



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 – 2008 • Service to All Mankind

1908 – 1933

Year	Month/Day	Occurrence
1908	January 15	First meeting of the Sorority takes place. It is given a name – Alpha Kappa Alpha – and a motto, “By Culture and By Merit.” The colors, apple green and salmon pink, are chosen.
	February	Seven sophomores are invited to join the Sorority. Alpha Kappa Alpha now has 16 members, who will come to be known as the Founders.
1908-1913		Alpha Kappa Alpha (Alpha Chapter) exists solely on the Howard University campus and experiences steady growth.
1909	February 11	In Miner Hall, Alpha Kappa Alpha’s first ritualistic initiation is held. The new members are Ella Albert Brown, Mary Clifford, Lena Jenkins, Mable Gibson, Ruth Gilbert and Nellie Pratt Russell.
	February	Following concern over American race relations, which was heightened by the 1908 Illinois race riots, Black and white progressives and intellectuals convene in New York City to discuss the issue, resulting in formation of the NAACP.
1910	September	The National Urban League is formed in New York City, born of a merger of the National League for the Protection of Colored Women, National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes and the Niagara Movement.
1911	Spring	Norma Boyd becomes the first to serve 2 terms as Alpha Chapter Basileus.
1912	Autumn	Some members of the Sorority attempt to change its name, colors and motto. Nellie Quander, believing that these traditions were essential to the long-term success of the organization, contacts every active member and wins almost unanimous support. The disgruntled members go on to found Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.
1913	January 29	Alpha Kappa Alpha is legally incorporated in Washington DC.
		Nellie Quander becomes the 1 st Supreme Basileus of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
		The first Honorary membership—the highest honor that the Sorority can pay—is given to Jane Addams, the legendary founder of Chicago’s Hull House and a pioneer in professionalizing social work as a field of study.
	October	Beulah Burke, the Sorority’s first national organizer, charts the second chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha: Beta Chapter, in Chicago.
1914	February	Beulah Burke charts Gamma Chapter at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, the first chapter established on a predominately white campus.
1915	June	The U.S. Supreme Court hands down a decision that declares "grandfather clauses," used by Southern states to disenfranchise Blacks, to be unconstitutional.
	November	The D.W. Griffith film, <i>Birth of a Nation</i> , sparks opposition from civil rights groups for its racist portrayal of Blacks in the Reconstructionist South. The outcry includes a commitment by Black businessmen to finance the emerging African American film industry.
1916		Jeannette Rankin of Montana is the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress.
1917		Sorority members volunteer to help new arrivals from the Deep South adjust to the nation’s capital. Members dress dolls and make toys for needy children at Freedman’s Hospital. Chapters offer programs of African American history, literature, music and art, in order to promote and increase race consciousness.
		Oscar Micheaux is the first Black to produce and direct a movie—a silent film, <i>The Homesteader</i> .



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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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1918	December	Alpha Kappa Alpha's total membership approaches 200. Average member age is 25. 1 st Boule/national convention is held in Washington, DC at Howard University; hosted by Alpha Chapter, delegates, visitors and hostesses total fewer than 50; not largely attended by members outside of DC; banquet is held in Alpha Chapter House on Howard's campus.
1919	May	Marcus Garvey establishes the Black Star Line, a fleet of Black-owned steamships, to link people of African descent between Africa, America and the Caribbean Islands.
	December	2 nd Boule; Chicago, IL; War Camp Community Center – Alpha Kappa Alpha effectively begins to function as a national organization and members become more deeply appreciative of their challenges and their opportunities. The total capital of the Sorority is \$50.
1920		Sara Brown, a physician with the American Red Cross and the first alumna trustee of Howard University, is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
	August	The 19 th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified. It states that no person is to be denied the right to vote in the U.S. based upon sex." With the ratification, Tennessee and Kentucky allow for African American women to vote; but this does not last long.
	December	3 rd Boule; Cleveland, OH; Phyllis Wheatley House – Alpha Kappa Alpha adopts its coat-of-arms, designed by Phyllis Waters, and its pledge, composed by Grace Edwards of Zeta Chapter.
1921	April	Pi Chapter at Meharry Medical College Nashville is chartered—the 1 st in the Southeastern part of the U.S.
	June	Texas native and Chicago resident, Bessie Smith is the first Black woman licensed as a pilot and the first person of any sex or race to earn an international pilot's license.
	December	4 th Boule; Indianapolis, IN; YWCA Recreation Center – An action program to be implemented on a national scale is adopted, as is Founders Week—a set-aside period each January to commemorate the Sorority's founding with a program of African American history, literature, music or art, that promotes and increases race consciousness. The first issue of the <i>Ivy Leaf</i> , the official journal of Alpha Kappa Alpha, is introduced. In addition to serving as medium of exchange for news and information about members and their activities, it encourages members' creative writing efforts. Short stories and poems appear regularly.
1922		Founder Lucy Slowe becomes the first dean of women at Howard University.
	August	Rho Chapter, UC Berkeley, is the first undergraduate chapter chartered on the West Coast. National programming is advanced by the call for chapters to perform annually at least "one act of Christian, social or civic service" for their community.
	December	5 th Boule; Kansas City, MO; Lincoln High School – The budget system is adopted; sound operational procedures which characterize the administrative machinery of the organization are formalized. Graduate chapter names will now end with the letter "Omega." Eta Graduate (Cleveland) is renamed Alpha Omega—the oldest graduate chapter (first chapter composed entirely of graduate women).
1923	December	Kappa Omega Chapter, Atlanta, GA, is chartered—the 11 th graduate chapter and first established in the South. 6 th Boule; Baltimore, MD; Community Center – Alpha Kappa Alpha establishes a revolving loan fund for members who request financial aid to further their education. Long-range plans are made to establish a graduate award for foreign study. National program is the Sorority's most important activity and is a defining identification of each Supreme Basileus. In support of education, Vocational Guidance is selected as the "national project," adding another specific focus of activity to the 3 traditional areas: program, scholarship and community betterment.



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1924	December	7 th Boule; Philadelphia, PA; YWCA – The first Boule banquet is held. Chapters are organized into Regions, headed by an officer designated initially as “organizer,” later known as Regional Director—the link between the Directorate/board of directors and the chapters.
1925	December	8 th Boule; Washington, DC; Howard University – The Boule’s public meeting is the first meeting of an outside group ever held in the campus’ new Rankin Memorial Chapel.
1926	February	Attorney Violette N. Anderson is the first Black woman to present a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1920, she was the first Black woman to practice law in the state of Illinois. Historian Carter G. Woodson establishes the first Negro History Week. He chooses February because Abraham Lincoln’s birthday and the accepted date of Frederick Douglass’ birthday fell within this month. 36-year old Baptist minister, Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, becomes the first Black president of Howard University. He remains president until 1960.
	December	9 th Boule; Columbus, OH; St. Paul AME Church – A study is authorized to consider revising the Sorority’s constitution.
1927	February	The first graduate chapter on the West Coast, Alpha Gamma Omega Chapter, is chartered in Los Angeles.
	December	10 th Boule; Cleveland, OH; St. James AME Church – Thirty-six (36) chapters are represented. The National Program Committee report is adopted, establishing chapter observance of Founders’ Day in January. The Sorority endorses the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and pledges a drive for 100% individual membership.
		Suffrage and civil rights advocate Charlotte Hawkins Brown, the first Black appointed to the National Board of the YWCA, is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
1928		Alpha Kappa Alpha membership first exceeds 5,000. The graduate award for foreign study is made a permanent project.
	December	11 th Boule; Nashville, TN; Fisk University – First meeting in the South. The ever-growing size of the Sorority warrants consideration of reorganizing chapter groups, from state-based to region-based.
1929	December	12 th Boule; St. Louis, MO, People’s Finance Building – Supreme Basileus Scott proposes undergraduate representation on the Directorate.
1930	December	13 th Boule; Marshall, TX; Wiley College – During this first convention in the Southwest, delegates are housed in dormitories. The recommendation that Regional Directors live within their Region is adopted.
1931	December	14 th Boule; Cincinnati, OH; University of Cincinnati – More than 200 delegates are present. After the Boule, members make an historical and inspirational pilgrimage to the home and grave of poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar in Dayton.
1932	August	15 th Boule; Los Angeles, CA; U.C.L.A. – An usual feature of this first summer Boule is a radio program featuring Supreme Basileus Porter, internationally known singer Etta Moten and <i>Show Boat</i> star Clarence Muse.
1933	March	The NAACP launches its first coordinated campaign against segregation by filing a suit on behalf of Thomas Hocutt against the University of North Carolina’s School of Pharmacy.



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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 – 2008 • *Service to All Mankind*

		<p>Alpha Kappa Alpha is invited to become a member of the Joint Committee on National Recovery, established for the development of industrial codes, particularly codes that impact African American workers.</p> <p>Addie D. Waites Hunton, founder of the National Association of Colored Women, is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.</p>
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THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY 16TH BOULE

In 1933, Alpha Kappa Alpha's 16th Boule celebrates the organization's 25th anniversary in Chicago, IL. Beta and Theta Omega Chapters host the meeting at the Metropolitan Community Center. The Boule takes place at the same time Chicago hosts the World's Fair and its first All-Star game in Comiskey Park. The Supreme Basileus is Ida L. Jackson, who, in 1921, established the first chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha on the West Coast.

That summer of 1933, nearly 500 Alpha Kappa Alpha members are present at the Boule—including three founders—Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, Lucy Slowe and Margaret Flagg Holmes. This Silver Anniversary is a time of reflection—a time when members focus on the great strides the organization made in its first quarter century of life. It boasts a roll call of 104 chapters, spanning the geography from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. The treasurer's balance exceeds \$10,000.

This wondrous growth of Alpha Kappa Alpha is happening despite a time of great woe in the U.S. and around the globe. Hitler becomes German Chancellor, assuming dictatorial powers, and Germany and Japan withdraw from the League of Nations. Prohibition is repealed; the nation decides to leave the gold standard; and the infamous Tuskegee University syphilis experiment is underway.

On Wall Street, the stock market crashed just three and half years earlier, heralding the beginning of the Great Depression. Many African Americans bear the brunt of the massive, unrelenting unemployment affecting much of the nation. Alpha Kappa Alpha is well aware of the dire conditions facing Black Americans at a time when over a quarter of urban Blacks are on relief. On the occasion of its Silver Anniversary, the organization takes pride in a newly-formed group of presidential advisors, unofficially named "The Black Cabinet."

Members lead the quest for answers to the myriad problems facing their communities. Providing access to education remains an organizational priority. Delegates approve a new \$2,000 scholarship. The work of Alpha Kappa Alpha women, and their peers, is acknowledged when African American writer Elizabeth Lindsay Davis publishes *Lifting as They Climb*, the first history of the national Black club movement.

The early '30's are also a time when women are breaking ground in the country, and the campaigns against segregation are beginning to take shape. Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic, and just three months before Alpha Kappa Alpha's 25th anniversary, the NAACP launches its first coordinated campaign against segregation at the University of North Carolina. The Nation of Islam comes to life.

Alpha Kappa Alpha women are also in the vanguard of those celebrating African American cultural, educational and business accomplishments. In 1933, they enjoy Billie Holiday's first recording with Benny Goodman, and proudly watch as Duke Ellington and his band tour Europe. Internationally acclaimed performer and Sorority member Etta Moten Barnett's accomplishments generate tremendous race pride. She is the first African American actress to perform at the White House, when she sings for President and Mrs. Roosevelt. She serves Alpha Kappa Alpha Boules through the '90's.



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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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1908 – 2008 • *Service to All Mankind*

1933 – 1958

Year	Month/Day	Occurrence
1933 - 1938		Membership doubles and organization's budget increases to more than \$15,000.
1934	December	17 th Boule; New York, NY; the Emma Ransom House – Approves first plan for the Mississippi Health Project and Summer School for Rural Teachers, a significant new direction in national programming. Resolves to organize support for government action to eradicate lynching. Decides to select one undergraduate in attendance to sit with Directorate.
1935	December	The National Council of Negro Women is founded by Mary McLeod Bethune, who also serves as the organization's first president. The organization is formed as a collective body of a number of African American women's groups.
	December	18 th Boule; Richmond, VA; Virginia Union University – 189 graduate members, 38 undergrads and 9 general (Boule) members attend. 114 active chapters make up the organization. Adopts the national hymn (by Marjorie Jackson, then of Lambda Chapter). Mississippi Health Project report is given—3,000 African American children under age 7 have been immunized against diphtheria and smallpox in the Lexington, MS area. Supreme Basileus Jackson proposes that organization become more world-minded by contributing funds necessary to become identified with the body of women working with the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, whose goal is establishing world peace.
1936	November	President Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected to his second term; election marks the first time that African Americans vote overwhelmingly for a Democratic candidate.
	December	19 th Boule; Louisville, KY; Quinn Chapel AME Church – Housing is provided at \$2 per night and banquet ticket is \$1.50. Supreme Basileus Jackson emphasizes importance of national committees and recommends hiring a well-trained, well-paid executive secretary. Amendment is proposed and rejected that the Boule meet biennially.
1937	December	20 th Boule; New Orleans, LA; Dillard University – 65 chapters are represented by 220 members. Mississippi Health Project is expanded. Decides that Boule expenses for one undergraduate representative will be underwritten by the organization; the representative will rotate among the Regions and be chosen at Regional Conference.
1938	December	21 st Boule; Detroit, MI; Lucy Therman YWCA – Payment on a life membership in the NAACP is completed. National Non-Partisan Lobby on Civil and Democratic Rights is adopted as a national project.
1939	February	The Daughters of the American Revolution ban opera singer Marian Anderson from performing at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. As a result, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Interior Secretary Harold Ickes arrange for her to perform for a crowd of 75,000 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.
	December	Co-star Hattie McDaniel and other Black cast members are barred from attending the premiere of the film, <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , in Atlanta, GA. McDaniel goes on to win an Oscar for her role as Mammy.
	December	22 nd Boule; Boston, MA; Robert Gould Shaw House – Member survey results indicate 65% (689) of members are teachers and 16% are social workers. Founder Norma Boyd reports on the Non-Partisan Lobby Committee & identifies as its task the careful study of all Congressional measures affecting social, economic and political welfare of African Americans. Adopts recommendation for a committee in each chapter, a Regional chairman and a national committee in Washington to observe national affairs and send out information. Votes an extensive program in support of anti-lynching legislation, open primaries, home rule for Washington, DC, the National Labor Relations Act, farm security and housing and public health.



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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 – 2008 • Service to All Mankind

1940	April	The <i>American Negro Theater</i> is founded in New York City. It launches the careers of Harry Belafonte, Ruby Dee, Sidney Poitier and many others. The United States Postal Service issues a stamp bearing the likeness of Booker T. Washington—the first stamp to honor an African American.
		Alpha Kappa Alpha sets up its first nutrition clinic in New York.
	December	23 rd Boule; Kansas City, KA; Municipal Auditorium – Held as a tri-convention with Alpha Phi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternities. 2,750 dues-paying members are represented. Furthers the health program and Non-Partisan Council. Creates assistant treasurer position (Anti Tamiouchos). Determines the First Vice President will coordinate and correlate national projects.
1941	December	24 th Boule; Philadelphia, PA; University of Pennsylvania – Members are reminded of the national crisis, the war in Europe and Asia, and the recent Pearl Harbor attack and asked to make plans for a 2-year period in which the business, activity and life of the organization will keep alive the spirit of purposeful action in a world of confusion and disaster. It's reported that organization has received national commendations on program activities.
1942	November	John H. Johnson begins publishing <i>Negro Digest</i> , a periodical featuring original articles and news from wire reports.
	December	Boule scheduled for Nashville, TN is cancelled because World War II conditions make travel impossible.
1943	June	The Tuskegee Airmen mark the first time in aviation history that Black pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps engage in combat.
	June	Race riots in Detroit, MI, explode as a result of lack of jobs for African Americans in the defense industry and work stoppages by whites when Blacks did find work; 34 people lose their lives.
		Directorate meets in St. Louis, MO at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA.
1944	February	25 th Boule; Chicago, IL; Bethesda Baptist Church – “Emergency Boule” is held to obtain/share information on the operation of programs which keep the organization strong during the war crisis. National program is reorganized so that chapter efforts can be focused on direct support and involvement in the war activities, including a one-day Bond and Stamp sale. Financial contributions are made to the Association for Tolerance and a Civil Defense Consumer Center.
	April	The U.S. Supreme Court rules that Blacks cannot be excluded from voting in primaries in the South. The decision means that Southern Blacks are fully enfranchised for the first time since Reconstruction. The United Negro College Fund is founded.
1946	August	26 th Boule; Los Angeles, CA; Unitarian Center – Celebrates the war's end. Decides to invite other Greek-letter groups to cooperate in the Non-Partisan Council, which opens the way for the eventual establishment of the American Council on Human Rights.
	December	President Harry Truman forms the National Committee on Civil Rights with a directive to investigate racial injustice and recommend a course of action to combat it.
1947	August	27 th Boule; Cleveland, OH; Cory Methodist Church– Establishes national Director of Undergraduate Activities position. Focuses on undergraduate symposium, entitled, <i>A New World Challenges the Alpha Kappa Alpha Undergraduate</i> . National Health Committee chairman reports 75% of the 175 chapters have a health program. Presents a pin designed for Honorary Members.
1948	May	The National Party of South Africa begins to institute apartheid.
	August	Alice Coachman is the first African American woman to win Olympic gold when she wins the high jump. Coachman's jump also sets an Olympic record for the event. In 1998, she is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.



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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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	December	28 th Boule; Washington, DC; Banneker Junior High School – With theme of “Human Rights – Our Unfinished Business,” agenda includes symposium of leaders of other national organizations. Votes to employ an executive secretary to operate a corporate office.
		Member Carey B. Maddox-Preston is hired as administrative secretary (eventually re-titled executive director)—Alpha Kappa Alpha’s first employed officer.
1949		Eleanor Roosevelt is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
	December	29 th Boule; Houston, TX; Texas State University – Accepts recommendation that an effort be made to see that the organization’s history is written. Carey Preston makes first Boule report: there are 6,657 active members in 219 chapters.
1950	December	30 th Boule; Kansas City, MO; City Auditorium – 2 nd tri-convention, again shared by Alpha Phi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternities. National presidents of other Greek-letter organizations speak at a joint session on the American Council on Human Rights. Organization pays tribute to Founder Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, who passed away in November. Net worth is reported as \$49,036.
1951	December	31 st Boule; Baltimore, MD; Morgan State University – Registration is 400. Approves purchase of Corporate Office building at 5211 South Greenwood Ave. in Chicago. Awards first Foreign Fellowship.
1952	December	32 nd Boule; Cleveland, OH; Hotel Allerton – At public meeting, presents citation to President Harry Truman. On the theme “Mobilizing for Human Rights,” Interior Secretary, Oscar Chapman, Pakistan’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Sir Zafulla Khan (speaking for the U.N.) and Howard University president, Dr. Mordecai Johnson, address convention. Awards the first National Scholarships. The six member organizations of the American Council on Human Rights (Alpha Phi Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta) meet in simultaneous conventions.
1953	July	<i>Ebony</i> breaks the color barrier by putting singer-actor Harry Belafonte, actress Janet Leigh and actor Tony Curtis on its cover.
	December	33 rd Boule; St. Louis, MO; Kiel Auditorium – Theme: <i>Equal Responsibility - The Challenge of Equal Opportunity</i> . Votes to study establishing chapters outside the continental U.S.
1954	December	34 th Boule; Nashville, TN; Tennessee A & I State University – Hold assets of more than \$100,000; 248 active chapters in 35 states with 8,670 members. Endowment Fund continues to grow. Holds panel discussion (springboard for future Boule workshops) on the theme, <i>Preparation for Integrated Living</i> .
1955	December	Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, AL and is arrested. Four days later, Martin Luther King leads a boycott.
	December	35 th Boule; San Francisco, CA; Fairmont Hotel – First Boule for which delegate housing is arranged by the Corporate Office. Members are asked to contribute \$5 per year until each has paid \$50 to complete the Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Endowment Fund by the 50 th anniversary. It’s reported that the American Council of Human Rights work has included a \$4,000 deposit in reserve in Tri-State Bank (Memphis, TN) to offset the intimidation of African Americans by other financial institutions.
1956	December	36 th Boule; Atlanta, GA; Clark University – First Boule held in the Deep South; last Boule not held in a large hotel or convention facility. Attended by 568 members. National Health Committee reports \$2,000 grant awarded to Tuskegee Institute’s George Washington Carver Foundation. Supreme Basileus Wallace reports on White House Conference on Education attendance. Funds are collected to support the local NAACP branch that is involved in a lawsuit.
1957	January	The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is founded.
		Ghana gains its independence.
		Alpha Kappa Alpha member Althea Gibson makes history by winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Nationals, the first Black to win either tennis crown; she repeats the accomplishments in 1958.
		First International Alpha Kappa Alpha chapter is established in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa.



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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 37TH BOULE

In the years following the 25th anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha's founding, the organization continued to focus on its expansion and growth at a global level. World War II—during which Black soldiers in the U.S. Army Air Corp made history by becoming the first Black pilots to engage in combat—and the Korean War, have come and gone.

Other Blacks are making history in medicine, athletics and theater. By the summer of 1958, its Golden Anniversary, Alpha Kappa Alpha had established the first chapter in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa and approved the purchase of its first Corporate Office on South Greenwood Avenue in Chicago. Since 1933, the organization has sharpened its attention on undergraduates, programs of service and scholarship. It votes to increase the scholarship budget to \$5,000 annually, in order to continue undergraduate awards, the Foreign Fellowship and to fund the National Scholarship and Service Fund for Negro Students.

The 50th anniversary Boule is held in the Sorority's birthplace, Washington, DC. Alpha Kappa Alpha enjoys record-breaking registration. There are salutes to the Founders and Incorporators, and a nostalgic pilgrimage to the Alpha Chapter room in Howard University's Miner Hall, where the idea for the organization was born. One of the highlights is the gift of a \$2,000 scholarship to the granddaughters of Founder Ethel Hedgeman Lyle. It is also at this anniversary milestone Boule, that Alpha Kappa Alpha marks the end of the first 10 years of effort for the Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Endowment Fund Drive. \$38,000 from these gifts will be invested in mutual funds to maintain program funding.

The theme of the anniversary celebration—*"Pride in the Past, Gratitude for the Present, Faith in the Future - Forward to a New Era of Service"*—underscores the next steps for Alpha Kappa Alpha. Fifty years after its founding, it finds itself in the throws of the civil rights movement, and the organization has become big business.

The NAACP intensifies its organized anti-discrimination and desegregation campaigns. The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) holds sit-ins. The year before the organization's 50th anniversary, the first civil rights legislation was passed—the Civil Rights Act of 1957. For its part, Alpha Kappa Alpha pledges continued support to the major African American organizations, including the United Negro College Fund, the National Urban League and the NAACP. In fact, increased support is given to the NAACP to assist the Mississippi Freedom Riders, and a life membership is purchased every year, as it continues to be done 100 years later. The organization also plays a role in President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty" when it contracts to operate the Cleveland Job Corps.



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1908 – 2008 • *Service to All Mankind*

1958 – 1983

Year	Month/Day	Occurrence
1958		Clifton W. Wharton, Sr. is the first African American to helm an Embassy (Romania).
1959	December	38 th Boule; Cincinnati, OH; Sinton Hotel – Holds successful luncheon for undergraduates, planned jointly with members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity—which is the precursor to Boule undergraduate luncheons.
1960	April	The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is formed on the campus of Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. From its ranks will come several national leaders, including Georgia Rep. John Lewis and NAACP chairman Julian Bond.
	November	The U.S. Census reports that Blacks make up 10.6% of the U.S. population.
	December	1st International Regional Conference is held in Monrovia, Liberia.
1961	May	Freedom rides begin throughout the South.
	August	39 th Boule; Chicago, IL; Sheraton Chicago Hotel – First opportunity for hundreds of members to visit the Greenwood Avenue Corporate Office building. Awareness of civil and human rights struggle involves members in their local communities. Report is made on member participation in a 10-month economic boycott in Atlanta, GA. Because of this situation, 9 th Supreme Basileus Bowen is unable to shop for a Boule wardrobe and appears daily in a different, attention-getting outfit, collected in various foreign countries she has visited, as a constant reminder that the struggle for civil rights is still to be won. The Boule votes to make a personal donation of at least \$1 to be sent to the NAACP for assistance to the Mississippi Freedom Riders (in addition to the organization's annual support).
1962	December	40 th Boule; Detroit, MI; Sheridan Cadillac Hotel – Last Christmas Boule; has largest attendance ever for this time of year: 850 registered members. Votes to accept invitation from Dallas, TX to meet in 1968 with a commitment of space in major chain hotel—a breakthrough by a predominately African American group in the drive for equal accommodations in a Southern city. Office of "Basileus-Elect" is created.
1963	June	James Hood and Vivian Malone are first Black students admitted to the University of Alabama. Gov. George Wallace, who won the governorship in 1962 on a platform emphasizing segregation, keeps his pledge "to stand in the schoolhouse door." Captured on national TV, the event marks the crumbling walls of segregation.
	August	Between 250,000 and 500,000 people descend on the nation's capital to protest inequalities. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.
	September	Four schoolgirls—Addie Collins, Denise McNair, Carol Robertson and Cynthia Wesley—are killed when a bomb explodes in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. The tragedy is the turning point of the civil rights movement, precipitating a day of rioting and galvanizing the Black community.
1964	July	President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, which: outlaws discrimination based on a person's color, race, national origin, religion or sex in public accommodations; creates the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission; and encourages desegregation of public schools.
	August	41 st Boule; Philadelphia, PA; Sheraton Hotel – Features the SCLC's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the National Urban League's Whitney Young, who speak on the economic responsibility of the organization. For the first time, Supreme Basileus is chosen two years before taking office.
1965	August	President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act, abolishing practices such as literacy tests for voting eligibility in the South.
	August	Rioting erupts in Los Angeles' Watts area, providing the spark for years of racial tension.



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	May	Alpha Kappa Alpha is awarded 2-year contract to operate the Cleveland Job Corps Center for Women. The organization convenes its first Undergraduate Leadership School for undergraduate members in Zion, IL—the precursor to Leadership Conference, held biennially in off-years to Boule.
1966	October	African American revolutionaries Huey Newton and Bobby Seale form the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in Oakland, CA, as an alternative to the nonviolent movement.
	December	Dr. Maulana Karenga celebrates the first Kwanzaa, a 7-day celebration of African American family and heritage.
	August	42 nd Boule; Los Angeles, CA; Statler Hilton Hotel – Roy Wilkins, NAACP Executive Director, addresses convention. Housing Corporation is created. Job Corps contract is renewed for more than \$5 million. Four Founders are present.
1967		Civil rights activist Coretta Scott King and Constance Baker Motley, chief counsel for James Meredith in his fight to enter the University of Mississippi and who helped write briefs in the <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> case, are inducted as Honorary Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
	October	Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American member of the U.S. Supreme Court.
	November	Carl Stokes makes history by becoming the first African American mayor of a major city (Cleveland, OH).
1968	April	President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Also referred to as the Housing Rights Act of 1968, it bans racial discrimination in housing, protects civil rights workers and includes an anti-rioting provision.
	August	43 rd Boule; Dallas, TX; Sheraton Dallas Hotel – First Boule in a major hotel in the Old Confederacy. Founder Beulah Burke and newly-elected Gary, IN Mayor Richard Hatcher address conference attendees. Supreme Basileus Hale places a memorial wreath on the site of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.
		Jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
	November	New York's Shirley Chisholm is the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress.
1970	January	Joseph L. Searles III is the first African American member of the New York Stock Exchange.
	August	44 th Boule; Kansas City, KS; Hotel Muehlebach – Directorate meets to study, discuss and evaluate undergraduate concerns and requests. Makes commitment to involve the undergraduates on national committees and at the Regional level. 25 scholarships are awarded to Cleveland Job Corps graduates.
1971	January	The Congressional Black Caucus is organized in the U.S. House of Representatives.
1972	April	Benjamin Hooks is the first African American named to the Federal Communications Commission.
	June	Alpha Kappa Alpha member Yvonne Brathwaite Burke is named the Democratic National Convention's co-chairman—the first African American woman to serve in that position in any major political party in the U.S.
	July	At the Democratic National Convention in Miami, FL, Shirley Chisholm is the first African American nominated for the U.S. presidency.
	August	45 th Boule; Denver, CO; Denver Hilton Hotel – Active membership has increased to 12,176. Due to growth in size, announces that all attending members can no longer be housed in the Boule headquarters hotel. Supreme Basileus Grays advises that the Corporate Office staff will plan & promote 4 specialized activities: Educational Grants; Negro Heritage Brochures; Job Corps; and Leadership training. Adopts PIN (Personal Involvement Now), which makes program implementation the responsibility of each member. 3 rd Supreme Basileus L. Pearl Mitchell attends her 44 th Boule.
1973	January	Three major cities elect their first African American mayors: Thomas Bradley (Los Angeles, CA); Maynard H. Jackson (Atlanta, GA); and Coleman Young (Detroit, MI).



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 – 2008 • *Service to All Mankind*

1974	August	46 th Boule; Miami Beach, FL; Fountainbleau Hotel – Overflow attendance fills hotels along Miami Beach's famed Collins Avenue. First Executive Secretary, Carey B. Preston, gives retirement speech; reports membership is 15,224 and organization has \$500,000 budget. Johnson Products president George Johnson speaks on "Black Economic Development." Organization receives NAACP Freedom Award.
		Alpha Kappa Alpha develops the Reading Experience, which later expands into a lifelong learning facet.
1976	August	47 th Boule; New York, NY; Waldorf Astoria Hotel – Ambassador & Alpha Kappa Alpha member Angie Brooks-Randolph, charter member of Eta Beta Omega Chapter (Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa) gives Keynote Address. Contributions are presented to UNCF (\$100,000—the first installment of \$500,000 commitment) and NAACP (\$25,000—completing a \$50,000 pledge, second only in size to the amount given by General Motors). Founder-Incorporator Norma Boyd and Incorporator Nellie Pratt Russell attend. Establishes International Foundation for Education & Self-Help (IFESH) partnership.
1977	July	African American foreign policy advocacy organization TransAfrica is established. It has direct influence on U.S. foreign policy toward nations in Africa and the Caribbean Islands.
1978		Opera star Marion Anderson and Vijaya Lackshmi Pandit, the first Asian to be elected president of the U.N. General Assembly, are inducted as Honorary Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
	July	48 th Boule; Houston, TX; Albert Thomas Convention Center – U.S. Treasurer and National Director of the U.S. Savings Bond Program & Alpha Kappa Alpha member Azie Taylor Morton, gives Keynote Address. Votes to sell the Greenwood Avenue Corporate Office to purchase a site for a larger, more modern Corporate Office building in Chicago. Approves Leadership Fellows Program for college freshmen and sophomore members. Complete \$500,000 pledge to UNCF. Dedicates Founders Window at Howard University's Rankin Chapel.
1980	July	49 th Boule; Atlanta, GA; World Congress Center – 5,000 members and more than 3,000 guests attend. In a new format, members are given the opportunity to discuss business issues before these issues come to the floor. Implements new features of open sessions. Member Ruth Love, Superintendent of Schools, Oakland, CA, addresses session. Approves recommendation to form the Educational Advancement Foundation.
		Marietta Tree, the first U.S. woman Ambassador to the United Nations, is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
1981		Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.
1982	July	50 th Boule; Boston, MA; Hynes Auditorium – The Heritage Club is established as a special group of members who contribute outside of the regular dues structure for program enrichment. Members & chapters are encouraged to join efforts to foster: selective purchasing, positive African American images in media, increased employment, political involvement and community development. Organization's first multimedia production tracing its history is presented.
		Alpha Kappa Alpha launches the African Village Development Program.
1983		Poet, author, filmmaker Maya Angelou is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

THE DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY 51ST BOULE

Alpha Kappa Alpha's Diamond Jubilee Celebration unfolds in 1984 at the 51st Boule and takes the Sorority back to its birthplace, Washington, DC. More than 10,000 members and guests attend the power-packed workshop sessions and festivities at the Washington Convention Center. It takes 3 years, 12 chapters—graduate and undergraduate, from both the North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Regions—and 36 committees to host the Boule. The closing banquet makes U.S. convention history as the first time so



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 – 2008 • *Service to All Mankind*

many people are assembled. 7,500 members and guests are seated in the Washington Convention Center for dinner. There are 800 servers.

The program includes several prominent history makers and speakers from the political arena, such as Rep. Maxine Waters and SCLC president Rev. Joseph Lowery, all speaking to the essence of 'power'. Alpha Kappa Alpha member and newly-installed Miss America Suzette Charles, makes her first public appearance at the Diamond Jubilee. Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole and Democratic VP candidate Geraldine Ferraro address the attendees. Gladys Knight and the Pips perform, and Ms. Knight accepts her invitation to become an Honorary Member. The Nellie M. Quander Scholarship Fund is established and endowed with a \$10,000 check from Alpha Chapter alumni and other members. And members are introduced to the new National Headquarters—now called Corporate Office.

But the grand highlight is the sea of pink and green—made up of 8,000 members marching from the convention center to the U.S. Capitol. Led by Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., Alpha Kappa Alpha holds a massive voter registration rally on the steps of Capitol Hill that nets an astounding 242,000 new voters.

The 75th anniversary theme is *Energizing for the Twenty-first Century*, and one of the organization's goals is to keep moving forward and cement its footprints in areas of international concern. The nation, and Blacks who shed blood, sweat and tears, fighting for freedom and equality, finally made it through the civil rights movement victorious. Jim Crow was abolished for good with the passage and signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. America had witnessed the assassinations of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. The Vietnam War was over, but not forgotten. Women's rights began to take shape, and AIDS had become a national outbreak.

Its desire to provide "Service with a Global Perspective," prompts Alpha Kappa Alpha to look to its next marker on the international front. The membership had already established a chapter in West Africa. The Jubilee moves the membership to provide support to the political struggles of countries in Africa, led by TransAfrica, and the humanitarian efforts of Africare with the African Village Project. Chapters adopt villages and, every year, send financial and medical support, as well as supplies and materials, thus shoring up Alpha Kappa Alpha's push for global programs of service.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 – 2008 • *Service to All Mankind*

1983 – 2008

Year	Month/Day	Occurrence
1984		Geraldine Ferraro is named Walter Mondale's vice presidential running mate—the first time a major American political party nominates a woman for the vice presidency.
	July	The Center for the Study of Social Policy, in Washington, DC, suggests that despite the civil rights gains of the '60s, economic disparity between the races continues unabated. The income gap between white and Black families has remained virtually unchanged for 25 years.
1986	July	52 nd Boule; Detroit, MI; Cobo Hall – Members attend from as far away as West Germany and Alaska. Alpha Kappa Alpha member Madame Leah Tutu addresses attendees. Business titans John H. Johnson and Earl Graves preside at an economic forum. Companies, including Digital Equipment Corp., Sara Lee Corp. and Frito Lay, Inc., present progress made in developing minority personnel.
		Enolia P. McMillan, the first woman to serve as the national president of the NAACP, is inducted as an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
1988		Dame Nita Barrow, perhaps best known as the convener of the NGO Forum in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985 and past president of the World YWCA, and Rosa Parks, the "Mother of the civil rights movement," are inducted as Honorary Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
	February	Alpha Kappa Alpha member Debi Thomas is the first African American to win a medal in the Winter Olympics, winning the bronze medal in women's figure skating.
	July	53 rd Boule; Los Angeles, CA; Los Angeles Convention Center – More than 10,000 members and guests attend. Holds teen forum addressing issues of drugs, gangs, pregnancy, AIDS and the minority drop-out rate in American schools. President Jimmy Carter receives Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Medallion of Honor for his humanitarian service. Banquet is held with simultaneous satellite feeds from 5 downtown hotels.
1989	February	Ronald H. Brown is elected as the first African American chairman of the Democratic National Committee.
	October	Army General Colin Powell assumes the post of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—the first African American to serve in the nation's highest military position. The Civil Rights Memorial is dedicated in Montgomery, AL, honoring those who were involved and risked or lost their lives during the Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.
	November	Virginia's L. Douglas Wilder wins the election and is the first African American governor in the U.S.
1990	February	Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.
	July	54 th Boule; Richmond, VA; Richmond Coliseum – Showcases Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder addresses attendees. Conducts Intercommunications Forum, focusing on women who serve in governmental positions for their native countries, and Health Concerns Forum, focusing on diseases that impact minorities disproportionately. Eliminates "pledging."
1991	January	Citing statistics of elevated infection rates, the U.S. Center for Disease Control calls HIV/AIDS a major health-risk for African Americans. In New Jersey and New York, AIDS is the leading cause of death among African Americans ages of 15-54.
	November	Clarence Thomas is formally seated as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 – 2008 • Service to All Mankind

1992	April	Outrage over the acquittal of 4 Los Angeles police officers, charged in the beating of Black motorist Rodney King, precipitates the worst riot in U.S. history.
	September	Astronaut and Alpha Kappa Alpha member Mae Jemison is the first Black female in space, aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor.
	November	Illinois' Carol Moseley Braun is the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Senate.
	July	55 th Boule; New Orleans, LA; New Orleans Convention Center – Conducts the first Graduate Advisors Training Institute and certify 600 members. 2 nd Supreme Basileus Green attends and is recognized as the organization's first 75-year member; established Educational Advancement Foundation scholarship in her name.
1993	October	Alpha Kappa Alpha member Toni Morrison is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, becoming the first African American to win the highest literary honor in the world. In 1988, she won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for <i>Beloved</i> .
1994		Marilyn Hughes Gaston, the first woman and African American to direct a public health service bureau, Annie Elizabeth "Bessie" Delany, the second Black woman licensed to practice dentistry in New York, and Sarah "Sadie" Delany, the first Black person to teach domestic science on the high school level, are inducted as Honorary Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha.
	July	56 th Boule; Indianapolis, IN; Indiana Convention Center and Hoosier Dome – Marches on behalf of youth, to call attention to the needs of children. Retires the debt of the expansion of the Corporate Office building. 12 th Supreme Basileus Campbell addresses the assembly.
1994 - 1998		Alpha Kappa Alpha kicks off PIMS (Partnership in Mathematics and Science). Re-establishes organization office in Washington, DC. Convenes the first Public Policy conference.
1995	March	130 years after the rest of the country, Mississippi ratifies the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery.
	October	The Million Man March brings together hundreds of thousands of African Americans on the National Mall in Washington, DC for a day of unity and a show of strength of character.
1996	July	57 th Boule; Baltimore, MD; Baltimore Convention Center – Hosts American Red Cross effort to increase bone marrow donations and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. NAACP CEO Kweisi Mfume addresses the assembly. Governmental Affairs Forum-Congressional Black Caucus Town Hall Meeting facilitates dialogue with representatives in the Second Session of the 104 th Congress on national and international issues.
	July	58 th Boule; Chicago, IL; McCormick Convention Center – Last Boule of 20 th century. Noted legal counsel Johnnie L. Cochran, Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, Rep. Eva Clayton are included among those who address assembly. Stages PIMS Community Parade—the first stage of the Olympiad competition—and PIMS Challenge.
1998 - 2002		Alpha Kappa Alpha adopts ON TRACK (Organizing, Nurturing, Team Building, Respecting, Achieving, Counseling & Knowing) national program targeting at-risk students. Establishes funded partnerships with U.S. Department of Health to promote women's health. Expands IFESH partnership, building 10 schools in South Africa. Initiates National Founders Day Observance. Launches major member reactivation campaign.



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 - 2008 • Service to All Mankind

2000	July	U.S. Census Bureau reports that 15 million Africans have died of AIDS and estimates that 25 million more infected will die in the next few years.
	November	Alpha Kappa Alpha member Ruth Simmons becomes the first Black president of an Ivy League school (Brown University, Rhode Island). Hillary Rodham Clinton wins a seat in the U.S. Senate—the first First Lady elected to public office.
	July	59 th Boule; Dallas, TX; Dallas Convention Center – First Boule of the new millennium and the first Boule with no on-site registration. First Ivy AKAdemy is unveiled. 15 th Supreme Basileus Marjorie Parker presents her history book of the organization: <i>Past is Prologue</i> . UNCF president William Gray and U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater are included among the honorees.
		Donna Brazile is the first African American woman to lead a major presidential campaign, serving as Campaign Manager for Gore-Lieberman 2000.
2001		Colin Powell becomes the first African American to hold the U.S. Secretary of State position.
2002 - 2006		Adopts national program emphasizing volunteerism and improving the lives of children through literacy. Establishes Presidential Freedom Scholarship, in partnership with the Corporation for National & Community Service, and Young Authors Program. Launches first international Web site.
2002	February	Bobsledder & Alpha Kappa Alpha member Vonetta Flowers is the first African American and first African American woman to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics.
	July	60 th Boule; Orlando, FL; Orlando Convention Center – Opened Ivy AKAdemy, featuring an African Village. Donations to organizations include the National Council of Negro Women and the Mary McLeod Bethune Bronze Statue Project. U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige announces partnership with his agency to boost academic achievement. Military members are honored with the unveiling of the Military Heritage Series.
		Halle Berry is the first African American actress to win the Best Actress Oscar.
		Career Foreign Service officer Gayleatha B. Brown and WNBA star Chamique Holdsclaw are included among Honorary Member inductees.
2004	June	Alpha Kappa Alpha member Phylicia Rashad wins the Tony Award for her role in <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> —marking the first time an African American woman wins for a dramatic leading role on Broadway.
	July	61 st Boule; Nashville, TN; Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center – Releases <i>The Spirit Within: The Voices of Young Authors</i> anthology. First Lady Laura Bush addresses assembly. Receives additional \$1M U.S. Education Department grant for Ivy Reading AKAdemy.
2005	January	Alpha Kappa Alpha member Marian Anderson is honored by the U.S. Postal Service with a stamp. Condoleezza Rice becomes the first African American woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State.
	August	New Orleans, LA and other Gulf areas are devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Members from around the world work to help displaced residents.
2006	January	Alpha Kappa Alpha member Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf makes history as Liberia's first democratically elected female president and the first female president of any African country. She is also one of a record 13 female heads of state in power around the world as of April 2006.
	July	62 nd Boule; Detroit, MI; Cobo Hall – Presents 2 nd Young Authors competition. Honorees include Michigan Rep. John Conyers and President Bill Clinton. Financial donations are made to several organizations, including the MLK National Memorial Project Foundation, St. Jude Hospital and Senior Residence, Inc.
	November	Deval Patrick is elected the first Black governor of Massachusetts. The candidate pool vying for the White House in 2008 includes a woman, a Black and a Hispanic.



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1908 – 2008 • *Service to All Mankind*

2007	January	Alpha Kappa Alpha member Ella Fitzgerald is honored by the U.S. Postal Service with a stamp.
	March	Charters a graduate chapter in Toronto, Ontario—its first chapter in Canada.
	April	Unveils model program at 10 colleges nationwide; administered by undergraduates, technological skills will be taught free of charge to residents in communities adjacent to the schools.
	July	Convenes Leadership Conference in New Orleans, LA, providing a helping hand to residents and supporting the city's post-hurricane economic revitalization effort.
2008	January	Alpha Chapter, Howard University, celebrates its 100-year legacy as the first chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 63RD BOULE

The summer of 2008 will be a victorious milestone for Alpha Kappa Alpha. Its decades-long dreams and aspirations will come to fruition. Its goals for the future will continue to be set.

It is said that that the biennial meetings of Alpha Kappa Alpha “are natural chapter headings in the story of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Each of the Boules was unique and special. Each seems to have had a distinct personality of its own.”

2008, the Centennial Celebration, will be no different. Record numbers of Alpha Kappa Alpha women will once again converge on the place where it all began—Washington, DC—to honor the 16 extraordinary women who created the nation’s first African American sorority and to pay tribute to the legacy they left behind, as well as set the legacy to be left for the next hundred years.

The **Heart of ESP: An Extraordinary Service Program** is the beginning of that legacy. Its vision embraces a five-pronged program designed to excite, galvanize and ignite the passions of organization members in the areas of economics, healthcare, the Black family, women entrepreneurs and technology.

Alpha Kappa Alpha will not rest on its laurels. With nearly 200,000 members, it will continue to be at the forefront of history, trailblazing and responding to the contemporary needs of the Black community and of the nation with comprehensive, non-traditional programs. It will continue to grow its membership, attracting talented, accomplished women of vision to serve mankind and be mindful of service with a global perspective.

The Centennial Celebration Boule will remain a regular forum for “the exchange of ideas that strengthen the national focus of the organization. It will be a source and expression of Alpha Kappa Alpha’s power—the power to be, the power to deliberate and do, the power to change.”

By merit and culture Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated will stand for years to come.