



TUCSON

SIGMA KAPPA 

CONVENTION 2020

Convention FAQs

Why was the 2020 in-person convention experience cancelled and the business meeting moved to an online format?

- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, national council voted to keep the health and safety of our attendees, staff and guests as the top priority. Transitioning the business meeting to a virtual format now allows us to focus on the immediate needs of our sisters, chapters and the Sorority as we navigate the pandemic and its associated economic impact. There are many unknown factors related to travel, social distancing and local and state restrictions that would have affected convention. National council, with support from the leadership of the Foundation and NHC, believes this is the best decision given the current situation.

Is national council authorized to decide to postpone or cancel a convention?

- Yes. According to the *Bylaws*, Article VIII, Section 4, "A regular National Convention shall be held biennially ... the time, date and place shall be determined by the National Council." After reviewing the current situation, national council unanimously approved the decision to move the convention business to an online format.

Was postponing considered?

- Yes, postponing was considered, but due to the contractual obligations of the Sorority and scheduled academic terms as well as the lack of clarity regarding the pandemic, it was not feasible to postpone.

Will an alternative in-person experience be offered?

- We know being connected to sisters is more important now than ever, and we are working on ways to gather virtually. NHQ staff is hard at work developing programming to be presented through a virtual platform, and we are looking at ways to celebrate our successes and continue some of our cherished traditions. Thank you for your patience as we create an alternative convention experience. Continue checking your email and monitoring Sigma Kappa's social media platforms for more details.

How will the business meeting be conducted?

- Sigma Kappa's *Bylaws* and the Maine Non-Profit Corporation statutes permit electronic meeting and voting. Members who are eligible to serve as delegates under Bylaw VIII.7.a will be sent information to register (at no cost) and then be provided additional information. The business meeting will be held on Saturday, June 20, time TBD.

How will national council be elected and installed?

- On April 15, the nominating committee announced that they had not received any nominations opposing the slated candidates. Under Bylaw VI.A.3.b, this allows the slated candidates to be elected by acclamation during the business meeting, meaning no actual vote is required. The 2020-2022 national council will be installed this summer either virtually or in person depending on recommendations for social gatherings by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

If public meeting bans are ended before the original convention dates, will we reconsider the in-person convention experience during the originally scheduled dates?

- Unfortunately, we will not be able to reconsider this decision. Planning and executing an in-person event of this magnitude takes several months, a mountain of resources and more work hours than we can count. We believe these resources will be better used to address the immediate needs of our members through our Pivot plan.

Have there been previous changes to the biennial convention schedule?

- Yes. From 1874–1913, conventions were held annually. Convention was held in 1915, and then moved to a biennial convention in even-numbered years beginning in 1918. During the Depression, the 1932 convention was postponed and conventions moved to a triennial cycle in 1933, 1936, 1939 and 1942. There was no convention due to World War II in 1944, but since that time, the Sorority has resumed its biennial meetings in even-numbered years.

How will my registration refund be issued?

- **Chapters:**
 - I paid with a credit card/Billhighway prepaid card.
 - Your full registration fee will be refunded to the original card used for payment.
 - My chapter paid via Billhighway/Send Money.
 - The chapter will be issued a refund in Billhighway for the full registration fee. Chapters may use this refund toward any fees owed or save it for the Fall academic term.
 - My collegiate chapter paid with a Billhighway check.
 - The chapter will be issued a refund in Billhighway for the full registration fee. Chapters may use this refund toward any fees owed or save it for the Fall academic term.

- I registered, but did not pay.
 - There is nothing for you to do, we will take care of cancelling your registration!
- **Individuals:**
 - I paid with a credit card.
 - Your full registration fee will be refunded to the original card used for payment.
 - I paid with a check.
 - A check for the full registration amount will be mailed to you at the address we have on file. Please check your [membership profile](#) to confirm your address is correct.
 - I registered, but did not pay.
 - There is nothing for you to do, we will take care of cancelling your registration!
- **All refunds will be processed by Friday, May 15.**
- If you would like to donate all or part of your registration fees to the Sigma Kappa Foundation, please email Shanelle Cunningham, accounts receivable specialist, at accountsreceivable@sigmakappa.org by **Friday, May 1.**

I already purchased my airfare, what do I do now?

- If the flight was booked independently, the attendee is responsible for directly contacting the airline to inquire about specific cancellation or change policies. Many airlines are currently waiving change fees.
- If the flight was booked through Canyon Creek, no action is needed as Canyon Creek will cancel the flights. Members will receive a credit for the total cost of the flight which can be used for future Sigma Kappa travel.

How will the 2020-2022 nominating committee be elected?

- On April 1, the 2018-2022 nominating committee opened the application process for the 2020-2022 nominating committee, as described in Bylaw VII.1.d. Applications are due by May 1. Those members who are eligible to serve as delegates under Bylaw VIII.7.a will receive additional information on how the district caucus elections will be conducted.

How will chapters, corporations and individuals receive awards?

- Recognizing collegiate chapters, corporations, alumnae chapters and individuals that have excelled over the last biennium is important to Sigma Kappa. We are exploring opportunities to present awards, honor the work and celebrate with recipients, so please stay tuned!

What if I still want to gather with sisters this summer once the public bans are lifted?

- Although we will not officially gather in Tucson this summer, it does not prevent sisters from gathering informally or socially once the stay at home restrictions are lifted in your city/state. We ask that you follow all local and national guidelines, as well as those provided by the CDC, to guide your planning. Be sure to share your experiences and photos with us using the hashtag #SKLiveWithHeart on social media and sending photos to photos@sigmakappa.org.

Will there still be a district challenge fundraising competition to support the Sigma Kappa Foundation?

- Absolutely! Gifts to the Foundation are critical to serving our members' needs now more than ever. We will roll out details in June.

What will happen with Pre-Con?

- The Pre-Con is being postponed. We are looking into the possibility of holding the event this fall. Selected participants will be notified as more information becomes available.

Will 2020 Colby Award recipients and honor initiates still be honored this year?

- The 2020 Colby Award recipients will still be honored this year. Although we will not be able to celebrate these sisters in person, we will be sharing more about their incredible accomplishments on social media in the coming months.
- Staff is working with the honor initiate to determine when and where her initiation will take place.

How will the Foundation and National Housing Corporation (NHC) handle specific entity business that typically takes place at the Sigma Kappa convention?

- The NHC will offer online programming for housing volunteers throughout the summer and fall. Be sure to check in with the district's assigned housing coordinator for dates, times and topics.
- The NHC Annual Meeting will be held virtually for all voting members of the NHC. The election of the 2020-22 NHC Board of Directors will be conducted at the Annual Meeting.
- Sigma Kappa Foundation does not conduct entity business at convention; however, we will be offering virtual education and opportunities for our donors through the summer and into the fall to replace what we would have conducted.

Will this impact the timeline for future conventions?

- No. The dates and location for convention 2022 will be announced on June 20.

I have a question not addressed in this document.

- Please email any additional questions to info@sigmakappa.org.