra push to pursue their passion! I want to be an example for others and help them see that it's not so scary after all. I always try new things to pave the way for others. SHE se puede!"

Adelante Mami is a lifestyle movement, empowering New Age Latina women to continue moving forward and follow their passion! We offer motivation and tools for success through conferences, workshops, social events, service to the community and an inspirational podcast hosted on the iheartradio app.

Adelante Mami

@adelantemami

adelantemami.com



Maricela Valenzuela

@Marii_val13

Opening Keynote Alumna Speaker

Maricela Valenzuela was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. In 2013 she moved to Corvallis, OR to attend Oregon State University. She joined Kappa Chapter as part of Mu class in Winter 2014. She graduated from Oregon State University in 2018 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. She works at Jacob's engineering, where she has worked for the past three years. During her free time she enjoys spending quality time with her sister and nephews, as well as staying involved with the local undergraduate and alumnae chapters.



VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

This tradition started in 2020, to recognize graduating members of Gamma Alpha Omega. We are continuing the tradition this year and including it as programming during the virtual National Convention. The event will begin with a virtual version of the Alumna ceremony. If you will have nonmembers attend with you, please be sure that the first 15-20 minutes you attend on your own. Our ceremonies should remain confidential to members only. Commencement will be recorded and sent to membership. Closed captioning will also be available.

All Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 graduates who would like to participate, please fill out the form below. Virtual commencement includes baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral graduates.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Submit your RSVP & photo to this form:

<https://forms.gle/ndfXyEXs2wLRPBu1A>





CONVENTION FORMS

ALL CONVENTION FORMS ARE DUE 04/11/2021

- **Registration:** Register at this link for virtual convention!
<http://bit.ly/NC2021Virtual>
- **Virtual Commencement:** Anyone graduating is eligible to participate in the Virtual Commencement ceremony. Submit to this link: <https://forms.gle/ndfXyEXs2wLRPBu1A>
- **White Rose Awards:** Anyone in good standing is eligible to apply for the White Rose Awards. Apply at this link by 04/11: <https://forms.gle/52jUXJ4CUSGtcNMw6>
- **Attendance Excuse Form:** Any member can submit to the Attendance Excuse Form. If approved you will not be penalized. Please only submit the form if you are a required attendee: new member as of Spring 2018-Fall 2020 OR designated chapter delegate.
<https://forms.gle/2maqBANakCvsukxW6>
- **Refund Request Form:** Refund requests must be received by 4/11 to this form:
<https://forms.gle/HfymAmEKFLv8XhNL7> No email requests will be processed.
- **Transfer Registration:** To transfer your registration to another member, please complete this form:
<https://forms.gle/7XSQcCzk8T4NjdJB7>

Convention POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

Chapters are required to have a representative attend mandatory meetings and conventions: National Convention (including mandatory workshops), all House of Delegates meetings, Regional Convention and Monthly Regional Meetings and any other events deemed mandatory by the National Executive Board. Chapters are required to send one (1) representative per every five (5) Actives to National Convention. Each Alumnae Chapter shall be represented by their delegate and have one (1) vote during House of Delegates and business meetings held at National Convention.

Each eligible Regional Director shall be required to attend convention unless excused by her Vice President and funding is not available. No Regional Director shall have her way paid to National Convention if appointed after the convention registration deadline unless exception is made by National Executive Board.

Any member who has been activated since the previous convention will be required to attend the next National Convention per the new member policy and bylaws.

BUSINESS MEETING

In preparation for the Annual Business Meeting, the appropriate parties will submit materials to the Annual Business meeting packet, which will be sent to general membership at least 30 days prior to allow the House of Delegates adequate time to review. Additionally, the names of members who have passed away in the last year will be inducted into the Omega Chapter during convention. By the end of each convention, an evaluation sheet shall be circulated among the attendees for the purpose of learning their interests and attitudes.

FAILURE TO MEET ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Chapter(s) will lose voting privileges for the House of Delegates for the current year, as well as voting privileges at the subsequent National Convention. Chapter(s) will be fined per representative missing according to the fines schedule in the Policy Handbook. Failure to attend the subsequent National Convention will result in the Chapter's automatic suspension.

"Excuses are the building blocks to nothing, They serve as monuments to our inadequacies. Those who excel in them, seldom excel in anything else."

CONVENTION ETIQUETTE

Each of us has a responsibility to represent Gamma Alpha Omega in the best light. Etiquette is the art of knowing and using the appropriate behavior and protocol for different types of events. It means having good manners in dealings with others in order to show respect, kindness, and consideration. It is with this in mind that we ask all attendees to observe and abide by the following:

- Refrain from discussing confidential Gamma Alpha Omega business or information in public forums in any of the virtual platforms.
- Be kind and courteous to everyone at all times.
- Abide by the code of ethics, sorority policies, and federal/local law
- In the interest of ensuring everyone has a great experience at convention, no harassment, protesting, or unauthorized use of convention space will be allowed.

CONVENTION ATTIRE

Convention attire as it has been enforced in usual conventions will not be enforced. Business casual attire is not required. Instead, we would like to see everyone in paraphernalia. Wear your letters!

REFUND POLICY

If you register for convention as a new attendee the following refund schedule will apply.

Similarly to existing registrations, refund requests are also due 4/11:

- 24 Hours: 75%
- 7-30 days after: 50%
- More than 30 days: 25%
- After 4/11: 0%

Refund Requests.

For all requests, you can expect the National Convention Planning Committee to review refund requests and provide a response monthly. Your request is not processed until it is approved by the committee.

All requests must be submitted to this form by 04/11/2021.: <https://forms.gle/HfymAmEKFLv8XhNL7>

Transfer Requests

You can still transfer your registration to another member. This form is also due by 4/11/2021: <https://forms.gle/7XSQcCzk8T4NjdJB7>

Attendance Excuse Form

You

Frequently ASKED QUESTIONS

I paid my registration fee, is there anything else I need to do?

Be sure to download the GuideBook app on the app store on your mobile device. Our convention will be listed on the app and will include information that from this packet, speaker information, and more.

What if I am no longer able to attend?

You can make a request for a refund using the committee's form. Please review the refund policy listed in this document.

Will there be time to meet other sisters outside of my chapter/region?

Yes, several virtual events have been planned in order for membership from every chapter, membership status, and region to interact.

Will there be enough free time to avoid screen burn-out?

Yes, we planned the time accordingly for members to be able to take a break away from the screen. We have also included a few physical activities.

Are all parts of convention required for me to attend?

When you registered for convention, you indicated your participation in this event. Your attendance is only a portion of your participation and commitment to this event. HOD meetings are required meetings for chapter representatives.

Who can attend National Convention?

Any sister of Gamma Alpha Omega may attend convention events, regardless of standing and/or membership status. Alumnae, collegians, and inactive members may attend. Non-members are not allowed to attend sessions specific to membership.

I am a Diamond/Lifetime Alumnae, do I get anything for registration?

Lifetime alumnae will receive an additional gift with their registration.

Will there be any sales or discounts?

Sales will be posted to GCM and the official sorority Social Media. Be on the lookout for special events!

What happens to regionals?

Regional Retreats, formerly Regional Conferences, are postponed until 2022. If you or your chapter would like to be involved, please contact your Collegiate Regional Director (CRD).

Can I transfer my registration to someone else?

To transfer your registration to another member, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/7XSQcCzk8T4NjdJB7>

If you have any additional questions, please email programming@gammaalphaomega.org

Are inactive members required to attend?

No, but you are also welcome to attend if you are able to. If you are not enrolled in school or are classified as a mandatory inactive due to grades or GPA, you are not required to attend, even if you are a new member who has not attended before.

Are new members required to attend?

The policy states that all new members must attend the National Convention, if they have not attended the previous one. The last time we hosted convention was in 2018 in Milwaukee, WI.

What if I haven't attended a convention and I graduated or will graduate by the time for convention?

If you graduated in between conventions, you are not required to attend.

How many representatives will a chapter need to send to the National Convention?

Collegiate chapters should send 1 representative per 5 active members. Alumnae chapters should send 1 representative for their chapter.

What if I or another member are unable to attend?

Any member can submit to the Attendance Excuse Form. If approved you will not be penalized. Please only submit the form if you are a required attendee: new member as of Spring 2018-Fall 2020 OR designated chapter delegate.

Will we be penalized for not attending?

If your submission to the Attendance Excuse Form is approved by the National Convention Planning Committee, you will not be penalized. Anyone who is denied or fails to submit to the excuse form, should reference the fines in the Appendix of the Policy Handbook.

Why can't I get back a full refund?

Unfortunately, we still have financial obligations. As a hosting organization, there are cancellation fees we are still responsible for as well as things that were non-refundable. In other words, convention must go on and there are still costs needed to host a successful and meaningful convention.

When would be the next convention?

Planning for next convention has not yet been initiated. Assuming we would follow the every other year schedule, our next convention could be in 2023. It is still unclear what the world will look like, but once there is a clearer idea you will be notified. You may expect to see another virtual convention or you might see something in-person, in accordance with health organization guidelines. Many other factors will go into our decision for that as well. However, that decision will be communicated to you as details and plans are available.

Will there still be swag and promotional items that registered attendees can receive? How will we receive them?

Yes. You will get an email to confirm your mailing address so items may be mailed to you in time for convention.

When are excuse forms, refund requests, etc. due?

All convention forms are due by the end of day on April 11th, 2021.



GAMMA ALPHA OMEGA

CONFIDENCE. COURAGE. COMMITMENT. CHARACTER.

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