

# **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.

# RITUAL FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS MEETINGS

## Policy

This ceremony should be used at all business meetings of each chapter and colony and of the general fraternity. Both initiated and associate members should be present. Guests may also be present, if appropriate to the meeting. This ceremony is not used with the Associate Member Ceremony, the Initiation Ritual, the Installation of Officers when conducted as a separate ceremony, or a Memorial to a Member.

The High Alpha, High Beta, and High Phi must memorize the appropriate parts. Each initiated member must memorize the creed.

At meetings of the general fraternity a roll call of the chapters and colonies is substituted for the member roll call.

Neat, casual dress is appropriate for most settings, with more formal attire for special occasions.

## Equipment

- altar or deltoid table covered with a plain white tablecloth
- Greek lamp and lamp oil
- the Bible
- a fire extinguisher

- optional equipment, depending on the tone desired, includes
- collars and pendants for each officer with a Greek-letter title
- coat of arms painting on wall
- flag of the country in which the chapter is located
- fraternity flag

Prior to the opening ceremony the High Phi should place the Greek lamp and closed Bible on the altar.

## Opening Ceremony

H. Alpha [ \* ]

Brother High Gamma, you will make sure that all associate and initiated members are in their places.

H. Gamma

[calls roll, including names of any visiting brothers or alumni who may be present. The proper response of a member is either "present" or his Zeta and initiation number.]

H. Alpha                    Brother High Beta, you will proceed with the invocation. Will everyone please rise.

All                    [rise]

H. Beta                    [the following or similarly appropriate invocation may be used.]

Great and merciful God, our Heavenly Father, in reverent spirit we approach Thee to invoke Thy blessings on this assembly.

Forgive our transgressions, and cleanse our hearts of all unrighteousness. Grant Thy wisdom to our leaders, and guide us in all our deliberations and transactions that the true spirit of brotherhood may be manifest in our every thought, word and deed.

Bless the brothers of our Bond wherever they may be, and deepen our love for each other, and quicken our sense of duty to Thee.

To Thee, our Lord and God, be all honor, praise and glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

H. Alpha                    Brother High Phi, you will prepare the altar of Lambda Chi Alpha.

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

H. Alpha                    Members of Lambda Chi Alpha, we are now gathered together for our mutual welfare, to conduct the business of our Zeta, and to further the advancement of our fraternity.

We now unite in repeating once more the Creed of Lambda Chi Alpha.

#### CREED

All                    We believe in Lambda Chi Alpha, and its traditions, principles and ideals. The crescent is our symbol; pure, high, ever growing, and the cross is our guide; denoting service, sacrifice, and even suffering and humiliation before the world, bravely endured if need be, in following that ideal.

May we have faith in Lambda Chi Alpha and passion for its welfare. May we have hope for the future of Lambda Chi Alpha and strength to fight for its teachings. May we have pure hearts that we may approach the ideal of perfect brotherly love.

H. Beta                    We have come together through Delta Pi.

H. Phi                    We stand together in Zeta Alpha Chi.

H. Beta                    We strive together for attainment in the light of the three flames of the delta.

H. Alpha                    [ \* ] You may be seated.

All                    [resume seats]

## Closing Ceremony

[when the motion to adjourn carries]

H. Alpha [ \* \* \* ] Please rise.

All [rise]

H. Alpha Brother High Phi, you will prepare the altar of Lambda Chi Alpha for adjournment.

H. Phi [extinguishes the Greek lamp and closes the Bible.]

H. Beta May we cultivate the precepts of Lambda Chi Alpha. May we confess our faults, and sincerely try to mend our ways.

H. Phi As we go forth may it be in the spirit of Brotherhood. Lambda Chi Alpha has a mission to perform second to none. It is ours to teach by example and precept.

H. Alpha May we increase in the knowledge of Lambda, its teachings, applications and possibilities.

H. Alpha [ \* ]

and the meeting is closed.