

**For
Initiated
Members
Only**

**ALPHA PHI OMEGA
2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**RITUALS
REFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Over a four-week period within the months of November and December, active student members and advisors alike have come together to review, discuss, and vote on the three proposals submitted for consideration. With a total of four zoom meetings and persistent email communication, our reference committee has succeeded in reviewing each proposal with thorough discussion. We spent two out of four meetings diving deep into each assigned proposal and made amendments as needed. With assistance from the three advisors, we received clear instruction and discussion over the reaches we had such as items being applicable in scope so that we could not only make the right decision when passing the proposals on but also be correct in language and anything it might affect. Each student present in meetings (meetings were recorded for those who couldn't be there) or participating in the email discussion was able to voice their opinion and provide ample feedback. This Committee is honored to have been able to serve our Fraternity by participating in this process as well as grateful to have made new connections with students and advisors across the nation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee refers the following items to the 2023 National Convention for consideration and approval:
(see following pages)

1. The committee moves the adoption of Ref.# RIT-1A-14:

Pledge Ritual, *Ritual Book, Page numbers as noted in italics below*

1 **PRESENT LANGUAGE**
2
3 *(Page 10)*
4 PRESIDENT: Our pledge [**or new member**
5 **educator**] will explain to you the purpose of your
6 pledge period
7
8 *(Page 11)*
9 PRESIDENT: Pledges (new members), face about
10 and meet your sponsors. Each sponsor pins a Pledge
11 Pin on the pledge (new member), shakes the pledge's
12 (their) hand, extends congratulations, then turns the
13 pledge (new member) to face the front again.
14
15 *(Page 12)*
16 PRESIDENT to chapter brothers: Now, my brothers,
17 I recommend these pledges (new members) to you
18 for observation and guidance that they may become
19 true brothers in Alpha Phi Omega. I now declare this
20 pledging ceremony duly adjourned. Let us now form
21 our fellowship circle and sing the Toast Song.

22 **PROPOSED LANGUAGE**
23
24
25 PRESIDENT: Our pledgemaster (**new member**
26 **educator**) will explain to you the purpose of your
27 pledge (**new member**) period
28
29
30 PRESIDENT: Pledges (new members), face about
31 and meet your sponsors. Each sponsor pins a Pledge
32 (**New Member**) Pin on the pledge (new member),
33 shakes the pledge's (their) hand, extends
34 congratulations, then turns the pledge (new member)
35 to face the front again.
36
37
38 PRESIDENT to chapter brothers: Now, my brothers,
39 I recommend these pledges (new members) to you
40 for observation and guidance that they may become
41 true brothers in Alpha Phi Omega. I now declare this
42 pledging (**new member**) ceremony duly adjourned.
43 Let us now form our fellowship circle and sing the
44 Toast Song.

PURPOSE: Ensure there are alternate new member related terminology for all instances of the word pledge or pledgemaster.

RATIONALE: It helps make things less confusing for chapters that use this ceremony utilizing non pledge terminology.

2. The committee moves the adoption of Ref.# RIT-2A-15:

Initiation Ritual, *Ritual Book, Page 23*

1 **PRESENT LANGUAGE**

2
3
4
5 Our common God: We come to Thee at the closing
6 of the ceremony with thankfulness for the
7 fellowship, inspiration and idealism we have
8 enjoyed. We ask Thy guidance and direction as we
9 continue this program of Leadership, Friendship and
10 Service. We beseech Thy special blessing upon these
11 new brothers who have this night entered upon a
12 lifetime of service in Alpha Phi Omega. We realize
13 that a true Alpha Phi Omega member is continuously
14 a servant of God and man, and a good chapter lives
15 only by its service to humanity. Help us to carry on
16 and make our activities ever acceptable in Thy sight.
17 Amen.

18 **PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

19
20 **One of the two paragraphs shall be selected:**
21
22 Our common God: We come to Thee at the closing
23 of the ceremony with thankfulness for the
24 fellowship, inspiration and idealism we have
25 enjoyed. We ask Thy guidance and direction as we
26 continue this program of Leadership, Friendship and
27 Service. We beseech Thy special blessing upon these
28 new brothers who have this night entered upon a
29 lifetime of service in Alpha Phi Omega. We realize
30 that a true Alpha Phi Omega member is continuously
31 a servant of God and man, and a good chapter lives
32 only by its service to humanity. Help us to carry on
33 and make our activities ever acceptable in Thy sight.
34 Amen.
35
36 **At the closing of this ceremony, we thank our new**
37 **brothers (members) for their willingness to start**
38 **their active participation in Alpha Phi Omega's**
39 **_____ (chapter name) chapter. As our**
40 **newest brothers (members), they embark on a**
41 **lifetime commitment of Leadership, Friendship,**
42 **and Service that only participation in Alpha Phi**
43 **Omega can instill within them. We all realize that**
44 **a true member of our fraternity is constantly**
45 **mindful of our four fields of service and that a**
46 **good chapter lives and thrives only through its**
47 **service to humanity. Let us help each other to**
48 **further our mission so that the actions of Alpha**
49 **Phi Omega may lead to a better, more peaceful**
50 **world in which to live and in which to make a**
51 **living and a life.**

PURPOSE: The proposed language attempts to provide for diversity and inclusion.

RATIONALE: Some chapters and advisors are uncomfortable with the current language and prayer and are omitting the current reading. Having an alternative reading still provides the advisor with a meaningful role at the conclusion of the ritual. The language for the alternative reading includes a callback from the pledge ritual so that it may have a tie in.

3. The committee moves the adoption of Ref.# RIT-3A-22:

Pledge Ritual, *Ritual Book, Page numbers as noted in italics below*

1 PRESENT LANGUAGE

2
3 *Page 9*
4 Fellowship Chair: Our Fraternity assembles service-
5 orientated students on this campus and provides
6 fellowship as an integral part of our chapter program.
7 Although Alpha Phi Omega is a service fraternity,
8 we recognize the **[importance of incorporating]** a
9 number of social events in our program during the
10 year.

11
12 *Page 10*

13 Historian: Alpha Phi Omega was founded in 1925 at
14 Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania. The
15 brothers who established the first chapter recognized
16 the opportunities for constructive service to be
17 rendered by a well-organized group of former Scouts
18 on campus. Their ideas spread rapidly, and Alpha Phi
19 Omega now has more than **[375 chapters]** from
20 coast to coast.

21
22 *Page 10*

23 Historian: All of the chapters of Alpha Phi Omega
24 are affiliated in our national organization. Our
25 National Office is located in Kansas City, Missouri.
26 We are recognized by the officials of the colleges and
27 universities where we have chapters.

28
29 *Page 10*

30 Pledge or New Member Educator: Your period of
31 pledging (education) will be a period of training.
32 Everything that is done for you and by you during
33 this time is intended to be constructive and to aid you
34 in developing the spirit of Alpha Phi Omega. All
35 pledge (new member) duties bear a definite
36 relationship to this chapter and to the National
37 Fraternity. You will not be asked to perform personal
38 services for the members, and you will not be
39 involved in any form of hazing. By accepting our
40 invitation to become a pledge (new member), you
41 will affirm your desire to cooperate wholeheartedly
42 **[in promoting our service program.]**

43 PROPOSED LANGUAGE

44
45
46 Fellowship Chair: Our Fraternity assembles service-
47 orientated students on this campus and provides
48 fellowship as an integral part of our chapter program.
49 Although Alpha Phi Omega is a service fraternity,
50 we recognize the **importance of developing** a
51 number of social events in our program during the
52 year.

53
54
55 Historian: Alpha Phi Omega was founded in 1925 at
56 Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania. The
57 brothers who established the first chapter recognized
58 the opportunities for constructive service to be
59 rendered by a well-organized group of former Scouts
60 on campus. Their ideas spread rapidly, and Alpha Phi
61 Omega now has more than **700 chartered chapters**
62 **and over 350 active chapters** from coast to coast.

63
64 Historian: All of the chapters of Alpha Phi Omega
65 are affiliated in our national organization. Our
66 National Office is located in Kansas City, Missouri.
67 We are recognized by the officials of the colleges and
68 universities where we have **active** chapters **and**
69 **petitioning groups.**

70
71 Pledge or New Member Educator: Your period of
72 pledging (education) will be a period of training.
73 Everything that is done for you and by you during
74 this time is intended to be constructive and to aid you
75 in developing the spirit of Alpha Phi Omega. All
76 pledge (new member) duties bear a definite
77 relationship to this chapter and to the National
78 Fraternity. You will not be asked to perform personal
79 services for the members, and you will not be
80 involved in any form of hazing. By accepting our
81 invitation to become a pledge (new member), you
82 will affirm your desire to cooperate wholeheartedly
83 **in growing this chapter's program of Leadership,**
84 **Friendship, and Service.**

PURPOSE: To align the language used in the Petitioning Ceremony and Pledge Ceremony.

RATIONALE: Legislation was previously passed stating any changes made to the Pledge and Initiation Ceremonies would simultaneously be made in the appropriate Extension ceremonies. In these cases, the language in the Petitioning Ceremony better reflects the purpose and spirit of Alpha Phi Omega more than the language in the Pledge Ceremony. Therefore, instead of adjusting the Petitioning Ceremony, the Pledge Ceremony should be updated.

PROPOSALS NOT REPORTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

After considering the following items, the committee recommends against adoption and therefore does not refer these items to the Legislative Session for consideration:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair	Lili Chase	Alpha Eta Zeta / Clayton State University
Region D	Katie Green	Beta Sigma / Texas Tech University
Region Q	Samael Collins	Epsilon Zeta / Rensselaer Polytechnic University
Region P	Leo-Paul Wahl	Alpha Beta Delta / Widener University
Lead Advisor	Ellen Kranzer	Report Editor
Advisor	Kegan Daley	
Advisor	Brian Frank	