

Omega Phi Alpha Convention 2007

Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk

July 25-28

Hello Ladies! The following information should address questions you may have regarding convention. If you have any more questions, don't hesitate to email convention@omegaphialpha.org.

Our home for Convention 2007 will be the Wyndham on the Jacksonville Riverwalk. It is located 20 minutes from the airport and has recently been renovated. The hotel is located on the Riverwalk of the St. John's River in downtown Jacksonville. It is across the river from Jacksonville's famous Landing, which is full of shops and restaurants. Hotel amenities include high speed internet access, hairdryers, daily newspapers, room service, an outdoor swimming pool and fitness center. To get free wireless internet access you can join Wyndham ByRequest for free at Wyndham's website. The hotel is also handicap accessible. Our meeting rooms will be on the first floor.

This year is the 40th anniversary of Omega Phi Alpha, and we are hoping to have the best turnout ever at convention! As an incentive, those that register and pay before May 15th will receive a free convention T-shirt, designed by Epsilon sister, Mandi Humphrey. The shirts will be red short-sleeved with dark brown writing. To coincide with the theme "Service is our Greatest Treasure," the shirts will feature a treasure map on the back, with service being the ultimate treasure. The final T-shirt design is on our website, so go check it out!

Since we are turning the big 4-0, 2007 Convention's focus will be on improving ourselves and our chapters in every sense. Not that we aren't doing a great job, but every year there is more for us to learn and Convention provides the perfect setting for us to learn from each other and gives the chapters an opportunity to discuss what has been successful for them. Over time things change, and we need to be willing to accept these changes and follow. In light of this, we will be hosting workshops that will provide the delegates with valuable information to take back to their chapters regarding rush, membership, service, district cooperation, and more. The Council Meetings and dinner will prepare officers to return to their chapters in the Fall with great new ideas.

As far as improving ourselves, we will have a Women's Health workshop that will address issues specifically related to us girls. This will also provide an opportunity for the attendees to ask questions in a comfortable environment. We are also hoping to set up Yoga at least twice during convention with the yoga studio just blocks from our hotel. Since we can't guarantee a rate just yet, it's not included on the registration form, but look for a sign up when you arrive in Jacksonville.

(Fees should be around \$6) If you think you would be interested in participating, please email convention@omegaphialpha.org. Once we know the details for a service project, which we hope to arrange with the Jacksonville Women's Center to tie in with our President's Project of Women's Health, we will provide them via the national website.

We also want to honor our wonderful alumnae during convention and to do so will be having an alumna lunch reception on Saturday afternoon. This reception will be for all convention attendees, active and alumna. We hope to have a wonderful turnout to help us recognize those alumnae that have helped create and shape our organization. Without them we wouldn't be the organization we've become. We know most alumnae must work during the week, so we hope by having the luncheon on Saturday they can attend. The luncheon is included in the registration fee, so there is no additional charge.

Our hotel is located on the beautiful St. John's River within a lively business district with numerous restaurants within a few blocks of the hotel. Since it is a business area, many places close at 5:00 pm. However, there are options across the river for dinner. Since everyone will not have transportation in Jacksonville, there are 2 ways of getting across the river. The first is the Skyway, which is cheap at only \$.35 each way. But does take approximately 12 minutes to get across the river, and then you will walk to your final destination. The other route is the river taxi, though it is a bit more expensive at \$5 per round trip. It provides a peaceful and short ride, taking only 3-4 minutes to get across the river. You will be dropped off at Jacksonville Landing, containing great shopping and restaurants, with over 8 places to dine.

This year's Banquet will be done a little differently since we received feedback last year that attendees would like banquet to be offsite. It's no coincidence that the Wyndham is located on the same grounds as the famous Chart House restaurant (<http://www.chart-house.com/>). This restaurant offers a fine dining experience and a breathtaking view of the St John's River. For \$50 you will be able to experience one of the entrees (listed on the registration form) as well as bread and butter, garlic mashed potatoes, and access to the Chart House's incredible Salad Bar. After this gourmet dinner, we'll return to the hotel for an awards reception where desserts and drinks will be served. The reception costs are included in the Banquet fee.