

## **The Heritage of Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity**

Alpha Chi Omega was founded in 1885 as a women's fraternity. Since its inception, Alpha Chi Omega has existed to assist members in seeking the heights. As beneficiaries of the heritage and history of Alpha Chi Omega, members of Alpha Chi Omega strive to be both true to and worthy of the legacy of the Fraternity.

### **Article I**

#### **Objects and Motto**

**Section 1. Objects.** The objects of this Fraternity shall be to encourage the spirit of true sisterhood, to develop through personal effort a high moral and mental standard, and to advance the appreciation and practice of fine arts among its members.

**Section 2. Motto.** The open motto of this Fraternity shall be "Together let us seek the heights."

### **Article II**

#### **Insignia**

**Section 1. Colors.** The colors of the Fraternity shall be scarlet and olive green.

**Section 2. Flower.** The flower of the Fraternity shall be the scarlet carnation.

**Section 3. Coat of Arms.** The Coat of Arms of the Fraternity shall be composed of a square shield, a crest and a scroll. The shield shall be scarlet, cut by a bar of olive green. The first section of the shield shall display an open book in gold; at the base shall be a sheaf of wheat also in gold. The bar shall picture three white stars. The crest, the lyre bird, is in its natural colors. Below the shield shall be the scroll bearing the Greek words of the open motto of the Fraternity, "Together let us seek the heights."

**Section 4. Great Seal.** The Great Seal of the Fraternity shall be circular, bearing in the center the Coat of Arms and around the outer edge the inscription "Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity, A.D. 1885."

**Section 5. Official Lyre Badge.** The official badge of the Fraternity shall be a Greek lyre of gold, with three strings, set with pearls or diamonds or both. The Greek letters, Alpha Chi Omega, shall be displayed on a black enamel scroll

placed diagonally across the strings. This emblem may be worn only by initiated members in good standing.

**Section 6. New Member Insignia.** Upon becoming a new member of the Fraternity, a woman shall receive a new member pin. The pin shall be diamond shaped, half of scarlet and half of olive green enamel bearing in the center an inlaid golden lyre. The pin may be worn with the official badge after the initiation.

### **Article III**

#### **Celebrations**

**Section 1. Founders' Day.** October 15 is Founders' Day.

**Section 2. Hera Day.** March 1 is Hera Day.

**Section 3. MacDowell Month.** February is observed as MacDowell month.

### **Article IV**

#### **Ritual and Secrecy**

**Section 1. Ritual.** The ritual of the Fraternity shall be established in The Ritual of Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity. The Ritual of Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity may be revised only by a vote of the delegates at a National Convention.

**Section 2. Secrecy.** The ritual of the Fraternity shall be known only to members.

### **Article V**

#### **Publications**

**Section 1. The Heraeum.** The Heraeum shall be the secret journal of the Fraternity and shall be published annually.

**Section 2. The Lyre.** The Lyre shall be the official public journal of the Fraternity.

**Section 3. Song Book.** An official Alpha Chi Omega song book may be published by the Fraternity.

**Section 4. The History.** The History of Alpha Chi Omega shall be published by the Fraternity and periodically updated.

**Section 5. Other Publications.** Other publications, including manuals and ceremonies, may be published by the Fraternity.

## **Article VI**

### **Collegiate Chapters**

**Section 1. Name Of Collegiate Chapter.** A collegiate chapter shall be known and designated by the letters of the Greek alphabet and combinations thereof. The name of a collegiate chapter whose charter has been surrendered or withdrawn shall not be used to designate a chapter at another campus or institution.

**Section 2. Meetings.** Business meetings of a collegiate chapter shall be held regularly during the school year and conducted in accordance with Fraternity ritual and form. The business meetings and all rites and ceremonies shall be conducted in a location not open to the public at the time it is in use by the chapter. Before admission to the business meetings, a brief examination covering the password, grip, motto, colors and description of the badge shall be required of any visitor not vouched for by a collegiate member of the chapter. All members shall faithfully observe all provisions contained in The Ritual of Alpha Chi Omega.

**Section 3. Bylaws.** Each collegiate chapter shall adopt bylaws annually.

**Section 4. Officers.** The officers of a collegiate chapter shall be elected as set forth in the chapter's bylaws.

## **Article VII**

### **Alumnae Associations**

**Section 1. Name Of Alumnae Association.** An alumnae association shall be recognized and given a name in accordance with Fraternity policies.

**Section 2. Meetings.** Meetings of an alumnae association shall be held at least once per year and conducted in accordance with Fraternity guidelines.

**Section 3. Bylaws.** Each alumnae association shall adopt bylaws.

**Section 4. Officers.** The officers of an alumnae association shall be elected as set forth in the association's bylaws.

## **Article VIII**

### **Membership**

**Section 1. Membership Attainment.** Membership in the Fraternity shall be attained by election, acceptance of an invitation to membership and initiation, all in accordance with the requirements of the Fraternity and as prescribed in The Ritual of Alpha Chi Omega.

**Section 2. Eligibility.** The following women shall be eligible for consideration for election to membership in the Fraternity, provided they have not been an initiated member of any other existing National Panhellenic Conference group:

**(a) Election To Membership As A Collegian.** An undergraduate student regularly enrolled in a college or university where the Fraternity has a collegiate chapter.

**(b) Election To Membership As An Alumna**

- (1) A woman of good educational background and well respected in her community; or
- (2) Alumna in good standing of a petitioning local sorority.

**Section 3. Requirements For Election To Membership As A Collegian**

**(a) Recommendations.** In accordance with the National Membership Standards, a favorable recommendation shall be received from an alumna member. Only if a recommendation from an alumna member cannot be obtained shall the Collegiate Recruitment Information Board make a recommendation for a prospective member.

**(b) Voting Requirements.** Before a prospective member may be invited to membership, she shall receive chapter approval based on the results of an affirmative rating as prescribed by the Fraternity. A prospective member who does not receive chapter approval may be proposed for membership again at a later date.

**Section 4. Requirements For Election To Membership As An Alumna**

**(a) Eligible Women.** A woman of good educational background and well respected in her community may be elected to membership in the Fraternity by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a collegiate chapter; OR approval of the alumnae association, if any, in her community; OR approval of three (3) or more alumnae, if demonstrated that those alumnae are prepared to

fulfill the orientation and post-initiation requirements; AND a review and approval by a majority vote of the National Alumna Initiate Panel.

**(b) Alumna Of A Petitioning Local Sorority.** An alumna of a petitioning local sorority who is in good standing in that local sorority may be initiated at the time of installation of the local sorority as a new chapter of Alpha Chi Omega. If for any reason an alumna is unable to be present on that date, she may petition the National Alumna Initiate Panel for the privilege of initiation within a year following the installation.

### **Section 5. New Member Ceremony**

**(a) Ceremony.** The New Member Ceremony contained in The Ritual of Alpha Chi Omega shall be used for every candidate who has accepted an invitation to membership.

**(b) Length of Candidacy.** Members may participate in the New Member Ceremony after satisfaction of Fraternity requirements. The chapter bylaws shall address the timing of the New Member Ceremony. Members are eligible to participate in Initiation for one calendar year as outlined in Fraternity policies. A candidate's membership may be terminated before the end of the calendar year by:

- (1) Her release or withdrawal from college or transfer to another campus.
- (2) Disciplinary action resulting from her failure to maintain the standards of the Fraternity.
- (3) Her failure to meet the scholarship requirements of the collegiate chapter.
- (4) Her delinquency in meeting financial obligations.
- (5) Upon written petition by the member relinquishing the opportunity to participate in Initiation.

### **Section 6. Initiation**

**(a) Ceremony.** The Initiation Ceremony contained in The Ritual Of Alpha Chi Omega shall be used in its entirety and shall be conducted as quickly as possible following the New Member Ceremony, as prescribed by the Fraternity.

**(b) Eligibility.** A Candidate for Initiation must:

- (1) Be regularly enrolled in, and in good standing with, the college or university where the chapter is chartered.
- (2) Have fulfilled the obligations of membership as outlined by the Fraternity.

(3) Have paid the prescribed fees and purchased an official badge.

**(c) Re-Vote On Eligibility.** A member who has met all of the eligibility requirements or participated in the New Member Ceremony shall not be voted upon again by the chapter.

### **Section 7. Alumna Initiation.**

**(a) Ceremony.** The Alumna Initiation Ceremony contained in the Ritual of Alpha Chi Omega shall be used when the Initiation is not feasible or preferable in the initiation of alumnae members.

**(b) Eligibility.** A candidate for the Alumna Initiation Ceremony must:

- (1) Be a woman of good educational background and well respected in her community or an alumna in good standing of a petitioning local sorority
- (2) Be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a collegiate chapter; OR approval of the alumnae association, if any, in her community; OR approval of three (3) or more alumnae, if demonstrated that those alumnae are prepared to fulfill the orientation and post-initiation requirements; AND a review and approval by a majority vote of the National Alumna Initiate Panel.

**Section 8. Classes of Membership.** The membership of the Fraternity shall consist of collegiate and alumna members defined as follows:

**(a) Active Collegiate Member.** An active collegiate member of the Fraternity shall be:

- (1) An undergraduate member, regularly enrolled in a college or university, who is an initiate of or an affiliate to a collegiate chapter at that institution.
- (2) A graduate member, regularly enrolled in a college or university where there is a chapter of Alpha Chi Omega, if active status is mutually desirable to both the graduate member and the chapter, and if in accordance with Fraternity policies.

**(b) Inactive Collegiate Member.** An inactive collegiate member of the Fraternity shall be an undergraduate member who has been granted special status in accordance with Fraternity policies.

**(c) Alumna Member.** An alumna member of the Fraternity shall be a member initiated into Alpha Chi Omega who is not an active or inactive collegiate member as defined above.

**(d) Member in Good Standing.** A member in good standing in the Fraternity shall be a collegiate or alumna member who is current with all her financial obligations to the chapter and to the Fraternity and who is not currently being disciplined in accordance with the procedures of the Fraternity.

**(e) Membership Status Unaffected by Collegiate Charter Revocation.** When the charter of a collegiate chapter is surrendered or withdrawn, an individual member of such chapter shall continue to be a member in good standing in the Fraternity unless action is taken by the Fraternity.

**Section 9. Active Collegiate Membership Requirements.** An initiated or an affiliated collegiate member regularly enrolled in a college or university where there is a chapter of Alpha Chi Omega must maintain active status in that chapter. An exception may be made to a collegiate member who petitions for consideration for special status as defined by the Fraternity.

**Section 10. Affiliation.** An active collegiate member in good standing who transfers to a college or university where there is a collegiate chapter of the Fraternity, may be affiliated by such chapter, provided that both the member and the affiliating chapter have followed all procedures of the Fraternity.

**Section 11. Discipline of Members.** A member of the Fraternity who fails to observe and maintain the standards of Alpha Chi Omega may be disciplined in accordance with the policies of the Fraternity.

## **Article IX**

### **Amendments**

**Section 1. Proposal Of Amendments.** Amendments to The Heritage of Alpha Chi Omega (“Heritage”) may be proposed by any Delegate to the National Convention.

**Section 2. Procedure.** Proposed amendments, with a statement of justification, shall be sent to the Legislative Committee at least 210 days prior to the opening of the National Convention. The Legislative Committee shall revise the proposed amendments as necessary and draft any additional amendments necessary as a result of the proposed amendments and forward such to the National Council 150 days before the opening of the National Convention. The National Council shall either recommend adoption or rejection of the amendments. The amendments shall be sent to the voting Delegates at least 90 days before the opening of the National Convention.

**Section 3. Adoption.** Amendments may be adopted by a vote taken at a National Convention or by mail.

**(a) At a National Convention.** A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary for adoption of an amendment at a National Convention.

**(b) By Mail.** During the interim between National Conventions, or if a National Convention is not convened, an amendment to Heritage may be voted upon by mail. Each voting Delegate shall be sent a written notice of the amendment, the National Council recommendation, and a ballot specifying the date by which a ballot must be received at Headquarters. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary for the adoption of an amendment by mail.