ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA TO HOLD CONVENTION
JULY 21-27 IN SAN FRANCISCO
Over 10,000 Members Worldwide to Converge upon Bay Area to Discuss Business/Serve Community

Chicago, Illinois – Over 10,000 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority – America's first Greek-letter organization founded in 1908 by, and for, African-American college women and one of the nation’s leading service organizations – will converge upon San Francisco from July 21-27 for its biennial conference, which will be held at the Moscone Center. Among those who will attend include members from as far as Germany, Japan, South Korea and Nassau.

International President Carolyn House Stewart will preside over the weeklong event, whose theme is: “65th Boule: Gateway to Global Leadership Through Timeless Service.”

It is the second time in the Sorority's 104-year history that the convention is being held in San Francisco. The first conference was held in 1955 at the Fairmont Hotel. San Francisco is home to former international president Dr. Ida Jackson and to over 1,000 members who serve the surrounding communities.

Paralleling the Sorority's program theme, “Global Leadership Through Timeless Service,” the Sorority will host a Town Hall, a youth summit, an economic summit and a panel on volunteering. Alpha Kappa Alpha will also open the “Unsung AKA Members of the Civil Rights Movement Museum” that will chronicle and graphically dramatize members’ contributions to the Movement.

Another feature of the weeklong event will be a public meeting on Sunday, July 22. Its purpose is to acquaint the area with the Sorority’s mission and impressive record of service on a local, regional, national and global arena. Awards will be presented to international leaders during this event, which is free and open to the public.

As an extension of the Sorority’s mission ‘to serve all mankind,’ members will donate school supplies to Bay Area social service agencies. The collection drive is expected to yield hundreds of thousands of dollars in school supplies, which will assist families weighed down by the fragile economy and with limited funds.
About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, Alpha Kappa Alpha boasts more than 250,000 women in 965 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Bermuda, South Korea, the Bahamas, Japan and on the continent of Africa who are dedicated to service. Since its founding, members have donated more than 3.5 million hours to programs that have benefited over 16 million people worldwide. Its membership includes a wide array of outstanding luminaries who cross several disciplines and industries. Among its high-profile members are Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia; poets Toni Morrison and Maya Angelou, Dr. Mae Jemison, first woman of color to travel into space, actresses Phylicia Rashad and Jada Pinkett-Smith, Grammy Award winner, Alicia Keys and Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee, Eddie Bernice Johnson and newly-elected lawmakers Terri Sewell and Frederica Wilson. The late civil rights champions Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks and Septima Poinsette Clark were also members. Attorney Carolyn House Stewart is the 27th International President. For more information, log on to www.aka1908.com.

About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s Bay area chapters
Alpha Kappa Alpha serves the Bay Area communities through 13 graduate chapters based in Elk Grove, Fairfield, Solano, Fresno, Inglewood, Marina Del Rey, Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Oxnard, Palo Alto, San Mateo, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Clara, San Ramon, Pleasanton, Concord, Seaside, Monterey, Stockton, Tracy, Modesto, Vallejo and Van Nuys. Alpha Kappa Alpha also has members from undergraduate chapters who attend California State University Sacramento, University of San Francisco, San Francisco State University, California State University – Hayward, Mills College, Mary’s College and Holy Names University, Stanford University, and California State University San Dominguez. The chapters provide service to the Bay Area through a host of programs including Emerging Young Leaders (EYL™), which focuses on imparting invaluable life lessons to elementary school-aged girls. Members also provide scholarships to high school students, participate in the American Heart Association’s National Go Red for Women’s Day, volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, partner with organizations to support Financial and Literacy workshops, conduct Black College Awareness Fair and support programs advocating for Foster Care. All totaled, members donate thousands of hours to programs that benefit residents of the Bay Area. LaVern Tarkington of Phoenix, Arizona is the Regional Director.

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