

THE OPEN RITUALS

OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

The ceremonies and customary material contained in this booklet are exoteric and thus may be shared with nonmembers.

Indeed, a strong chapter will use the Associate Member Ceremony and Officer Installation as opportunities to place the purposes and ideals of the Fraternity before individuals such as parents, college or university officials, and prospective members. The positive public relations value of inviting nonmembers to our open rituals cannot be overestimated; and we should never forgo an opportunity to recruit new members.

Only in unusual circumstances should a nonmember be present at a chapter business meeting. But it is quite appropriate to share the text of the Ritual for conducting Business Meetings with any interested individual.

The custom of saying grace before a meal where members are gathered is strongly encouraged as a means of keeping our shared ideals constantly before our eyes.

A memorial to a deceased brother may take many forms. Lambda Chi Alpha does not have a prescribed burial ritual or memorial service. Rather, this section contains possibilities that can be adapted to the particular circumstances.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER CEREMONY

Policy

This is an open ceremony to which may be invited parents and families of associate members, local alumni, college or university officials, friends of members, and recruitment prospects.

This ceremony is a condensation of the pledge degree and three initiation degrees of the Theta Kappa Nu Fraternity. At the Union in 1939 this means was selected as the primary device for preserving the ritual heritage of Theta Kappa Nu in the combined brotherhood.

The officers [and all members present, initiated and associate] should be attired in coat and tie. Although the five officers named ordinarily perform the ceremony, substitutes may be used.

The Associate Member Ceremony must be completely memorized, including all movements. Therefore, sufficient rehearsals must be conducted to assure that the ceremony proceeds smoothly.

Equipment

- altar and plain white altar cloth
- coat of arms painting on wall
- flag of the country or countries of the candidates
- Greek lamp and lamp oil
- the Bible
- list of the full names of the candidates
- a copy of form 600A for each candidate to sign (High Gamma supplies)
- an associate member pin for each candidate
- a fire extinguisher

The Associate Members are told to await instructions at the entrance to the room in which they are to be inducted. Each must have signed the Report of Associate Membership, Form 600A. Each is given an Associate Member Pin and instructed to place it on his shirt (or pullover sweater) over his heart.

[The High Phi lights the Greek lamp and opens the Bible to Psalm 133.]

[The five High Zeta officers take their places in a semicircle behind the altar as follows, left to right as viewed from the audience: Delta, Beta, Alpha, Phi, Kappa.]

Opening

H. Alpha Brothers, there await our pleasure [states the number] candidates whom we have invited to become members of Lambda Chi Alpha, and who have pledged their acceptance of our standards and ideals. They are [gives full names of each].
If there are no objections we shall proceed with their instruction.

[pauses]

Brother High Kappa, you will retire, ask the questions, and present for instruction all who answer satisfactorily.

[The High Kappa retires and reads to the associate members the Obligation found on the Report of Associate Membership. Each associate is asked if he subscribes completely and without reservation to the entire Obligation.]

[The High Kappa then directs the associate members to form in single file facing the door.]

Induction

[The High Kappa knocks on the door four times.]

[The High Phi moves to the door and opens it slightly.]

H. Kappa The candidates subscribe to the Obligations of Lambda Chi Alpha and now seek instruction.

[The High Phi moves to a position near the base of the altar.]

H. Phi Brother High Alpha, Brother High Kappa returns with the candidates who are prepared to receive our instruction.

H. Alpha Let them enter.

[The High Phi returns to the door and opens it.]

H. Phi Enter.

[The High Kappa enters the room followed by the candidates in single file. He indicates to them where to stand so that they form an arc facing the altar.]

[After the last candidate has entered the High Phi closes the door and follows the procession to his station.]

[The High Kappa returns to his station.]

H. Kappa Brother High Alpha, I present candidates for instruction in the duties and obligations of Associate Members of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Summary of Ideals

H. Alpha Worthy candidates, the objectives of Lambda Chi Alpha are the establishment of a brotherhood for the cultivation of good will among men; the fostering of the highest ideals of patriotism; the acquirement of sound learning; and the observance of the laws of God.

We hold that it is the duty of every man to make of himself a man, and that he can do so through his own effort, with the help of God and his fellow man. We take as a guide the Holy Bible and as an exemplar, Jesus of Nazareth.

[The High Alpha steps forward to the altar, still facing the associate members.]

H. Alpha If you seek to join us in an effort to attain these objectives, you will place your right hand over your left breast, and take the Oath of an Aspirant.

[The candidates do as directed.]

H. Alpha Each of you will repeat after me:

Associate Member Oath

Of my own free will, / I, [state your full name], / do promise and swear, / before God / and before the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha, / that I will / for the rest of my life / abide by these solemn pledges: /

I will never divulge / any of the secrets of Lambda Chi Alpha / which I shall learn now or hereafter / to any person / who is not a member of the Fraternity. / I accept the obligations / with which I was charged / before I entered the chapter room / without reservation or evasion. / I will strive with the help of God / to be true to the ideals and objectives of Lambda Chi Alpha. /

To which I pledge my oath and faith, / in accordance with / the Christian teachings of this Ritual / and as a gentleman. / For the least violation / I invoke upon myself / expulsion, / suspension, / or other lawful penalty. /

So help me God!

Declaration of Acceptance

H. Alpha We accept you as Aspirants and assure you that we will always be ready and willing to help you.

[The High Alpha resumes his station.]

H. Alpha Brother High Delta, you will instruct the Aspirants regarding their first obligation as Associate Members of Lambda Chi Alpha.

[The High Delta takes a position beside the altar.]

Quest

H. Delta Worthy Aspirants, you have set out upon a journey in which I trust you will be successful. Let me assure you that we stand ready to assist you in your undertaking. Do not rely alone upon your own strength. Instead, seek the advice and support of your friends; or better, go to Almighty God, the source of all strength.

From time immemorial man has sought to impress many lessons by means of symbols. This we now do.

[The High Delta pauses, then points to the clasped hands on the coat of arms.]

Fraternity

H. Delta The clasped hands are the symbol of Fraternity. May they ever remind you of your obligation and responsibilities as a brother. Within our Fraternity, as elsewhere throughout the world, there is many a man who is handicapped in his hard fight for success, but who with brotherly encouragement and help, may reach his goal. We must be ever mindful of our duty to assist others, particularly our brothers.

Proof of your sincerity of purpose has already been demonstrated by your earnest desire for admittance to our brotherhood, and by your acceptance of the obligations of friendship.

[The High Delta resumes his station.]

H. Alpha Brother High Beta, you will give instruction relative to the ideal of patriotism.

[The High Beta takes a position beside the altar.]

Patriotism

H. Beta Worthy Aspirants, [he points to flag], this is a symbol of the freedom, justice and democracy which our land offers. Believing these to be ideals which offer man the best opportunity to attain his true dignity, we support them. This is by no means a blind allegiance, but is tempered by a keen sense of moral obligation.

As a true patriot, you will be expected to support these ideals and to work to make this land a better place in which to live. A true patriot is tolerant of others; he assists his fellow man in his efforts to live a productive, meaningful and happy life; he is careful to guard his own rights and the rights of others.

[The High Beta resumes his station.]

H. Alpha Brother High Phi, you will instruct the Aspirants as to the requirements of sound learning.

[The High Phi takes a position beside the altar.]

Learning

H. Phi Worthy Aspirants [he points to lamp], the Greek lamp is the symbol of learning. By it we are reminded that we should ever strive to attain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom for the good of our fellow men. It is this unselfish end which we, as members of Lambda Chi Alpha, should ever have in mind as we fit ourselves for service in the world which lies beyond our college walls. In due time, as you go forth from this institution, prove that you are indeed a man among men by the way you make use of the educational advantages which have been bestowed upon you. Remember that this seat of learning was established here by society for your use, and that in return you owe much to society for the benefits you have enjoyed.

[The High Phi resumes his station.]

H. Alpha Brother High Kappa, you will give instruction relative to the observance of the laws of God.

[The High Kappa takes a position beside the altar.]

Religion, Morality

H. Kappa Let me remind you that this is a solemn occasion. The Latin motto beneath our coat of arms is "Vir Quisque Vir."

[Weer Kwis'-kway Weer] [he points to lower streamer of the coat of arms.]

Translated, it means, "Every Man a Man." Unless each of you determines to make of himself a man, there is no place for you within Lambda Chi Alpha. To be a true brother, a genuine patriot, and one who employs his learning for the good of society, one must first of all be a man. Within yourselves you have the possibility. The brothers of this Fraternity may help you to attain your goal; but the source of the greatest strength is the One about whom this book speaks. [he points to Bible] I admonish you to govern your lives by the immutable principles which it sets forth.

[pause]

Worthy Aspirants, as Associate Members of this chapter [colony] you will pass through many new experiences, just as all brothers have done before you. You will be asked to do nothing which a true man cannot do or should not do. We have invited you to become Associate Members because we are confident that we, as well as you, will profit by our close association.

[The High Kappa resumes his station.]

[The High Alpha steps to the altar.]

Explanation of Symbols

H. Alpha As a token of your acceptance of our pledge and of our desire to be of assistance to you, whom we hope to know as brothers, you have been invested with the badge which is the emblem of Associate Membership in Lambda Chi Alpha. It consists of four equilateral triangles, standing for fraternity, patriotism, learning and morality, and upon them has been imposed a monogram of the letters Lambda, Chi, and Alpha, the significance of which will be explained to you at a later time.

Reception

H. Alpha As a further token of our good will, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship and welcome you as Aspirants among us.

[The High Alpha steps forward and shakes hands with each Associate Member, followed by the other officers, chapter members and old Associate Members.]