Quick Facts

Founded: January 15, 1908 at Howard University, Washington, DC
Incorporated: January 29, 1913

Twenty Pearls: Founders and Incorporators
Motto: "By Culture and By Merit"
Symbol: Ivy Leaf
Flower: Pink Tea Rose
Colors: Salmon Pink and Apple Green

Official house organ: Ivy Leaf magazine, first published 1921

Translations
The Sorority uses Greek terminology in the identification of its officers and other significant references. To maximize your learning experience in navigating our Centennial site, you’ll read/hear these terms.

Name: Alpha Kappa Alpha—the first three letters of the three Greek words that form the Sorority’s motto

Chapter Names: Uses Greek alphabet sequence; after 1st 24 chapters, sequence is repeated with each letter (except the letter “Omega”); all graduate chapter names end with “Omega”

Soror: Greek word for “sister;” used only by members

Boule: Governing body; meets biennially

Directorate: Board of Directors

Ivy Beyond the Wall: Deceased member

Office holders:

Basileus: President

Anti-Basileus: Vice President

Tamiouchos: Treasurer

Grammateus: Recording Secretary

The position title preceded by “Supreme” indicates an International level position

Supreme Basileus: International President

First Supreme Anti-Basileus: International 1st Vice President/President-Elect

Second Supreme Anti-Basileus: International 2nd Vice President

Supreme Tamiouchos: International Treasurer

Supreme Grammateus: International Recording Secretary