

RULE I

RIBBON OR INFORMAL PLEDGING SERVICE

This service is not compulsory because Panhellenic Rules in some colleges, regulating the dates of pledging and initiating do not allow enough time for both ribbon and pin pledging.

Chapters which determine their own dates for pledging and initiating are advised to use the ribbon as well as the pin pledging. There should not be more than a two weeks' interval between the two services.

TIME: The service should be held some afternoon or evening as soon as the girls have accepted the invitations asking them to become members.

PREPARATION: This is a very informal service, and the room does not need any special preparation. Narrow green and yellow ribbons tied together onto small safety pins shall be placed on a table.

PROCEDURE: The girls to be pledged should sit in a group so that the president can stand in front of them. When the president indicates that the ribbons are to be presented, the candidates stand, and the active members previously designated pin the ribbons on them. After this is done, the president continues the service.

CEREMONY: President

By coming before the sisters of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority to receive its colors, you are signifying your intention of becoming pledge members of the Sorority.

We are glad to have you with us and proud that you are going to wear the Emerald and Gold of Alpha Sigma Tau.

To us every symbol of our sisterhood seems almost sacred. The Emerald represents youth and vigor, the Gold, light and sanctity. We sincerely hope that you will learn to love them as we do.

It is with great pleasure that we present you with the colors of our Sorority. We hope that you will wear them at all times until you receive a pin to take their place.

(presentation of ribbons)

To you we extend a hearty welcome, and we hope that among us you will find the true college spirit dominating all activities and creating an atmosphere of friendship and loyalty. May the pledge which you have taken in receiving the Emerald and Gold be the beginning of many joys and valued friendships which will increase as the years go by enriching and ennobling your lives.

ALL SING: RIBBONS OF ALPHA SIGMA TAU ... Alpha Sigma Tau Songbook, p.8.

The members greet the pledges and a short social hour follows.

PIN PLEDGING

TIME: Not later than two weeks after the ribbon pledging service.

PREPARATION: If possible the members and girls to be pledged should wear white or other light-colored dresses in order to lend impressiveness to the ceremony. Most of the light in the room should come from candles. A table covered with a cloth to represent an altar shall be at one end of the room. On the table shall be a Bible, pledge pins, candles, and flowers in the Sorority's colors. If the Charter is not displayed elsewhere in the room it should be on the table also.

PROCEDURE: The President stands directly behind the table. The other members stand in a semi-circle in front of the table. The candidates who are in an adjoining room are pledged one at a time, according to the alphabetical list of their names. The Historian conducts the candidate blindfolded to a position directly in front of the President where the blindfold is removed. After the candidate has taken the pledge, the President presents her with a pledge pin fastening it above her heart. The Historian conducts the pledge to a position in the circle.

CEREMONY: President

We have asked you to come here today (or tonight) to declare your intention of becoming a member of the ___ Chapter of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority.

Before pledging yourself, however, it is your privilege to know something of our aims and purposes.

We aim at true womanliness, good scholarship, and self-sacrificing friendship one for another.

As you come among us, we trust that you will feel that you are among friends, not for college life merely, but for all time; not in fair weather, only, but in time of sickness, sorrow, and misfortune.

Before making the pledge, you must understand that you can not withdraw it except for reasons that appear good and sufficient when presented to the Sorority in writing.

Understanding all these things, are you willing to pledge yourself?

Answer ... I am.

Then you may kneel and place your right hand on the Bible.

1. Do you pledge yourself to work for the best interest of the Sorority and the College?

Answer ... I do.

2. Are you willing to abide by the decision of the Sorority sisters in regard to your conduct?

Answer ... I am.

3. Do you promise to help in any honorable way any member of the Sorority?

Answer ... I do.

4. Will you seek to attain for yourself a high standard of scholarship and to help pledged sisters to do the same?

Answer ... I will.

5. Do you pledge loyalty to both the Sorority and the College?

Answer ... I do.

Then you may arise and wear this pin as a token of your solemn Pledge.

ALL SING: OURSELVES - Alpha Sigma Tau Songbook, p. 10

We have our gold and em-'rald colors and our shield for sheer success.
Our jewel is the pearl. With it's bond of friendliness
The yellow rose it is our flower. We shall never fall
We shall always honor our dear old Alpha Sigma Tau.

REPEAT Footpath to Peace. (Ritual Card Phrase "and everyday of Christ" is optional.)

ALL SING: BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS - Alpha Sigma Tau Songbook, p. 11

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in worldwide love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Note: A short social hour should follow the service.

FORMAL INITIATION

TIME:

Each chapter shall decide when this service is to take place. Two or three times a year should be sufficient.

PREPARATION:

The room in which the service is to take place shall be dimly but effectively lighted by candles. SEE ROOM DIAGRAM

At one end of the room there shall be a table covered with a cloth, to represent an altar. On the table shall be:

1. A bouquet of yellow roses
2. Two lighted yellow candles in Alpha Sigma Tau candleholders
3. Badges and membership cards of initiates
4. Ritual Book and pen
5. An open Bible - (a second Bible or copy of Chaplain's reading)
6. Alphabetical list of candidates
7. Charter, if not displayed elsewhere

On a chair, made as inconspicuous as possible, placed behind or near the Treasurer, shall be:

1. Candleholders
2. Seals
3. Ritual cards
4. Straight pins for roses

On a chair, made as inconspicuous as possible, placed at the door shall be:

1. Blindfold
2. Robes
3. Crowns

A row of chairs on each side of the aisle to permit members to be seated at designated times.

During the ceremony all members in the initiation room shall wear white dresses or the white regulation robes and crowns owned by the chapter. They shall hold candles and ritual cards.

All officers shall memorize their respective parts of the service. The President may have the Ritual Book in front of her. No part of the pledge or initiation services may ever be copied elsewhere.

FORMAL INITIATION

PROCEDURE:

* indicates soft music should be played
indicates music should stop
SEE ROOM DIAGRAM for position of officers
taking part

- * Members seated in chairs arranged to form an aisle to altar
- 1. Historian brings initiate, blindfolded, according to alphabetical order, to the door and knocks.
(Historian does not wear a robe)
- 2. Custodian demands password before they enter.
- 3. Historian gives password and brings initiate into room
removes pledge pin
dresses initiate in robe and crown.
- # 4. Members stand and repeat "Whatsoever" while initiate is being led up aisle by Historian. At the altar, the Historian removes blindfold, directs initiate to kneel and place her right hand on Bible. She then steps back into the line near the Recording Secretary.
("Whatsoever" is repeated until initiate reaches Altar)
- 5. Chaplain reads "Proverbs". Chapters given privilege of choosing between using the shorter or longer version of the Bible passage. Proverbs, Chapter 31, verses 10-31 inclusive OR 10-13, 20, and 25-31.
- 6. President asks "Questions".
- * 7. Historian conducts initiate to Treasurer to put on seal, yellow rose and pin.
- # 8. Recording Secretary gives "Secrets".
- * 9. Initiate signs Ritual Book.
- * 10. Historian conducts initiate to a place at end of the line, hands her ritual card and lighted candle.
- # 11. President gives "Address".
- 12. Sisters repeat Plea.
- 13. Sisters repeat Creed.
- 14. Chaplain offers Prayer.
- 15. Sisters sing Hymn.
- 16. Congratulations are in order.

FORMAL INITIATION

CEREMONY

Members: (standing, while initiate is being led up the aisle, seated when initiate reaches altar) Repeat Philippians until initiate reaches altar.

Philippians, 3th verse, 4th chapter

Whatsoever things are true
Whatsoever things are honest
Whatsoever things are just
Whatsoever things are pure
Whatsoever things are lovely
Whatsoever things are of good report,
If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise,
Think on these things.

Chaplain: Proverbs, Chapter 31, Verses 10-31 inclusive OR
shorter version verses 10-13, 20, and 25-31.

President:

(name of candidate) You will now answer the following five questions, the first of which applies to yourself, the second to the sorority, the third to the college, the fourth to the alumnae organization, and the last to the service of mankind.

1. Do you promise to try at all times to be true to yourself and to cultivate those characteristics essential to a vital, well-rounded personality?
2. Do you promise to be true always to the purpose and ideals of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority, to uphold its regulations, and to guard its secrets?
3. Do you promise to be loyal to the ideals of the college, to observe its standards of scholarship to the best of your ability?
4. Do you promise to continue your interest in the Sorority through the alumnae organization after you leave college?
5. Do you promise to strive earnestly to contribute your share to the progress of mankind?

Then you may repeat after me, "I, ____, do hereby solemnly promise to defend, uphold, and abide by the Constitutions of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority."

By the power vested in me as president of the ____ Chapter of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority, I hereby pronounce you a member of the Sorority as soon as you have signed the Ritual Book.

THE INITIATE SHALL THEN BE CONDUCTED TO THE TREASURER to receive her seal, yellow rose, and badge.

President:

As a member of Alpha Sigma Tau you are entitled to know its secrets.

Recording Secretary:

THE SECRETS

1. The handshake be understood to be a clasp of the hand with the pressure by the thumb of one hand upon the knuckle of the ring finger, given and received simultaneously. (Demonstrate)

2. The whistle is: The reply is:



3. The knock is: (Two long and three short.) (Demonstrate)
4. Motto: Let us be slow to make friends, but having once made them let us pray that neither life, death, misunderstanding, distance, nor doubt may come between us to vex our peace.

5. The meaning of the pin (Pointing to pin)

The shape is the breastplate of womanliness

The four points beginning at the top:

Charity

Humility

Self-sacrifice

Aggressiveness

The pearls, purity.

6. On the shield the candle signifies service (Pointing to shield)
the crown signifies victory
the book signifies open-mindedness
the anchor signifies fidelity
the stars signify loveliness
7. The meaning of Alpha Sigma Tau - All Sisters Together
8. The password is Affection, Sincerity, Truth.

THE CANDIDATE SIGNS THE RITUAL BOOK AND IS THEN CONDUCTED TO HER PLACE at the end of the line.

President:

You are now full members of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority, and to you we extend a hearty and sincere welcome. Heretofore you have not met with the serious side of sorority life. The duties will be new to you, but we are sure the aims are not new. We are striving to develop that which is best in each one of us and bring about close ties of friendship. Our password conveys the best meaning of our aim - Affection, Sincerity, Truth.

In taking our initiation vows, we understand that we assume certain duties. We are working for the good of the sorority and in doing that we are working for our own good. Before we undertake to do anything, we should consider first what effect it will have on the sorority; for in college, we are responsible not only for ourselves, but also for every other member and for the good name of all. When in perplexity or trouble, our advisers are always ready and anxious to help us.

In conclusion, we express the hope that you may receive as much from these fraternal ties as we have. Next year, when many of us have joined the large body of alumnae, we hope and can wish nothing better than that you will receive as many worthy girls as we have. May we henceforth all be bound together by the cords of friendship that strengthen with the year. May the honor roll of our chapters contain a long list of worthy members welcomed into the bonds of sisterhood.

Members: Repeat Plea - 1st Peter, Chapter III Verses 8-12 (All Stand)

Let us all be likeminded, compassionate, loving as sisters, tender-hearted, humble-minded; not rendering evil for evil, but contrariwise blessing. For he that would love life and see good days, let him refrain his lips that they speak no guile; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

Members: Repeat Creed

As a member of Alpha Sigma Tau, I believe in the permanence and loveliness of its ideals.

I believe in the values of friendship and fidelity to purpose.

I believe in the fulfillment of self, and will strive to contribute my share to the progress of mankind.

I believe in cultivating beauty of spirit and graciousness of living in all my contacts with others.

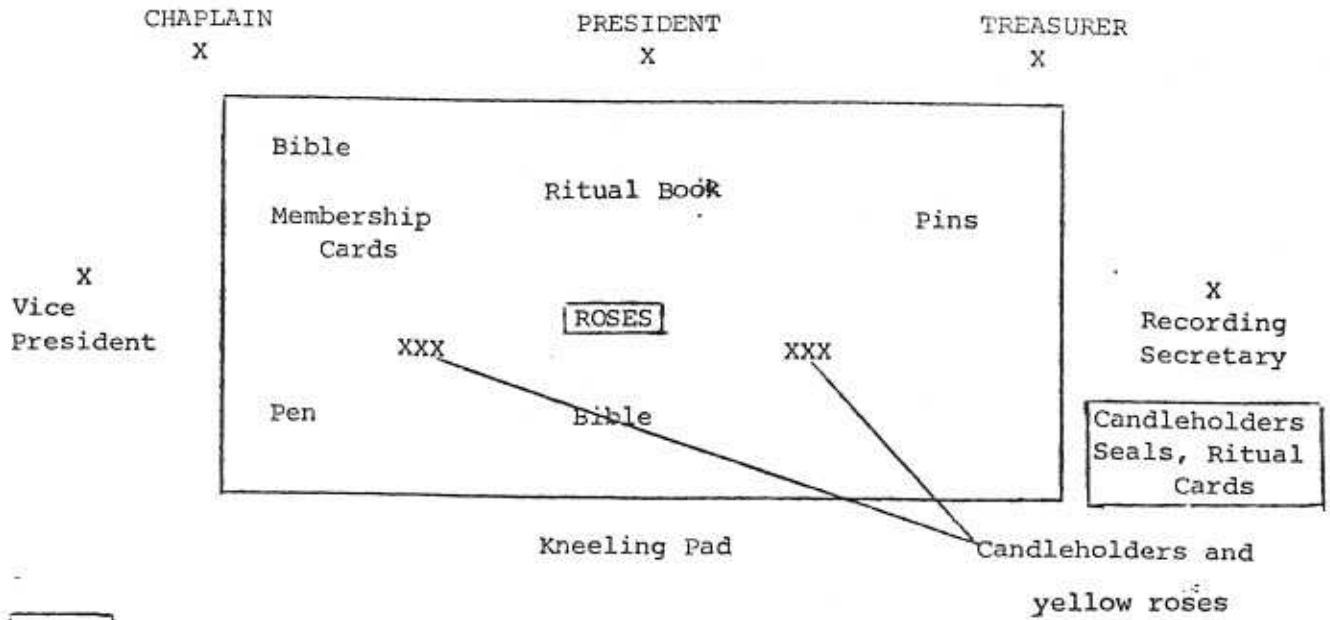
I believe that faithfulness to these ideals will help me to live joyously and valiantly.

Chaplain:

Almighty Father, our Creator and Preserver, we invoke Thy blessing upon this chapter and upon the entire sisterhood. Especially do we ask Thy blessing upon these dear sisters who have so recently taken their vows of sisterhood. May we all be faithful to the ideals of our beloved sorority. Heavenly Father, give us strength to attain these ideals. May Alpha Sigma Tau represent the sentiment of our hearts and the practices of our lives. Help us to live Thy law of love which bids us "to do unto others as we would they should do unto us."

ALL SING: Sorority Hymn ... Alpha Sigma Tau Songbook, p. 4)

ROOM DIAGRAM



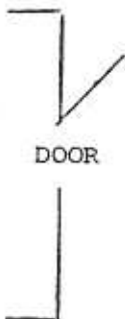
[PIANO]



X Historian



Chairs for new members at end of lines



Historian, with blindfold (outside)

X Custodian

[Robes & Crowns]

CEREMONY FOR AFFILIATING ALUMNAE

PREPARATION:

An open Bible on a small table covered with a white cloth. A lighted candle in an A.S.T. candleholder and a vase holding a yellow rose for each affiliating member. Green Suede Notebook and pen.

The historian should present the candidate(s) for affiliation to a position in front of the table behind which stand the following:

Chapter
V. Pres. President Rec. Secy.

Table		
vase	Bible	candle

All members should have Ritual Cards containing (1) Philippians IV, 8; (2) Plea I Peter III, 8-12; (3) Creed; (4) Fraternity Hymn.

Members: Repeat as candidate enters room or is brought up by the historian ..

Whatsoever things are true
 Whatsoever things are honest
 Whatsoever things are just
 Whatsoever things are pure
 Whatsoever things are lovely
 Whatsoever things are of good report
 If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise
 Think on these things.

Historian: I present ___ for membership in Alpha Sigma Tau.

President: You are about to become affiliated with the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority. We aim at true womanliness, and self-sacrificing friendship one for another. As you come among us, we trust that you will feel free that you are among friends, not in fair weather, only, but in time of sickness, sorrow, and misfortune.

Understanding these things do you wish to become a member?

Answer: I do.

Chaplain reads: Proverbs, Chapter 31 (10-13) (25-31)

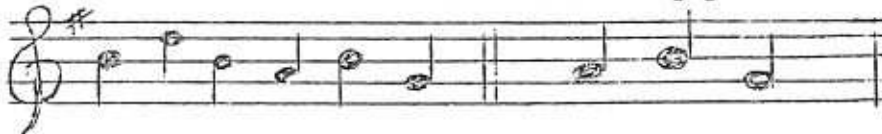
10. "Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies.
11. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil
12. She will do him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
13. She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands.

25. Strength and honor are her clothing and she shall rejoice in time to come.
26. She openeth her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
27. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
28. Her children arise up and call her blessed and her husband, also, and he praiseth her.
29. Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all.
30. Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.
31. Give her the fruit of her hands and let her own works praise her in the gates.

President: The Recording Secretary will repeat the secrets:

1. The handshake be understood to be a clasp of the hand with pressure by the thumb of one hand upon the knuckle of the ring finger, given and received simultaneously. (Demonstrate)

2. The whistle is: The reply is:



3. The knock is: (Two long and three short.) (Demonstrate)
4. Motto: Let us be slow to make friends, but having once made them, let us pray that neither life, death, misunderstanding, distance, nor doubt may come between us to vex our peace.
5. The meaning of the pin: (Pointing to pin)

The shape is the breastplate of womanliness
The four points beginning at the top:
Charity
Humility
Self-sacrifice
Aggressiveness

The pearls, purity.
6. On the shield the candle signifies service, (Pointing to shield)

the crown signifies victory
the book signifies open-mindedness
the anchor signifies fidelity
the stars signify loveliness
7. The meaning of Alpha Sigma Tau - All Sisters Together
8. The password is Affection, Sincerity, Truth.

President:

You have heard our aim and have been instructed in our secrets; therefore you may repeat after me.

"I, _____, do solemnly promise to defend, uphold, and abide by the Constitutions of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority."

I hereby pronounce you a member of the sorority as soon as you sign the Green Suede Notebook.

Vice President:

Please sign here. (Sign Book)

Our sorority colors are emerald and gold. The yellow rose is our flower. I give you this rose as a symbol of All Sisters Together in Alpha Sigma Tau.

President's Address:

You are now (a) full member(s) of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority and we extend to you a most sincere welcome.

We are all striving to develop that which is best in us through realization that although we have only one life to live on this earth it is of utmost importance to each of individually, and to all mankind collectively, how that life shall be lived. /us

Our aim to develop close ties of friendship is expressed in our password: Affection, Sincerity, Truth.

We hope that in affiliating with us, you will treasure these fraternal ties and that the bonds of friendship will be strengthened with the years.

Again, we bid you welcome.

Repeat PLEA ... All.

Let us all be likeminded, compassionate, loving as sisters, tenderhearted, humble minded not rendering evil for evil, but contrariwise blessing. For he that would love life and see good days, let him refrain his lips that they speak no guile, let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

CREED: All

As a member of Alpha Sigma Tau, I believe in the permanence and loveliness of its ideals.

I believe in the values of friendship and fidelity to purpose.

I believe in the fulfillment of self and strive to contribute my share to the progress of mankind.

I believe in cultivating beauty of spirit and graciousness of living in all my contacts with others.

I believe that faithfulness to these ideals will help me to live joyously and valiantly

Chaplain:

Almighty God, we ask, Thy blessing upon this sister and this chapter.
Give us the strength to live according to our ideals and standards
and may we always strive to live by Thy law of love which bids us
"to do unto others as they should do unto us.

All members form circle including new members and sing "The Fraternity Hymn,
after which new members may be individually welcomed.