



Its Aims and Purpose

ALPHA PSI OMEGA was established as a theatre honor society to recognize individuals who demonstrate exceptional achievement and dedication in the theatre arts. By expanding ALPHA PSI OMEGA to colleges and universities nationwide, the society fosters a broader fellowship among those passionate about theatre. It is not designed to replace existing theatre clubs or production groups but to serve as an additional honor for students who meet the society's high standards of excellence.

This booklet serves two primary purposes: first, to provide members with essential information about the society; and second, to outline the mission and goals of Alpha Psi Omega for those interested in theatre. By promoting fellowship and service, the society aims to inspire greater engagement and enthusiasm for college and university theatre.

Founded August 12, 1925

Revised March 21, 2025

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ALPHA PSI OMEGA NATIONAL THEATRE HONOR SOCIETY

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Alpha Psi Omega, establish this constitution to cultivate talent in all facets of theatre, to promote the cultural enrichment that theatre provides, and to foster collaboration and unity among our chapters. In doing so, we affirm our commitment to the mission and values of the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society.

Article I – Name and Classification

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the ALPHA PSI OMEGA NATIONAL THEATRE HONOR SOCIETY.

Section 2. The name ALPHA PSI OMEGA may only be used in connection with the official activities of a chapter or the national organization. Special permission for the use of said name must be obtained from the National Office.

Section. 3. The ALPHA PSI OMEGA NATIONAL THEATRE HONOR SOCIETY is exclusively an undergraduate society at four-year colleges and universities.

Article II – Mission and Vision

Section 1. Mission Statement

Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theatre Honor Society, celebrates and recognizes exceptional achievement, dedication, and passion in the theatre arts. By fostering a nationwide fellowship of theatre practitioners, scholars, and enthusiasts, Alpha Psi Omega promotes artistic excellence, collaboration, and community within collegiate theatre programs. While complementing existing theatre organizations, Alpha Psi Omega provides a distinguished platform for students who exemplify high standards of creativity, leadership, and commitment to the transformative power of theatre.

Section 2. Vision Statement

Alpha Psi Omega envisions a vibrant and inclusive network of theatre artists and scholars who inspire one another to achieve artistic excellence, cultivate lifelong connections, and champion the transformative impact of theatre in their communities. Through leadership, creativity, and collaboration, we strive to nurture the next generation of theatre-makers dedicated to advancing the arts and fostering meaningful cultural engagement.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Colleges and universities with recognized academic standing that have an established theatre program or theatre club dedicated to producing plays are eligible for membership.

Section 2. Individual membership qualifications may be determined by each chapter but must include active participation in theatre work. Chapters must establish local standards that align with the following baseline requirements (chapters may raise but not lower these standards):

- a. Completion of at least two semesters of active participation in theatre work at the college or university level.

- b. Engagement in a variety of production roles, such as acting, directing, playwriting, front-of-house management, technical theatre, dramaturgy, production research, or other relevant theatrical responsibilities.

A point system is strongly recommended as an effective way to assess membership eligibility. Each chapter may develop a point system to reflect the level, scope, and quality of work in these categories. The national office has provided a Recommended Minimum Point Systems chapters may use as a model. This is available on the website.

- c. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- d. Local chapters must ensure that their standards meet or exceed these baseline guidelines.
- e. Honorary memberships may be conferred with prior approval from the National Office.

Section 3. Members of good standing in Alpha Psi Omega who transfer to another college or university with an Alpha Psi Omega chapter automatically are accepted into membership.

To complete the transfer process, members should send an email to the national office requesting the transfer of their membership. The email should include:

1. The member's full name and current contact information.
2. The name of the previous institution and chapter.
3. The name of the new institution and chapter.

Upon verification, the national office will update the membership records and confirm the transfer with the new chapter. The member should then connect with the new chapter's officers to complete any necessary local onboarding procedures.

Section 4. Term of national membership: Membership in this honor society is lifelong and cannot be revoked. While chapters cannot repeal membership, individuals may choose to terminate their involvement by contacting the national office directly.

Article IV – National Organization

Section 1. The organization shall consist of the following: the National Office (comprising the National Officers), the Regional Representatives, and active chapters at four-year colleges and universities.

Section 2. The National Officers shall include a President, Vice-President, Business Manager/Treasurer, and Web Administrator.

Section 3. The National Office serves as the supreme governing body of the society, supported by Regional Representatives. The society's business shall be conducted by chapter delegates at the annual National Meeting. Between National Meetings, the National Office shall manage the society's business.

Section 4. The President, Vice-President, and Business Manager/Treasurer shall be responsible for determining a proper home for the archives of the society. These archives shall be housed in a location that ensures their long-term preservation, accessibility, and security. The National Office shall have the authority to review and relocate the archives as needed to best serve the organization's historical and operational needs.

Section 5. Eligibility for national office is limited to alumni or faculty members of the society who are actively engaged in theatre and are part of an active chapter.

- a. The offices of President and Vice-President shall be held by full-time or retired theatre faculty from accredited colleges or universities.
- b. The Business Manager/Treasurer shall be a faculty member, administrator, or graduate of the society with demonstrated experience in managing organizational records and finances. The individual does not necessarily need to be full-time theatre faculty but must have a strong connection to the theatre community and the society's mission.
- c. The Web Administrator must have demonstrated experience and expertise in web design and maintenance.
- d. Regional Representatives must be full-time or retired theatre faculty from accredited colleges or universities and must reside within their designated region, unless an exception is granted by the National Office.

Section 6. Regional representatives are delegated for the following areas:

- a. REGION 1 (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)
- b. REGION 2 (Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin)
- c. REGION 3 (Connecticut, Delaware, DC, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Maritime Provinces, Vermont)
- d. REGION 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)
- e. REGION 5 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

Article V – Legislative

Section 1. The National Office shall conduct the business of the society.

Section 2. An annual National Meeting shall be held, open to all chapters, at a location designated by the National Office.

Section 3. Elections for the positions of President, Vice President, Business Manager/Treasurer, and Web Administrator shall be held when a vacancy occurs. The National Office will propose a slate of candidates, which will be voted on by the members present at the annual meeting. If no slate is proposed, individuals may self-nominate during the meeting, and these self-nominations will be put to a vote by the membership. Each member is entitled to one vote and must be present at the national meeting to cast it.

Section 4. Regional Representatives shall be appointed by the National Office for A minimum term of three years.

Section 5. The actions of the National Meetings shall not be subject to ratification by individual chapters, except through an amendment to the constitution as provided herein.

Section 6. National Officers and Regional Representatives may resign from their positions at any time, but are encouraged to provide the National Office with sufficient notice to secure a replacement.

Section 7. National Officers and Regional Representatives may be removed from their positions by a majority vote of the National Office.

Article VI – Powers and Duties

Section 1. Executive, Administrative, and Judicial duties will be vested in the National Office.

Section 2. The duties of the President are:

- a. Upholding the standards and guidelines of the society,
- b. Presiding over all National Meetings,
- c. Appointing national committees, and
- d. Appointing the Regional Representatives.

The President may, on extraordinary occasions, call a special meeting of the National Office or general membership.

Section 3. The Vice-President shall assume the duties and office of the President if the President is unable to fulfill their term of office. It is also the Vice-President's duty to

remain informed of all affairs and policies of the society and support the President in the execution of their duties.

Section 4. The Business Manager/Treasurer shall:

- a. Conduct the business and correspondence of the society,
- b. Maintain an account of all receipts and expenditures, and
- c. Deliver an annual financial report at the National Meeting.

Section 5. The Web Administrator shall maintain and update the content of the national website, ensuring that all information is current, accurate, and accessible.

Section 6. Regional Representatives serve as the primary contact for chapters and faculty sponsors within their respective regions. Any proposed regional gatherings must be approved by the Regional Representative after consultation with the National Office. Regional Representatives are responsible for addressing inquiries regarding basic society functions and standards, and may refer more complex issues to the National Office for resolution in the areas of executive, administrative, and judicial matters.

Section 7. Any expenditures beyond routine operational costs must be approved by the National Office.

Section 8. All National Officers shall receive stipends in recognition of their service, with amounts determined by the National Office.

Article VII – New Chapters

Section 1. New chapters will be admitted to the society by petition to the National Office.

Section 2. When a college or university applies for a chapter, a Faculty Sponsor will submit an application to the National Office, confirming that at least five students are qualified for membership and providing any other information required by the National Business Manager/Treasurer.

Section 3. The charter fee is designated by the National Office.

Section 4. When chapters are established, ceremony guidelines will be sent to the Faculty Sponsor who will represent the National Office and conduct the installation of the new chapter.

Section 5. Chapters will be named by the National Office from the Greek alphabet in order of their establishment.

Section 6. When a chapter of ALPHA PSI OMEGA is installed, former students and

graduates of the college/university who qualify are eligible for election to honorary membership in the new chapter.

Section 7. When a chapter is established, a local constitution (following the sample local constitution as model) must be drawn up and submitted to the National Office.

Section 8: Chapters placed on inactive status may reactivate by submitting a reactivation form to the National Office. Reactivation is complete once the form is approved and new members are formally inducted into the chapter.

Article VIII – Dues and Fees

Section 1. There will be a one-time national induction fee for each new member as designated by the National Office.

Section 2. Failure to remit induction reports and national fees for a period of two years will result in the chapter being placed on inactive status.

Article IX – Partnerships

Section 1. Chapters are encouraged to form strategic partnerships with other academic, theatre, and community organizations to enhance professional development opportunities for members and promote the arts.

Article X – Insignia

Section 1: The organization shall have official colors, a crest, and a banner designed and specified according to the standards adopted by the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society. These designs are maintained by the National Office.

Section 2. The official insignia pin bears the colors, motto, and crest of the society. These can be ordered from the National Office and also are presented to new members upon induction.

Section 3. The significance of the colors, motto, and crest of the society are identified in the Induction Ceremony.

Article XI – Branding and Public Representation

Section 1. Logo and Official Colors

The official logo and colors of Alpha Psi Omega, as defined by the National Office, are the cornerstone of the society's visual identity. All chapters and members must use the logo and colors consistently in their promotional materials, events, and social media accounts

to ensure a unified, professional representation of the organization. The logo and official colors should not be altered, combined with other symbols, or used in ways that could diminish the brand's integrity. The official color palette and logo files are available through the National Office and should be used for all official chapter publications and communications.

Section 2. Social Media Guidelines

Chapters are encouraged to engage with their communities through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), and others. Social media accounts representing Alpha Psi Omega chapters must follow these guidelines to maintain consistent branding:

- a. **Official Hashtags:** Use approved hashtags such as #AlphaPsiOmega, #APOTheatre, and #TheatreHonorSociety in all posts to foster a sense of national unity and help prospective members and alumni easily connect with the society.
- b. **Content Consistency:** When posting about chapter activities, inductees, events, or achievements, ensure that all content aligns with the values and mission of Alpha Psi Omega. Posts should emphasize the excellence, dedication, and inclusivity of the theatre community.
- c. **Professionalism and Respect:** Posts should be respectful, professional, and appropriate for a public forum. Offensive, harmful, or unprofessional content is not acceptable and may lead to disciplinary measures.

Section 3. Chapter Websites and Digital Platforms

Chapters that maintain independent websites or digital platforms should incorporate the official logo and branding elements in accordance with the National Office's guidelines. Websites should clearly display the official Alpha Psi Omega insignia and follow accessibility best practices to ensure that all members, regardless of their abilities, can engage with the content.

Section 4. Local Chapter Naming Conventions

Local chapters of Alpha Psi Omega must refer to themselves on social media, digital and print materials using the following naming convention: "[Chapter Name] Chapter of Alpha Psi Omega." This ensures consistency in branding and recognition across all platforms. Chapters should avoid alternative naming structures that could create confusion with either the national organization or other chapters.

Section 5. Promotional Materials

Chapters are encouraged to produce promotional materials such as posters, flyers, and event invitations. All materials should feature the official logo, colors, and any other design elements provided by the National Office to maintain a cohesive look across all chapters. The branding should be immediately recognizable as part of the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society, whether the materials are for local chapter events or national initiatives.

Section 6. Merchandise and Apparel

Chapters may produce and sell Alpha Psi Omega-branded merchandise, such as t-shirts, hats, and other items, provided they adhere to the National Office's guidelines regarding logo usage, color schemes, and style. **All chapter-produced merchandise must be reviewed and approved by the National Office before production.**

Official Alpha Psi Omega merchandise is available through the website, and chapters are encouraged to support the national society by promoting and purchasing these items. Chapter-produced merchandise should complement, rather than compete with, official offerings and must reflect the honor society's values of excellence, respect, and collaboration.

Article XII – National Publications

Section 1. There will be an official publication of Alpha Psi Omega/Delta Psi Omega entitled *Playbill* and copies will be distributed to each chapter annually at the time of its publication.

Section 2. The ceremonies, charters, and other printed materials for the transaction of official business will be prepared and issued by the National Office.

Section 3: All materials, including publications and ceremony resources, must be accessible digitally through the official Alpha Psi Omega website to support sustainability and member accessibility.

Article XIII – National Meeting

Section 1. Purpose

The National Meeting shall be held annually to convene all Alpha Psi Omega/Delta Psi Omega chapters, providing an opportunity for national business to be discussed, financial updates to be presented, announcements to be made, and members to network and collaborate. The meeting will promote transparency, facilitate communication, and encourage engagement between chapters and the National Office.

Section 2. Attendance

All chapters are strongly encouraged to attend the National Meeting. Representatives from each chapter, including officers and members, should attend to ensure their chapter's voice is heard and they remain informed about important national developments.

Section 3. Agenda

The National Meeting will cover a range of topics relevant to the organization's growth and development, including but not limited to:

- a. National Business and Finances – Discussion of the organization’s financial health, budget updates, and any financial decisions impacting the society’s operations.
- b. Scholarships and Grants – Announcements and updates on available scholarships, grants, and funding opportunities for members and chapters.
- c. National Programs and Initiatives – Introduction and updates on national initiatives, events, and programs that chapters may participate in or support.
- d. Chapter Updates – Chapters may share their successes, challenges, and strategies with the broader community, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration.
- e. Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities – Presentation of leadership opportunities within the National Office and guidance on how members can become more involved.
- f. Networking and Collaboration – Time allotted for chapter representatives to connect, collaborate, and share ideas with one another, strengthening the national network of members.

Section 4. Format and Location

The National Meeting may be held in person, virtually, or as a hybrid event depending on accessibility, budget, and logistical considerations. The exact date, time, and location (or virtual platform) will be determined by the National Office and communicated to all chapters at least 60 days in advance.

Section 5. Voting and Decision-Making

At the National Meeting, certain decisions may require a vote from the chapters in attendance. Any voting item will be decided by a quorum of those in attendance at the meeting, and votes will be conducted in a transparent and democratic manner. The outcomes will be recorded and communicated to all chapters.

Article XIV – Chapter Adherence to National Policies on Induction Process

Section 1. All chapters must adhere to the national policies regarding membership invitations, the induction period, and the induction ceremony.

Article XV – Hazing Policy and Compliance

Section 1. The National Office has a zero-tolerance hazing policy. Hazing, in any form, is prohibited within Alpha Psi Omega, both at the national level and within individual chapters. Hazing behaviors undermine the values of respect, inclusion, and community that the organization strives to foster.

Section 2. Hazing is defined as any activity that is intentionally or unintentionally harmful, degrading, or dangerous to an individual, regardless of their willingness to participate. This includes, but is not limited to, physical harm, psychological distress, forced consumption of substances, public humiliation, or any action that violates the dignity of an individual.

Section 3. Chapters are required to comply with the National Office's hazing policy, as well as any additional rules and regulations set forth by their college or university and/or state laws related to hazing. This includes, but is not limited to, initiation practices, social activities, and any other conduct that may be deemed harmful, degrading, or dangerous to any individual. However, traditions associated with the induction process that are approved by the National Office, such as the memorization and performance of an excerpt from Shakespeare, the memorization of the Greek alphabet, and other activities as specified in the ceremony book, are permitted.

Section 4. Any chapter found in violation of the National Office's hazing policy will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension, revocation of chapter status, or other sanctions deemed appropriate by the National Office.

Section 5. It is the responsibility of each chapter's officers and advisors to ensure that all members are informed of the national and local hazing policies and that they foster a safe and respectful environment. Chapters must educate their members about the potential harms of hazing and the serious consequences that arise from engaging in such behaviors.

Section 6. If a chapter or individual suspects any form of hazing is occurring, they are encouraged to immediately report it to the National Office. The National Office will investigate all reported incidents and take appropriate action to ensure the safety and well-being of all members.

Article XVI – Member Engagement and Feedback

Section 1. To ensure that all voices are heard, the National Office will conduct an annual survey to gather feedback from chapter officers and members regarding their experiences, suggestions for improvement, and ideas for future programs.

Article XVII – Diversity and Inclusion

Alpha Psi Omega is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community. Chapters must actively work to ensure equitable opportunities for all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability status.

Article XVIII – Alumni Engagement

Chapters are encouraged to foster ongoing relationships with their alumni in ways that align with their unique needs and resources. This may include organizing events, sharing updates through newsletters or digital platforms, or other creative methods that maintain alumni engagement and support.

Article XIX – Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards

Section 1. All members of Alpha Psi Omega are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct, both within and outside of society activities. Members should act with respect, integrity, and professionalism, fostering an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and free from discrimination or harassment.

Article XX – Addressing Disputes and Grievances

Section 1. Chapter-Level Resolution: If a dispute or grievance arises, the first point of contact should be at the chapter level. The complainant should first address the issue with the chapter officers (President, Vice President, etc.), who will work to resolve the matter within the chapter. If the issue is not resolved at this level, the complainant should reach out to the chapter advisor for further guidance and resolution.

Section 2. Escalation to Regional Representative: If the dispute or grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at the chapter level, the matter may be escalated to the Regional Representative. The complainant should submit a formal written report to the Regional Representative, outlining the nature of the grievance, steps already taken to resolve it, and desired outcomes. The Regional Representative will assist in mediating the issue and facilitate communication between the parties involved.

Section 3. Final Review by the President: If the dispute or grievance remains unresolved at the regional level, the matter will be escalated to the President. The President will conduct a final review of the case, considering all relevant information, and determine any necessary actions, which may include additional mediation, a hearing, or disciplinary measures. The President's decision will be final and binding.

Section 4. Confidentiality and Non-Retaliation: All disputes and grievances will be handled with confidentiality, and all individuals involved are expected to respect the privacy of the process. Retaliation against any member for filing a grievance, participating in a dispute resolution process, or raising concerns will not be tolerated.

Article XXI – Amendments

Section 1. This constitution is subject to amendment at National Meetings if amendments are submitted to the National Office at least one full month before the National Meeting.

An amendment is approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the membership present at the National Meeting.

Note: *The Constitution and Ceremonies of the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society* has been published in several editions.

- The first and second editions were written and edited by Alpha Psi Omega founder Paul F. Opp, with the assistance of Elinor Watson Carroll.
- In 1931, a third edition was edited by B. W. Morrow, Lester Raines, J. R. Besse, and Margaret Blackburn.
- A fourth edition was published in 1939 under the editorship of Earl W. Blank, Frederick Haaskarl, Phillip Parkinson, Margaret Jayne Collett, and founder Paul F. Opp.
- In 1958, a fifth edition was edited by Ray J. Harshfield and Ronald Oesterreich.
- The 1985 sixth edition was edited by Susan S. Cole, Donald P. Garner, and Jerry Henderson.
- The seventh edition, published in 1997, was edited by Susan S. Cole, E. Teresa Choate, and James Fisher.
- The eighth edition, published in 2009, was edited by E. Teresa Choate, Frankie Day, Bret Jones, and Joel Lord.
- The ninth and current edition, published in 2009, was edited by Zackary Ross, Karin Maresh, Sally Story, and Joel Lord.