

NPHC

Council Chartering Ceremony

Set up:

1. Presiding officer; The National President, National Officer or a designee of the National President shall conduct this ceremony.
2. Bible
3. Council Bylaws
4. Gavel
5. Table with white table covering
6. Two tall candles
7. Nine (9) White candles in free standing holders
8. Matches
9. Candle extinguisher
10. Piano or tape recording of National Hymns of the nine affiliates in alphabetical order

Attire:

Each person participating in the ceremony should wear black or dark attire.
The other attendees should dress appropriately for the solemn ceremony.
The presiding officers should also wear black.

Ceremony Presentation:

The room for the ceremony should fit the occasion. Lighting should be soft. Those attending the ceremony should enter and be seated, leaving the front row of nine (9) seats vacant. At the appointed hour, one person representing each of the nine affiliate organizations should enter the room in alphabetical order and be seated. The appropriate order is:

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.
ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC.
IOTA PHI THETA FRATERNITY, INC.
KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.
SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

The presiding officer and assistant will then enter and stand behind the table facing the audience.

Ceremony

Presiding officer:

We gather on this momentous occasion to welcome another Pan-Hellenic Council into our fold. We have been petitioned by Greeks in the city of /at on the campus of _____ to grant a National Pan-Hellenic Council Charter so that they might form a more cohesive and meaningful force in the communities where they reside.

Presiding Officer's Assistant:

The Holy Bible rests before us as a reminder of a higher authority – higher than the founding principles of each of our organizations; higher than the order of mankind; and even higher than the evolution of time.

The candle to the left represents LOVE, the very basis of our existence, the curvature of our machinations, and the absolute essence of our totality. I light it with humbleness and devotion to its profound meaning.

Using the candle of LOVE, I light the candle of FELLOWSHIP without which our lives would be barren and isolated. We have all experienced the warmth and camaraderie of belonging through our respective organizations. The lighted candle, FELLOWSHIP, represents a higher order from this plan as we reach out to encompass our brothers and sisters from other Greek letter organizations. Representatives of the nine (9) Greek letter organizations, please stand.

Presiding Officer:

Each one of you, of your own volition has, in your lifetime, unequivocally committed to the ideals of your respective sorority and fraternity. Today, by your own volition, you have once again selected to extend your original commitment to include sisters and brothers of eight other Greek letter organizations, similar in concept and deeds.

Your choice is individualistic in nature, yet corroborating in practice as you consciously decided to unite as one body. The annals of history have more than proved that a divided house cannot stand. In May 1930, Greeks recognized that we could accomplish much more if we joined ranks, thus the birth of the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Today, we add to those ranks by offering charter ship to a new council.

Let us take the step to unity by lighting the candles.

The representative for **ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.** please light the candles for your sisters.

The representative for **ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.** please light the candles for your brothers.

The representative for **DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.** please light the candles for your sisters.

The representative for **ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC.** please light the candles for your sisters.

The representative for **IOTA PHI THETA FRATERNITY, INC.** please light the candles for your brothers.

The representative for **KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.** please light the candles for your brothers.

The representative for **SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.** please light the candles for your sisters.

The representative for **PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.** please light the candles for your brothers.

The representative for **OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.** please light the candles for your brothers.

Presiding Officer's Assistant:

Know that here walk brothers, stalwart and princely and here stride sisters, beautiful and queenly, having banded together in LOVE and Fellowship to offer service to others.

(Extinguish all nine (9) candles, leaving the two candles representing LOVE and FELLOWSHIP burning.)

Presiding Officer:

Let us bow our heads while the President of this Newly chartered Council leads us in Prayer.

PRESIDENT OF THE NEWLY CHARTERED COUNCIL REPEATS THIS PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we are thankful for the loyalty and strength of those who worked to bring us to this day. Help us to maintain the traditions of working and serving. Give us those things we need to make our services united and effective. Let us never forget our help comes from Thee. Amen.

Presiding Officer:

As the _____ position of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc., I declare that the _____ Council of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. has been duly chartered with all the rights and privileges pertaining to this great organization. I extinguish the candles of LOVE and FELLOWSHIP and encourage each of you to go forth and serve.

(Council is presented with charter. After historian takes photos, presiding officer asks everyone to stand and sing the following words to the tune of "We shall Overcome," holding hands)

Song: IN THE TUNE OF “WE SHALL OVERCOME”
(Everyone stands).

We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand, today
Oh-oh-oh Deep in my heart
I do believe
We'll walk hand in hand today.

Presiding Officer:

Please be seated as the Greek Medley is played.

(Members of each respective organization should stand upon hearing their hymn.)

Presiding Officer:

Thank you for coming. Again, we welcome the _____ to the NPHC family and know you will continue strive in the spirit of unity of upholding the principles and policies of this great organization.

All are dismissed.