



February 2016

MORTAR BOARD IS 98!

Mortar Board celebrates its 98th birthday on February 15, 2016. Ninety-eight years ago, women representing our four founding chapters met on a cold morning in Syracuse, N.Y., to create a national honor society for college senior women. Little did they know that their legacy, nearly a century later, would be a Society more than a quarter-of-a-million members strong. From the beginning, Mortar Board was more than a means of recognizing academic achievement. The Society brought together women leaders from all parts of campus, honoring them for their dedication to the Ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. While the years have brought both growth and change to Mortar Board, the commitment to our Ideals remains as strong today as it was in 1918.

[Read more online](#) about how to make Mortar Board Week memorable for your chapter!

NEWS

SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE VOTING OPEN

Thank you to the 116 chapters who participated in the Special National Conference calls! Voting opened at 9 p.m. Eastern on January 24 and will remain open through 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Sunday, February 14. Vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNCBallot2016>.

If you are unsure whether your chapter is able to vote, please contact the National Office at mortarboard@mortarboard.org. Chapters that have cleared their 2015 accounts by noon on February 12 are eligible to vote.

CONGRATULATIONS to Berea College, the University of Oregon and the University of Mary Washington for having the highest number of SNC participants. These chapters have received a \$100 credit toward their 2016 conference fee payment.

CELEBRATE YOUR OUTSTANDING ADVISOR

Good advisors are a critical to the success of a Mortar Board chapter. Recognize the hard work and dedication of your advisor by nominating her or him for the Excellence in Advising Award! Awarded annually at the national conference, the Excellence in Advising Award honors advisors who have provided outstanding service, guidance and support to a collegiate chapter. Nominations are due on or before March 15. Nominate your advisor here: <http://www.mortarboard.org/Collegiate/Reports/>.

Excellence in Advising Award recipients from the past five years along with Excellence in Advising with Distinction Award winners are ineligible to receive the award this year. A complete list of previous recipients is on our website at <http://www.mortarboard.org/Advisors/Awards/>.

MORTAR BOARD STORE PROMOTIONS

Early-bird conference fee: Chapters that pay their 2016 Conference Fee **IN FULL** before March 15 will receive one free medallion.

Graduation regalia: Chapters that place a bulk regalia order before March 15 will receive free shipping.

2016 CONFERENCE FEE ANNOUNCED

The 2016 conference fee has been set at \$350, and the fee is due from each chapter when it submits its Official Membership Report (OMR) in the spring of 2016. It may be paid in advance of the OMR as well. It costs more than \$700 to support each conference delegate at the National Conference. The conference fee constitutes only half that amount — a bargain for each chapter.

Mark your calendars - the 2016 National Conference will be held **July 22 - 24 in Indianapolis, Indiana!**

AMAZON SMILE

Next time you make a purchase at Amazon, use [Amazon Smile](#) and support Mortar Board!

UPCOMING DUE DATES

FEBRUARY 14-20

Mortar Board Week: Mortar Board Week is the annual national celebration of Mortar Board's founding in 1918. It is a great time to plan visibility events and projects that make an impact on your campus! Visit the [Mortar Board website](#) for resources and ideas.

DUE BETWEEN SELECTION AND TAPPING

Official Membership Report (OMR): A complete list of the candidates your chapter has selected for membership must be provided to the National Office **at least TWO WEEKS** before the candidates are tapped. Once the candidates are approved, they may be tapped by your chapter.

DUE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER INITIATION

Final OMR and fees: As fees are paid online or to your chapter, update Form II of your approved OMR to indicate how your new members have paid their fees. On Form III, list your chapter's continuing seniors (if applicable). No later than seven days after initiation, send this updated OMR to the National Office, along with the conference fee and the fees your chapter collected from members.

DUE MARCH 1

Mortar Board Fellowship applications: The Mortar Board National Foundation invites applications for 2016 Mortar Board Fellowships. The fellowship selection process is managed by the Mortar Board Fellowship Selection Committee, which reviews all completed applications. Mortar Board Fellowships are for Mortar Board members who are or will be working toward a postbaccalaureate degree in the 2016-2017 academic year. A completed application for a Mortar Board National Foundation fellowship consists of three parts: 1. the application form, completed in full, and submitted electronically; 2. a current, official electronic or hard copy transcript from every institution of higher education that you have attended and 3. two recommendations from faculty or other persons who can speak with authority about your ability to do graduate work in your chosen field and about your personal qualities and achievement. Details and links to on line forms at <http://www.mortarboard.org/About/Fellowships/>.

DUE MARCH 15

Excellence in Advising Award nominations - [Excellence in Advising Awards](#) are given annually at the National Conference to deserving advisors who have been nominated by their chapters and chosen by a selection committee.

MARCH 15

National Conference registration - Registration for the 2016 Mortar Board National Conference opens March 15. Please ensure your delegate is registered by May 15, but the sooner the better! Read more about the conference on our [website](#) and in upcoming issues of LeadingLeaders.

CHAPTER VIDEO SHOWCASE

At the national conference next year, chapters will showcase their activities and programs through one-minute promotional videos. This takes the place of chapter display boards. Start planning your chapter's video now! Think of all the visibility you will gain on your campus with your new promotional video. Submissions are due on or before May 15, 2016, and the promo videos will all be shown at the national conference. View 2015 videos [here!](#)

Please submit your videos to <http://bit.ly/ChapterVideos2016>.

CHAPTER RESOURCES

ELECTION 101

Election of new chapter officers is a critical end of year activity for both the outgoing and incoming class. It is essential that before leaving campus for the summer, you have elected and held a thorough training for new chapter officers.

Here are some FAQs to help you conduct a successful officer election:

Who is involved with officer elections?

All outgoing chapter officers and current chapter advisors should assist the newly-initiated members with their officer election process.

When should elections take place?

Officer elections must take place well before the end of the school year and should be held in advance of May 15 so that the new president can register for the national conference prior to the deadline. We recommend allowing time between initiation and election for the new members to get to know each other prior to elections. The outgoing chapter should host meetings and social events during this time for the new chapter members. Set this date early to ensure that outgoing officers and the advisors can attend the election. Also announce the date of officer training well in advance.

How do we tell new members about elections?

Give information about officer elections to new members either at tapping or initiation. Talk about elections at all your new member orientation events. Be sure to include a listing of positions and responsibilities, as well as the date and time of officer elections (and any other events to be hosted in between initiation and elections!). Make sure current office holders are available to answer questions of potential replacements.

What offices should we elect?

Refer to the [Officer & Advisor Handbook](#) for a listing of recommended leadership positions and responsibilities.

How do we train new officers?

Hold an old-new officer training session with your advisor present. You can help new officers carry your momentum with a simple, meaningful training that passes the baton of leadership.

How do we report the new officers to the National Office?

Submit the [New Officer Report Form](#) to the National Office immediately and no later than May 15.

[Handbooks and guides](#)

[Report forms](#)

[Fellowships](#)

[Mortar Board Store](#)

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