



Psi Iota Xi

125 Years of People, Purpose & Passion



Psi Iota Xi January 2022 Newsletter

Greetings!

A Message from National President Andrea Niedenthal

Happy New Year!!

2022 brings with it a great accomplishment for our organization as we celebrate 125 years of Psi Iota Xi. I hope as many of you can attend a portion of our celebration at convention this year in Muncie, IN, June 24-26th.

This month we are going to highlight the 1950's. Projects that were supported where the Ball State Teachers College (Summer Boarding Clinic for Speech & Hearing), Indianapolis Speech and Hearing Center (Speech & Hearing Kindergarten), Washington DC Hearing Society, Symphony Endowment Funds, and Hoosier Art Salon. We continued to support scholarships for Indiana University Psychiatric Social Workers,



Some interesting history: Mrs. Spencer Tracy spoke at the 1951 Convention in Columbus, OH. She spoke about difficulties and attempted solutions of raising a deaf child. Through her work with her deaf son, John she helped start the John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles. In 1952 a Psi Iota Xi Choir was started by Past Grand President Mrs. Joseph Reichart. In 1953 the Charity Fund was changed to Philanthropic Fund. From 1954-1959 we continue to increase donations to our philanthropic projects of speech and hearing therapy; and scholarships and our cultural activities centering around the Indianapolis Symphony and Hoosier Art Salon.

Our organization grew in the 1950's by twenty-five chapters. The following chapters were installed in the 1950's:

- Gamma Mu – West Lafayette, IN – 1950
- Gamma Nu – Brownsburg, IN – 1950
- Gamma Xi – Crawfordsville, IN – 1951
- Gamma Omicron – Montpelier, OH – 1952
- Gamma Pi – Indianapolis, IN – 1952
- Gamma Rho – Linton, IN – 1952
- Gamma Sigma – South Bend, IN – 1953
- Gamma Tau – Marion, IN – 1954
- Gamma Upsilon – Wolcott, IN – 1955
- Gamma Phi – North Manchester, IN – 1955
- Gamma Chi – Warsaw, IN – 1955
- Gamma Psi – Danville, IL – 1956
- Gamma Omega – Tipton, IN – 1956
- Zeta Alpha – Sellersburg, IN – 1957
- Zeta Beta – Anderson, IN – 1957
- Zeta Gamma – Fort Branch, IN – 1957
- Zeta Delta – Montpelier, IN – 1958
- Zeta Epsilon – Bargersville, IN – 1958
- Zeta Zeta – Elkhart, IN – 1958
- Zeta Eta – Southport, IN – 1958
- Zeta Theta – Niles, MI – 1959
- Zeta Iota – Louisville, KY – 1959
- Zeta Kappa – Whiting, IN – 1959
- Zeta Lambda – Connersville, IN – 1959
- Zeta Mu – Jasper, IN - 1959

Until next month - Always remember the People before us, the Purpose that drives us, and the Passion within us. Please celebrate your chapter and members during this year of commemoration.

Loyally,

Andrea Niedenthal
National President
Zeta Tau, Milroy, IN

Indiana School for the Deaf

On December 10th, 2021 members of our Executive Board met with members of Iota Upsilon, and toured the Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) in Indianapolis, IN. The purpose of our visit was to gain a better understanding of the deaf community.

We were able to see how classrooms are set up for students to learn and participate. Desks are arranged in a semi-circle for students to see each other and their teacher. The teacher will remain in front of the room and they use a camera for students to see what they are signing in case their back is to the class.

We found out that 60-70% of the teachers at ISD are deaf themselves, and those that aren't use ASL to communicate. ISD has 300-325 students, and about 70 of those live outside of Indianapolis. Most deaf families with students attending ISD live near Indianapolis so they can be close to their students. Some students as young as kindergarten will choose to leave their families through the week and stay on campus. Typically, there are 8-10 kids in each class.

ISD is 100% accessible meaning they will not turn a deaf child away. They believe ASL should be the first language taught and if a child/family chooses to learn to speak/hear they will also assist with their learning, but ASL is primarily taught. We noticed several children at the school with cochlear implants.

National Council looks forward to continuing our relationship with our Iota Upsilon sisters and plans are in motion to have a Deaf Workshop at convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickie Hansen
National Secretary
Upsilon, Greenfield, IN



12 REASONS TO LEARN ASL
• AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE •

- Easily communicate **UNDERWATER**
- Speak right through a **CLOSED WINDOW** and still be understood.
- You can talk when your **MOUTH is FULL**
- Talk across a **CROWDED ROOM** without yelling.
- Understand and help end **AUDISM**
- Quietly chat at the **MOVIES** without being rude.
- Learn a language that's **UNIQUE VISUAL SPATIAL & GESTURAL**
- COUNT to TEN** and **HIGHER** on just **ONE** hand.
- It's a **3D** language so **30** classes are **REQUIRED**.
- Satisfy your **FOREIGN LANGUAGE** requirement.
- It will never be **TOO LOUD or TOO QUIET** to sign to someone.

Get to know some wonderful people in the **DEAF COMMUNITY**
(PROBABLY THE BEST REASON OF ALL!)



Hoosier Art Salon Paintings

For many years two Patron Memberships were purchased each year from the Psi Iota Xi Project Funds for the National President and the National Project Chairman. In addition, three paintings were purchased and were awarded, by drawings at the National Convention: one chapter from the Northern, one from the Central and one from the Southern Districts. This continued to all active chapters, at that time had received a painting. In 2011 Iota Tau received the last painting. The paintings that chapters received were to be hung in a public place, such as a school, library, bank, etc.

This year will mark 10 years since the last painting was awarded. We are challenging each chapter to submit a photo of the picture you received, along with when did you receive it, who the artist is and where it is located now. If you know of any disbanded chapters that had received photos, we would love to have them as well. Please email them to Sandie Carlson, National Conductress, sandiecarlson@psiitaxi.org

Holiday Traditions

Welcome to 2022 and the 125th year of Psi Iota Xi!

Psi Iota Xi would not be what it is today without our past. As an organization, a big part of that past is traditions, such as our opening and closing verses, rituals, and supporting meaningful projects.

Traditions are something we normally think about around the holidays and what a better way to celebrate those traditions than to share them. I asked the Southwest District Chapters to tell me about the things they do as a chapter during the holidays, and I was not disappointed with their responses.

Having a holiday meal together as a chapter is a tradition that most of the chapters shared. A dinner at a restaurant or a pitch-in at someone's home, many Psi Otes come together for an evening of food and fellowship.

Cheeseball making was another very popular tradition that Psi Otes across southwest Indiana do during the holiday season. I know this isn't a tradition limited to my district. Many of our sisters come together this time of year to make, roll, and sell these delicious balls of goodness to earn money for their local projects.

Many chapters share in the tradition of a gift exchange during this time of year. There is a lot of "Dirty Santa" being played in PIX chapters far and wide. Several chapters mentioned having an ornament exchange which I thought was a great idea.

I discovered some unique holiday traditions as well. Lambda Iota in Ferdinand works at the local Christkindlmarkt. Zeta Bloomington comes together at their chapter's thrift shop to put the store into holiday mode. Beta Lambda Bedford has an ugly sweater contest and auction of handmade items during their December potluck.

Giving is a very important part of Psi Iota Xi. The tradition of giving to those less fortunate is very evident during the holidays. Chapter members donate to their local animal shelter, purchase gifts for children from angel trees, help families needing assistance to make the holidays brighter, and collect food for local food pantries.

I want to thank the Southwest District Chapters for sharing their stories with me. As we move into 2022 let us celebrate 125 wonderful years of being Psi Iota Xi!

Jane Patton
Southwest District Officer
Alpha Omicron, Vincennes, IN





Change Is Good

Were you aware that something pretty awesome happened prior to Covid. Our sorority changed its By-laws to allow Dual Membership. Two and a half years ago two new chapters were installed with the help of a few members that were already part of Psi Iota Xi and saw a need to establish these new chapters. The seasoned members remained active with the new chapter to provide guidance as our new sisters continue to learn about Psi Iota Xi. Rather than trying to be the best, and the only chapter in your community consider starting a new chapter in a neighboring town. It's a win – win situation, and as an organization we need members to come forward that would be willing to consider starting a new chapter.

National Council is aware of the struggles we've all faced with fundraising during the past couple of years. Sorority members often talk about chapter's collaborating together with

fundraising, but never follow through therefore, National Council has increased awareness of our chapter fundraisers on our Facebook Psi Iota Xi, and Group Pages. Also, we've added information to our Newsletter. The response from chapters selling more has been positive. If your chapter is involved in a fundraiser, please share that information with National Council.

We know that our membership is decreasing, and the challenges for members to remain active are real. If our organization is serious about surviving and achieving as much positive impact in our communities as possible there are a couple of things to consider.

- Statically we lose members that become "Snowbirds," because they move away and feel they are no longer active with their chapter or viable to our organization. Invite them to continue to attend your meetings via Zoom. Or have them investigate becoming Members-at-Large. Either way they will remain active in our sorority.
- We have smaller chapters that are continuing to thrive with just a few members and although these chapters are Mighty, there may come a time when they start to consider disbanding. Before that happens, they should consider joining forces, and possibly merging with another smaller chapter to become one. Merging doesn't mean that members need to leave our organization or that their identity is lost. We need to realize that it's a good first step to growing and remaining strong and united.

Navigating through the past few years has shed new light on how beneficial it is to work together, and we've had the opportunity to fundamentally rethink how we operate. We're all in this together.

Loyally,

Mickie Hansen
National Secretary
Upsilon, Greenfield, IN

Greetings from the Indiana State Association

Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday filled with family, friends, love and laughter. As my Beta Gamma Chapter continues the work for the Indiana State Meeting in April I can't help but think about the State Meeting held at Westgate Academy at Crane with Lorna Tribby and Iota Rho (which seems like yesterday), National Convention in Louisville with Sandy Johnson and Zeta Iota (what a good time that was) but even as memorable as those were and even looking forward to the Indiana State Meeting on April 23rd in Peru, I can't help but get excited wondering what National President Andrea Niedenthal and Zeta Tau have in store for us in Muncie as we celebrate 125 years of Psi Iota Xi. Recently I had the honor of speaking at our local Rotary about Psi Iota Xi and though the ask was because of our local chapter of Beta Gamma and the work that we do in the community it was, for me, a chance to be able to speak about the complete history of Psi Iota Xi and even as nervous as I was to speak it was with great pride that I was able to share our accomplishments over the almost 125 years of People, Purpose & Passion of our Psi Ote Sisters.



"To plant is to place (a seed or plant) in soil or other substrate in order that it may live and grow"

Loyally,

Stacia Bonifant

Indiana State President
Beta Gamma - Peru, IN

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New Year's Resolution

As an organization we've had two tough years in a row, but as the New Year begins, we can rest, experience some self-reflection, and take time to plan. Let's embrace this new year. It will give us the chance to come together as a team to reflect on **People**, review our **Purpose**, and help to rediscover our **Passion**.

Resolutions for 2022

- Be willing to adapt and try to be flexible. Change your mindset and be willing to accept uncertainty. IT WILL BE OK!
- Pursue growth in your corner of the world. Continue to encourage people to join your chapter and look for ways to be visible in your communities.
- Set goals, they're important because they guide us, and help us grow. One positive way to grow is to attend National Convention in 2022. You will learn so much about Psi Iota Xi to take back to your chapter.
- You say, "I don't do Social Media" then please refer to Resolution #1. Having a social media presence will increase your chapter's visibility. Start the new year with a Facebook Page that offers information about your chapter.
- Be a leader and serve as a chapter officer. For our Indiana sisters consider serving on the Indiana State Board. Sign up for committees to learn more about what our organization does and be a voice that needs to be heard. Volunteer to be a District Officer. You won't regret any of these decisions. WE NEED YOU!

Loyally,

Mickie Hansen
National Secretary
Upsilon, Greenfield, IN



Holiday Happenings

This year brought us back to gathering to celebrate the Reason for the Season. Below are some of the groups that shared their gatherings. It wasn't just about food, fun and spirits but the wrapping of gifts to give to a family in need and providing many items to charities. Some of the gatherings included Dirty Santa gift and ornament exchanges. Groups hosted cookie decorating classes or attended a performance at a local theatre. With the warmer temperatures the bells of the Salvation Army rang out. In true Psi Ote fashion we even established Gnome in our Home (PIX), watch out Elf on the Shelf.











National Council and Email

National Council is available to talk with Chapters and members if any questions or concerns arise. Please don't hesitate to reach out to National Council if they can assist you.

Our new email, info@psiiotaxi.org.

Fundraiser & Event Invitations



Have you ever wished you could invite all Psi Ote sisters to your chapter's fundraiser or special event? Your chapter Helicon articles detail all the amazing events and fundraising activities you accomplish in your individual chapters and communities. Now we'd like to offer chapters the opportunity to submit invitations to their events and fundraisers via the monthly newsletter by emailing them to terriresler@psiitaxi.org.

Electronic money transfer apps like Venmo plus virtual platforms like Facebook Live make it possible for even our most distant sisters to participate in another chapter's fundraisers with ease. You can support your sisters across the organization, and you might even get a few ideas for your own chapter!

Fallen Petals



Please send obituaries to terriresler@psiitaxi.org to be included in the next newsletter and the Helicon.

Convention Invitations



Convention 2022

Convention 2022 will be hosted by Zeta Tau, Milroy, in Muncie, IN, June 24-26, 2022

Book your rooms now at the special \$129/night group rate!

Click here to visit the [Courtyard Muncie at Horizon Convention Center](#) reservation page

Convention 2023

Convention 2023 will be hosted by Zeta Gamma, Fort Branch, in Evansville, IN

Convention 2024

Convention 2024 will be hosted by Theta Theta, Fort Wayne

National Council

<p>National President</p> <p>Andrea Niedenthal, Zeta Tau</p>	<p>National Vice President</p> <p>Maureen "Mo" Dix, Zeta Gamma</p>
<p>National Treasurer</p> <p>Rhonda McNall-Crisenbery, Theta Theta</p>	<p>National Secretary</p> <p>Mickie Hansen, Upsilon</p>
<p>National Project Chair</p> <p>Taffy Day, Omega</p>	<p>National Conductress</p> <p>Sandie Carlson, Theta Kappa</p>

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Southwest District Officer

Jane Patton, Alpha Omicron

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If you have any questions about this newsletter, the National Website or have an address/ phone/email update please contact your National Editor Terri Resler. terriresler@psiiotaxi.org or 812-295-6524 (call/text)

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