

DSR-TKA MODEL INITIATION CEREMONY
Friendly Version

WELCOME

HISTORY - see attached CEREMONY

Candidates, by the light of these three candles, you will learn the purposes of this society and take the oath of allegiance to it.

*The first light reminds us that a speaker should be effective
--one who strives for the highest level of excellence as communicator

*The second light reminds us that a speaker should be intelligent --one who strives to communicate knowledge

*The third light reminds us that a speaker must be responsible --one who strives to communicate the truth

You are now ready for the ceremony which will explain the key of our society--a key which, to the uninitiated, marks you as one who has been especially honored for your achievement both as a scholar and as a speaker; to the initiated, however, this key is more than just an outer symbol of excellence--it carries an inner meaning which, hopefully, will guide you as an effective communicator.

This is the "official key" which represents our society. Before you are the Greek letters DELTA SIGMA RHO. Delta is the initial letter for the Greek word (DI NAH " ME OHS) which means power--it represents the power of the spoken word to influence all individuals for good or evil. Sigma is the initial letter of the Greek word (SKAYP RON) for key--it signifies the key which ever unlocks the minds of a speaker's audience. Rho is the initial letter for the Greek word (RAY TOR " I KAY) meaning oratory or speaking at its highest level of achievement. The three words together suggest to us that oratory is the key to the rich treasure-house of power, to be used always in the pursuit of ethical goals. These three Greek letters which you have before you and which you will find on the key of our society are to remind you of our motto - "Oratory is Power."

Next, you will **see** a star. This five-pointed star should recall to your minds the five classical canons of rhetoric. The first point represents the classical rhetorical canon or "invention" - the discovery of the available proofs. The second point signifies the canon of "disposition" -- the persuasive arrangement of those proofs. The third point symbolizes "style"--the speaker's use of persuasive language. The fourth point stands for "memory"--which gives the speaker access to past experience at the moment of utterance. And finally, the fifth point refers to "delivery"--the message's manifestation through the speaker's voice and body. This star, therefore, represents to members of Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha the classical canons, which, through the ages, have provided perspectives for the evaluation and instruction of speechmaking; they have enabled speakers to so order their materials that they have achieved the highest levels of eloquence.

Finally, before you are the Greek letters representing the words Tau Kappa Alpha. Each one is the initial letter for the Greek words (TEE 'MAY KY AHK SEE ON) which together form the motto "Honor for Merit" It signifies to you that this society honors you for your meritorious achievements as communicators.

Now that you understand the unique and distinctive key of Delta Sigma RhoTau Kappa Alpha with the symbolic letters and the five-pointed star enclosed, you are ready to take the oath of membership. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I solemnly promise/ that I will uphold to the best of my ability/ the ideals for which Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha stands/ and that I will do all in my power/ to develop in myself/ and to encourage in others / a high standard of excellence/ in the use of the spoken word. / I further promise/ never to speak/ so as to mislead others / or to deny any person or group / the rightful liberty to be heard.

CLOSING

As you stand here this evening, you represent the ideals of this organization. You represent the culmination of high standards established by the many DSR-TKA members who have gone before you; it is now your responsibility to serve as a model for those who will follow you. Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha encourages each of you to discover your own potential and "power" through oratory. I congratulate you and welcome you into this organization!