

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated National History

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the oldest Greek-letter organization established by black college women in America, was founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. The idea was conceived by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle who viewed the sorority "as an instrument for enriching the social and intellectual aspects of college life by providing mental stimulation through interaction with friends and associates."

The Founders were:

- Norma Boyd
- Lillian Burke
- Ethel Hedgeman Lyle
- Lucy D. Slowe
- Lavina Norman
- Marjorie Hill
- Alice Murray
- Carrie Snowden
- Sara Meriweather Nutter
- Marie Woolfolk Taylor
- Anna Brown
- Ethel Jones Mowbray
- Joanna B. Shields
- Harriet J. Terry
- Beulah E. Burke
- Margaret Flagg Holmes

The purpose of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards; to promote unity and friendship among college women; to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve the social stature; to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of service to all mankind.

Today, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has more than 170,000 women around the world, in more than 900 chapters in cities and on major college campuses in America.

“The Extraordinary Service Program” National Program Theme for 2006-2010 Barbara McKinzie, International President

The National Program theme for 2006-2010 is "The Extraordinary Service Program". The ESP vision embraces a five-pronged program:

- Platform #1: Non-Traditional Entrepreneur
- Platform #2: Economic Keys to Success
- Platform #3: Economic Growth of the Black Family
- Platform #4: Undergraduate Signature Program – Economic Educational Advancement Through Technology
- Platform #5: Health Resource Management and Economics

The 2006-2010 program targets included the following:

- Education
- The Black Family
- Health
- Economics
- Technology