

## Introduction

Thank you for volunteering! You are part of a large and dedicated group of alumnae around the world, committed to keeping Smith alumnae connected to each other and to the college. The Alumnae Association is deeply appreciative of the time and energy you give toward our mission, to further the interests of Smith College and its alumnae, and the association staff are here to help serve you in these efforts.

This handbook is a tool for you to use and share with your particular group or club to meet your unique needs. Since local clubs vary from region to region, depending on alumnae population, geography, and volunteer leadership, the guidelines in this handbook are meant to be tailored to the needs of your individual organization. At the same time, there are important rules and requirements to be aware of and to follow. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the content of this handbook. If you have any questions about procedures or college policies, please contact us.

Working in partnership with the college, clubs and affinity groups foster the connection of Smith alumnae within their defined geographic area and by special interest. Many alumnae organizations have a long-standing tradition of supporting the college through admissions work or fundraising. Other organizations support the Smith ideals through service projects in their local communities or by building career networks for their members. All of these are worthwhile and we encourage each group to create a focus that resonates best with your alumnae.

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AASC, then president Ruth French wrote a letter to the Southern California Smith Club extolling the significance of clubs and groups to “stand, each in its own community, for the college itself.” (There were 65 clubs and groups by 1931.) She continued, as if writing for all time:

“This world wide gathering of alumnae...is bound by ties of affection and moved by the spirit of devotion to a common purpose...”

Your passion for Smith is profound and your enthusiasm enduring. Thank you again for all you do to support your college.

Meri Hoverman  
Assistant Director for Clubs

Alumnae Association of Smith College (AASC)

### **Mission**

The mission of the Alumnae Association of Smith College is to support Smith College and her alumnae.

### **The AASC**

The AASC, started in 1881, just two years after the first class was graduated from the college, is an all-inclusive, non-dues-paying organization that serves more than 40,000 alumnae. The college benefits immensely from the active involvement of its alumnae, and the association encourages alumnae to maintain and rekindle friendships and develop career contacts worldwide. To that end, the AASC provides an array of comprehensive services and programs to all alumnae.

The AASC is run by a board of directors, all of whom are alumnae of the college (see Appendix I for the current list).

### **The Alumnae House**

The Alumnae House opened its doors in 1937, built with funds from alumnae who wanted a permanent home to visit. Almost all of the house furnishings have been donated by alumnae over the years. Special features include a gallery space, a conference hall, a living room, a library, and Sophia Smith's actual bed from her home in Hatfield, Massachusetts (where the president of the AASC sleeps when visiting the college).