

Name: Virginia Sherman
Pledge Class: Fall '74
Officer Position: Legacy Rep
Decade: 70's

As a prospective officer & leader of the ODPAA, what do you consider your greatest strengths? Weaknesses?

My greatest strengths are that I am a good and confidential listener. In addition to that I have extraordinary organizational skills and have an affinity for bringing people together. My weakness would be that sometimes I get frustrated when progress or decision making (moving forward) doesn't happen as quickly as I would like.

If elected or re-elected to the position you seek, what is your commitment to serving out the full term?

I am committed to the full term.

Please describe accomplishments in your career and personal life that would benefit the ODPAA.

As a district manager in pharma I had to work with people of all backgrounds, ages, and personalities. That served me well because it enabled me to see the whole picture...not just my own. As a personnel manager of sorts I had to keep confidences....and that is a very important facet of representing a group. I served on our local school board for 10 years so I am well versed with how boards work. I have won leadership awards as well as sales awards....the leadership awards being far more meaningful. I am very proud to say that I have a number of people who worked for me that have stayed in touch...some daily, some weekly, some every few months....and that makes me happy knowing I represented them well. I have several sisters who I have reached out to and who I have stayed in contact with who are not active alumni. I make friends and I keep them for life. I am compassionate and caring but also firm and forthright. I am transparent, clear, and consistent.

What is your vision for the future of the ODPAA? What changes would you advocate and why?

My vision as a legacy representative is to not only represent the opinions, values, and interests of the 70's decade of the current active alumni but also to seek ways to bring in new members of the 70's decade to grow and perpetuate our alumni membership. I would like to do this by reaching out with a mailer at first, by networking with our current active alumni to bring in sisters that are still in touch with, and perhaps by having round table lunch meetings or zooms to get everyone together. We need to grow our alumni membership and we need to do it now. As for changes that I would advocate for....I have my own personal ideas however as a representative for the 70's.....my ideas are just that.....my own....as I need to represent the sisterhood as a whole and not as an individual.

If elected or re-elected, please describe what you seek to accomplish:

please see above....my vision lays it all out.

What does Omega Delta Phi mean to you? Please describe your experience as both an active member and an alumni.

Omega Delta Phi is engrained in my brain and in my heart. As an active sister it gave me a home when I was struggling to find one. I learned a lot about life by working, living, and socializing with ladies of all backgrounds who did not judge. It set me up for success. As an alumni this has continued to be the same. Omega taught me how to be a sister of the heart.

How would your sisters describe you?

passionate, caring, fun but perhaps a bit conservative.

Please describe your approach to communicating and working with the ODPAA membership.

My approach would be much the same as when I was a district manager and was working with new people....ask questions, listen to concerns, gain consensus. I would always keep my eyes, ears, and heart open and I would provide timely, consistent, and clear communication.

How do you deal with difficult people & situations? Please describe a situation in which you took a position that upset someone else, and explain how you handled it.

People are difficult because they want to be heard, they want to be valued. My job is to do just that....listen, and let them know they are being heard, that they matter, their opinions matter and then try to find a solution or resolution for them. Probably the most recent arena would have to do with the current state of politics where someone took offense to a conservative opinion I had....when I sensed the person was upset, I reached out to them, listened, heard them out, and assured them that their friendship meant far much more to me than anything else. I let them know their friendship is valued....always.

How do you motivate others?

I motivate others by leading by example, finding commonalities to work with, and by having fun doing what we do. If you are truthful and respected it goes a long way to be able to motivate others. That has to come first....people have to know they are valued and trusted in order for you to motivate them.

How do you handle criticism?

I first listen and then spend some time reflecting....and I may accept the criticism as something I need to work on or as not being true. I do not jump to conclusions and I do not react until I have had time to reflect. It may warrant a one on one conversation with the person who was critical of me.

What top 3 qualities do you think a leader should have?

Listening, providing clear and consistent communication, working to achieve consensus.

Would you rather be liked or respected?

Why? I would much rather be respected. You can be liked but if you do not have your integrity then you have nothing. Being liked is fickle, being respected is not.

How do you spend your free time?

Biking, walking, reading, swimming, cooking, communicating with sisters, family, friends. Currently I am taking a class on the Federalist papers offered by the Alexander Hamilton Institute.....very cool.

For Fun: What's your 'superpower' or 'spirit animal' and why?

I am not sure I have one....I am just me.

Is there anything else that we haven't already covered/asked that you would you like to share with your sisters?

I am here for the long haul and will work to make sure ODP Alumni Association is as well.