

The meaning of Delta Sigma Theta  
"Bonded Through Devotion"

Bonded Through Devotion Lucia Harris

B.T.D.

# The Official Ritual

OF

THE GRAND CHAPTER

OF

**DELTA SIGMA THETA, INC.**

A Public Service Sorority

8th EDITION 1969

Ritual from student at Delta State University.

## FOREWORD

This book has been prepared as the official *Ritual* of DELTA SIGMA THETA, INC., to perpetuate the ideals and traditions of the organization.

It is hoped that its use will continue to inspire the true spirit of the Delta sisterhood.

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Confidential to the membership of  
DELTA SIGMA THETA, INC.

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Revised and Adopted at the  
1960 Convention of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

## THE GREATEST OF THESE

### A MEDITATION FOR DELTA

(A paraphrase of I Corinthians 13)

by

Dorothy I. Height

#### Meditation—

Though I speak with the tongues of the learned and the profound, and have no love, I am as a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And though I prophesy, know all the Delta laws, ritual, traditions, and secrets, and can recite them glibly

And though I have such absolute devotion to duty that I can do anything my hands undertake, and have not love, I am nothing.

Though I spend all my time working on worthy projects, and though I give all I possess, pay all assessments, strive with all my might for Delta, and have no love, I make it amount to nothing.

A true soror is very patient, very kind. Her love for her sorors knows no jealousy; she makes no parade, puts on no airs, is never rude, never defensive, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful.

A true Delta is never glad when others go wrong; she is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, never a carrier of gossip, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always willing to help others in the slow process of growth. She wears her pin with humility. Her love never disappears.

As for interpreting the law, it will be superseded; as for tongues, they will cease; as for a college education, it will be superseded.

For now we know only bit by bit and we prophesy only bit by bit;

But when the true sisterly spirit is attained, the uncharitable shall fade away.

When I was a Pyramid I talked as a Pyramid, I understood as a Pyramid, I thought as a Pyramid; but now that I have become a Delta, I am done with the ways of those intending to be Deltas.

At present we see only the great potentialities of a sisterhood founded on Christian principles; but some day we shall know that its realization rests upon the quality of our lives in fellowship one with the other.

At present I am learning bit by bit; but then I shall understand as all along the Creator of all has understood the dignity and the worth of every individual.

Thus faith, and hope, and love last on, these three;

But in Delta Sigma Theta, the greatest of these is love.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction .....	6
The Meaning of Ritual and Tradition .....	8
Ritualistic Services	
Formal Opening—Chapter or Regional Meetings .....	10
Order of Business—Chapter Meetings .....	13
Formal Closing—Chapter Meetings .....	14
Optional Opening—Chapter Meetings .....	14
Optional Closing—Chapter Meetings .....	16
The Pyramid Induction Service .....	17
Probation Pledge Service .....	21
Initiation Service .....	25
Honorary Membership Ceremony .....	32
Funeral Ceremony .....	34
Memorial Observance .....	36
Installation of Officers .....	37
Formal Opening—Grand Chapter Sessions .....	38
Formal Closing—Grand Chapter Sessions and Regional Conferences .....	43
Establishment of New Chapters .....	45
Appendix .....	47
Index .....	48

## INTRODUCTION

In the preparation of this Fifth Edition, the committee has been mindful of tradition and ritual in the Sorority. It has sought, therefore, to reconcile this meaning with the spirit and tempo of the nuclear age but at the same time present the proceedings in a manner conducive to the perpetuation of our highest ideals and noblest traditions.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following:

Johanna Gow Bush, Cincinnati, Ohio Alumnae, *The Delta Prayer* and the *Delta Mizpah*.

Isabelle Askew, Wilberforce, Ohio Alumnae, Anna L. Dorsey Wilson, Beta, *Delta Sigma Theta, How We Love Thy Name*.

Marguerite Armstead, St. Louis, Mo. Alumnae, *Let Me Be A Torch*.

Mary Church Terrell, honorary member, *The Delta Oath*.

Ruth N. Wheeler, Sigma, *What Does It Mean A Sorority?*

Florence Cole Talbert McCleave and Alice Dunbar Nelson, honorary members, *The National Hymn*. (Special arrangement by Soror McCleave).

Gloria Hewlett Glover, Beta Nu, *Pyramid Induction Ceremony*.

The founding chapter, Alpha, for the basic ideas, foundation, and traditions in the First Edition as prepared by the committee of Founders of which Madre Penn White was chairman.

The Committee on the Second Edition, of which Lillian T. Alexander was chairman.

The Committee on the Third Edition, of which Edna Johnson Morris and Sadie T. Alexander were co-chairmen.

The Committee on the Fourth Edition, of which Gloria Hewlett Glover and Esther Popel Shaw were co-chairmen.

The editing of the Fifth Edition, by M. Elizabeth Carnegie, Theodora Daniel, Elizabeth Reeves, of the Publications and Public Relations Committee.

Jeannette Tripplett Jones, Dorothy Pelham Beckley, Vivian Osborne Marsh, Elsie Austin, and Mae Wright Peck, Past National Presidents, under whose administration certain new sections were developed and adopted.

Dorothy I. Height, Past National President, *Meditation: The Greatest of These*.

Mary Elizabeth V. Gibson, honorary member, *The Delta History*.

Alberta White Stuart, Greensboro, N. C. Alumnae, art, cover and illustrations.

Jeanne L. Noble, National President, *The Meaning of Ritual and Tradition*.

Chicago Alumnae Chapter, parts of the *Omega Omega Ceremony*.

Osceola McCarthy Adams, Founder, revision of the *Jewels*.

## THE MEANING OF RITUAL AND TRADITION

A ritual is a code of ceremonies designed to be observed on special formal occasions.

Like most organizations which started as secret societies we have always had ritualistic ceremonies. Our founders wrote ceremonies for special occasions as a means of binding individuals into a cohesive unit. They intended for these ceremonies to create an atmosphere and inspire each individual to live up to the high ideals and purposes of Delta Sigma Theta.

The ritual concept is still meaningful today. Music, poetry, and prose can create an atmosphere of solemnity.

The difference today is that some of the words in our revised *Ritual* have changed, though the purpose underlying the ideas remains constant. The language has been modernized and some of the ceremonies shortened. The favorite sections, which have stood the test of time and have been acclaimed by each generation, still remain.

But more important, new emphases, consistent with a clear-cut position of our objectives and ideals, have been introduced. For we intend to create an atmosphere for a purpose—to commit ourselves to ideals which are not platitudes, but real expressions of beliefs and a basis for meaningful action.

It is only when ceremonies create atmospheres of meaningless sentimentality that rituals seem outmoded. We believe that our revised *Ritual* has simplicity and reinforces our dedication to public service, sisterhood, and scholarship. It is a modern ritual with an ancient purpose—to observe in an outward way the great ideals of our founding so that we may be inspired to translate ideals into positive action.

A ritual is a set procedure. Like the *National Hymn*, it should be uniform for all chapters. This is because there must be an orderly system of expectations in group living. That is why *Robert's Rules of Order* is a set procedure for the conduct of business. Our *Ritual* observances are designed to give order to over 340 chapters and 50,000 individuals. Interpretation is not left to chance, but systematized for all. No matter where the girl is initiated, she repeats the same oath of allegiance. We are assured of a democratic procedure through the appointment of a Ritual Revision Committee whose members are representative of the whole. Any change in our *Ritual* must be enjoined by law. Thus, the *Ritual* revision was adopted by unanimous consent of the delegates at the 1960 Convention. Therefore, the *Ritual's* uniform procedure is arrived at by democratic process.

But more important, in a world where communication between people becomes increasingly difficult, a national ritual gives us a common language. One is never a stranger to another Delta, for any sorority ceremony with its familiar form, words, and traditions is at once recognizable. Speak one or two lines of the oath or the charge and a bond of understanding is immediately possible.

There is a place for traditions in our organization, and these are an important part of the *Ritual*. Traditions are the beliefs, information, and customs orally transmitted to succeeding generations. Our few traditions, including the handshake and motto, thus follow this pattern of oral transmission. It is not that we wish to be secretive in the sense of being exclusive, but we recognize that something shared exclusively with special people (in this case Deltas) gives

an added zest to the spirit of things. Our desire to perpetuate traditions rests on this simple acknowledgement. Traditions are ways through which we build a sense of loyalty toward each other and continuously develop our *esprit de corps*.

Yet even here, it is good to take time to rehearse these traditions before the induction of new members. Traditions are only kept alive by constant usage.

As we use our new *Ritual*, let us bear in mind three important facts:

First, a ceremony must be impressive and dignified. Therefore, choose a place that is quiet and pleasant looking. Absolute silence or soft music should precede the ceremony so that every individual's attention is focused on the ceremony.

Second, though the committee has attempted to suggest ways of creating atmosphere, each chapter's own ingenuity and creativity is needed. Special robes for all, flowers in the right spot, a prayer sung at the proper moment, music in the background are all a matter of taste and can make the difference between a routine ceremony and one that is deeply moving.

Third, since any ritual is an established method of procedure, it is important to practice the major ceremonies and to arrange for the properties as suggested.

Surely the most important function of a ceremony is to please. Generations of Deltas have been uplifted by the nobility of our *Ritual*. It is with this spirit and with a fervent hope that inspiration will be followed by good actions that we dedicate this 1962 edition of the *Ritual* to all Deltas.

Jeanne L. Noble  
National President  
1958-63

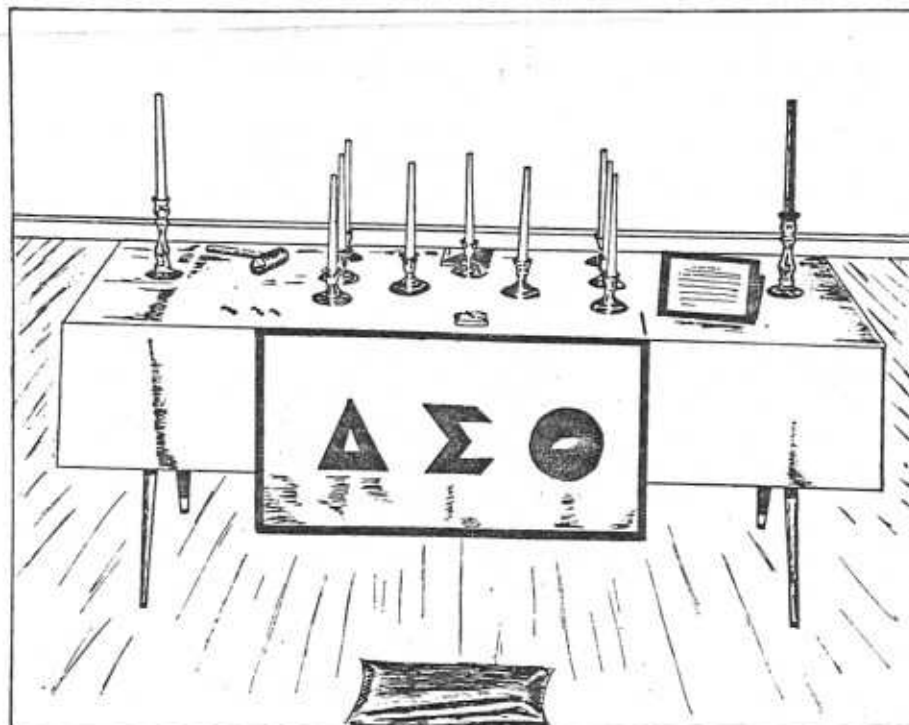


## INITIATION SERVICE

This is by far the most important ceremony in our Ritual. Great care should be taken to create the proper atmosphere. Parts should be rehearsed carefully. The most beautiful ceremonies are held in a place where there is an organ, or piano. In any case a record player with appropriate solemn music can be used. Only the most meticulous fresh cloths and candles should be used. The ceremony should not be rushed.

Alumnae chapter members may be extended an invitation to an undergraduate chapter's initiation to help welcome the initiates into the sorority. They would be expected to wear the proper clothes and bring appropriate candles. Their help should be sought in finding an appropriate place for holding the ceremony.

**Properties:** Sufficient number of Rituals, gavel, white cloth for table, a Delta pennant draped over it, or a lighted symbol placed upon it, sorority pins, two candle holders for opposite ends of the table, one red taper which shall represent the Torch of Wisdom, one white taper which shall represent the fundamental principles of the sorority; white tapers for each soror present and for each candidate (these tapers should be in holders to prevent burning); red cushion for kneeling (*optional*); a sorority pin on a small white cushion, and a prompter with the pledge of membership written on it. In the center of the table nine white tapers are placed to represent the jewels. Chairs should be placed so that at the appropriate time during the ceremony initiates can be seated.



**(Note Illustration.)** Some chapters substitute the electric symbol for the lighting of candles. Each Jewel turns on a bulb. This is acceptable provided the symbol is front centered. Other chapters have had special candle holders built in the form of a Sigma ( $\Sigma$ ). This, too, is acceptable.

**Attire:** Chapter officers wear official white robes, sorors wear black robes or black dresses, Jewels wear red robes or black dresses. Candidates wearing white shall assemble outside the place of meeting in charge of a soror who will instruct them as to their acts and responses.

The chapter meeting shall be in session and the President shall at the proper time call for new business.

### CEREMONY

The President and presiding officers shall stand throughout the ceremony unless otherwise indicated in the ceremony.

**President: (Raps three times with gavel)** Will the meeting please come to order. Sergeant-at-arms, are we free from intrusion?

**Sergeant-at-arms:** Worthy President, we are free from intrusion.

**President:** I light the Torch of Wisdom. **(Lights the red taper.)**

**Vice-president:** Our motto is: "Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom." Behold the Torch of Wisdom. **(Pointing to the red taper.)** It burns wherever Delta women are assembled, and guides our footsteps as we work in the name of our sorority. As college educated women, holding the torch aloft, we seek to use our trained intellect toward the advancement of intellectual, social, and spiritual pursuits in the service of mankind.

**President:** Is there new business?

**Secretary:** Worthy President and sorors, there await without those who would join our sisterhood.

**President:** Sorors, you hear the words of our secretary. What is your pleasure? Soror Vice-president, do those without give evidence of being worthy to join our sisterhood? Have they been examined diligently?

**Vice-president:** We have examined them diligently and we believe them worthy to be admitted.

**President:** Have they satisfied our financial requirements?

**Treasurer:** Worthy President, they have satisfied these requirements.

**President:** Sergeant-at-arms, permit those who are without to enter. **(Sergeant-at-arms opens the door and candidates enter.)**

Here it is most important that music be played. The Delta Choir may hum Delta Sigma Theta, or there may be soft organ, piano, or record background music. Music stops after candidates line up.

**Dean of Pledges:** Worthy President, I present these candidates for admission to our sisterhood.

**President:** We are assembled on the most serious occasion in the cycle of our sorority life—the induction of new members into Delta Sigma Theta. The Dean of Pledges and sorors responsible for your probationary activities have indicated to the sorors of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter that you have fulfilled the necessary requirements for membership into our sorority. As we

proceed in this ceremony will each of you pause to consider this question: "Do you of your own free will and accord seek admission into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority?"

**Candidates:** I do.

**President:** You seek of your own free will admission to our sisterhood and we agree to accept you. You are about to take upon yourselves vows and obligations from which you can never be freed. They will follow you to the Final Judgment. I charge you that you approach with serious minds as we do now proceed. (Pause) Delta Sigma Theta is a glorious international sisterhood. If there is any soror present or not present toward whom you cannot have a feeling of kinship and devotion, to whom you cannot pledge true loyalty and sisterly attitudes, I charge you here and now to withdraw.

**Candidates:** I do not wish to withdraw.

**Here *Ave Maria*, *The Lord's Prayer*, or *Delta Sigma Theta* may be sung by a soror. If a song is inserted here, the President must instruct candidates to be seated.**

**President:** You will observe that there are nine jewels in the Sigma of our emblem. These jewels represent the foundation of our sorority. We believe that the strength of an organization lies in the personal integrity and character of its individual members. The nine cardinal virtues, symbolized in the nine jewels of the Sigma, were conceived as basic attributes which all Delta women should strive to attain. These virtues are:

Honesty  
Purity  
Fidelity  
Justice  
Compassion  
Dedication  
Fellowship  
Temperance  
Courtesy

**President continues:** A soror, speaking for each of these jewels will explain their meaning in Delta Sigma Theta. (During the explanation, the nine sorors will light the nine tapers representing the jewels. Each soror faces the candidates as she speaks. At this point ALL may be seated—officers and candidates.)

**Honesty:** Truthfulness to one's own heart in determining the moral quality of all one's own thoughts and actions is the loftiest faculty of the human mind. Scrupulous exercise of this faculty is the first requisite to keeping peace with one's self and meriting the trust of others. In the name of our mothers who, by precept and example, instilled in us a love and respect for truth, I light the first jewel of our golden Sigma—Honesty.

**Purity:** Purity of mind and conduct is the first glory of womanhood. In the name of our Founders, whose exemplary lives before us have been an inspiration, I light the second jewel of our bright Sigma—Purity.

**Fidelity:** Nothing is more noble, nothing is more venerable than fidelity.

Fidelity and truth are the most sacred excellencies and endowments of the human mind. In the name of our departed sorors, faithful until death to the ideals of Delta, I light the third jewel of our beloved Sigma—Fidelity.

**Justice:** Nothing which lacks justice can be morally right. Justice is the respectful observance of all that is fair and equitable in human relations. It is the firm and continuous desire to render to everyone that which is his due. In the name of the executive branch, from whom we expect justice tempered with kindness and understanding, I light the fourth jewel of our resplendent Sigma—Justice.

**Compassion:** There was never a heart truly great and generous that was not also tender and compassionate, ever ready to respond to the needs of the unfortunate and the weak. In the name of our honorary members who have inspired us by their great endeavors for human betterment, I light the fifth jewel of our beautiful Sigma—Compassion.

**Dedication:** To find yourself you must lose yourself in living for a purpose in which you fervently believe and in striving to attain some worthwhile goal related to the common good and to the highest human values. In the name of those dedicated women who endured unspeakable hardships in the age-long struggle for human freedom, for the emancipation of women, and for those rights and privileges which we as women now enjoy, I light the sixth jewel of our glorious Sigma—Dedication.

**Fellowship:** Fellowship is heaven; fellowship is life; it is the service that we render that makes us happy, the communion with God that gives us strength, and the fellowship one with another that helps us to understand. In the name of our many graduates and undergraduates who keep alive the spirit of fellowship, I light the seventh jewel of our mighty Sigma—Fellowship.

**Temperance:** Temperance is a bridle of gold. It is the firm and moderate dominion of reason over passion and unrighteous impulses. In all our activities, let us be temperate. In the name of our national officers, past and present, whose decisions and authority have been characterized by wisdom and temperance, I light the eighth jewel of our magnificent Sigma—Temperance.

**Courtesy:** Courtesy is more than mere politeness or civility in our relations with others. It springs from thoughtfulness and genuine feeling for others and from a true respect for the dignity of the human personality. In the name of all that is good and orderly in the conduct of our relationships, I light the ninth and last jewel of our wonderful Sigma—Courtesy.

**President:** These jewels in our beloved Sigma have been ignited by the Torch of Wisdom, reminding us that wisdom and virtue go hand in hand. As you take the final pledge standing in the radiance of these jewels, think deeply of their significance.

I shall now administer to each candidate the membership pledge. Listen first to that pledge: **The President reads the pledge to the candidates for their consideration before they are asked to repeat it individually. Each candidate then comes forth, one at a time, to the induction table, kneels (optional), and clasps both hands on the Torch of Wisdom and repeats the pledge.**

Note: Candidate should read this pledge alone from the paper pinned in front of her.

Candidate: I, \_\_\_\_\_, do promise in the presence of the Eternal Spirit of Truth, and these finite witnesses, that I will never reveal in any manner whatsoever, for any purpose whatsoever, any of the secrets, passwords, signs, grips, or other confidences entrusted to my keeping as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, now at the time of my initiation into the sisterhood, or that may hereafter from time to time be so entrusted. I do further solemnly promise that I will dedicate my life to the nine cardinal virtues of Delta Sigma Theta. This pledge is upon my sacred word of honor.

Each candidate is given a white taper—in a holder to prevent burning—as she leaves the induction table and returns to her position. After all candidates have repeated the pledge, the ceremony proceeds.

Vice-president: We are a sisterhood pledged to seek success. And we believe:

She has achieved success  
Who has lived well, laughed often, loved much;  
Who has gained the respect of intelligent men and women  
The love of little children.  
Who has accomplished her task;  
Who has made the world better than she found it,  
Whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul;  
Who has not lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it.  
Who has always looked for the best in others and given the best she had;  
Whose life has been an inspiration and whose memory is a benediction.

President: Hear now the *Delta Prayer*. (All sing Prayer)

President: We believe in a spiritual life but we leave to the individual the selection of the medium for its outward manifestation.

A fire—mist and a planet,  
A crystal ball and a cell,  
A jellyfish and a saurian,  
And caves where cavemen dwell—  
Then a sense of law and beauty  
And a face turned from the clod,  
Some of us call it longing,  
And others call it God.

A haze on the far horizon,  
The infinite tender sky,  
The ripe, rich tint of the cornfields,  
And the wild goose sailing high—  
And all over the upland and lowland  
The charm of the goldenrod,  
Some of us call it Autumn,  
And others call it God.

Like the tides on a crescent sea beach,  
When the moon is new and thin,  
Into our hearts high yearnings,  
Come rolling and surging in—

Come from the mystic ocean  
Whose rim no foot has trod,  
Some of us call it longing,  
And others call it God.

A picket frozen on duty,  
A mother starved for her brood,  
Socrates drinking the hemlock,  
And Jesus on the rood—  
And millions who, humble and nameless  
The straight hard pathway trod,  
Some call it consecration,  
And others call it God.

**President continuing:** Sorors in Delta Sigma Theta, I am about to administer the oath of allegiance to these initiates. I charge you to receive them into our sisterhood freely, and with a feeling of loyalty and affection. May we stand and repeat the *Oath* together. (All stand and repeat the Delta Oath. Place right hand over the heart.)

#### DELTA OATH

I will strive to reach the highest educational, moral and spiritual efficiency which I can possibly attain.

I will never lower my aims for any temporary benefit which might be gained.

I will endeavor to preserve my health, for however great one's mental and moral strength may be, physical weakness prevents the accomplishment of much that otherwise might be done.

I will close my ears and seal my lips to slanderous gossip.

I will labor to ennoble the ideals and purify the atmosphere of the home.

I will always protest against the double standard of morals.

I will take an active interest in the welfare of my country, using my influence toward the enactment of laws for the protection of the unfortunate and weak and for the repeal of those depriving human beings of their privileges and rights.

I will never belittle any race and will try to persuade others to take the same just stand.

I will not shrink from undertaking what seems wise and good because handicaps or obstacles of any kind confront me; but striving to preserve a calm mind with a courageous spirit, barring bitterness from my heart, I will strive all the more earnestly to reach the goal.

**President:** Will the sorors come forward with the pins of our sorority.

(Before awarding the pins the President may make some extemporaneous remarks about the significance of the pin. Following this, each soror who has a pin for a neophyte will step forward and place the pin on the new soror. At the same time, she teaches the handshake. Neophytes then sit as instructed. Sorors resume their seats.)

**President:** These symbols are the outward manifestations of sorority life. The true meaning of a sorority requires a personal commitment of inward dedication.

**Chosen Soror:**

What does it mean, a sorority?  
What does it mean to you?  
Is it just a name,  
Bringing local fame,  
With perhaps a friend or two?  
What of your life in the world of greeks?  
What have they gained through you?  
Have you won a smile,  
Done a thing worthwhile,  
Or wasted a year or two?  
Ah, what does it mean, a sorority  
To the girl with a heart of gold?  
'Tis to love and to serve  
And high ideals preserve  
With a wealth of joy untold.

**Tapers held by neophytes and sorors should be passed to the Sergeant-at-arms to be extinguished.**

**President:** As you pass your candles, remember our motto is "Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom." Behold the Torch of Wisdom (**Indicates torch.**) It burns wherever Deltas are assembled and guides our footsteps as we work in the name of our sorority. As college educated women, holding the torch aloft, we seek to use our trained intellect toward the advancement of intellectual, social, and spiritual pursuits in the service of mankind. By the power vested in me as President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, I do now declare that you are members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto. We are happy to greet you. We congratulate you and extend the hand of welcome and fellowship in Delta Sigma Theta. Let us join hands in singing our *National Hymn*.

**Sorors Sing:**

**NATIONAL HYMN**

Delta! With glowing hearts we praise thee  
For the strength thy love bestows,  
For the glowing grace of thy sisterhood,  
And the power that from it flows.  
Keep in us a strong endeavor,  
And our souls to rapture raise.  
Delta lights the flame, and ever  
Warms our hearts her bonds to praise.

**Chorus:**

Delta Sigma Theta! We rejoice in thee!  
Delta Sigma Theta! We pledge thee loyalty,  
Devoted to truth; a bond of our youth,  
That keeps our hearts clean and pure to the end;  
The bright gleam of thy vision has lighted the world;  
Delta Sigma Theta! Our Own!

Delta! With loyal hearts we gather  
To renew our vows of love;  
In the forceful bond of devoted trust,  
As our womanhood moves on.  
Strengthen in us, old and younger,  
As our ranks increase and grow;  
Delta's ideals, ever stronger,  
Glorious in triumphant power.

**Chorus**

President will declare chapter business closed and the initiation banquet for Deltas only may proceed.

**Adjournment.**

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY**

Honorary members should be inducted into the sorority at a National Convention and only by National Officers.

**Properties:** Sufficient number of *Rituals*; gavel; white cloth for table, a Delta pennant draped over it or a lighted symbol placed upon it; sorority pins; two candle holders for opposite ends of the table; one red taper which represents the Torch of Wisdom; one white taper which shall represent the principles of the sorority; white tapers for each soror present and for each candidate; red cushion for kneeling (*optional*); a sorority pin on a small white cushion; a prompter with the pledge of membership written on it. In the center of the table, nine white candles are placed to represent the jewels.

**Attire:** Grand Chapter Officers will wear official robes.

**President:** We are assembled upon a very serious occasion. It is an important responsibility for us who are charged with the sacred obligation of granting honorary membership to distinguished women of the community.

**Sergeant-at-arms:** There are those without whom we have invited to join our sisterhood as honorary members.

**President:** Sergeant-at-arms, will you have our escorts bring those without into our assembly.

Each candidate enters with an escort. The President speaks on honorary membership. Then each escort presents an honorary member candidate giving a brief biographical sketch of each.

**Vice-president:** Our Motto is "Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom." Behold the Torch of Wisdom. (Points to the red taper.) It burns wherever Delta women are assembled, and guides our footsteps as we work in the name of our sorority. As college educated women, holding the torch aloft, we seek to use our trained intellect toward the advancement of intellectual, social, and spiritual pursuits in the service of mankind.

**President:** You will observe that there are nine jewels in the Sigma of our emblem. These jewels represent the foundation of our sorority. We believe that the strength of any organization lies in the personal integrity and character of its individual members. The nine cardinal virtues, symbolized in the nine jewels of the Delta emblem, were conceived as basic attributes which all Delta women should strive to attain. These virtues are: Honesty,



Purity, Fidelity, Justice, Compassion, Dedication, Fellowship, Temperance, and Courtesy. A soror, speaking for each of these nine jewels, will explain their meaning in Delta Sigma Theta.

**The Jewels speak, each lighting a white taper which represents a jewel.**  
(See pages 27 and 28.)

**President:** I shall administer to each candidate the membership pledge. Listen first to that pledge.

President reads the pledge to the candidates for their consideration before they are asked to repeat it individually. Each honorary member is invited to come to the table individually to take the pledge which is administered just as it is in the Initiation Ceremony. (See page 29.)

We believe in a spiritual life, but we leave to the individual the selection of the medium for its outward manifestation. Sorors in Delta Sigma Theta, I am about to administer the oath of allegiance to these initiates. I charge you to receive them into our sisterhood freely, and with a feeling of loyalty and affection. May we stand and repeat the *Delta Oath*.

**The Delta Oath.**

Escorts join the honorary members. Secretary gives instructions pertaining to secrets, etc.

**President:** By the power vested in me as President of the Grand Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, I do now declare that you are members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto. We are happy to greet you. We congratulate you and extend the hand of welcome and fellowship in Delta Sigma Theta. Let us join hands as we sing our National Hymn.

**The National Hymn.**

## APPENDIX

### PART I—TRADITIONS

The traditions of Delta Sigma Theta are never written down but must be transmitted by word of mouth from one soror to another. Explanations should be made in closed meetings. Frequent review may be necessary to assure uniformity of interpretation.

### PART II—SYMBOLS

#### Sorority Pin

The Sorority Pin was designed by Soror Madre Penn White, a founder, comprising the three greek letters, Delta Sigma Theta. The nine jewels in the Sigma represent the nine cardinal principles described in the *Ritual*. Each corner of the Sigma contains a pearl dedicated to the founders of Delta Sigma Theta. Any setting desired may fill the four remaining places in Sigma.

#### The Pyramid Pin

The Pyramid Pin was designed by Epsilon Chapter, Ohio State University, and adopted by the National Convention of 1920. This plain, gold, triangular pin is worn during membership in the Pyramid Club. Formal pledging during probation shall be indicated by wearing the sorority ribbons in addition to the Pyramid Pin.

#### The Seal

The official seal is a circular engraving with Delta Sigma Theta—Grand Chapter surrounding the crest. Under the crest is the founding year, 1913.

#### The Crest

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Crest or Coat of Arms was designed by Soror E. Ailene Marks and Soror Jeanette Tripplett Jones, both of Lambda Chapter. It was authorized in 1934 by the executive committee. The crest is a composite idea expressing graphically the sorority motto: "Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom." Minerva (Pallas Athena), the Goddess of Wisdom, is atop the shield which bears the torch. The sword, representing truth, is a part of her symbolism. The staff symbolizes intelligent leadership. The laurel wreath is the symbol of achievement as used by the Greeks.

#### Sorority Colors

Crimson and cream are the sorority colors.

#### Official Sorority Emblem

The Goddess Minerva (Pallas Athena), Goddess of Wisdom.

#### Sorority Stone

The pearl is the sorority stone.

#### Sorority Flower

The sorority flower is the violet.

#### Official Robes

Officers wear white or cream robes with Delta insignia. Members wear black robes with Delta insignia across the front.