



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
SORORITY, INC.



Media Contact: Leona Dotson
Communications Chairman
press@aka1908.com
(559) 670-1592

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Welcomes Nearly 20,000 Members to Houston July 6-12 for Biennial Conference

68th Alpha Kappa Alpha Biennial International Conference

Nearly 20,000 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.[®] (AKA) – from all over the world – will converge on Houston from July 6-12 for its biennial conference. Led by International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, L.H.D., attendees will engage in service projects as well as leadership training and development. The conference will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRBCC), as well as several hotels. Members from as far away as Germany, Japan, South Korea, Liberia, South Africa and the Middle East are expected to attend.

Houston was selected as the host site for the conference because of its historical significance to the Sorority. The city is home to two former International Presidents, Dr. Mattelia B. Grays and Ms. Faye B. Bryant, two prominent Houstonians, and retired educators. Grays, the sorority's 18th international president, served from 1970-1974 and was the youngest person ever elected National President. She retired as District Superintendent of the Houston Independent School District (HISD). Bryant, the sorority's 21st international president, served from 1982 – 1986. In 1998, Bryant became the first African American to serve as Deputy Superintendent for School Administration in the HISD. She retired from HISD as Executive Deputy Superintendent after 42 years of service.

29 Moments of Service

As part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha's international program theme, "Launching New Dimensions of Service[®]," (LNDS) the sorority is in the process of completing "29 Moments of Service" leading up to and during the conference in honor of International President Wilson. Activities began in January when signature service projects were executed at the sorority's 110th Founders' Day Celebration in Washington, DC. Additional memorable successes include but are not limited to preparing 1,908 nutritious bag lunches for homeless citizens in the Nation's Capital; collecting \$19,008 to purchase baby formula for L.I.F.E. Houston; Dedicating the Park at Palm Center Community Garden in partnership with the City of Houston and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and dedicating benches at Texas Southern University and Prairie View A&M University in connection with our ThinkHBCUSM and One Million Backpack initiatives.

Dressed in their signature pink and green, members will package 100,000 meals in collaboration with Rise Against Hunger, participate in Habitat for Humanity home builds, host an HBCU Expo for local high school students, hold a backpack donation drive and receive hands-on CPR training, among other service activities. The list of 29 Moments of Service projects is provided below.

Houston Members Exhibit Ribbon Cutting – July 5, 2018, 4:00 – 5:00 PM (GRBCC)

The exhibit spotlights Houston area members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority that have made significant contributions to Houston, the Sorority and the global community.

Habitat for Humanity Home Unveiling – July 6, 2018 12:00 PM

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will join Houston Habitat for Humanity to dedicate two homes, built by Houston-area members, that will be given to two worthy families in the Greater Houston area in honor of two of the sorority's preeminent pioneering leaders, former international presidents Dr. Mattelia B. Grays and Ms. Faye B. Bryant.

Think HBCU Expo – July 7, 2018, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (GRBCC)

The sorority will host the Think HBCU Expo on July 7, showcasing historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) as critical venues for moving students to and through college. Local high school students and families can explore offerings at many of the nation's best HBCUs. For more information or to register visit: www.aka1908.com/hbcuexpo2018

TAKE ACTION Now Forum: Establishing the Alpha Kappa Alpha Social Justice Agenda – July 7, 2018, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM (GRBCC)

Political commentators and national studies indicate that Black women have directly impacted the outcomes of the state and federal elections for the last eight years. It is important that we strengthen and harness this position of power to directly impact future election outcomes. We must all "Be The Voice" during the 2018 mid-term elections. Join Alpha Kappa Alpha's Congressional members in a moderated dialogue as they share strategies for how our membership can mobilize and participate in the upcoming election cycle. They will provide insight on how Alpha Kappa Alpha's membership can activate in a meaningful way and directly influence who governs us at the local, state and federal levels. Panelist include: Senator Kamala D. Harris, United States Senator, (D-CA), Alma S. Adams, United States Congresswoman, (D-NC), Sheila Jackson Lee, United States Congresswoman, (D-TX), Terri Sewell, United States Congresswoman, (D-AL), and Frederica S. Wilson, United States Congresswoman, (D-FL). Moderator: Stephanie Rawlings Blake.

International Travel Guide Exhibit Ribbon Cutting – July 7, 2018, 3:30 PM (GRBCC)

The exhibit celebrates the historic monuments, buildings, statues, streets, parks, permanent outdoor markers and items that tangibly document and honor Alpha Kappa Alpha women.

Public Meeting – July 8, 2018, 6:00 PM (GRBCC)

Launching New Dimensions of Service: Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership and Service in the Space City. The Public Meeting will highlight Alpha Kappa Alpha's global service mission and accomplishments and honor civic leaders, both locally and worldwide. Awards will be presented to local and international leaders during this event including The Honorable, Mayor Sylvester Turner of Houston, Texas.

Educational Advancement Foundation Breakfast – July 10, 2018, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM (GRBCC)

Denim, Diamonds, and Donors! Join the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation (AKA-EAF) to spotlight student achievers that are excelling academically. Hosted by actress Vanessa A. Williams. This will be an event you will not want to miss! Cost: \$65. Please visit <https://donate.akaef.org/> for tickets.

Select interview opportunities are available. All events are open to the media.

<u>Service Project Description</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<p>SERVICE PROJECT #1: AKA 110th Founders' Day Celebration - AKA Pop Up Food Pantry: Kicked off 29 moments of service at Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's 110th founders' day celebration in Washington, DC by serving students at Howard University by handing out healthy food and snacks to students on campus.</p>	<p>January 2018</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>SERVICE PROJECT #2: We Feed our People. Kicked off 29 moments of service at Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's 110th founders' day celebration in Washington, DC. AKA made its Founders' proud by preparing 1,908 nutritious bag lunches for homeless citizens in the Nation's Capital. This service project was performed in conjunction with "We Feed our People" a 501c3 organization.</p>	<p>January 2018</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>SERVICE PROJECT #3: Houston Metropolitan Area Chapters Founders' Day Celebration Service Project – "19,008 Formula Project" collected collect \$19,008 to purchase baby formula for L.I.F.E. Houston.</p>	<p>January 2018</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>SERVICE PROJECT #4: Pink Goes Red Women's Health Symposium – Houston Metropolitan Area Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Pink Goes Red for Women Health Symposium was a free event designed to educate and empower African American women to live heart healthy lives. The Symposium included free health screenings, panel discussion with Q&A and a survivor (s) testimony. This education was critical for African American women which constitute 12% of our population. In addition, this event targeted women under the age of 65 which presents a tremendous opportunity to encourage lifestyle changes that lead to prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Zumba, line dancing, and other health awareness screenings were offered.</p>	<p>February 2018</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>SERVICE PROJECT #5: Community Garden Project in partnership with the City of Houston and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Sorors</p>	<p>February 2018</p>	<p>Complete</p>

cleaned up a park area and cultivated a community garden.		
SERVICE PROJECT #6: AKA 1 Million Backpacks – As part of the Sorority’s regional campaign, the Sorority hosted a low-cost virtual backpack drive to achieve the Sorority’s goal of donating 1,000,000 backpacks.	March – May 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #7: "Houston Strong" Virtual Grocery Store – Sorority members purchased non-perishable items for children. Funds raised for this program activity will go directly to <i>Target Hunger</i> , a Houston based organization.	March - May 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #8: Ethel Hedgeman Lyle “She Deserves a Stamp” Day – Members participated in a literary program activity in honor of Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle. Members hosted reading celebrations for children encouraging a love of reading, sharing books and critical reading resources, and building communities.	March 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #9: AKA Day at the Capitol – Day of A.C.T.I.O.N. – Members advocated for local, state and federal legislation that supports the goals of the sorority’s international program.	March – April 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #10 AND #11: 2018 Park Bench Dedications –Houston members dedicated park benches at Texas Southern University and Prairie View A&M University in honor of the AKA 1908 Playground Project.	June 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #12: Undergraduate Activity – As part of the official Undergraduate “Spring into Flourish Skee-Week.” Undergraduate members were asked to commemorate Skee-Week with a beautification day on campus. Activities included restoring, refreshing and renewing “on-campus” locations, flower planting (preferably ivy) and other activities designed to leave an impact and make their campuses Flourish!	April 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #13: Acts of Green–Earth Day 2018 – Members participated in a personal act of green and posted across social media outlets. The goal was to help end plastic pollution by using a social media campaign targeting members of Congress, asking them to	April 2018	Complete

support sustainable non-polluting, non-fossil fuel-based alternatives.		
SERVICE PROJECT #14: AKA Shred Day – Members will host a community shred day for community members to shred personal and business documents.	April 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #15: Community Project (Partnership with the City of Houston – Complete Communities Initiative) – Houston area members will work to revitalize a neighborhood under the City of Houston’s Complete Communities Initiative.	May 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #16 Playground Mobilization Day - Graduate chapters around the world participated in this AKA Community Impact Day by restoring, refreshing and renewing a recreational space so that children in our community have a safe place to play.	May 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #17 Let’s Get “Fiscally” Fit! – In partnership with <i>MoneyLIVE</i> , Houston Area Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha hosted a boot camp for high-school students to assist them in managing their finances now and in the future.	June 2018	Complete
SERVICE PROJECT #18 Habitat for Humanity - Build #1 – Join the members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Board of Directors, Houston Area Sorors and community members on July 6th as we build and dedicate one of two Habitat Homes for local families in the Greater Houston area.	June – July 2018	Unveiling Date: July 5, 2018
SERVICE PROJECT #19 Stop Hunger Now Meal Packaging – Roll up your sleeves as members produce the equivalent of a meal a minute while helping the Houston Food Bank sort and package food.	Saturday July 7, 2018	Houston Food Bank , 535 Portwall St. Houston, Tx
SERVICE PROJECT #20 Boule Acts of Green – Commit to recycling paper, glass and plastic products during Boule week in the Convention Center. Members will track progress by posting to social media using Boule hashtags, #AKA2018Boule and #AKA1908!	Saturday July 7, 2018	GRBCC
SERVICE PROJECT #21 Habitat for Humanity - Build #2 – Join the members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Board of Directors, Houston Area Sorors and community members on July 6th as we build and dedicate	June – July 2018	Unveiling Date: July 5, 2018

one of two Habitat Homes for local families in the Greater Houston area.		
SERVICE PROJECT #22-25 “A Healthy Soror is a Happy Soror” – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® will join with American Heart Association, Alzheimer’s Association, and NAMI as they provide health screenings and educational awareness information.	Saturday July 7, 2018	GRBCC
SERVICE PROJECT #26 CPR Demonstration – Learn introductory training for hands-only CPR and how you might save a life.	Saturday July 7, 2018	GRBCC
SERVICE PROJECT #27 Rise Against Hunger – Roll up your sleeves as the sorority packages nutrient rich meals for those undernourished globally.	Saturday July 7, 2018	GRBCC
SERVICE PROJECT #28 NAMI – Join Alpha Kappa Alpha leadership in performing 1,908 dance steps as we demonstrate our commitment to improve the lives of people with mental illness in the African American community through our partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and pay tribute to deceased member, Bebe Moore Campbell.	Saturday July 7, 2018	GRBCC
SERVICE PROJECT #29 Think HBCU® Expo – High school students and families will be able to explore offerings at more than 50 schools during the 29 days leading up to the Boule. Participants will have the opportunity to learn tips to ensure that they are fiscally fit, today and HBCU expo, featuring workshops and booths hosted by alums and college representatives.	Saturday July 7, 2018	GRBCC

About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek letter organization established by African-American college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of nearly 300,000,000 members in 1,024 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, Liberia, the Bahamas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Germany, South Korea, Bermuda, Japan, Canada, South Africa and the Middle East. Led by International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, L.H.D., Alpha Kappa Alpha is often hailed as “America’s premier Greek-letter organization for African-American women.”

For more information on Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and its programs, visit AKA1908.com.