ORDER OF OMEGA

HONORING GREEK LEADERS SINCE 1959

RITUAL HANDBOOK

(ORDER OF OMEGA RITUAL CEREMONY IS AN OPEN CEREMONY)

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TAPPING PROCEDURES

A. The Tapping should be conducted at a highly visible Fraternity/Sorority function (i.e., banquet, Greek Week activity, chapter meeting.)
B. All members should be encouraged to participate
C. Each tappee should be presented an invitation card with (but not limited to) the following information (See Example A.)
    a. Welcome/Congratulations
    b. Date/Day/Time/Place of Initiation
    c. Initiation Fee Amount

EXAMPLE A

Dear_____,

Congratulations on being invited to join Order of Omega. The formal Initiation will be held on _____.

At that time, you will receive your pin and certificate of membership together with the symbolism of Order of Omega. The international membership fee can be paid online through MyHonorSociety. Again, please accept our personal congratulations. Now, join us in tapping other worthy fraternity and sorority men and women.

Interfraternally,

(Signed by all Chapter Officers)

TAPPING PROCEDURES

OPTION A: TO BE READ AT AN INDIVIDUAL CHAPTER MEETING

For their contributions to _____ (their fraternity), the betterment of the Fraternity/Sorority Community, concern for the welfare and development of (the college/university) and for their contributions in the furtherance of intrafraternal relations seeking the ideals of Fraternal life, ORDER OF OMEGA recognizes _____ (individual names).

OPTION B: TO BE READ AT AN ALL FRATERNITY/SORORITY FUNCTION

For their contributions to their fraternity, the betterment of the Fraternity/Sorority Community, concern for the welfare and development of (the college/university) and for their contributions in the furtherance of Intrafraternal relations seeking the ideals of Fraternal life, ORDER OF OMEGA recognizes from _____ (fraternity/sorority) (List all individual from that chapter) _____. (Continue through each fraternity/sorority.)

PRESIDENT:

Congratulations! As president of Order of Omega and a fellow Greek, it gives me great personal pleasure to welcome you as a candidate for membership. The purpose of Order of Omega is threefold:

First, to recognize those who have attained a high standard of leadership in inter-fraternal activities, to encourage them to continue, and to inspire others to strive for similar goals.

Second, to bring together the most representative fraternity and sorority members, and to create an organization to help mold the sediment of the institution on questions of local and intercollegiate affairs.

Third, to bring together the faculty, staff, alumni and student members of the institution's fraternities and sororities on a basis of mutual interest, understanding and helpfulness.

You have been selected as a candidate for membership because Order of Omega believes you will be able to accomplish this purpose. We look forward to seeing you at the initiation. Again, our congratulations!

(President presents candidate members with initiation cards. See example A.)

MATERIALS & PRE-INITIATION PROCEDURES

MATERIALS:

- Eighteen (18) white candles* and candle holders
- Matches
- Stoles (required for officers, optional for all members)
- Order of Omega membership pin and certificate for each candidate
- Five (5) scripts (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Advisor)
- List of candidates (with phonetic pronunciation of difficult names)
- Tablecloth
- Chapter roll book and pen
- Other enhancements to the room such as flowers, banner, etc.

*Two candles used to light the other 16 or 16 battery-operated candles may be substituted.

SET UP:

- Arrange the 16 candles on a table in the form of an Omega, two on each side forming the base of the Omega, and 12 arranged in an arch forming the top of the Omega. (The chapter may have an Omega built with holders for the candles)
- The table should be covered with a tablecloth. A flower arrangement on either side is optional.
- Place the pins on the table or in a basket if still in the boxes. Place the certificates on the table, in alphabetical order. The lights in the room should be dim.
- The candidates should assemble in a separate area and be brought into the room in alphabetical order at the beginning of the ceremony. Ensure privacy for the ceremony by posting a sergeant-at-arms at the door during the initiation.

MATERIALS & PRE-INITIATION PROCEDURES

CONTINUED

PERSONNEL:

- All candidates
- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Faculty/Staff Advisor (or Advisor's representative)
- Sergeant-at-arms
- Usher to guide all candidates into the correct places
- Sponsor (optional) for each candidate
- Current membership
- Invited guests (optional and based on individual chapter bylaws)

PROCESS/LOGISTICS:

- The four officers and advisor stand behind the table. The four front candles are lit, prior to the start of the ceremony. Real candles require two additional lit candles to be used for lighting the remainder during the ceremony.
- The candidates are led into the room in alphabetical order and stand in front of the table in a semi-circle. If there are a large number of people in a small space, arrange the initiates in two rows.
- The sponsors and current members stand behind the candidates.

The ceremony is ready to begin.

INITIATION CEREMONY: INTRODUCTION

PRESIDENT:

Fellow Greeks: We are gathered today for a most special event, the initiation of new chapter members into the _____ Chapter of Order of Omega.

This initiation acknowledges members of our fraternity/sorority community deserving to be recognized for furthering the philosophy of the college fraternity. Parker F. Enright, the fraternity advisor, founded Order of Omega at the University of Miami in the fall of 1959. For several years, the group operated as a local honorary organization recognizing University of Miami students. On February 9, 1967, a second chapter was chartered at the University of Southern Mississippi, under the direction of Dean Patrick W. Halloran (Hal-o-ren), and the organization was begun.

In the spring of 1977, another phase of the organization's development came with a vote to become a co-educational organization. In 1983, a Board of Directors and Executive Officers were established to provide continued leadership and direction. Since that time, Order of Omega has experienced rapid growth. More than 570 campuses have been honored with the establishment of a chapter of Order of Omega. A student board member is selected annually, and there has been an increased focus on chapter services and awards. A scholarship and fellowship program were established for undergraduates and graduate and doctoral students and over $1.6 million has been awarded to deserving individuals.

VICE PRESIDENT:

The_____Chapter was chartered in_____and began an active role on campus. Since our founding, we have initiated more than_____members.

And today, we acknowledge another noteworthy event with the initiation of these new members at (college/university).

We initiate you today to the ranks of those named to this honor across the United States and Canada.

Let us proceed.

INITIATION CEREMONY: RITUAL & INITIATION

INSTRUCTIONS:

The four officers and advisor of the Chapter gather behind sixteen candles, which have been previously arranged, on a table in the form of an Omega. Four of the candles are lit before this section of the ceremony begins. All other lights in the room should be dim. Each of the four officers read one tenet, in rotation, and light one candle, until all twelve tenets are completed, and all sixteen candles are burning. The President opens the ceremony.

I. THE TENETS OF ORDER OF OMEGA

PRESIDENT:

We Greeks embrace many principles. We have heard them pronounced with great resolve in our respective fraternity and sorority rituals. We accepted these tenets as valid and have attempted to live by them. Let us, members, and initiates, reaffirm these ideals. After each candle is lit, we shall indicate our affirmation by responding "Alpha - Omega" indicating our agreement with the sequence of statements.

PRESIDENT:

Alpha - Alma Mater, (*insert college/university name*), parent and perpetuator of our Order; long may she endure. (*Lights candle*)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

VICE PRESIDENT:

Beta - Bond, a belief in unity and cooperation of all humankind, a prime reason for Our Order. (*Lights candle*)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

SECRETARY:

Gamma - Gavel, sign of leadership; use it wisely. (*Lights candle*)

INITIATION CEREMONY

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

TREASURER:

Delta - Devotion; a commitment to spiritual growth emphasizing the values, ethics and principles of good citizenship and social responsibility. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

PRESIDENT:

Zeta - Zareeba, an enclosure formed by a thorn hedge, permitting entry only to Greeks, those rituals of fraternity life intended to strengthen character. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

VICE PRESIDENT:

Theta - Themis, Greek goddess of law and justice, who reminds us to honor the ideas of fairness and objectivity prior to each decision. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

SECRETARY:

Iota - Ideals; the goals that each fraternity strives to instill in its members and that Order of Omega wishes to honor. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

TREASURER:

Lambda - Loyalty; we shall remain loyal to the highest ideas of life and spirit.
The principle that gives continuity to our commitments. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha – Omega

INITIATION CEREMONY

PRESIDENT:

Sigma - Scholarship, the principal vocation of college men and women, without which fraternity life would not be possible. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

VICE PRESIDENT:

Phi - Philosophy, that love of wisdom, which builds in us a better understanding of each other and of our world. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

SECRETARY:

Psi - Psyche, the soul; or the interior force of fellowship, which inspires fraternity men and women to serve the university and the community. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

TREASURER:

Omega - The end in which our purposes attain fulfillment. Each end brings a new beginning with new hope and resolve. This is the secret of life and death. (Lights candle)

GROUP:

Alpha - Omega

PRESIDENT:

Brother and Sister Greeks, you have heard the reading of the primary tenets of Order of Omega, and you have expressed your agreement with them.

As you now reflect upon those twelve statements and your own personal beliefs, make certain you still embrace all twelve tenets, for we now challenge that if there is any doubt in your mind concerning the acceptance of these vows, we offer you at this time the opportunity to retreat from the ceremony.

(*Pause*) Then, we are all in harmony. Let the initiation proceed.

INITIATION CEREMONY

II. THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

INSTRUCTIONS:
Vice President steps behind each candidate, moving counterclockwise, and says:

VICE PRESIDENT:

Mr./Ms. President, I present to you the following candidates to be admitted as members of Order of Omega.

CANDIDATES NAME & AFFILIATION (Reading the names is optional. If honorary members do not have an affiliation listed, then say "honorary.")

III. THE PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION

INSTRUCTIONS:
When the Vice President has presented the candidates, and returned to the table, the President will move to stand before the group.

PRESIDENT:

Hear again the Preamble.
The purpose of Order of Omega shall be threefold:

First, to recognize those students who have attained a high standard of leadership in inter-fraternal activities, to encourage them to continue along this line, and to inspire others to strive for similar conspicuous attainment.

Second, to bring together the most representative fraternity and sorority members, and to create an organization, which will help to mold the sentiment of the institution on questions of local and intercollegiate affairs.

Third, to bring together members of faculty, alumni, and student members of the institution's fraternities and sororities on a basis of mutual interest, understanding, and helpfulness.

INITIATION CEREMONY

IV. THE COMMITMENT OF THE CANDIDATES

ADVISOR:

Do you intend to maintain the principles of Order of Omega as you have heard them read in the Preamble to the Constitution of The Order? If so, answer "I do."

GROUP:

I do.

ADVISOR:

Will you work to promote the fraternity/sorority community, to foster its best image, and to encourage others to share in the privileges of fraternity life? If so, answer "I will."

GROUP:

I will.

ADVISOR:

Will you work to encourage all students at (college/university name) to be more deeply concerned for the highest standards of leadership, scholarship, and social life so that our college/university will be known for its maturity of outlook and attitudes? If so, answer "I will."

ALL CANDIDATES:

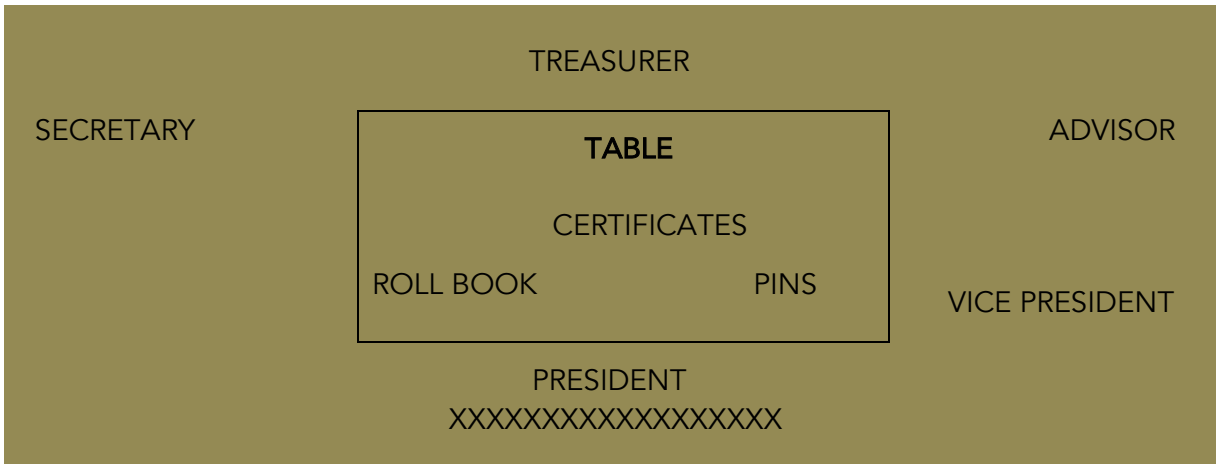
I will.

INITIATION CEREMONY

V. THE FORM OF ADMISSION

PRESIDENT:

Candidates, I now admit you into membership of Order of Omega.



SECRETARY:

As I call your name and affiliation, please step forward, sign the Chapter Roll Book, and receive your pin and certificate (larger chapter may have individuals sign the role book prior to the ceremony.)

CANDIDATES NAME & AFFILIATION

INSTRUCTIONS:

Each candidate signs the Chapter Roll Book, Vice President hands a pin and certificate to the President who presents these to each new member with a handshake. The new member then returns to their place in line. When all are presented, the President returns to their place at the table.

PRESIDENT:

Display proudly your pin and certificate to show that you have acquired the highest honor that can be given to a fraternity/sorority man or woman.

INITIATION CEREMONY

VI. THE EXPLANATION OF THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ORDER

PRESIDENT:

Ladies and Gentlemen, you were chosen for this high honor because you have been noted as one who holds the fraternity/sorority community in highest regard, and you have striven to promote its values on this campus. The stole of the Order is worn on formal occasions when membership in Order of Omega is to be appropriately noted.

VICE PRESIDENT:

The Omega represents the continuation of the ideals of fraternity life as they are passed from class to class through the years. Those privileged to wear the stole of Omega express their understanding that the goals of fraternity life, though customs vary as symbolized by their Greek letter, are the common ideals as expressed in the final letter of the Greek alphabet -- Omega.

SECRETARY:

The Omega stands for the end toward which we all strive, that we might share our concern for closer bonds of friendship and common interests. The Omega is open at the bottom. This reminds us that values established in our undergraduate years will remain with us beyond this brief period, to contribute deeper meaning to associations and commitments formed in later life.

PRESIDENT:

We welcome you now into full, voting membership in Order of Omega. Your first and last continuing responsibility is to exercise an influence on members of your fraternity or sorority so that they will desire this same distinction. Congratulations!

INSTRUCTIONS:

President leads officers, followed by previously initiated members, to shake hands with new initiates.

End of Initiation Ceremony

OFFICER INSTALLATION

(May be adapted to meet the needs of each campus)

OUTGOING PRESIDENT:

Today begins a new phase in the development of the fraternity/sorority community at (college/university). Order of Omega is an honor and leadership society for sorority and fraternity members of this campus and of the Fraternity/Sorority Community across the North America. The members of Order of Omega are chosen from among an elite group on this campus and, from that group, you have been elected as leaders. Your election is considered an honor, but with that comes great responsibility. The outgoing officers will explain these responsibilities to you now.

OUTGOING TREASURER:

(Name of new treasurer), as Treasurer, you are charged with the responsibilities of keeping accurate financial records, collecting local dues, and disbursing other funds as authorized. Will you, (name of new treasurer), perform these duties to the best of your ability?

TREASURER:

I will.

OUTGOING SECRETARY:

(Name of new secretary), as Secretary, you are charged with the responsibilities of maintaining membership information and call role at the meeting. Keep the memorabilia and archives of the organization which includes keeping minutes of the organization, maintaining a current copy of chapter Bylaws, and updating the chapter history. Will you, (name of new secretary), perform these duties to the best of your ability?

SECRETARY:

I will.

OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENT:

(Name of new vice president), as Vice President, you are charged with the responsibilities of collaborating with the President and assisting with the duties of that office. You will preside at any meetings or ritual ceremonies in the absence of the President. As Vice President, you will chair the membership selection process, oversee tapping and initiation and provide for the safekeeping of all ritual materials. Will you, (name of new VP), perform these duties to the best of your ability?

VICE PRESIDENT:

I will.

OFFICER INSTALLATION

(May be adapted to meet the needs of each campus)

OUTGOING PRESIDENT:

(Name of new president), as President, you are charged with the responsibility of seeing that the chapter continues to grow according to our purpose and goals. You have the responsibility of planning, organizing, and presiding over all meetings of the executive officers and members of the organization. You will preside as chair of the Officers' Council**,** which meets before regularly scheduled meetings of the general membership. You will also preside at rituals of the organization. Will you, (name), perform these duties to the best of your ability?

PRESIDENT:

I will.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT:

As officers, you have been elected to serve and guide the (name of chapter) Chapter of Order of Omega for the ultimate purpose of the growth and development of the entire fraternity/sorority community at (college/university). As the chapter officers, you are primarily responsible for the direction of Order of Omega, its present and its future at (college/university). We challenge you to make contributions that will be significant in this chapter's history and that will provide opportunities for personal development of each and every fraternity and sorority member on our campus. Congratulations!

End of Officer Installation.

CHAPTER INSTALLATION

INTRODUCTION TO INSTALLATION

SPEAKER:

Fellow Greeks: We are gathered today for a most special event: the installation of the Chapter and the initiation of the charter members of this Chapter of Order of Omega. This initiation acknowledges members of our fraternity/sorority community deserving to be recognized for their furtherance of the philosophy of the college fraternity. Parker F. Enright, the fraternity advisor, founded Order of Omega at the University of Miami in the fall of 1959. For several years, the group operated as a local honorary organization recognizing University of Miami students. On February 9, 1967, a second chapter was chartered at the University of Southern Mississippi under the direction of Dean Patrick W. Halloren (Hal-o-ren), and the organization was begun.

Since that time, more than 580 campuses have been honored with the establishment of a chapter of Order of Omega. In the spring of 1977, another phase of the organization's development came with a vote to become a co-educational organization. In 1983, a Board of Directors and Executive Officers were established to provide continued leadership and direction.

SPEAKER:

The (chapter name) Chapter at (college/university) was chartered on (date on charter), and today begins an active role on campus. We acknowledge this noteworthy event of the chartering of the (name of chapter) Chapter and welcome you into Order of Omega. You join more than 580 chapters across the United States and Canada in a shared commitment to the ideals and values of the fraternal movement. As charter members, today's initiates take a special place of honor among those named to the Order.

The Board of Directors of Order of Omega presents (college/ university) with this charter with all congratulations and best wishes. (Hand charter to designated campus official.) Let us proceed. (Go to page 7 – Initiation Ceremony Introduction to Initiation)