

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FORUM

Thursday, April 8, 2021 (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Proposed Amendment – 69th Boule

Final state of proposed constitution amendment introduced in 2018 at the 68th Boule. All chapters are to vote in 2021 by mail on this proposed constitution amendment. All ballots must be postmarked by June 1st.

Constitution – Article VI – Section 3 (Page 4)

Changes the term of the Regional Director to one four-year term versus the current two-year term with the ability to be re-elected for one additional term.

Rationale: Allows the Regional Director to focus on the business of the region without the added responsibilities associated with re-election.

Discussion: If this is adopted, no other options will be on the table.

Proposed Conforming Amendments – 69th

It includes language to ensure that the Regional Director does not have the option of serving a second four-year term.

Proposed Conforming Bylaw Amendment #1A

Relates to the possible change in the term of office for the Regional Director. The *conforming* amendment will only be voted on IF the proposed Constitution Amendment re: changing the term of office of the Regional Director is adopted.

Rationale: To clarify that Regional Directors eligible for one four-year term will not be able to serve two four-year terms.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #1

Article I – Boule Officers – Section 15(i), Page 15

Connection Committee – Name enhancement to Connection and Social Action Committee. It changes the name by a couple of words.

Rationale: To better describe the work of the committee.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #2

Article I – Boule Officers – Section 15, page 15 – Standing Committees

Allows the Building and Properties committee to add additional members if needed.

Rationale: Allows flexibility in the number of sorors to oversee the Sorority's property.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #3

Article I – Section 15, Standing Committees

Adds Risk Management as a Standing Committee

Rationale: To actively safeguard the Sorority's mission, brand, reputation and resources.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #4

Article I – Boule Officers – Section 15(m) – Standing Committees – Technology Committee, Page 16

Insert the words "a representative from each region"

Rationale: Increasing demands on the Technology committee now require that every region be represented on the committee.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #5

Article III – Chapters – Section 20, Chapters Incorporating Separate Entities, (Page 25)

Chapters cannot incorporate for any purpose other than those outlined, and chapters are not freestanding.

Rationale: Incorporating foundations for the purpose of planning and executing sorority programs is the most prevalent reason chapters utilize this section.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #6

Article IV – Membership Status Classification, Section 9(d) – Life Member, (Page 30)

An active soror who has been a member of the Sorority for at least 75 years may obtain LIFE membership without payment of additional fees. They do not have to be active every year for the last 75 years. However, the soror has to be active in the year she applies for the membership.

Rationale: A soror who has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for 75 years should be recognized and celebrated and we lose members each year due to the inability to pay dues.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #7

Article IV – Membership Classification – Section 32 – Membership Intake Process (Page 36)

Changes the term co-sponsor to “recommending soror” and allows one of the recommending sorors to be a member of a different chapter than the one where the candidate will be initiated.

Rationale: To allow extended/added options for securing the necessary support to sponsor a candidate.

Proposed ByLaw Amendment #8

Article XV – Effective Date, (Page 56)

Adds clarifying language re: exactly what a chapter is required to do with amendments that are adopted at the Boule AND apply to the CHAPTER LEVEL – i.e. are applicable on the chapter level.

Rationale: To assist chapters in knowing what should be immediately included in the chapter bylaws. Not everything or even most that is adopted at the Boule should be put in the chapter bylaws.

BUDGET AND FINANCE FORUM

Thursday, April 8, 2021 (7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

The budget presented was adopted by the Directorate. Note: the Directorate may act on behalf of the sorority in the event of an emergency (pandemic).

There were no increases in per capita tax, membership intake fees, chapter taxes, chapter charter fees, and in COIP assessments (applies to new members coming into the sorority). The fee schedules are as follows:

Per Capita Tax

- Undergraduate \$95.00
- Graduate chapter member \$125.00
- General member \$235.00

Fines – 10% of Per Capita Tax

- Undergraduate \$9.50
- Graduate \$12.50
- General \$23.50

Reinstatement

- Undergraduate \$100.00
- Graduate \$145.00
- General member \$285.00

Membership Intake Fee

- Undergraduate \$100.00
- Graduate \$200.00

Chapter Tax

- Undergraduate chapter \$100.00
- Graduate chapter \$300.00

Charter Fees

- Undergraduate chapter \$325.00
- Graduate chapter \$650.00
- Interest Group \$650.00

COIP Assessment

- Undergraduate member \$100.00
- Graduate member \$200.00

Chapter Income Tax

- Undergraduate chapter – invoiced by corporate office
- Graduate chapter – invoiced by corporate office

REVENUE	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
Membership Dues	10,944,147	10,655,500	11,331,700
Chapter Fees	240,305	225,800	227,400
Sales	2,380,495	3,769,000	3,643,735
International Programs	1,013,081	806,750	231,750
Other	<u>1,141,881</u>	<u>2,556,875</u>	<u>1,633,500</u>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<u>15,719,909</u>	<u>18,013,925</u>	<u>17,068,085</u>

EXPENDITURES	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
Directorate/Committee	341,270	1,099,500	1,106,000
Publications	789,680	919,850	1,060,650
Corporate Office	6,021,523	7,239,653	7,082,315
COIP Expense	245,430	380,000	431,517
International Programs	1,278,921	1,720,000	1,595,000
Taxes/Insurance	1,151,458	1,303,000	1,303,000
Other Expenses	3,425,723	5,349,000	4,264,000
Contingency	0	2,922	225,603
Depreciation – GF & COIP	784,509	0	0
TOTAL	<u>14,038,514</u>	<u>18,013,925</u>	<u>17,068,085</u>

PLENARY I

Friday, April 9, 2021 (9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

The Plenary was called to order at 9:49 a.m.

First order of business: Delegates were seated in a special Zoom room.

Madam Regional Director, Mitzi Dease Paige, presented the 1st South Eastern Legend award to Soror Virda Lester.

The Credentials Report was presented as follows:

- 628 Delegates
- 259 Alternates
- 12 General Members
- 12 Alternate General Members
- 499 Graduate Delegates
- 129 Undergraduates
- 246 Alabama Regional Delegates
- 185 Mississippi Regional Delegates
- 185 Tennessee Regional Delegates

The report was moved and seconded with 476 “yes” votes and zero “no” votes.

The conference rules were established; governed by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Constitution and Bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order, 12th Edition. Soror Ramona Hill moved for the adoption of the South Eastern Regional Conference rules. The adoption did not require a second since it was a committee from a committee. The votes were 474 “yes” votes and zero “no” votes. The rules were adopted with commendations.

There was a Chapter roll call presentation of the Presidents.

The conference was electronically submitted, and the adoption of the agenda was moved and seconded with flexibility and no discussion. The votes were 464 “yes” votes and zero “no” votes.

The 88th SER Conference minutes were properly moved and seconded. The results were unanimous with 475 “yes” votes and zero “no” votes.

Conference officers were presented with no objections and their appointments were approved.

Madam Regional Director presented the "State of the Region Address". Some of the items mentioned are as follows:

- 108 Chapters (61 Graduate and 47 Undergraduate)
- 11,247 Members (Undergraduate 1,259; Graduate 8,029; and, General 1,959)
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was able to cautiously move forward in the Fall 2020: 16 Chapters in the region were allowed to complete the process with a modified eight-day session.
- 7 Graduate Chapters were approved prior to the postponement and they have the option to continue in 2021 with approval.
- 38 Undergraduate Chapters were approved to conduct MIP in the Spring 2021.
- Unfortunately, 914 sorors contracted COVID-19, and 42 lost their lives due to complications.
- 502,690 volunteer hours were reported across the region.
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. exceeded its goal of \$1 Million in one day for the third consecutive year.
- AKA Day at the Capitol will be Thursday, May 6, 2021.
- 61 Basilei were in attendance at the President's Retreat.

The Cynthia J. Finch Mentoring award, Ida K. Martin Reactivation award, and Nancy Gardner Sewell Education award were presented in the categories of small, medium, large, and extra-large chapters.

PLENARY II

Friday, April 9, 2021 (2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

The Plenary was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

Madam Regional Director presented the 2nd South Eastern Legend award to Soror Linda L. Simmons.

Madam Supreme Basileus, Dr. Glenda Glover, presented the "State of Sorority Report" and urged sorors to keep the faith and continue to move forward through these next few months. Additionally, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will remain largely virtual as long as we need to, and hopefully this year will be our last virtual platform. In addition, the following was reported:

- 1.5 Million have been reached through Target #2 with 1.4 million volunteer hours reported.
- The AKA mobile mammogram unit traveled 157,000 miles, and 424 free mammograms were reported.
- 42 Million steps have been recorded during our "Walk with the Supreme Initiative".
- AKA supported 47,000 black businesses and spent \$29 Million (Target 3).
- 146,000 high schools and middle schools have been exposed to the Harlem Renaissance and Black Art Movement (Target 4).
- As of 12/31/2020, 148,000 pair of eyeglasses, 14,807 pillowcases, 554,900(?) pair of shoes, and \$54,047 was donated to Soles4Souls.
- There were 89,572 active sorors in 2019, and 8,334 reactivated in 2019.
- Modified MIP pilot program
- In the Fall 2020, 1,255 new sorors were welcomed into AKA.
- And, on 11/03/2020, we made history with the 1st woman Vice President of the United States with more votes casted in any other year in history.

International Committee Reports

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. received an unmodified, clean opinion of our financial statements. The sorority's books and records are in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Taxes have been filed on time the last two years and we are on schedule to timely complete all tax filings this year. All chapters are to reimburse the corporate office of their taxes by the indicated due date. If chapters have not yet submitted financial reports, please do so immediately.

As of 12/31/2020, the sorority had \$45,235,345 in unaudited assets; revenue of \$24,187,122; investments of \$9.3 million; expenditures of \$19,682,684; General Operating balance of \$19,013,684; liabilities of \$6,933,729; and, a balance of \$12,079,955.

There were 5,200 programs that benefited communities for the ARTS. In addition, there were 5,746 global impact reports and 180,000 refugees were impacted and 49,000 volunteer hours were reported.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. received a \$50 thousand grant through the Abbott Foundation, which was utilized for pop-up health events. The first one was held in Atlanta in which 600 COVID tests were administered as well as 103 mammograms.

The Chapter Disaster Relief Guide is available and we've had more than 200 sorors that have received assistance.

STANDARDS WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 10, 2021 (8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

PRESENTER: Soror J. Dawn Magee (International Standards Committee)
sestandardsops@gmail.com

Governance

Corporate Charter

Constitution

Bylaws

Special Rules of Order (Manual of Standard Procedures)

Standing Rules (Adopted Guidelines – Published AKA Resources)

ADDED: Chapter Bylaws

ADDED: Chapter Standing Rules/Policies and Procedures

Parliamentary Authority (Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised 12th edition)

If sorors are thinking about running for office, good source guides to order from corporate are, "So, You Want to Run For Office" and "So, Now you are Elected". Every officer or committee chair has to complete a transition documentation form (page 28).

The chapter self-assessment form is made available to all chapter members. The form cannot be changed/altered. Every Chapter must complete an end of the year report by midnight of 12/31, and 12/1 for undergraduates.

Hard binding is not required anymore for chapter meeting minutes.

For chapter minutes to be official, the Basileus and Grammateus must sign.

All Chapters should still be using a voucher system. The Tamiouchos and Basileus will continue to review and approve vouchers, and the Basileus is to approve all expenditures. If voucher requests are not a part of the approved budget, it has to be approved by the Executive Committee. Scripted signatures are not acceptable. Every month the Basileus should receive monthly reports from the Grammateus and Tamiouchos. Payments may be received through Pay Pal, Zelle, etc., but funds CANNOT be disbursed from these apps.

A cloud-based storage system should be used to store chapter evaluations. Chapters will be notified of who will get audited. Usually, the International Standards Committee review the past 3 years (includes the last year); however, if different, the chapter will be notified. Evaluations must be completed within 30 days. Evaluation ratings have been changed to:

- 4 = exceeds requirements (=>90%)
- 3 = meets requirements (80%- 89%)
- 2 = needs improvement (70%-79%) (re-evaluate ONLY the areas the chapter did not pass). Chapters will be notified 45 days in advance of the re-evaluation. Workshops will be conducted within 60 days of score notification.
- 1 = not satisfactory (<70%) (re-evaluation will take place within 12 months after the initial evaluation)

CONNECTION AKAS L.E.A.D. (LEARN, EMPOWER, ADVOCATE, DECIDE)

Saturday, April 10, 2021 (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

PRESENTER: Soror Juanda Maxwell (International Connection Committee)
juandamaxwell@gmail.com

The Connection Committee studies the national and international issues that impact the issues in our community to formulate recommendations to our Supreme Basileus. We are the social activist committee focusing on:

- Voter Education
- Voter Registration
- Mobilization
- Political Leadership Development

The committee supports and encourages members to run for office and pursue political appointments.

1. Know the rules for the office you seek.
2. Know and communicate the issues that make a difference in your community.
3. Money is essential. Make a growing list of potential donors.
4. Have a strong technology support; this is immense.
5. Seek elected mentors for advice.
6. Utilize your connections to engage in letters, phone banking, emailing, social media and virtual forums, and/or town halls.

It was urged to order the Connection Resource Guide.

Legislative agenda has been updated to end in 2022.

- HBCU
- Healthcare (Affordable Care Act) the expansion of Medicaid
- Economic Empowerment – Support black businesses
- Voting Rights and Protections – H.R.1 (Congresswoman Sewell is working on this), and the John Lewis Voting Rights Acts (H.R.4)

National Advocacy Agenda

- Health Equity and Maternal health
- Education and HBCU Funding
- Criminal Justice and Violence Prevention
- Voting Rights and Protections

Good News: everything that's in our agenda is in the President's agenda. The issues are at the state level.

We are to educate the community/voters on impactful issues, BUT REMAIN BIPARTISAN. Please know AKA's critical issues and how they relate to our community and candidates.

- Healthcare initiatives
- Financial literacy
- Gun control
- HBCU Funding
- Voter ID and Registration
- Reinstatement of Voting Rights Act

Re-enfranchisement for voters with felony convictions; continue to register as many voters as possible; hold voter registration drives in accessible areas in the community; partner with community-based organizations to maximize impact; provide voter education in low voter turnout areas; and, share and teach the history of "the right to vote" for African Americans and historically underrepresented populations. (TEACH OUR HISTORY; IF YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR HISTORY YOU'RE PRONE TO REPEAT IT!)

The sorority partnered with "When We all Vote Campaign" and helped to register 250,000 voters and hosted the National Voter Registration events.

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS:

- South Eastern Voter Engagement
- Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
- When We All Vote
- Own Your Vote (Oprah)
- League of Women Voters

Begin thinking about early and absentee voting as we go into 2022.

Please utilize the video: "Get Out the Vote" (GOTV) push! It tells the story of all three states (AMT) and what we've gone through.

The South Eastern Region & NAACP Phone Banking Partnership begins four-to five months before the national elections.

What can we do in terms of the vaccination:

1. Consider partnering with community leaders to do PSAs.
2. Use social media to promote vaccinations in challenging communities.
3. Dispel myths about vaccinations. Do your research and answer questions and concerns with data.
4. Monitor the numbers and be ready to mobilize.

Contact your local radio stations to setup PSAs with the leaders. Ask people in your community to get vaccinated. This was done for the U.S. Census and the "Get Out the Vote" campaign. Also, request the radio personnel to share the PSA with their competitors. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. can be used in the PSA because we support the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, and that is bipartisan. REMEMBER, you are not telling people how to vote!

The presenter will share the PSA script with other chapters as requested.

PLENARY III

Saturday, April 10, 2021 (2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

The Plenary was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

The South Eastern Region Tamiouchos presented the following:

Estimated receipts for the 89 th SERC is	\$430,955
Other receipts, include award entrance fees and vendor fees	\$ 44,898
HBCU donations, souvenir ad sales, and corporate sponsorships	\$ 40,955
Souvenirs (swag sale)	\$ 30,028
Miscellaneous costs/shipping costs	\$ 885
<i>TOTAL RECEIPTS</i>	<u>\$547,721</u>

Madam Regional Director presented the 3rd South Eastern Legend award to Soror Patricia B. Magee.

Undergraduate activities committee reports

There were 1,050 new undergraduate sorors during the modified MIP in the Fall of 2020. Sorors have to maintain a 2.5 GPA each semester as well as personal commitments on and off campus while fulfilling sorority related responsibilities.

There were no topics or motions received at the close of Plenary II to be introduced as New Business.

There are 5,021 graduate sorors registered for the 89th SERC:

- Alabama: 1,746
- Mississippi: 1,169
- Tennessee: 1,527
- General members: 499
- Guests: 80

There are 1,103 undergraduate sorors registered for the 89th SERC:

- Alabama: 554
- Mississippi: 300
- Tennessee: 246
- Guests: 3

Legacy Parade - mother/daughter presentations (AL, MS, TN)
Engaged (AL), Enlightened (TN), Energized (MS)

Financial Snapshot

Receipts \$547,721

Expenses \$671,859

Expenses over receipts \$-124,138

Despite the negative, cash receipts for the region is in the positive.

\$841,230 reconciled

\$961,350 unreconciled

\$561,350 (estimated reconcile bank balance after 89th SERC Expenses)

Please note: expenses exceeded receipts due to operations during COVID-19. There were no receipts from clusters, undergraduate round-up, or normal SERC registration fees. Receipts for the year were limited, but the region still had normal operating expenses.

Awards were presented for small, medium, large and extra-large chapters. Delta Theta Omega won the Jean Tolbert Newsletter Award in the extra-large chapter category.

No questions were raised as it relates to the regional reports.

There were no objections to the resolutions presented and they were adopted honoring the life of an Ivy Beyond the Wall (Soror Esther Martin Rigsby – 17th Regional Director); commending the Supreme Basileus (\$1 Million in one day); expressing kudos to the 89th SERC Dream Team; Madam Regional Director's outstanding leadership; honoring the highest ranking female official in the U.S., Vice-President Kamala Harris; and, ensuring the impact of the corona virus is relayed in our community for prevention and protection.

Invitation of the 90th South Eastern Regional Conference to be held in Memphis, TN, March 2022.

Adjournment at 4:13 p.m.

Humbly Submitted,



Soror Chinnita M. Thomas
Delegate