Highlights

the History of

Pai Loto Vi

PSI IOTA XI SORORITY
FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 19, 1897
IN MUNCIE, INDIANA

Dedication

To all Psi Otes, past, present, and future. May we cherish our past, celebrate our present, and commit to our future.

This booklet serves as a historical record of Psi Iota Xi Sorority and celebrates the accomplishments we have achieved since our organization's inception.

Psi Iota Xi National Office 3905 Vincennes Road, Suite 303 Indianapolis, IN 46268

WWW.PSIIOTAXI.ORG

Opening Verse

"As a loyal member of Psi Iota Xi, I believe in furthering charitable enterprises, in studying the best art, literature and music, and in developing myself socially, morally and intellectually. May we, with God's help, advance in these fields of endeavor."

Closing Verse

"It is a noble thing to give cheer to those less fortunate about you. Let us then be of good cheer, that the lives of those about us may be enriched."

Sorority Crest



Sorority Colors

Old Gold and Turquoise Blue

Sorority Flower

Our Sorority flower was originally the White Carnation and was later changed to the Yellow Rose as we know it today.



The Helicon

The Helicon is the official history of Psi Iota Xi and is published annually.

Psi lota Xi Song

Written in 1905 by Helen Spain, Delta Chapter

Note: The Chorus of the Psi Iota Xi Song is what we know today as the Psi Iota Xi National Song. The prelude was documented in several publications and it is unknown if the prelude was ever sung and at what point in our history it might have been dropped.

Sail if you will on Venetian streams
Or whirl or twirl in Paris,
Go to old Rome to dream your dreams
Or drowse on a Chinese terrace,
Sail if you will the whole world 'round
For faith and sincerity,
For the Joys of youth, and bonds of truth
Are in our sorority.

Chorus:

So -- Here's to the Psi lota Xi Wherever she may be May our friendships never die, But live to eternity. May she be true to the turquoise blue, And reverence the dear old gold, Ne'er say farewell, but just adieu, And prosper a thousand fold. So solemnly we take our vows Never to forget, And sing her praise a thousand ways, From coast to bare inlet. The present day may pass away But in the future years, The thoughts of you, the gold, the blue, Will fill our eyes with tears. The thoughts of you, so good, so true, Will fill our eyes with tears.



Celebrating Psi Ote Founders

Annually, at National Convention, we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. It is also important to look back, and to honor those who have come before us, paving our way for future successes. Founders Day gives all Psi Otes an opportunity to say "thank you" to those who had the resourcefulness and foresight to start a woman's organization dedicated to knowledge, philanthropy, and personal growth.

Near the close of the 19th century, "Greek letter" organizations were becoming popular on the East Coast, and when Mayme Johnson, a student at Central High School in Muncie, Indiana, returned home from her summer vacation in New York, she was determined to found just such a group at her school. She and four of her friends, Mary Louise Carmichael, Huda Smith (Kimbrough), Ethelyn Dowell (Hinkley), and Sue Derexa Smith, sought out the advice and support of three of their teachers, Miss Emma Cammack, Mrs. Martha Ivins, and Miss Eve Kessler, and these eight women forged together the name, purpose, and focus of our organization. Their original purpose was to publish a magazine which would "benefit and entertain" their fellow students, but their purpose soon grew into the area of philanthropy, as well. They met with obstacles - for a time, "secret societies" like Psi lota Xi were prohibited in Indiana - but they were determined to succeed. This first group, known as "Alpha" soon gave way to a second group of like-minded women from Evansville, and Beta Chapter was founded. Psi lota Xi grew, one Chapter at a time, into the thriving organization it is today.

How exciting it must have been for these young women to begin this adventure into sisterhood, and how fortunate are we that they were determined to succeed.

Many Chapters celebrate the founders of our organization each year in September with a dinner, party, or simply a reading of our founders' names, followed by a moment of silence and thankfulness.

If you don't celebrate Founder's Day in your Chapter, I would suggest you start. You don't have to wait until next September 19 - take a few minutes at your next meeting to share the Psi Ote story with your Chapter. Further, celebrate the founding of your own Chapter. What year was your Chapter chartered? Who were your founding members? For some of our older Chapters, this might be a tough question. For members of our newer Chapters, it might be as easy as looking over the meeting table and chatting with one of your founders. Invite Honorary sisters to your meetings (especially your social events) and ask them to recall what they know of the history of your Chapter. Read through your Chapter scrapbooks (these are always good for a giggle - I wore extremely large and round glasses when I was initiated - yikes!) And if you need further help tracing your Chapter's history, remember that it can be easily found in the pages of the Helicon.

Honor our founders. Honor our history as a valuable women's organization. Honor the women who brought Psi lota Xi to your community and helped to establish your Chapter as a vital community member.

And if you have special stories of our founders, or the founding of your Chapter, please share them on your Chapter's social media or website. Or even better, send pictures for publication in the newsletter so we can all share in your celebration!

Georgiann Coons, Alpha Beta, Seymour, IN Rewritten with permission



Psi lota Xi Certificate of Organization, September 19, 1897

CERTIFICATE
STATE OF INDIANA) : SS: DELAWARE COUNTY)
The undersigned hereby certify under
oath that they are charter members of Psi Iota
Xi Sorority, which was organized and established
at Muncie, Indiana, on September 19, 1897.
Hude Smith Kimbrough
Mayne Johnson Oesterle)
Ethelyn Dowell Hinckley
Mantho I dvins
Emma Bammack
Subscribed and sworn to by Huda Smith Kimbrough and Mayme Johnson Oesterle before the undersigned Notary Public in and for Delaware County, Indiana, this 15th day of September, 1941. Leola Wieber Jaylar
My commission expires, NOTARY PUBLIC
Feb. 14, 1942.
Subscribed and sworn to by Ethelyn Dowell Hinokley before the undersigned Notery Public in and for Hamilton County in the State of Ohio, this /8 day of September, 1941
My commission expires, NOTARY PUBLIC
June. 10, 1947
Subscribed and sworn to by Martha I. Ivins before the undersigned Notary Public in and for Marion County in the State of Indiana, this day of September, 1941.
Larena B. Goodban
My commission expires, NOTARY PUBLIC
nov. 13, 1941.
Subscribed and sworn to by Emma Cammaok before the undersigned Notary Public in and for County in the State of Georgia, this day of September, 1941.
Alenny Brown
My commission expires, NOTARY PUBLIC
Notices Public, Georgia, State et Large, My Commission Explis No. 200 45. 1.

The Basis of Our Sisterhood and Service

The following is an excerpt from the Psi Iota Xi Initiation Service and serves as a reminder of who we are and why we are Psi Otes.

"Psi lota Xi represents the Greek words meaning music, reading, and pleasure. Each gain a deeper meaning as it applies to our sorority. It is this meaning which we will explain to you now."

"Music builds for us a world of pure spirit, a means to escape from the demands of our everyday lives. The relationship between music and life is intimate and vital. We all need music, a free, flowing form of expression."

"The universe is a song. All the music that has passed still vibrates. All the music that is to be still slumbers. Music speaks to us everywhere, through the birds on the wing, the crashing water on the rocky shores, and the sighing of the wind in the trees. It is a universal language."

"Worthwhile reading is education, romance, and entertainment. Beautiful thoughts and impressions are the rewards of reading. These thoughts are stored away, ready to send out their messages. Books hold for us creative thoughts and knowledge. Their messages guide us throughout our lives."

"One of the aims of life is to give others pleasure and happiness. Happiness is the reward of generous deeds and of duties well done. Our goal is to enrich the lives of those about us. By working together, we receive happiness and pleasure. Therefore, give pleasure and it will return to you as a blessing."



Our Crest

The following is an excerpt from the Psi Iota Xi Initiation Service and serves as a reminder of who we are and why we are Psi Otes.



"This is the crest of our Sorority—the shield bearing the lamp, the lyre, and the laurel. In giving us this shield, our founders expressed the belief that each of us will aspire to worthy deeds."

"The lyre means music. Let us strive to bring harmony to our world."

"The lamp represents learning and literature. It symbolizes light, understanding, and vision. May the lamp of Psi Iota Xi lead us to accomplish noble purposes."

"The laurel has been the symbol of triumph since the ancient Greeks used it to crown victors. Later it was used to indicate academic honors. For us it means pleasure; pleasure follows attaining victory and honor. May you find pleasure in your association with us."



Our Pin

Our pin is elegant in its simplicity: a gold diamond with a turquoise-enameled face, emblazoned with the Greek letters YIE.

During the pinning portion of our initiation ritual, the words spoken to us are, "This pin honors you, may you honor it. This pin signifies our faith in you and your obligation to us. It unites us in Psi lota Xi." By accepting and wearing the pin, each sister makes an outward acknowledgement of her membership in and responsibilities to Psi lota Xi and likewise, the organization acknowledges her as a valued member.

Women Paving the Way

The Crest of Psi Iota Xi is a shield bearing the lamp, the lyre, and the laurel. These symbols represent learning, literature, charity, music, pleasure, and reward. The history of Psi Iota Xi is full of accomplishments of these aims of our sorority as well as many firsts:

- First Greek letter organization of its kind in Indiana
- First Women's organization to contribute to Riley Hospital
- First organization to recognize the need for oxygen therapy equipment
- First organization in the country to fund a speech and hearing mobile testing unit
- First Women's organization to contribute to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
- First organization to provide speech therapy for preschool age children
- First organization to start a recruitment program for speech therapists
- First organization to support the Metropolitan Opera Tri-State Regional Auditions



Faithful Forever to Psi Iota Xi

Let's sing a song of the gold and the blue
To our sorority loving and true
Sisterhood dear to us,
Ever be near to us,
Hear as our vows we renew.

Chorus:
Psi lota Xi
As the years pass by
Help us your ev'ry ideal to uphold
And cherish dearly the turquoise and gold
And may our love for thee
And our loyalty be
Fix and unchanged as the stars in the sky
Faithful Forever to Psi lota Xi.

Celebrating Psi Ote Chapters

Psi lota Xi Sorority was founded on September 19, 1897, by a group of five high school girls and their three teachers at Central High School in Muncie, Indiana. Psi lota Xi was the first Greek letter organization of its kind in Indiana. Alpha chapter's purpose was for its members to find self-direction and personal growth while seeking to enrich the lives of others by furthering philanthropic enterprises.

During the next one hundred and twenty–five years, Psi lota Xi has grown by more than one hundred chapters, thousands of members, and became a national organization doing charitable work in the fields of speech and hearing, art, music, and literature. Below is a listing of all chapters, their location, and the year they were chartered. Disbanded chapters have been noted by an asterisk.

Chapters Since Inception - Updated July 2025

Alpha	Muncie, IN	1897	Alpha Mu	Hartford City, IN	1925
Beta	Evansville, IN	1900*	Alpha Xi	Logansport, IN	1925
Gamma	Columbus, OH	1903*	Alpha Sigma	Princeton, IN	1926*
Delta	Indianapolis, IN	1903*	Alpha Pi	Scottsburg, IN	1926*
Epsilon	Columbus, IN	1904	Alpha Omicron	Vincennes, IN	1926
Zeta	Bloomington, IN	1904	Alpha Rho	Garrett, IN	1926
Eta	Dayton, OH	1906*	Alpha Tau	Petersburg, IN	1927*
Theta	New Castle, IN	1908*	Alpha Upsilon	West Baden Springs, IN	1927*
lota	Rushville, IN	1908	Alpha Phi	Fortville, IN	1927
Карра	Kokomo, IN	1908	Alpha Chi	Hagerstown, IN	1928
Lambda	New Albany, IN	1909*	Alpha Psi	Washington, IN	1928
Mu	Richmond, IN	1911*	Alpha Omega	North Vernon, IN	1928
Nu	Eaton, OH	1911*	Beta Alpha	Flora, IN	1928
Xi	Cincinnati, OH	1913*	Beta Beta	Sullivan, IN	1928
Omicron	Marion, IN	1913*	Delta Beta	Indianapolis , IN	1929*
Rho	Angola, IN	1916	Beta Delta	Van Wert, OH	1929*
Sigma	Greensburg, IN	1917	Beta Gamma	Peru, IN	1929
Tau	Lafayette, IN	1918*	Beta Epsilon	Mentone, IN	1929
Pi	Fort Wayne, IN	1919	Beta Eta	Centerville, IN	1930*
Upsilon	Greenfield, IN	1920	Delta Gamma	Fort Wayne, IN	1930*
Phi	Huntington, IN	1920	Beta Zeta	Summitville, IN	1930
Chi	Brookston, IN	1921	Beta Theta	Eaton, IN	1931*
Psi	No Information Found		Beta lota	Farmland, IN	1932
Omega	Lebanon, IN	1921	Beta Kappa	Bloomfield, IN	1933*
Alpha Alpha	No Information Found		Beta Lambda	Bedford, IN	1933
Alpha Beta	Seymour, IN	1922	Beta Mu	Brownstown, IN	1933
Alpha Gamma	No Information Found		Beta Nu	East Chicago, IN	1934*
Alpha Delta	Decatur, IN	1922	Beta Omega	New Albany, IN	1934*
Alpha Zeta*	Thorntown, IN	1923*	Beta Xi	Crown Point, IN	1934
Alpha Epsilon	Jeffersonville, IN	1923*	Beta Omicron	No Information Found	
Alpha Eta	Bluffton, IN	1923	Beta Pi	Cambridge City, IN	1935
Alpha Theta	Charlestown, IN	1923	Beta Rho	Goshen, IN	1935
Alpha Kappa	Franklin, IN	1924*	Beta Sigma	Austin, IN	1935
Alpha Iota	Richmond, IN	1924	Beta Tau	Frankfort, IN	1936
Alpha Lambda	Zionsville, IN	1924	Delta Epsilon	Muncie, IN	1937*
Alpha Nu	Markle, IN	1925*	Beta Upsilon	Mt Vernon, OH	1937

Chapters Since Inception - Updated July 2025 (continued from previous page)

Beta Upsilon	Mt Vernon, OH	1937	Zeta Nu	Westport, IN	1960*
Beta Phi	Shelbyville, IN	1938	Zeta Omicron	Arthur, IL	1960*
Beta Chi	Waynetown, IN	1939*	Zeta Xi	Madison, IN	1960
Beta Psi	Delphi, IN	1939	Zeta Rho	Munster, IN	1961*
Gamma Alpha	Portland, IN	1940	Zeta Sigma	Greenwood, IN	1964*
Delta Zeta	Lafayette, IN	1940	Zeta Tau	Milroy, IN	1964
Delta Eta	Detroit, MI	1941 *	Zeta Upsilon	Middletown, IN	1965*
Gamma Beta	Remington, IN	1941	Eta Beta	Columbus, IN	1966*
Gamma Gamma	No Information Found		Zeta Chi	Lewisville, IN	1966*
Gamma Delta	Attica, IN	1941	Zeta Phi	LaGrange, IN	1966*
Gamma Epsilon	Covington, IN	1944*	Zeta Psi	Evansville, IN	1966*
Gamma Zeta	Ossian, IN	1945	Zeta Omega	Wabash, IN	1966*
Gamma Eta	Knightstown, IN	1946	Eta Alpha	Nashville, IN	1966
Delta Iota	Cincinnati, OH	1947*	Eta Gamma	Valparaiso, IN	1966
Delta Theta	Cleveland, OH	1947*	Eta Delta	Carmel, IN	1966
Delta Chi	Washington, DC	1947*	Eta Theta	Geneva, IN	1967*
Gamma Theta	Speedway, IN	1948	Eta Epsilon	Mishawaka, IN	1967*
Gamma lota	Shoals, IN	1948	Eta Eta	LaPorte, IN	1967*
Gamma Lambda	Paris Crossing, IN	1949*	Eta Zeta	Nappanee, IN	1967*
Gamma Kappa	Brook, IN	1949*	Eta Kappa	Wilmington, IN	1968*
Gamma Mu	West Lafayette, IN	1950*	Eta lota	Parker City, IN	1968
Gamma Nu	Brownsburg, IN	1950	Eta Lambda	Beech Grove, IN	1968
Gamma Xi	Crawfordsville, IN	1951	Eta Mu	Rochester, IN	1968
Gamma Omicron	Montpelier, OH	1952*	Eta Xi	Auburn, IN	1969*
Gamma Rho	Linton, IN	1952*	Eta Pi	Dayton, OH	1969*
Gamma Pi	Indianapolis, IN	1952*	Eta Rho	New Haven, IN	1969*
Gamma Sigma	South Bend, IN	1953	Eta Nu	Rennselaer, IN	1969
Gamma Tau	Marion, IN	1954	Eta Omicron	Kalamazoo, MI	1969
Gamma Chi	Warsaw, IN	1955*	Eta Tau	St Joseph, MI	1970*
Gamma Phi	North Manchester, IN	1955*	Eta Sigma	Grand Rapids, MI	1970*
Gamma Upsilon	Wolcott, IN	1955	Eta Upsilon	Lansing, IL	1970*
Gamma Omega	Tipton, IN	1956*	Theta Eta	Portage, IN	1971*
Gamma Psi	Danville, IL	1956*	Theta Epsilon	Seattle, WA	1971*
Zeta Alpha	Sellersburg, IN	1957*	Theta Gamma	South Bend, IN	1971*
Zeta Beta	Anderson, IN	1957	Theta Alpha	New Palestine, IN	1971*
Zeta Gamma	Fort Branch, IN	1957	Eta Phi	Terre Haute, IN	1971*
Zeta Eta	Southport, IN	1958*	Eta Psi	Champaign, IL	1971*
Zeta Delta	Montpelier, IN	1958*	Eta Omega	Yorktown, IN	1971*
Zeta Zeta	Elkhart, IN	1958*	Eta Chi	Martinsville, IN	1971
Zeta Epsilon	Bargersville, IN	1958	Theta Beta	Paoli, IN	1971
Zeta Kappa	Whiting, IN	1959*	Theta Delta	Bremen, IN	1971
Zeta Theta	Niles, MI	1959	Theta Zeta	Fort Recovery, OH	1971
Zeta Incta	Louisville, KY	1959	Theta Theta	Fort Wayne, IN	1971
Zeta Lambda	Connersville, IN	1959	Theta lota	Monticello, IN	1971
Zeta Mu	Jasper, IN	1959	Theta Xi	Louisville, KY	1972*
Zeta Pi	Highland, IN	1960*	Theta Omicron	Ft Lauderdale, FL	1972*
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Chapters Since Inception - Updated July 2025 (continued from previous page)

Theta Pi	Kenosha, WI	1972*	Iota Eta	Paris, KY	1980*
Theta Nu	Lexington, KY	1972*	lota Zeta	Knox, IN	1980*
Theta Lambda	Gaston, IN	1972*	lota Theta	Armstrong, IL	1980
Theta Mu	Battle Creek, MI	1972*	lota lota	Morocco, IN	1981*
Theta Kappa	Edon, OH	1972	lota Kappa	Springboro, OH	1984*
Theta Rho	Providence, IN	1973*	lota Lambda	Ferdinand, IN	1985
Theta Sigma	North Webster, IN	1973*	lota Mu	Kendallville, IN	1986*
Theta Phi	Federal Way, WA	1974*	lota Nu	Plymouth, IN	1991*
Theta Upsilon	Jackson, MI	1974*	lota XI	Winamac, IN	1996
Theta Chi	Indianapolis, IN	1974*	lota Omicron	Salem, IN	1997*
Theta Tau	Midland, MI	1974	lota Pi	Nashville, TN	1998*
Theta Psi	Bethany, IL	1975	lota Rho	Odon, IN	2003
Theta Omega	Lake in the Hills, IL	1976*	lota Sigma	St Joseph, IL	2004
Iota Alpha	Veedersburg, IN	1978*	lota Tau	Indianapolis, IN	2006
Iota Beta	Bryan, OH	1978*	lota Upsilon	VIRTUAL	2017*
Iota Gamma	Pleasant View, IN	1979*	Iota Phi	Clarksburg, IN	2019
Iota Delta	Newburgh, IN	1979*	Iota Chi	LaGrange, KY	2019



Charter members of Psi Iota Xi, Alpha Chapter, were students Huda Smith Kimbrough, Mayme Johnson Oesterle, Ethalyn Dowell Hinckley, Mary Louise Carmichael, Sue Derexa Smith, and teachers, Mrs. Martha Ivins, Miss Emma Cammack, and Miss Eve Kessler.

Celebrating Psi Ote Leadership

The first convention of Psi Iota Xi was held in Muncie, Indiana in 1903. Virginia Claypool Miller of Alpha Chapter became our first Grand President. In 1947 the Past National Presidents "PNP" Club was established. In 1958, Grand Council was changed to National Council resulting in the Grand President becoming the National President going forward. All past Grand Presidents and National Presidents were presented with Honorary Conferred Membership at the 1959 National Convention. We continue to honor all past National Presidents with Honorary Conferred Membership to this day. In 1980, the Past National Presidents had an idea to establish a National Memorial Fund. The purpose of the fund would be to honor our deceased members and friends through a living memorial. At the 1981 National Convention, delegates voted to establish the Psi Iota Xi National Memorial Fund. The PNPs have overseen this fund since its inception.

Psi lota Xi is very fortunate to have these strong, passionate women leading our organization. We are also very lucky to have the PNPs remain actively involved in so many ways.

Year	President	Year	President
1897-1902	No Presidents during this era	1938-1939	Mary Roe Simmons* - Delta Gamma
1903-1904	Virginia Claypool Miller* - Alpha	1939-1940	Virginia Lee Brightwell* - Alpha Epsilon
1904-1905	Ella Sullivan* - Beta	1940-1941	Murlea Mulder* - Beta Nu
1905-1906	Clara Lancaster Krull* - Delta	1941-1942	Dorothy Morton* - Omega
1906-1907	Nancy Ellis Clay* - Epsilon	1942-1943	Elwynne Griffith* - Alpha Pi
1907-1908	Lola Jackson* - Alpha	1943-1944	Isabelle Reichart* - Beta Tau
1908-1909	Helen Hicks Baker* - Zeta	1944-1945	Ruth Hancock Thom* - Sigma
1909-1910	Katherine Hauk* - Eta	1945-1946	Ruth Hancock Thom* - Sigma
1910-1911	Frieda Phelps* - Delta	1946-1947	Ruth Ball Harker* - Alpha
1911-1912	Nelle Fowler Mummert* - Delta	1947-1948	Kathryn Gordon Metzger* - Rho
1912-1913	Margaret Gillies Houston* - Thelta	1948-1949	Leah Flint* - Iota
1913-1914	Julia Sumptom Hunt* - Kappa	1949-1950	Earlyn Young* - Epsilon
1914-1915	Alma Whitacre* - Beta	1950-1951	Mary Ann Reed* - Delta Beta
1915-1916	Frances Frazee Drun* - Iota	1951-1952	Mary Etta Hougland* - Alpha Kappa
1916-1917	Alice Adams Cosier* - Zeta	1952-1953	Lou Martin* - Beta Rho
1917-1918	Louise Mason Caldwell* - Epsilon	1953-1954	Mary Tyndall Gallman* - Alpha Eta
1918-1919	Harriet Bowman Meeker* - Alpha	1954-1955	Mildred Purcell* - Delta
1919-1920	Margaret Meck Matthews* - Kappa	1955-1956	Dorothy Doles* - Sigma
1920-1921	Lillian McMurray Vilet* - Delta	1956-1957	Marie North Williams* - Chi
1921-1922	Opal O'Harrow Kerr* - Zeta	1957-1958	Eulah Gorby* - Beta Beta
1922-1923	Susan Richey Henninger* - Alpha	1958-1959	Mary Krebser* - Kappa
1923-1924	Ester Brooks Bassett* - Rho	1959-1960	Hazel Gillespie* - Beta Mu
1924-1925	Florine Tillson* - Sigma	1960-1961	Donnal Knochel* - Gamma Beta
	Geraldine Scott* finished term - Kappa	1961-1962	Genevieve Miles* - Beta Kappa
1925-1926	Viola Welsh Hiestand* - Nu	1962-1963	Vi Dawn* - Alpha
	Letha Gaskins* finished term - Delta	1963-1964	Kathryn Falk* - Beta Omega
1926-1927	Helen Sweard* - Delta	1964-1965	Rose Beatty* - Beta Tau
1927-1928	Louise Koons Edwards* - Thelta	1965-1966	Ven Endsley* - Phi
1928-1929	Tuley Emison* - Alpha Omicron	1966-1967	Janice Scherer* - Alpha Beta
1929-1930	Tuley Emison* - Alpha Omicron	1967-1968	Martha VanNess* - Beta Zeta
1930-1931	Enid Schenkel* - Phi	1968-1968	Sue Morris* - Beta Iota
1931-1932	Thelma Sines* - Alpha	1969-1970	Jule Warner* - Zeta
1932-1933	Ann Duemling* - Pi	1970-1971	Lillian Schuyler* - Beta Nu
1933-1934	Elizabeth Colin* - Alpha Sigma	1971-1972	Ruth Trubitt* - Alpha Tau
1934-1935	Mildred Brown Sellman* - Alpha Psi	1972-1973	Janet Cook* - Gamma Sigma
1935-1936	Wanita Fredreck Hughes* - Kappa	1973-1974	Opal Clark* - Beta Lambda
1936-1937	Lillian Setser Burnett* - Zeta	1974-1975	Mabel Alice Robertson* - Delta Epsilon
1937-1938	Lois Schumaker - Alpha Iota	1975-1976	Gladys Gardner* - Gamma Alpha
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Past National Presidents continued

Year	President	Year	President
1976-1977	Clarice Shively* - Theta	2001-2002	Gwendolyn Myers - Alpha Xi
1977-1978	Lou Rolfing* - Epsilon	2002-2003	Lydia Corbett - Gamma Kappa
1978-1979	Peg Burns* - Eta Gamma	2003-2004	Kathy Miller* - Beta Delta
1979-1980	Kay Wilson* - Beta Pi	2004-2005	Sara Overway - Beta Alpha
1980-1981	Delores Heckerson* - Theta Psi	2005-2006	Anna Jo McKaig - Beta Gamma
1981-1982	Doris Larsen* - Gamma Xi	2006-2007	Sue Simpson - Eta Xi
1982-1983	Mary Blum* - Eta Psi	2007-2008	Debbie Stemle - Zeta Mu
1983-1984	Karen Schalburg - Eta Phi	2008-2009	Diana Lamb - Omega
1984-1985	Barbara Perkins - Alpha Psi	2009-2010	Pat Kugler - Eta Gamma
1985-1986	Janet Simpson* - Zeta lota	2010-2011	Deanna Howard - Alpha Omega
1986-1987	Mary Helen Foster* - Delta Beta	2011-2012	Janice Stagg - Iota Tau
1987-1988	Lesley Bookout - Zeta Theta	2012-2013	Kim Crawley - Sigma
1988-1989	Sharon White * - Delta Zeta	2013-2014	Marcia Mohre - Theta Kappa
1989-1990	Margie Judge* - Epsilon	2014-2015	Cathy Etzler - Theta Zeta
1990-1991	Shirley Harding* - Gamma Iota	2015-2016	Susie Lewis - Alpha Chi
1991-1992	Anita Canaday - Zeta Beta	2016-2017	Brenda Bonner - Beta Alpha
1992-1993	Bette Yeager - Gamma Nu	2017-2018	Beth Keeney - Beta Tau
1993-1994	Sharon Creager - Iota	2018-2019	Connie McDaniel - Beta Lambda
1994-1995	Tula Tucker - Theta Delta	2019-2020	Pat Menge - Pi
1995-1996	Marjorie Isley* - Alpha Kappa	2020-2021	Sandy Johnson - Zeta lota
1996-1997	Renatta Rae Harris - Beta Tau	2021-2022	Andrea Niedenthal - Zeta Tau
1997-1998	Carolyn Logsdon - Zeta Tau	2022-2023	Maureen "Mo" Dix - Zeta Gamma
1998-1999	Barbara Mitchel - Eta Delta	2023-2024	Rhonda McNall-Crisenbery - Theta Theta
1999-2000	Sandy Cleverger - Delta Epsilon	2024-2025	Mickie Hansen - Upsilon
2000-2001	Ramona Simpson - Iota Theta		

What is Psi lota Xi?

Consider the apple. The apple has three parts: the peel, the meat, and the core. Psi lota Xi has three parts: the National Level, the State Level, and the Local Level.

The National Level acts as the PEEL...

It is the protector, giving guidance, and unites us by helping promote philanthropies on a broader scale. An example of this is our Long Term Projects. The organization works together toward a common goal. The impact of the National project is far reaching and touches many lives.

The State Level is the MEAT...

This is an organization which promotes unity among many State Chapters. State Chapters work to further projects with a state-wide impact, and to expand their organization with Chapters in new areas that would benefit from the services of Psi lota Xi.

The Local Level is the CORE...

Psi Otes meet their own community needs on a local level. Each Chapter decides how they will raise funds and what local projects they feel drawn to support. Without the CORE of dedicated members, working together, sharing together, and having fun together, Psi Iota Xi could not survive. It is through these individual members, who act as the seeds, that Psi Iota Xi grows.

National Psi Ote of the Year

Annually at National Convention, a Psi lota Xi sister is honored for her outstanding commitment our organization. The Psi Ote of the Year Award is designed to honor a member whose extra special dedication and service is deserving of attention. Members are recommended by their chapters, and the winner is chosen by a committee of National District Officers and Past National Presidents. The Psi Ote of the Year attends the National Convention as an honored guest.

The first National Psi Ote of the Year Award was given in 1981. In 2021, the selection committee was unable to reach a decision on only one person and presented two awards for the very first time.

1981	Julie Spangler	Gamma Tau	2005	Linda Heldt	Epsilon
1982	Vickie Hershman	Eta Nu,	2006	Leslie Moulton	Eta lota
1983	Phyllis Arthur	Theta Alpha	2007	Karen Graverson	Theta Delta
1984	Bonnie Spraker	Zeta Theta	2008	Jennifer Baltus	Zeta Nu
1985	Bettye Mann	Epsilon	2009	Nondus Christman	Phi
1986	Pauline Riner	Beta Epsilon	2010	Pam Gunterman	Theta Delta
1987	Marilyn Siderewicz	Eta Chi	2011	Jessica Pears	Zeta Theta
1988	Melody Hunt	Zeta Beta	2012	Maggie Hormel	Beta Pi
1989	Sally (Ragsdale) Burch	Gamma lota	2013	Marilyn Cleary	Alpha
1990	Linda Goede	Eta Gamma	2014	Marla Mitrione	Alpha Iota
1991	Mary Jane Parrish	Gamma Kappa	2015	Lorna Tribby	lota Rho
1992	Brenda Slattery	Theta Kappa	2016	Marty Krug	lota Tau
1993	Bonita Hunt	Beta Xi	2017	Jill Robbins	lota Sigma
1994	Leanna Potts	Gamma lota	2018	Judy Moulton	Eta lota
1995	Judy Montych	Theta Mu	2019	Doreen Graves	Alpha Theta
1996	Keneen Winget	Eta Delta	2020	Elaine Leahigh	Alpha Omega
1997	Helen Fox	Alpha Omega	2021	Heather Sheline	Theta Kappa
1998	Babette Hiles	Eta Psi	2021	Rita Seelow	Theta Psi
1999	Alice Rogers	Zeta Xi	2022	Carolyn Coffin	Upsilon
2000	Linda Bauer	Theta Beta	2023	Erin Schroering	Eta Lambda
2001	Elizabeth Backe	Gamma Xi	2024	Patricia Brunt	Beta Zeta
2002	Rose Marie Anderson	lota Omicron	2025	Andrea Niedenthal, PNP	Zeta Tau
2003	Lynn Ancich	Delta Gamma			
2004	Barb Barhydt	Eta Xi			

Lifetime Achievement Award

In 2025, National Council created the Lifetime Achievement Award to honor a Psi Ote sister who has been actively involved in our organization for a minimum of twenty years and consistently exceed expectations of her chapter, her community, and our organization as a whole. The inaugural award was presented later that same year during the National Convention.

Nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award are submitted by chapters. The recipient is then selected by a committee comprised of National District Officers and Past National Presidents. While the primary focus is on the nominee's extensive contributions within Psi lota Xi, the application may also include details of the nominee's community engagement and volunteer work.

2025 Bette Yeager, PNP Gamma Nu

Honorary Members

Since 1959, **Honorary Conferred Membership** is given to National Presidents immediately upon completion of their term. They shall be classified separately as Honorary Conferred Members and their duties and obligations will be of their own choosing.

Honorary Membership may be given by National Council to distinguished persons who do not have a business or professional interest in any of the National Projects. These distinguished persons shall be members of Psi lota Xi in name only. Below is a list of individuals who have been awarded Honorary Membership and the year they received this designation during Psi lota Xi's history.

1940 Jessie Gregg Kelley, Professor of Piano and Head of Music Department at Western College for Women and wife of composer Edgar Kelley

1940 Rose Bampton, Ohio born Opera singer

1941 Mildred Dilling, Indiana native and internationally known harpist with the Indianapolis Symphony

1951 Maude Brown Schricker, wife of Indiana Governor Henry Schricker

1951 Louise Treadwell Tracy, founder of the John Tracy School for the Deaf and wife of actor Spencer Tracy

1951 Sarah Evelyn Florence "Flora" Eaton, Lady Eaton, Canadian philanthropist and culture-loving friend of Elsie I. Sweeney

1963 Emily Kimbrough, author, speaker, journalist, and niece of one of our founders, from Muncie, IN

1963 Anna Clyde VinZant, internationally known registered parliamentarian

1970 Elsie I. Sweeney, Musician, Philanthropist, and Charter member of Epsilon Chapter from Columbus, IN

1972 Thelma Catherine "Pat" Ryan Nixon, First Lady of the United States from 1969 to 1974

1982 Kathleen M Griffin, Director of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

1990 Nancy J Minghetti, Director of Programs and Corporate Development, American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation

1994 Marjorie Vinzant Weber, Parliamentarian

2001 Irma Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Directors of American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS)

2001 Richard T. Miyamoto, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chairman of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine. Fondly know by Psi Otes as the first man to become a member of Psi Iota Xi.

2018 Rodney M. Gabel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BRS-FD, Speech-Language Pathologist and Director of the Intensive Stuttering Clinic and Research Program at the University of Toledo, Ohio.

The Meaning of Philanthropy

The word philanthropy means "love of mankind". Philanthropy involves more than money, it includes the contribution of one's self, of one's time, thoughts, talents, and energy. Volunteer service is a form of self expression and one way in which we can help to change the world for the better.

"If everyone spent just twenty minutes a day helping others, we could change the entire quality of our life. It is caring for others, the unselfishness that creates the spirit of a Nation. It's love that counts."

- Pat Nixon, Honorary Member of Psi lota Xi former First Lady of the United States

Excerpt from the 1972 Helicon Article "Psi Iota Xi 1897—1972"

Long Term Projects

Psi lota Xi's first Long Term Project, an Endowed Professorship in Pediatric Speech and Hearing at Riley Hospital for Children was voted on at the 1993 National Convention and funding began in 1994. The commitment was for Psi lota Xi to contribute \$300,000 to the fund with Riley Hospital for Children contributing an additional \$200,000 for a total of \$500,000. Dr Richard Miyamoto, Chairman of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine, was the first recipient of this endowment. This project was completed in 1999.

The second Long Term Project, the Cleft Palate Project at Carle Institute in Illinois, was established in 2002. Psi Iota Xi committed \$100,000 toward cleft palate research. This project was completed in 2008 with a total contribution of \$113,000.

The third Long Term Project, Intensive Stuttering Clinics and Research at the University of Toledo, Ohio, was established in 2012. Psi lota Xi's commitment to this project was \$100,000. This project was completed in 2018.

In 2020, the Psi lota Xi and Hear Indiana Scholarship became the fourth Long Term Project. Psi lota Xi committed \$100,000 for this endowment gift. This scholarship was created to encourage first-year graduate students to commit to working with deaf and hard of hearing children. The goal being to increase the number of qualified professionals in states with Psi lota Xi Chapters. The scholarship will be open to audiology and speech-language pathology in all our states.

Celebrating Psi Ote Giving

Through local, state and national projects, our philanthropic outreach extends nationwide. The projects of Psi lota Xi include supportive interest in speech and hearing, art, literature, and music. In addition to financial giving, our organization has given countless hours of time, the most valuable gift a person can give, volunteering with our Chapters in our communities.

Below is an <u>estimation</u> of the combined donations for all philanthropic projects by all Psi Iota Xi Chapters, State Associations, and National, including National Grants. This information was taken from past Helicons and rounded to the nearest one hundred dollars.

1960 - 1969	\$1,360,800
1970 - 1979	\$2,582,800
1980 - 1989	\$4,902,800
1990 - 1999	\$8,075,200
2000 - 2009	\$10,763,800
2010 - 2019	\$9,166,500
2020 - 2025	\$4,448,700

Estimated combined donation amount from 1960 to 2025 \$41,300,720

*Data prior to 1960 was difficult to obtain so those years were omitted from the list and totals.

184 CHAPTERS SINCE 1897

Chapters have been located in the following states:

Indiana Kentucky
Ohio Washington
Illinois Florida
Michigan Wisconsin
Washington, D.C. Tennessee

89 ACTIVE CHAPTERS IN 2025

States with Active Chapters

Indiana Ohio Illinois Michigan Kentucky

A Timeline of Our History

1897 Psi lota Xi was founded on September 19, 1897 1910 In June of 1910, the inauguration of the Helicon in Muncie, Indiana by five high school senior girls publication as the National Paper for the and three of their favoritie teachers. It was the National Organization began. first Greek letter organization of its kind in Indiana. Charter members of Psi Iota Xi, Alpha 1915 The National Scholarship Fund was Chapter, were students Huda Smith Kimbrough, established. Two girls from the mountains of Mayme Johnson Oesterle, Ethalyn Dowell Tennessee were the first recipients. Hinckley, Mary Louise Carmichael, Sue Derexa Smith, and teachers, Martha Ivins, Emma 1915 At the 1915 convention, delegates voted to Cammack, and Eve Kessler. reserve membership to high school graduates, resulting in the disbanding of seven of our 1897 The first Helicon, edited by Mary Louise chapters by 1917. Carmichael, was published. Originally, the Helicon was a high school paper and unique in 1918 Mid-year Luncheons began. These luncheons that it was published by all girls. were usually held in the early months of the year and some years brought together close to a 1897 Emma Cammack composed the original ritual. thousand Psi Otes. The girls designed the diamond-shaped pin, chose gold and turquoise blue for our colors, 1919 Psi Otes voted at National Convention to create and selected the white carnation for our flower. a Grand Constitution to govern the Grand Later the yellow rose replaced the white Society and local constitutions to govern each carnation. local chapter. 1899 The Helicon was taken over by Muncie High 1922 PIX was the first women's organization to School. contribute to the newly formed Riley Memorial Association by donating \$5,000 to furnish a 1900 Beta Chapter, Evansville, became our second ward for Riley Hospital. With this donation, chapter and was installed on December 26, underwriting therapy for handicapped children 1900 by Mrs. Virginia Claypool Miller and Mrs. became a national project. Oesterle. 1923 The sorority was divided into three provinces, 1901 Psi lota Xi assumed the editorship of the Northern, Central, and Southern, with each Helicon. Chapter an active unit within their province. At this time there six chapters in each province. 1903 First convention was held in Muncie, Indiana, and it was voted to create the National 1925 Gifted \$600 to Riley Hospital to build a Organization as we know it today. Virginia children's shelter house. Claypool Miller from Alpha Chapter, became the first Grand President. 1926 The scholarship fund was renamed "charity fund" and the Rituals were revised. 1905 Helen Spain of Delta Chapter in Indianapolis, Indiana wrote the words to the National song. 1931 Psi lota Xi became the first organization to bring oxygen therapy to Indiana with a \$10,000 gift to 1907 In 1907, the Indiana Legislature passed a Riley Hospital to equip two oxygen chambers. statute out-lawing secret societies in high

schools and Psi Iota Xi trembled on the brink of disaster. The organization gradually removed itself from the high school ranks, with the promise that they would initiate no one until

after graduation.

- 1932 Meyer and Alexander, Psi Iota Xi official jeweler in 1932, donated the first achievement award to be given annually to the Chapter making the most outstanding contribution. The jeweler also designed and presented a National President's pin for the President to wear during her year in that office as well as donated a jeweled pin to the outgoing National President and a gavel to each new Chapter.
- 1932 Alpha Chi, Hagerstown, Indiana was the first recipient of the Achievement Award.
- 1932 Between 1932-1936, thirty-five oxygenaires and twenty-five insufflators were presented to communities in which there were Psi lota Xi chapters.
- 1932 The Constitution (later called Bylaws) was revised.
- 1935 Annual short story contest for high school girls became one of our National Projects and was continued for five years.
- 1938 Psi lota Xi discovered the field in which they have since become Nationally known Speech Pathology and Audiology. We were the first organization in the state to recognize the need for Speech and Hearing correction among children and to appropriate funds for this project.

Psi lota Xi was the first organization in the country to give active support to a speech screening traveling clinic. Psi Otes voted a grant of \$10,000 to finance this mobile clinic which, over a two year period, visited every school in Indiana. During this time, over 6,000 handicapped children were tested. As a direct result of the interest aroused by this traveling clinic the Indiana State Legislature presented and passed a bill requiring speech correction in the state's public schools. Following this program, a residence clinic was established at Indiana University.



- 1938 Psi lota Xi became the first organization to contribute to the Maintenance fund of the Indianapolis Symphony by establishing an Endowment Fund with \$1500.00.

 Miss Elsie Sweeney, a charter member of the Epsilon Chapter in Columbus, Indiana, proposed to match any amount Psi lota Xi would donate for the purchase of tickets to the symphony. To this day, tickets are available and may be requested by chapters for music loving high school students to attend and experience symphony concerts.
- 1940 The Hoosier Salon Patrons Association was added as the second cultural project for Psi Iota Xi. The sorority's support of the Salon began by purchasing three paintings annually and awarding those paintings at Convention to chapters through drawings.
- 1941 Hoosier Salon paintings were given out at the National Convention to one chapter in each of three provinces (North, Central, South).
- 1945 To comply with government restrictions on meetings of more than 50 people during World War 2, no National Convention was held.
- 1946 Psi Iota Xi initiated support of the Ball State
 University Summer Boarding Speech and
 Hearing Clinic for eight to twelve year old
 children with speech and hearing disabilities.
- 1947 PNP 'Club' was established.
- 1950 A "Jury Prize of Distinction" was created and awarded by Psi Iota Xi during the annual Hoosier Salon Art Show.
- 1957 Began supporting Purdue University's recruitment program for speech and hearing therapists (Pre-College Institute for high school juniors).
- 1958 Grand Council was changed to National Council in 1958 at the 55th National Convention.
- 1959 All past Grand/National Presidents of Psi Iota Xi were presented with Conferred Honorary Membership during the 1959 National Convention.

1963 Constitution was changed to Bylaws. 1976 National office was located at 951 North Delaware Street in Indianapolis. 1963 Began presenting cash awards to outstanding voice students at the Tri-State Metropolitan 1977 Psi lota Xi began its association with the Opera Regional Auditions. Additionally, since American Speech-Language-Hearing 1981, the cash awards have been extended to Association (ASHA)*. Together we developed a the Central Regional auditions and the Great brochure entitled "How Does Your Child Hear Lakes Region auditions. and Talk?" to aid parents, children, doctors, and anyone in the speech and hearing profession 1968 May 11, 1968 was the official opening of the PIX throughout the United States. The brochure, National Headquarters at 2020 East 46th Street written in English and Spanish, has been in Indianapolis. distributed nationally by Psi Iota Xi through ASHA, and was granted a national award for 1968 In December 1968, the last founder of Psi lota excellence in graphic arts. *ASHA has since Xi, Mayme Johnson Oesterle passed away. changed their name to American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation (ASAF). 1970 PIX National office moved to 2002 East 62th Street in Indianapolis in January 1970. 1977 Psi lota Xi began its financial support of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology (ARA) for a 1970 Governor Edgar Whitcomb of Indiana, series of special workshops for hearing impaired proclaimed April 11, 1970 as Elsie I. Sweeney adults and later for the publication of the proceedings of the ARA's Summer Institute. 1971 A pilot plan was instituted to have a state 1979 National office moved back to 2002 East 62nd Chairman in every state (except Indiana) with Street in Indianapolis. one or more chapters. 1971 The three provinces were reorganized into six 1981 Psi Ote chapters were located in seven states, geographical districts, the Northeast, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Northwest, East Central, West Central, Wisconsin, and Washington. Southeast, and Southwest districts. Each district has an appointed District Officer to help 1981 The first Psi Ote of the Year was presented to guide the district. Julie Spangler of Gamma Tau, Marion, during the 1981 National Convention. 1972 Funded an Evoked Response Audiometer for Riley Hospital. The Psi Iota Xi National Memorial Fund was 1981 established. The purpose of the fund is to honor 1972 Mid-year Luncheons were moved to the Fall. our deceased members and friends through a living memorial. Contributions are added to the 1974 The last mid-year luncheon was held. principal and accrued interest is disbursed annually as a scholarship for a deaf dancer at 1974 All states, except Washington, had moved from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. State Chairman to State Presidents which were then elected by the membership. 1985 The National Office receives a computer and printer for the first time. These items were 1975 1975-1977 Psi lota Xi sponsored a Psi lota Xi purchased with funds donated by PIX chapters. "Fellow in Speech Pathology" at the IU Medical Center Audiology and Speech Clinic. 1989 National office location was 1010 East 86th Street in Indianapolis. 1975 State Meetings replaced the annual mid-year

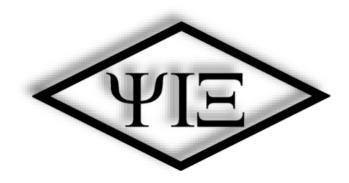
luncheons.

- 1993 Psi lota Xi's first Long Term Project was established. An Endowed Professorship in Pediatric Speech and Hearing at Riley Hospital for Children was voted on at the 1993 National Convention and funding began in 1994. The commitment was for Psi lota Xi to contribute \$300,000 with Riley Hospital for Children contributing an additional \$200,000 for a total of \$500,000. Dr Richard Miyamoto was the first recipient of this endowment.
- 1999 The first Long Term Project, the Endowed Professorship at Riley Hospital for Children, was completed.
- 2002 The second Long Term Project, the Cleft Palate Project at Carle Institute in Illinois, was established. Psi Iota Xi committed \$100,000 toward cleft palate research.
- 2004 Support of the Van Riper Lecture Series began in 2004. This project is a lecture series at Western Michigan University attended annually by speech pathologists and graduate students.
- 2005 National office location was 1020 East 86th Street in Indianapolis.
- 2008 The second Long Term Project, Cleft Palate research, was completed with a total contribution of \$113,000.
- 2010 National office moved to its current location at 3905 Vincennes Road in Indianapolis.
- 2013 The third Long Term Project, Intensive Stuttering Clinics and Research at the University of Toledo, Ohio, was established. Psi Iota Xi's commitment of this project was \$100,000.
- 2018 The Intensive Stuttering Clinics and Research at the University of Toledo, Ohio, Long Term Project was completed.



- 2020 The fourth Long Term Project, Psi Iota Xi and Hear Indiana Scholarship, an endowment gift of \$100,000, was established. This scholarship was created to encourage first-year graduate students to commit to working with deaf and hard of hearing children. The goal being to increase the number of qualified professionals in states with Psi Iota Xi Chapters. The scholarship will be open to audiology and speech-language pathology in all our states.
- 2020 In person chapter meetings and many chapter events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Fundraising projects for many chapters had to be postponed or cancelled.

 National Convention was moved from June to August due to government restrictions on meeting size and social distancing.
- 2022 We celebrate 125 Years of Psi Iota Xi, what an amazing and wonderful accomplishment!



References

Psi Iota Xi National Bylaws

Psi lota Xi Ritual Book

Helicons

"Highlights - The History of Psi lota Xi"

Alpha Chapter Muncie, IN

Psi lota Xi Website www.psiiotaxi.org

"History and Protocol" Presented by Zeta Xi, Madison, Indiana at the 2019 National Convention

PNPs

Psi Otes who know things