

# Alpha Sigma Lambda Ritual

## *Chairperson*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Alpha Sigma Lambda, I welcome you as candidates for membership and congratulate you on your academic achievement.

Before you are given an opportunity to take the Pledge of Membership, it is but fitting that the qualities expected of you as participants in our society, also its aims and ideals, be explained to you.

Mr/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ will you please outline for the candidates the significance of our motto as indicated by the three Greek letters, Alpha Sigma Lambda.

*Mr/Ms* \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek letters Alpha, Sigma, and Lambda, which form the name of our Society, have a special meaning to us. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet; therefore, it stands for "first." The letter Sigma corresponds to the letter "S", and is symbolic of scholarship. Lambda corresponds to the letter "L", and denotes leadership. Thus, Alpha Sigma Lambda forms the framework of our motto, which is "First in Scholarship and Leadership."

Scholarship may be defined as advanced study in some special field. But this definition does not give consideration to the qualities of the scholar. True scholars humbly realize that learning is a continuing process and are keenly aware of their own inadequacies. They are never convinced of the finality of their findings and are dedicated to the task of seeking truth, no matter where it lies.

## *PAUSE*

Leadership is the activity of influencing people to cooperate in achieving some common goal or objective. It is the quality which urges people to pull together as one, yet allows them to contribute-when retaining-their uniqueness as individuals. Alpha Sigma Lambda desires of its members a continuing effort to cultivate the important qualities of leadership-a sense of purpose, enthusiasm, energy, integrity, decisiveness, and technical mastery.

## *Chairperson*

Thank you, Mr/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

As candidates for membership you now understand the Scholarship and Leadership for which Alpha Sigma Lambda stands.

Mr/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ will you please explain the significance of the Open Book, the Lighted Roman Lamp, and the Burning Torch, which are displayed on our key?

*Mr/Ms* \_\_\_\_\_

In the upper right quadrant of our key is an Open Book which symbolizes the Love of Knowledge. Love of Knowledge is different from knowledge itself. Knowledge alone is narrow and limited, while the Love of Knowledge is broad, seeking everywhere for the relationships which give meaning to time, place, culture and history. It is our belief that men and women who aspire to the broad spirit of learning, this Love of Knowledge, will seek to catch the fullness of life even in the midst of their busy, utilitarian pursuit of special knowledge.

In the lower left corner of the key is a Lighted Roman Lamp. For centuries, this has been the symbol of Wisdom. Wisdom is based on Knowledge, but it is more than Knowledge. It is characterized by the open mind and by readiness to decide, as truth may point the way, without prejudice or passion.

Extending vertically through the center of the key is a Burning Torch, the symbol of Life. It is displayed on our badge because we believe that the Love of Knowledge and the pursuit of Wisdom are the cornerstone on which Life itself should be constructed.

We have before us the challenge to be mindful of the ideals toward which we strive: to gain not only Knowledge, but also the Love of Knowledge; to prepare us to be not only 'specialists, but also accomplished human beings; to appreciate the relationships which our vocations bear to life as a whole; to keep open minds, to give our best thoughts to the whole of life; and, to discipline our spirits to a better understanding of the world in which we live.

## *Chairperson*

Thank you, Mr/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You have heard the aims and ideals of our Society and the qualifications expected of you.

Mr/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Will you please administer the Pledge of Membership to the members-elect?

*Mr/Ms* \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please rise and repeat after me---

I promise to uphold the ideals

and further the aims

of Alpha Sigma Lambda,

believing that by so doing

I shall increase my value to my college

and to my community.

(NOTE: The person administering the Pledge of Membership then welcomes the new members as follows :)

I welcome you to membership in Alpha Sigma Lambda. On this ceremonial occasion, let us resolve that its significance shall not be of the day or the hour; that it shall be connected not with experiences, but with sincerities; that as we go forth from this hall, we will strive more earnestly than ever before to make the love of learning and the pursuit of wisdom the companion and guide of life. We ask that you treasure this association, remembering what it signifies. In return, Alpha Sigma Lambda extends to you, all the privileges and honors of membership. On behalf of the present members, I extend to you sincere congratulations.

As I call your names, will you please step forward and receive your certificate?

(NOTE: When all students have received certificates, a standing ovation is called for.)