

light pink color

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

*green
type*

RITUALS

Revised August, 1977

INTRODUCTION

There are many similarities which have bonded the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha together in the loving grasp of sisterhood. These bonds have been cemented with pride, love, joy, faith, common interests, friendship, and sisterly concern.

There is still another bond which many believe to be our strongest link--the vows which are made by each member of our Sorority. These solemn promises not only bind us one to another, but also to a common goal.

Our rituals have been prepared with love and devotion; because of this, they have successfully withstood the test of time. Yes, changes have been made in some instances, but these changes reflected a need to alter the method but never the underlying thought. Our rituals represent one of many vital links which have kept our organization alive and healthy.

Because our rituals represent the spiritual foundation of the Sorority, they should be revered and held in the highest esteem. They must (in the physical sense) be protected by the chapter.

Although they are not distributed to individual sorors, it is the responsibility of each member to make the solemn promises of devotion of a living example of true sisterhood and service.

*White sheets;
regular
black type*

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PLEDGE CEREMONY

Introduction into membership of the Ivy Leaf Pledge Club must involve this pledging ceremony and this pledging ceremony is a part of induction into full membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.¹ The pledge ceremony follows voting on candidates, signing of affirmation cards, approval of Regional Director, and acceptance by the candidate of an official written invitation to affiliate with the Pledge Club.²

Pledging shall take place no longer than six weeks prior to initiation, except where university Pan-Hellenic and/or college or university regulations dictate other procedure.³ In these exceptions, copies of the respective college or university regulations should accompany requests for permission to make these exceptions.

In alumna chapters, the pledging shall take place two to six weeks prior to initiation.

At the time of pledging, a pledge card shall be signed by each candidate. These cards are to be kept on file by the chapter. If the person is not initiated, the reason must be recorded on the back of the card.

¹Constitution and By-Laws of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Revised through 1976 Boule, Article IV, Section 12, page 24.

²Ibid., Section 20, page 26.

³Ibid., Section 24, page 27.

I.

All sorority members participating in the ceremony are dressed in conservative white dresses. Candidates wear black dresses. (Pantsuits are not acceptable for either the sorors or the candidates.)

II.

The candidates assemble in the ante-room where they are questioned by the Sentinel as to their desire to become pledgees of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. All candidates are then conducted by the Sentinel assembled. (Soft music is played.)

The candidates stand in a semi-circle around the table facing the Basileus. Upon the table are two candleholders with pink and green candles and a pledge book before a centerpiece of tea roses and/or a pot of ivy.

III.

SERVICE: Open with prayer---

1. Song, "I Think I Shall Never Know"
(Tune of Trees)
2. Speaker or Bible reading (Ruth 1:16-17)
3. Poem, "The Ivy"
4. Basileus' Statement

"I Think I Shall Never Know" (Tune of Trees)

I think that I shall never know
Another love that thrills me so,
Dwells in my heart by night, by day
As does my love for A.K.A.
I think that I need never fear
Where hearts are loyal, true and dear.

Secure I am at work, at play
Of such are these--the A.K.A.
I think when I shall come to die
There'll be no need of fear or sigh,
For if I've been an A.K.A.
Life owes me naught-
I've lived my day.

Poem "The Ivy Hymn"

Pushing the clods of earth aside, Leaving the dark
where foul things hide, Spreading its leaves to the
summer sun, Bondage ended freedom won; So let
my soul like the Ivy be; Rise, for the sunshine
calls for thee.

Climbing up as the seasons go, Looking down upon
things below; Twining itself in branches high, As
if the frail thin owned the sky; So let my soul like
the Ivy be; Heaven, not earth's the place for thee.

Wrapping itself round the giant oak, Hiding itself
from tempest's stroke; Strong and brave is the fra-
gile thing, For it knows one secret how to cling, So
let my soul like th Ivy be; Hear the mighty One,
Lean on Me."

Green are its leaves when the world is white; For
the Ivy sings through the night, Keeping the hearts
of oak awake, Till flowers shall bloom and spring
shall break; So let my soul through the winter's
rain, Sings the sunshine back again.

Opening its green and fluttering breast, Giving the
timid birds a hest, Coming out from the winter wild,
To make a wreath for the Holy Child. So let my life
like the Ivy be, A help to man and a wreath for Thee.

BASILEUS STATEMENT:

_____ Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha
operates within the national organization according
to a constitution which meets the requirements for
affiliation.

_____ Chapter systematically works to
include in its membership outstanding college
women from different racial, occupational, religious
and cultural groups.

Our program is organized so that the sorors have
opportunities to know more about the sorority locally
and nationally.

We are committed to a policy of shared responsi-
bility and cooperative effort between graduate and
undergraduate sorors in the work of the Sorority.

We are concerned with the needs of all women and
girls.

We aim to maintain good working relationships with
churches, schools, and social and civic agencies.

We fulfill our obligations as members of the national
organization by:

1. Participating in the Boule and in the National
Program. (Define the Boule and our National
Program.)
2. Assuming our share of responsibility for the
support of the national work in the following
ways:
3. Following and improving practices recommended
by the Directorate, which are: (Define Directo-
rate)
4. Sending in such reports on our works as requested
by the Directorate and Alpha Kappa Alpha Office.
The types of reports are:

One aspect of the pledge period is the learning
of the preparation of these reports.

Are you willing to comply with this perspective? If
so, will you individually kneel, raise your right
hand, and then repeat after me.

(The candidate kneels before the table while the Basi-
leus reads the following pledge which the candidate
repeats after her. Each candidate then signs her
name in the pledge book.)

IV.

THE PLEDGE

I, _____ desiring to become a loyal and faithful member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, do pledge myself to respect, obey and defend the Constitution, By-Laws and Rituals of the organization and to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

After all the candidates have taken the vow and signed their names in the pledge book, the Sentinel gives each a lighted pink or green candle and a small pot of ivy. (While this is being done, the Basileus repeats the last two lines of the Ivy Hymn: "So let my life like the Ivy be, a help to man and a wreath for Thee.")

Basileus, NOTE: (The Basileus is encouraged to commit to memory this portion of the ceremony so that she can use her hands and facial expressions to convey the meaning and sacredness of the ceremony.)

"We, as sorors, will clasp our hands and sing our hymn. We pledge anew the kinds of lives that penetrate the dark and light the paths of others. We pledge to live anew the kinds of lives that will show the way to the greatest good and thus supreme in service to all mankind will shine our sisterhood."

(Sorors clasp hands in circle formed around pledgees and sing sorority hymn.) Candles are then extinguished and the pledgees march from the inner room to solemn music.

(Ending of Pledging Ritual)

V.

The Dean of Pledgees reassembles the pledgees and sorors, gives appropriate words of welcome to Ivy membership, and presents to each pledgee the following:

- a. The Ivy Pin
- b. The Ivy Club Manual (Ivy Primer)
- c. Alpha Kappa Alpha, 1908-1958, or Sixty Years of Service
- d. Schedule of assignments of orientation materials to be studied concerning the purposes of the Ivy Leaf Pledge Club; the purposes, history, ideals, and organization of Alpha Kappa Alpha in particular, and Greek letter organizations in general (See Reading and Study Guide for appropriate assignments.)
- e. A roster of the members of the initiating chapter with correct addresses and telephone numbers.
- f. Date, time, and place of the first meeting of the pledgees for the purpose of organizing the Ivy Leaf Club with officers, planned agenda, etc.

The following suggestions are made for good relationships between Ivy Leaf Pledge Club members and Sorors.

1. The Sorors should attend the meetings of the Ivy Leaf Pledge Club as frequently as possible. Their attendance should be fellowship rather than for criticism or ridicule.
2. The Soror should enjoy more informal and social meetings with Ivies as sisters, not as superiors. The Sorors should not expect Ivies to perform personal errands nor should they request gifts or treats.
3. The Dean of Pledges is directly responsible to the Graduate Advisor for Ivy Leaf Pledge Club program and activities. She alone is to make assignments. The Ivy Leaf Pledge Club program agreed upon by the chapter and approved by the Graduate Advisor, is to be sent to the Regional Director along with the material on the candidates.

PROBATION AND INITIATION

The period from the beginning of the PROBATION PERIOD to the end of the INITIATION CEREMONY is a time of great anxiety, keen anticipation and joy. This could be labeled in the time of the "making of an Alpha Kappa Alpha Soror."

The period of probation is generally considered a period of testing and time of group cohesiveness in its highest order for the Probates. The success of the probation period depends on the creativity, maturity, and level of intelligent judgement on the part of both Sorors and Probates.

The probation period should begin one week before initiation, except on campuses where Pan-Hellenic or administrative regulations differ.

The activities for probation must not include any acts which may be defined as hazing, namely, any act that is likely to cause physical, psychological or social harm to an individual. This includes action taken or a situation created providing mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

There must be no consumption of foods or liquids in any pledge, probation, or initiation activity.

Examples of PHYSICAL HAZING

- (a) Hitting or pretending to hit a person (padding).
- (b) Performing acts that are or seem to be dangerous.
- (c) Requiring consumption of odd preparation of foods or liquids, or food that is not usually eaten in quantities, such as hot sauce, oil, grits, or cornflakes.
- (d) Requiring a person to perform undignified and socially unacceptable acts upon herself or someone else (morally degrading or humiliating activities).
- (e) Requiring a person to alter her appearance so that others amuse themselves at her embarrassment of disgrace (conspicuous apparel).
- (f) Requiring a person to engage in physical activity of unusual kind of duration, in particular:

- (1) Calisthenics (strenuous exercises)
- (2) Difficult work assignments
- (3) Activity that may be excessive for persons with physical disabilities
- (4) Activities which require a person to remain in a fixed position for an extended period of time.

- (g) Creation of excess fatigue by any means.
- (h) Public stunts.

THE ONLY HEAT TO BE USED DURING PLEDGE, PROBATION OR INITIATION ACTIVITIES IS THAT CALLED FOR IN THE CEREMONIES (the candles).

Examples of MENTAL HAZING

Mental hazing is any willful act directed against any one for the purpose of causing:

- (a) Humiliation
- (b) Intimidation
- (c) Social or other ostracism
- (d) Ignominy, shame or disgrace among his fellow students,
- (e) Or any act that
 1. humbles the student's pride.
 2. stifles ambition
 3. blights the courage
 4. discourage any student from any longer remaining in such educational institutions.

Examples include:

- (1) verbal threats
- (2) profanity and/or verbal abuse
- (3) excessive name-calling
- (4) yelling and screaming
- (5) suggestive posturing

This form of hazing may/will cause a greater harm than physical abuse.

GENERAL HAZING POLICY

The law of California makes it a criminal offense for anyone to participate in hazing. The University policy against hazing is based upon the proposition that students are entitled to be treated with consideration and respect. Hazing demonstrates disdain for the very values which the University undertakes to promote. Hence, the policy against hazing is not an isolated administrative position, but an integral part of the University educational program.

Student initiations and similar activities are appropriate when they are those which a person of normal sensitivity would recognize as fun. The crucial question is whether the fun is had with new members or at their expense. The fact that an activity is done with the consent of the persons involved does not exempt it from the regulations on hazing, nor do these regulations concern themselves only with new members of an organization.

The University has always recognized the propriety and necessity of initiation procedures of activities which are designed to instill group spirit and loyalty. However, in the past, many of these activities have not been conducive to the development of the appropriate objectives of fostering unity and spirit with the group, and at times have been substantially aimless. In aimlessness there has been carelessness, there has been harm.

There is no ready formula by which to distinguish between these activities that legitimately foster group cohesion and those that illegitimately buy supported group cohesion at the price of indignities to the individual. The questions in every case is the spirit and judgement with which the activity is directed and the spirit with which it is received. If at any time during the course of an initiation there is doubt about the propriety or wisdom of the activity, it should be terminated immediately. Although the line between the proper and improper is indistinct, it should not be difficult to keep within the bounds of University policy if the intent of University policy is observed.

It should be noted that these regulations are not merely concerned with initiation, but cover all student activities and their consistency with the educational endeavors of the University community. They deal with two related problems; bodily harm and psychological injury resulting from hazing. They are not to be studied for loopholes and must not be considered as license to do anything which might fall into the category of hazing activities.

CALIFORNIA LAW

The Educational Code of California provides as follows:

Section 10851. As used in this article, "Hazing" includes any method of initiation into a student organization or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization which causes, or is likely to cause bodily danger or physical harm to any student or other person attending any school, college, university, or other educational institution in this State; but the term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions.

Section 10852. No students, or other person in attendance at any public, private, parochial, or military school, college, or other educational institution, shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces, or tends to injure, degrade or disgrace any fellow student or person attending the institution.

The violation of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00), not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment in the county jail for no more than six months or both.

Section 10853. Any person who participates in the hazing of another, or any corporation or association which knowingly permits hazing to be conducted by its members or by others subject to its direction or control, shall forfeit any entitlement to public funds, scholarships or awards which are enjoyed

by him or by it and shall be deprived of any sanction or approval granted by any public educational institution or agency.

The governing board of any public university, or other public educational institution or agency may adopt rules and regulations to implement this section.

If he has reason to believe that a forfeiture should be declared under this section, the Attorney General or the district attorney of any county or city and county may institute a special proceeding in the superior court to establish such forfeiture. Any funds so forfeited shall be deposited in the State Treasury and credited to the State School Fund.

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

The University regulations are synonymous with the law, namely that no individual subject to the jurisdiction of the University shall perform an act that is likely to cause physical, psychological or social harm to any other person within the University community. This regulation does not include the customary athletic events or similar contests competitions.

The probation period should be a time for the Probates

- . . . to strengthen their commitment to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
- . . . to review, emphasize, and demonstrate their knowledge about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
- . . . to learn to live and work together in a unit,

- . . . to learn more about the members of the chapter in which they seek membership,
- . . . to exemplify the objectives and goals of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority through their programs, activities, personal relationships, and general appearance and decorum.

The activities for Probates should "help the Probate to become an effective and productive soror." The "right attitude" about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is not learned by "crossing the burning sands" or sitting in the "Alpha Chair" but through the warm, sisterly relationships the sorors develop among themselves and toward the Ivies and Probates.

Probates should have the experience of planning and implementing activities similar to those they will be sharing as members of chapters. Committees, projects, programs, receptions, parties, and informal social interaction should be encouraged. This should be a part of the program plans for the pledge and probation period under the direction of the Dean of Pledgees, with the approval and assistance of the chapter through committee cooperation.

If the probation period is for one week or several days, each night's activities should be planned (the same set of plans sent to the Regional Director). These activities would include involvement with the "Big Sisters", the academic community and the chapter.

Examples of Activities for Probates
During Probation Week

A Fashion Show - Probates model
Make-up demonstration
Hair styling
Etiquette ("Let's Do It Right")
Officer Workshop
Campus Service Project
A Fashion Show for Freshman
All Greek Sing (invite other probates to participate)
Book Review
Talent Show-Kiddie Karnival

Write chapter songs, poems, present unique program for "Big Sisters", oral and written tests on Alpha Kappa Alpha History.

During the week, special assignments which include the scrapbook, campus service project, individual decorative items, etc. for "Big Sisters" or chapter are supervised and cleared by and through the Dean of Pledges.

Pledges and Probates should do the following:

1. Accept assignments for the Dean of Pledges.
2. Perform those assignments as quickly and efficiently as possible.
3. Be cooperative and responsive to the requests made by the Dean of Pledges.
4. Maintain present grade average and, if possible, raise it.
5. Learn as much as possible about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Pledges and Probates need not do the following and will not be required to do so:

1. Perform personal tasks for any Soror.
2. Purchase personal gifts for anyone.
3. Perform menial tasks, such as, taking trays in the dining hall, cleaning rooms, or ironing clothes, etc. Also included awakening persons before 6:00 a.m.
4. Remain up all night.
5. Accept hazing-physical, emotional, psychological or social.
6. Go out on the street after 11:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m.

On some campuses, probates are housed together during the week of probation. However, only the Dean of Pledges and Graduate Advisor should be allowed in the room or rooms. If this is the case, the Graduate Advisor must remain and accept the responsibility.

All assignments for Probates must be channeled through the Dean of Pledges. This is the most difficult time for the Dean of Pledges, and the Sorors should be understanding, sisterly, and cooperative.

The keys to a successful week of probation activities are careful planning on the part of the chapter; excellent leadership by both the Basileus and the Dean of Pledges; and the implementation of the plans by all persons concerned in an orderly manner.

The role of the Graduate Advisor is very important. It is she who gives guidance and support to the program of activities and the Sorors during this period. In addition, she must maintain the standards of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

The INITIATION CEREMONY, following the period of probation, should represent a culmination of activities leading to the highest achievement of the prospective member. It is the most beautiful ceremony of all and should be solemn, dignified, and sincere. The Sorors must present the initiation activities so that they are reflective of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority standards.

PURPOSE OF THE INITIATION CEREMONY

The Initiation Ceremony is the final tangible show of commitment to the ideals and purposes of the sisterhood of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority taken by the prospective member.

During the initiation ceremony, candidates dedicate their time, talent, and resources to the perpetuation of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The ritualistic degrees in the ceremony are representative of the acceptance of the responsibilities of a Soror and a solemn promise to "promote the bonds of sisterhood by precept and example."

The initiation ceremony is time for dedication and rededication. When the vows have been taken by the candidates, the ceremony concludes with dedication on the part of the new Sorors and rededication on the part of "Alpha Kappa Alpha women who continually remind themselves of the pledge they have made and the loyalties they owe."

INITIATION RITUAL

The setting for the ceremony should be beautiful and solemn. The candidates and sorors must be properly dressed. All necessary items for the ceremony should be in place at least one-half hour prior to the time of the ceremony. Items needed are:

- (a) Table with white table cloth.
- (b) Large white candle entwined with Ivy.
- (c) White candles.
- (d) Pen.
- (e) Record Book.
- (f) Coat of Arms.
- (g) Ivy.

Sorors should wear conservative white dresses. (Neither Soror nor candidates should wear pants. Dress should be uniform: i. e., all wear long dresses or short knee-length dresses.)

Participation by Sorors

1. Soror should know the National Hymn, Pledge, the Initiation Hymn, and demonstrations of signs (handshakes and identifications).
2. Sorors should stand during each degree while candidates proceed through them.

Candidates

1. Wear black dress for first degree.
2. Wear white dress for remaining degrees.
3. Know National Hymn, Initiation Hymn, Pledge.

In the actual performance of the Initiation Ritual, it is suggested that the Dean of Pledges or Membership Chairlady serve as the "Pilot". In this role, she will provide an atmosphere of tranquility and calmness for the Probates.

THE DEGREES

I. DEVOTION AND PROMISE

Setting: On a table covered in white is a HUGE WHITE CANDLE entwined with Ivy representing our FOUNDER---Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle.

For this degree ONLY, the Basileus and Pilot wear a black academic gown and the candidate(s) wear black dress(es). Each candidate should have a white candle.

As the candidate(s) enter, soft music is sung--"I Think That I Shall Never Know" (Tune of Trees) or a similar selection.

Basileus: YOU HAVE CHOSEN ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA as your Sorority; your choice is a wise one. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is more than a sisterhood. It is a SYMBOL: A symbol of love, faith, and promise. It is the first GREEK LETTER organization founded at Howard University, Washington, D. C., in 1908.

Alpha Kappa Alpha has established itself as a dynamic group which initiates new movements and new programs. It serves, therefore, as a training ground for women who will assume increasingly greater responsibilities for leadership in their expanding communities.

In the years to come, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will continue to be a channel through which individuals may find together what they cannot find separately or independently-- security, a sense of responsibility, the response of friends and opportunities for experiences in mutually rewarding services.

"Do you wish to unite with this group of women who are dedicated to the expansion of their college and communities by assuming greater responsibilities?"

Pilot to
Probates:

Repeat after Me-- "I do."

Basileus:

Let us pray. (Repeat after me.)
"Open then my eyes, O God, that I may behold the wondrous works of this great organization. Make me to understand the ideals and purposes of this sisterhood so that I may continue the great work so nobly begun.

Take from me any selfishness and lack of purpose which could keep me from following the ideals of the organization. Awaken within me holy desires, inspire me with a new enthusiasm of the revered FOUNDERS and grant me wisdom and strength that I may render service to all mankind. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

Basileus:

Are you willing to accept the responsibilities and obligations which will be yours as a soror of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority? If so, repeat after me. "I do."

Basileus
to

Probates:

I sincerely dedicate my time and talent to the growth and development of the program of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. This I promise in deed and truth.

The Basileus lights a candle from the single white candle on the table representing Soror Ethel Hedge- man Lyle. From her candle, she lights the Pilot's candle, who lights the first candidate's candle and it is passed on to each candidate until all the candidates have lighted candles.

Basileus:

Pass on this torch, pass on this flame; remember from whence the glory came; and eyes are on you as you run beyond the shining of the sun. (Repeat until all candles are lighted.)

Pilot to

Candidates: Repeat after me.

Candidates: I take the torch from you. I will be true. I will be free and clean of heart, and strong to bear the glory to its goal.

To our Founders, we bow (candidates bow their heads).

Our purpose seal; I will, for honor of thy name, pass on the torch, pass on the flame.

The Pilot then leads the candidates out of the room as the Sorors sing softly.

II. OBEDIENCE

Candidates assemble in the ante-room where the following questions are asked by the Pilot:

Pilot to

Candidates: Are you willing to accept the responsibilities of a Soror of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority? If so, repeat after me: "I am."

Candidates: "I am."

Pilot: Do you solemnly promise obedience to the laws governing this organization? If so, repeat after me: "I do."

Candidates: "I do."

Pilot: Those who are not willing may withdraw. (Pilot alarms the door.)

Sentinel: (Stationed at the door) Basileus, there is an alarm at the door.

Basileus: Attend the alarm, Sentinel.

Sentinel: Basileus, the Pilot with the candidates who desire to be admitted to our order, is here.

Basileus: Have the candidates made satisfactory answers to the questions and expressed their desire to unite with us?

Sentinel: I will ascertain. (Sentinel ascertains from the Pilot.)

Pilot: They have.

Basileus: Then, admit them. (Pilot enters with the candidates, and lights are lowered.)

Basileus to
Candidates: Are you willing to be submissive and in every way to subjugate yourself to the highest authority?

Pilot to
Candidates: Repeat after me: "I am."

Candidates: "I am."

Basileus: What proof have you.

Pilot to
Candidates:

Repeat after me: "I show my submission by kneeling." (Candidates kneel a few minutes. Nothing but silence prevails.)

Basileus:

Candidates, arise.

The pilot and sorors lead the candidates in a line in a winding way. The sponsor of each candidate should be at her side. The Basileus repeats this phrase seven times: "Life is a winding maze, and intricate labyrinth through which we must wander all our days."

Candidates are then taken to the ante-room after the seventh intonation.

In the ante-room:

Pilot:

Candidates, are you willing to enter deeper into the mysteries of our organization? If so, state after me. "I am."

Candidates:

"I am."

(Pilot knocks at the door.)

III. FAITH AND TRUST

Sentinel: Basileus, there is an alarm at the door.

Basileus: Sentinel, attend the alarm.

Sentinel: The Pilot with the candidates.

Basileus: Admit them.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is perpetuated through the faith and trust its members have engendered in the ideals and aims of the organization.

Faith is believing--believing so deeply that we act, we live what we believe.

Trust is to commit something to the care of another.

You will continue to demonstrate your faith and trust by following those orders given to you.

It is not possible to know if Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will provide sweetness to the bitterness in your life---but you must believe that it will.

It is not promised that the path of life, often strewn with thorns, will be more smooth as a Soror of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority---but you must believe that they will be.

The bonds of sisterhood are so strong that faith and trust are blind with no reservations.

Have you this faith and trust in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority?

Pilot to

Candidates: Repeat after me. "I have."

Candidates: "I have."

(Complete silence must prevail for two to three minutes.)

Basileus: Each soror in succession will shake the hand of each candidate as an indication of our faith and trust.

Candidates are then conducted to the outer room.

Pilot to

Candidates: Your faith and trust have brought you to this point. Do you wish to proceed further?

Candidates: "I do."

IV. FIDELITY AND LOVE

Setting: On a table covered in another area; white candles, ivy and/or roses. (Where possible, there should also be a coat of arms.)

Pilot: (To candidates in ante-room): The significance of this degree in fidelity and love. Do you desire to continue in this work? If so, repeat after me "I do."

Candidates: "I do." (Each candidate is given an unlighted white candle.)

Pilot: (Knocks at door---Sentinel answers.)

Sentinel: Basileus, there is an alarm at the door.

Basileus: Sentinel, attend the alarm.

Sentinel: It is the Pilot with the candidates.

Basileus: Admit them. (Candidates and Pilot are admitted. Candidates stand in a semi-circle in front of the Basileus who stands behind the table.)

Basileus: You have passed the degree of obedience and faith. You have shown willingness to accept the ideals and mandates of our organization; you have expressed your faith in the ideals and aims of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Now, are you willing to pledge your allegiance to Alpha Kappa Alpha that you will remain steadfast in your attachment to this Sorority, and promise us your constant effort in its behalf?

Pilot to

Candidates: Repeat after me. "I am."

Candidates: "I am."

(Candidates kneel and take the following oaths):

I, (Name), do solemnly promise to keep secret the manner of initiation, pledge and obligations of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

I, (Name), do solemnly promise always to live up to the ideals of the organization, to stand by Alpha Kappa Alpha in every undertaking, to render assistance to any soror at all times, and to refrain from any expression of ill-will. I shall keep in my heart these words: "Set a guard over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips."

I, (Name), do solemnly promise to promote the bonds of sisterhood by precept and example.

I, (Name), do solemnly promise to love and revere the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and to do all in my power to perpetuate the organization.

(As each candidate rises, her candle is lighted, a wreath of ivy is placed on her head and the badge is placed upon her over her heart.)

Basileus to Candidate: Repeat after me: "By affixing my signature in this book, I, _____, join the hands and hearts of those Sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha who continually strive to capture a vision fair." She then signs the Chapter Initiation Record Book.

Basileus: Your vows have been said, and your pledges made. By so doing, you have accepted a wonderful challenge that requires your continuous interests, devoted efforts and a lifetime of service. You are entering the last phase of this sacred hour, and are about to join hands with those Alpha Kappa Alpha women who continually remind themselves of the pledge they made and the loyalties they owe.

May you always remember that you are not only joining with individuals, but you are uniting with the Alpha Kappa Alpha. May you also become increasingly aware that the pledges and the vows which you have made before God, and in the presence of Alpha Kappa Alpha women here assembled who believe in you and the potentialities which you have for the perpetuation of our sisterhood, and the advancement of Alpha Kappa Alpha are a sacred trust to be honored in such a manner that what Alpha Kappa Alpha is will be in each one of you.

You have chosen Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority as your sorority. In Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, we merge our endeavors with others and together we raise our standards high for all to see.

Together we accomplish far more than ever we would as individuals. A backward look at our sorority reveals a history of which we may be proud. That glory is not mine nor yours. It belongs to our predecessors, those women under whose leadership the sorority grew in strength and service.

We are proud of the past. We thank God for the past, but in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, we must always look forward to a new era of service. For in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, challenging days will be ahead. Our very existence as an illustrious organization demands that we meet the challenges of social, economic, and religious changes with courage and imagination. We, in this sisterhood, are bound together by affection, by common interests, beliefs and inspiration. We welcome you tonight, as new sorors, with warm hearts and open arms. Let us pray.

Prayer:

"Eternal Spirit, we yearn for a better understanding of spiritual things and a closer walk with Thee, that we may interpret aright the times in which we live. We long to be able to minister, according to Thy will, to People who are troubled and burdened with the cares of the world.

Instill into the hearts of Thy servants each day, fresh confidence in Thy goodness. Deliver us from fear and worry that we may deal confidently with the fears and worries of others. Strengthen our faith and increase our capacity for sympathy and understanding. Make us glad to bear one another's burdens; and be grateful for opportunities of fulfilling thus the law of eternal life. Amen."

(Extinguish candles. Pilot collects candles.)

(New members form circle within sorors' circle.)

Basileus:

At this time our deepest mysteries, our secret symbols, will be revealed to you. Remember you have already vowed to keep them secret. The sorors who have been designated to explain the symbols now come forward.

OUR MOTTO:

BY CULTURE AND BY MERIT, is taken from words formed from the initial letter of the words, Alpha Kappa Alpha. These words are the Greek words, Askosi Kai Axiosis (As-ko-sis Ka-i Ax-i-o-sis).

OUR COLORS:

Our colors are APPLE GREEN AND SALMON PINK, signifying ABUNDANCE OF LIFE, WOMANLINESS, FIDELITY AND LOVE.

OUR SYMBOL:

The Ivy signifies STRENGTH and ENDURANCE.

We wear the symbols of Alpha Kappa Alpha with pride---pride that is born of what we are as individuals, what we have done, and what we are willing to do to keep Alpha Kappa Alpha the great organization it is and must continue to be.

OUR COAT OF ARMS:

The significance of the Coat of Arms is found in the various symbols which taken together mean, through KNOWLEDGE, CULTURE, WISDOM, ENDURANCE, AND JUSTICE, fostered by SISTERLY LOVE, we extend service to all mankind.

The clasped hands signify sisterly love.
The dove signifies peace and virginity.
The atlas signifies endurance and strength.
The lamp signifies wisdom and culture.
The scale signifies equality and justice.

The letters "Omega Upsilon" are taken from Greek words which mean SIMPLICITY and WISDOM.

OUR GRIP:

The grip or handshake has three parts. First, an ordinary handshake, (second) quickly followed by pressure of thumb, first and second fingers of the giver of the grip. If the grip is recognized by the receiver, it is completed (third part) by pressure of little finger and the third finger, finishing by ordinary handshake. (Basileus should see that a soror helps each new member to properly execute the handshake.)

OUR SIGN OF RECOGNITION:

The Alpha Kappa Alpha soror making the test, carelessly places her right hand on her left shoulder as if adjusting her slip strap. The return sign shall be made by placing the right hand at the bend of the left elbow and casually stroking the elbow.

The above sign is accompanied by the following conversation: FIRST SOROR: "What do you say?" SECOND SOROR: "Is it wise to say anything?" or if the individuals are so situated that they cannot

talk while the test is being made, the conversational test may be made later. The conversation should be continued so as not to attract attention to the test.

OUR PASS WORD:

The PASS WORD shall be changed each biennium. It shall be the name of the last chapter established before the meeting of the Boule. The pass word for this biennium is _____.

(Basileus then asks new members to step within the larger circle to sing the Initiation Hymn and then repeat together the Pledge.)

Basileus: Sorors, for the statement of our Pledge and the singing of our Hymn, we welcome our new sorors into the larger circle which symbolizes the unity which permeates our sisterhood. Soror _____ please join us in the larger circle. (Each new soror is named and then takes her place in the larger circle.)

INITIATION HYMN

Hail Alpha Kappa Alpha dear, we greet thee here tonight, and may this noble sisterhood be always our delight. And may this noble sisterhood be always our delight. And may this noble sisterhood be always our delight.

We love our motto good and true and strive to do the right: By culture and by merit, too, we'll climb to glory's height, By culture and by merit, too, we'll climb to glory's height. By culture and by merit, too, we'll climb to glory's height.

When cares of life o'er take us and our locks are turning gray, We'll always reverence A.K.A. forever and a day. We'll always reverence A.K.A. forever and a day. We'll always reverence A.K.A. forever and a day.

OUR PLEDGE

To thee, O Alpha Kappa Alpha!
We pledge our hearts, our minds, our strength;
To foster their teachings,
Obey thy laws,
And make thee Supreme in Service to all mankind.
O, Alpha Kappa Alpha! We greet thee!

(All sing together the Sorority Hymn.)

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA NATIONAL SONG

J. Marjorie Jackson

Through the years as we struggle
With main and with might
To capture a vision fair
There is one thing that spurs us
To victory's height
With a fellowship sincere and rare.

Chorus

O, Alpha Kappa Alpha
Dear Alpha Kappa Alpha
Hearts that are loyal
And hearts that are true
By merit and culture
We strive as we do
Things that are worthwhile
And with a smile
We help each other
For we know there's no other
Like our sisterhood
Alpha Kappa Alpha.

So together anew
We will pledge our faith
And united we'll forge away
Greater laurels to win
Greater tasks to begin
For thy honor and glory today.

(Repeat Chorus)

END OF INITIATION RITUAL

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A soror whose achievement and standing is of significance to the chapter should be invited to install the officers. Officer should be instructed to answer "I do" when questioned. Substitutions should be made in the charge if the service mentioned is not performed by that officer in this chapter.

Leader: We have four different emotions in a service of installation. First, there will be the sense of loss that some of those who have been our leaders, will no longer be at the helm. There will be some apprehension that those on whom we have been accustomed to depend are being removed from us. Let us recognize them now and be thankful that we have had the inspiration of their leadership. Will the retiring officers please come and stand before us?

Each of you who is finishing her term of office today has won for herself the affection and gratitude of the sorors of (name of chapter) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. No record will show the hours of prayer, planning and preparation which have gone into your service. The testimony to your service is in your achievement, and we know too, that because of the grace and spirituality in you, there has been

secured for the causes of this chapter and our national body, your binding devotion and loyalty. We thank you and pray that choicest blessing attend you. You may be seated.

The next emotion is a feeling of security. Will the officers who are continuing please stand before us? Your part in our executive committee is very important this year. You are the upper classmen. Your continuance in office is a source of security and strength to your colleagues and constituents. You have put your roots down in this sorority. To you, the sorors here are saying, "We are glad to have you." And may the eternal Spirit, having begun this work in you, bless you even more abundantly. Now to the new officers. Will you please come and join your sorors here in front? (list name and officers as they appear below.)

Life is full of doors. We are always closing one and opening another. Today a new door is opening to you. You have learned that any great privilege or opportunity which life brings to us, exacts a price. You will pay that price gladly. Our only word to you would be that you do not limit yourselves

to the simple imitation of those who have gone before you, fine and unusual as they have been; But bring to this task, new to you, all the adventurous spirit and creative ability of which you are capable. It is only thus that the members of our sorority have been a growing and effective force in our organization.

Leader: Soror (name), we look to you as Basileus for cooperative leadership and guidance as the nuclear figure around whom we seek to revolve. Yours is the responsibility of moving the chapter forward for the good of this, our sisterhood. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Basileus: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), as Anti-Basileus your duties are like those of the Basileus. In her absence you becoming the guiding light. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Anti-Basileus: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), as Grammateus we put our trust in you as keeper of our records, can keep us on the true course of all our missions. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Grammateus: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), as Anti-Grammateus your duties are like those of the Grammateus. In her absence you are the recorder of deeds of actions. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Anti-Grammateus: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), as Tamiouchos you are the guardian of the funds of our group. The financial seeds we sow and the harvest thereof, we expect you to watch with accuracy and care. And thus, through your diligence, we will be able to give greater service to all mankind. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Tamiouchos: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), as Epistoleus you are the carrier of tidings and news. Through you we are ever mindful of the affairs within our organization. We are dependent upon you for correspondence and information. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Epistoleus: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), as the Hodegos you are charged with the duty of receiving and introducing visiting sorors. Our love of Alpha Kappa Alpha is reflected in our love for our sorors. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Hodegos: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), you, our Philacter, guard our doors from the undesirable intrusion of strangers. You will protect us from any intangible disturbances and restore us to peace and order. You must help the chapter, too, to shut out the strange and false and hold the true and the beautiful within. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Philacter: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), as Parliamentarian, we think of you as a shining star, by whose light and brilliance we are guided upon our seas of endeavor. You keep us on the right course until we reach our goals and destinations. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Parliamentarian: "I do."

Leader: Soror (name), as Ivy Leaf Reporter, you relate us to our sisterhood. As it is said, "By their deeds, ye shall know them" we know you will acquaint

our national sisterhood with those deeds of which we are proud. You are expected to give due publicity of such deeds, particularly in our national organ, "The Ivy Leaf." Do you accept these responsibilities?

Ivy Leaf
Reporter:

"I do."

Leader:

Soror (name) as Historian you will work cooperatively with the Hodgegos, Philacter, and Ivy Leaf Reporter to keep the chronicles of this chapter. Do you accept this responsibility?

Historian:

"I do."

Leader:

Soror (names), as Graduate Advisor your task is ominous for it is your responsibility to be certain that the undergraduate sorors understand and implement the philosophy of Alpha Kappa Alpha. The road at times is stormy for often you must take a stand when activities do not reflect our goals and procedures. There are many rewards as you watch our undergraduate soror develop. All of us commend you and wish you much success. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Graduate
Advisor:

"I do."

Leader:

Soror (name), as Member-at-Large you serve as the liaison and link between the membership and the officers of this chapter. The duties of this office may change based upon the needs of this chapter as well as those of our national organization. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Member
at
Large:

"I do."

Leader:

And now, we come to the fourth emotion, that of belonging and maintaining a sense of relationship, one to the other. Will all sorors present please stand. We, as sorors, have obligations and responsibilities to our sisterhood, so the final act will be one of dedication and loyalty. Remember that this is a reciprocal relationship. The testing will not only be for the officers. It cannot be predicted here which of us will best serve our cause this year. It could, of course, be one of these officers who have pledged themselves to carry the load, but it could be one of the most obscure of us, who by prayers, loyalty to plans, faithful

attendance, support of each project, upholds the hands of these we have chosen to serve us. This is a great sisterhood of service and the least among us is as the greatest. Loyalty! May each of us have this also! Our officers are now installed.

Let us pray: Eternal Spirit, we thank Thee for the tradition of women in our Sorority and for those whose loyalty and sacrifice have brought us to this place. Now that the task is theirs, prepare them to plan, to work, to lead, to serve, to follow. Give to each Soror here whatever she will need of gentleness, patience, firmness, courage, faith, loyalty, industry, restraint and relationships with Thy love until our services together are so strong and effective that those looking on will know with the conviction that we have One Heart, One Purpose and One Way, as together we sing:

Song: Second stanza of Alpha Kappa Alpha National Hymn
(So together anew we will pledge our faith).

RECONSECRATION SERVICES

I.

Setting and Preparation

(White-covered table decorated with pots of ivy and a replica of the pin or coat of arms; a candelabrum with three pink and three green candles; five large white candles of graded sizes; a small white candle for each soror.)

(Prior to this ceremony, a soror should be chosen to carry in the candelabrum placing it, lighted, on the table when called. Sorors to represent the National Founders, National Officers, Local Charter Members, Regional Director, and Local Officers should be chosen. They will carry a large candle of graded size, respectively. All sorors are standing in a circle with a leader in the center. The room is darkened.)

II.

Leader: Sorors, we are gathered together to repledge ourselves to the ideals, symbols and beliefs of a dream which has crystalized _____ years ago.

On January 16, 1908, at Howard University in Washington, D. C., a group of young women, inspired by Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, saw the need for inspiration, fellowship and service among a growing group of Negro college women facing a world of uncertain status. Alpha Kappa

Alpha came as the first light into the dark world of Negro womanhood. Soror _____ will bring the light which is the symbolic of the three words that make up our name.

This is the light of ideals, inspirations, sacrifice, encouragement, social fellowship, sisterly love, service, culture and merit. This light which never goes out, was handed to us by other hands and must be preserved and passed on to others. (Soror carrying candelabrum enters and places "it" on the table.)

All: We give thanks and pledge ourselves as Alpha Kappa Alpha women to remember.

Leader: The purpose of Alpha Kappa Alpha as conceived by our Founders, Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle and her associates, is to be of service to all mankind, particularly in the areas of health, scholarship, civic betterment and cultural and political advancement of women. Because of these aims, we rededicate ourselves to Alpha Kappa Alpha.

(Representative of National Founders, with largest candle, enters and takes her light from the three candles, and stands by the leader.)

All: We give thanks and pledge ourselves as Alpha Kappa Alpha women to remember.

Leader: The accomplishment of these purposes, the continuity of ideas and of program and the implementation of the objective for which Alpha Kappa Alpha was created has been possible through our National Officers. We pass the torch significant of this position of trust.

(Representatives of National Officers enter and take her light, then stand near leader.)

All: We give thanks and pledge ourselves as Alpha Kappa Alpha women to remember.

Leader: (In (name of city) we got our start because of the foresight and action of ___ women. Tonight we are fortunate to have ___ of them present.

These sorors attempted to bring the light of our National Organization to the worthy college women of this community.

(Representatives of Local Charter Members enter and take light.)

All: We give thanks and pledge ourselves as Alpha Kappa Alpha women to remember.

Leader: Let the light of the Regional Director symbolize the brightness and influence inspired by the beauty of the light of the National Officers, pledging herself to be faithful to the tasks so nobly begun.

(Regional Director or her representative enters as did the others.)

All: We give thanks and pledge ourselves as Alpha Kappa Alpha women to remember.

Leader: We know that our Basileus has a rich heritage from which to get her light. She and her cabinet get their light not only from the local Charter Members, but also from the National Program and its ideals. She will rededicate herself to those attributes of majesty, dignity, and power, passing her light of inspiration and responsibility to her officers and members.

(Local officers as represented by Basileus any or next in line, wave candle(s) over all of the candidates as if obtaining light from each.)

All: We give thanks and pledge ourselves as Alpha Kappa Alpha women to remember.

Leader: (To all Sorors): The many other sorors who have served us well as leaders, officers and workers, who receive their light from their Basileus will realize the importance of their duties in helping to have counsel and fellowship with the coming leadership of Alpha Kappa Alpha and will rededicate themselves to their obligations. The strength of Alpha Kappa Alpha will largely depend on how well you function not only as an officer, but also as a member. Leadership without fellowship is not conducive to the ideals, symbols and aspiration of our sisterhood. With this knowledge we ask God for guidance and strength. As you receive your light, you will see that the room is becoming brighter and brighter.

(Basileus passes her light to the nearest soror who, in turn gives light to the next soror and so on until each soror has a lighted candle.)

All: We give thanks and pledge ourselves as Alpha Kappa Alpha women to remember.

Leader:

(Reading slowly and impressively as sorors are passing their lights)
"Hold high the Torch, you did not light its glow. It was given you by other hands you know.
'Tis only yours to keep it burning bright. Yours to pass on, when you no more need the light:
For there are feet that you must guide, and forms go passing by your side. Their eyes are watching every tear and smile, And efforts you think are not worthwhile.
Hold high your Torch. "

FOUNDERS DAY HYMN

By Soror Anna Rhodes

All hail to Alpha Kappa Alpha, To you we're ever true. We greet you, Alpha Kappa Alpha, We've ne'er forgotten you. With bonds of love our hearts will bind. When we are far away,
FOR ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, We'll cherish you always.

Oh how we love our Ivy Leaf, It---is a beacon light. For all the sorors of every age have kept its honor bright; With bonds of love we pledge our minds. And love you more each day;
FOR ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, We'll cherish you always.

All hail to Alpha Kappa Alpha, We'll all your praises sing. We'll send our voices far away, Till all our chapters ring. But bonds of love will keep us joined. Forever and for aye:
FOR ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, We'll cherish you always.

Leader:

The torch is ours forever to carry high true to the vision which forever is before us. You will notice that as we extinguish our candles the room becomes darker; therefore, the more lights we have, the more fellowship we have, and the more we fellowship together the stronger grows the bonds of sisterhood.

(Members extinguish their candles one by one, following the local officers and so on down the line in reverse order in which they were lighted. The candelabrum is taken out still lighted.)

Leader:

Let us close our circle and look to the future.

Sorority Hymn (All sorors in circle)

Sorority Pledge

FOUNDERS DAY REDEDICATION CEREMONY

(This shorter ritual may be used alternatively with the Reconsecration Service. It has also been used effectively in programs seeking reactivation of sorors.)

The sorors will form a circle around the room which should be liberally decorated with Ivy. Very soft music (Ivy Hymn) will be played. Lighting: candles and just enough other lights to read the ceremony. When the solemnity of the occasion becomes apparent, the Basileus will light the candles on the table (decorated with Ivy) located on the table in the center of the room. (Several Basilei may participate in the candle lighting.)

Prayer of Rededication (All Sorors)

Eternal Spirit, open our hearts and our minds to the ideals and high purposes of Alpha Kappa Alpha; guide us as we in love and humility forever strive for the supreme good of all mankind, love. Be with us as we remind ourselves of the pledges we have made, and the loyalties we owe. Grant that we may find the courage and the faith to rededicate ourselves to the fulfillment of Thy laws. Grant that we may be unstinting in the use of our energies to work for Alpha Kappa Alpha, so that every star in her sky will be eternally bright. This we pray. Amen.

Litany of Rededication

Leader: At this hour, upon an occasion sacred to sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority every where, we attune our hearts and minds to the spirit, vision, courage and dedication of our inspired Founders. Again, in humility and gratitude, we pay tribute to the great women whose consecrated efforts gave birth to wonderful Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Sorors: May this hour inspire us to give increasingly of our service to Alpha Kappa Alpha. May our loyalty and devotion deepen, for these were two precious building stones that the Founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha placed in fine structure of our great sisterhood. May we be determined to strengthen this fine structure by adding only the finest building stones--cemented by love.

Leader: May we join hands (leader pauses while sorors join hands as in the singing of the hymn--right hand over the left) as a symbol of our need for greater cooperation and effort to assure the security and high standing that our Founders envisioned for Alpha Kappa Alpha. May we be for-

ever aware of the building of Alpha Kappa Alpha, and that each stone is important to the permanence of the edifice of our beloved sorority. (Soft music--Ivy Hymn).

(After a brief pause)

Leader: Oh, Alpha Kappa Alpha, we dedicate our hearts to greater love of thee.

Sorors: And mankind.

Leader: Love that knows no bounds.

Sorors: Love that creates sisterhood.

Leader: Sisterhood and sisterliness, the priceless gems in the hearts and minds of our beloved Founders, remain our most valuable possessions.

Sorors: May we remember what our treasure is, and where our strength lies, that we may secure forever the tie that binds us together.

Leader: Let us, each one, fervently hope, and diligently work for an enduring sisterhood. May we through our day by day relationships add a gem to our beautiful pin of sisterhood.

Sorors: Let us strengthen our sisterhood by working at it; believing in it, and loving it. We can be generous in our praise; we can be miserly with our criticism; we can give zealously of our time and our talent; we can give wholeheartedly of our means.

Leader: Love that knows no religion.

Sorors: Or color, or race, or creed.

Leader

&

Sorors: Love for all mankind everywhere.

Leader: Oh, Alpha Kappa Alpha, we dedicate our minds to scholarship, and creativity in order that we may increase our ability to serve.

Sorors: To the uplift of all mankind everywhere.

Leader

&

Sorors: And to the understanding and peace among the people of the world. May we see all people as creations of the Father, and by our attitudes towards others demonstrate that Alpha Kappa Alpha is a beacon of democratic light.

Leader: Through faith in the innate goodness of man as the image of the Creator and firm belief in wisdom and worth

of the purposes and causes of Alpha Kappa Alpha, we shall forever strengthen the foundations of her survival.

Sorors: Through faith in ourselves as Alpha Kappa Alpha women, we shall build upon the foundation of love and truth.

Leader: Through love, faith, unselfishness, and generosity of heart, we help and praise each other. We pay tribute to our National Officers who have the privilege and responsibility of adding to our stature as a group of outstanding women in all walks of life; to our local officers and committees whose hard work and sisterly attitudes have strengthened our chapters locally and nationally; to all our members who have answered the call of love and duty; to sorors everywhere who, possessing exceptional talents and abilities have achieved recognition for Alpha Kappa Alpha, and reflected glory upon themselves.

Prayer (All Sorors)

Eternal Spirit, grant that the words we have spoken will find a permanent place in our hearts. As this sacred hour comes to a close, may we have the courage to hold fast to truth; the humanity to light the dark paths of life with love and kindness; the

insight to see our shortcomings that we may better understand the shortcomings of others; and the will to walk continuously in integrity that we may walk securely. Amen.

National Hymn

Pledge

Music

MEMORIAL SERVICES

IVIES BEYOND THE WALL

(This ritual may be adapted for use in a chapter memorial service for a deceased soror.)

Alpha Chapter Song to the tune of "Perfect Day" is played softly throughout the services. Optional: The song as a solo at the beginning of the service will add beauty and dignity.

ALPHA CHAPTER SONG

Sung to the Tune of "A Perfect Day"

We love the golden strands of truth
That beam from Thenis' bright crown
And make the gleaming pearls of youth,
And kiss bards with renown.
When we've gone far away to eternal vales,
The Ivy that grows by the way
Will whisper with the Nightingale
'Tis the heart of sweet A.K.A.

We strive to grow like the Ivy vine
That smiles in the heat of the noon.
Its simple patience is divine
As nods to the winter's moon.
This little leaf though of fragile grace
Carves more than one happy day
It adds more beauty to nature's face
'Tis the Soul of Sweet A.K.A.

I. Setting

A table with a bowl of tea roses, sprays of ivy and white candles.

II. Participants

A leader assisted by two sorors (preferably the two sorors behind the scene). Representatives with their sprays of ivy will come from the front of the audience when the name of the chapter having a deceased soror is called.

III. Service

Leader:

As we gather here today we are conscious of our deep and abiding sisterhood. The warm handclasp, the friendly smile, the affectionate greetings are but manifestations of an inner soul-felt communion of the spirit. For we are gathered together as sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. As the year has gone by, some of our sorors have advanced farther along the path we travel, to enter into the beauty and joy of heaven. Let us honor their memory in loving tribute.

A Soror:

Let us honor them, not in memory alone, but with the realization that the community of the spirit is an eternal community, whose bonds are never broken. For we are united in love in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Leader:

These, our friends and sisters, have many manifestations of such love through the work of their hands and through the ministrations and inspiration which we carry forward today. The continuity of this shared activity, and the inspiration helps us to realize anew that the life of the Spirit is the supreme reality.

A Soror:

Therefore, let us not mourn for our sorors departed: But let us rejoice that they now enter more fully into that perfection "which has been prepared for all who love and follow His way. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

(In the use of this ritual for an individual soror, a designated soror may give a brief biographical sketch of the deceased soror and/or other personal tribute.)

Leader:

As a symbol of the living beauty and purity of the on-going spirit, let sorors (a representative from each chapter concerned) place the ivy in living remembrance of each of our sorors. As the Grammateus reads the names, let us bow our heads in silent prayer that we may honor them, not by word alone,

by the witness of our lives. All that they held dear, we also cherish. Through God's graces, then let us rededicate our lives anew to carrying on his precious work.

(As the Grammateus reads the names of the deceased sorors, a soloist sings the Sigma Omega and Omicron Chapter Song to the tune of "Trees." The representative places ivy for deceased sorors around or in a bowl of roses; or in the service for one soror, chapter members may place the ivy in or on the casket.)

Before the prayer to the tune of "Trees."

I think that I shall never know
Another love that thrills me so,
Dwells in my heart by night, by day
As does my love for A.K.A.
I think that I need never fear
Where hearts are loyal, true and dear.

Secure I am at work, at play
Of such are these--the A. K. A.
I think when I shall come to die,
There'll be no need of fear of sigh,
For if I've been an A.K.A.
Life owes me naught-
I've lived my day.

Leader:

(Prayer): Almighty God, Thou loving Father, who hath called to a closer sisterhood these our friends and sorors; we thank Thee for the beauty

of their lives. May those who mourn be comforted as only Thou canst comfort the sorrowing heart. May all our hearts be lifted higher today as we meditate upon the manifestation of Thy love which these, Thy children, have made known to us. May we be drawn more completely into the beauty and joy, the warmth and vitality of Thy eternal love through the witness of their lives. May our own lives, thus enriched bear more abundant witness through Thy grace, in thought, word, and deed. May Thy living Spirit, who knows no bounds of time or space, be our ever-present guide, friend, and comforter. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Closing the Memorial Service will be Alpha Kappa Alpha

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
(Memorial Service Hymn)

O Alpha Kappa Alpha
We greet Thee here tonight,
O may we always cherish
Thy name with all our might.
We honor and revere Thee
Our heads to Thee we bow,
O Alpha Kappa Alpha
We'll keep Thy ev'ry vow.

When shades of night o'er take us
And we are growing gray,
We'll not forsake Thee ever
Our own dear AKA.
But more and more sincerely
Our love will grow each day,
O Alpha Kappa Alpha
To thee homage we pay.