

# THE MID-WESTERN MILESTONE

## “A Century of Service and Progress”

### 1908 - 2008



Centennial Mid-Western  
Regional Director  
Soror Vicki Miles-LaGrange

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Celebrates 100 Years of “Service to All Mankind” 1908 - 2008

MID-WESTERN REGION

SPRING 2007

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

• Colorado • Iowa • Kansas • Missouri • Nebraska • Oklahoma

### In This “Milestone”

Regional Director’s Calendar	3
Standards	4
Letter from Second Supreme Anti-Basileus	5
Leadership Fellow Profile	6
Sister-to-Sister	7
Sorority Presents to Liberian President	9
Graduate Advisors	10
Centennial Reminders	11

### Message From the Centennial Mid-Western Regional Director

Sorors,

Congratulations for a successful spring semester and the beginning of a fun-filled, goal-oriented summer. We in Mid-Western continue to have so much to be thankful for and proud of. Sorors, you have given me months of joy while I have served as Mid-Western Regional Director of our beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. I thank you for the help all of you have provided, and I even thank you for the outcomes of the challenges I have had because our membership is stronger because of our resolutions.

We must continue to work harder in providing our service by implementing our international programs and we must strive even more diligently to abide by the rules and regulations as specified by our Sorority.

I do, however, have a few reminders in order for necessary tasks to be completed in a timely manner. These reminders are as follows:

- ♥ **The 77th Mid-Western Regional Conference** – The dates are August 29 to September 2; check your registration materials at [www.akamidwestern.com](http://www.akamidwestern.com) and postmark your registration by June 30, 2007. A postmark date between July 1 and July 14 requires an additional \$60.00. **No registrations will be accepted after July 14, 2007.**
- ♥ **The Regional Conference Steering Committee** under the leadership of Soror Stacey A. Walker, Conference Chairman and Co-Chairmen, Soror Bessie T. Dowdell, Soror Jacqueline M. Houston, Soror Kristina A. Norman, and Soror Adria D. Robinson have planned an excellent conference in Denver, and we are looking forward to an informative and exciting weekend.
- ♥ **Undergraduates Who Are Attending Regional Conference** -- To get the special “student” rates at the hotel, please do the following: (1) make your reservation with the conference hotel; (2) email your name, chapter, and financial number before July 14 to Soror Georgetta James, Regional Tamiouchos, at RTJGJ@aol.com. Soror James will verify your status AND contact the hotel to adjust your rate.
- ♥ **Leadership Fellow 2007** – Congratulations to Soror Kendra Smith, Beta Beta Chapter, for being selected as Mid-Western Region’s Leadership Fellow for 2007.

(continued on p. 2)

### Our Mission Since 1908

“We, as college women, being aware of the increasing complexity of women’s problems, especially those of Negro women, and realizing the necessity of forming an organization for the purpose of studying and solving such problems, do therefore organize this Sorority in order to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, improve the social statute of the race, promote unity and friendship among college women, and keep alive within graduates an interest in college life and progressive movement emanating therefrom.”

Preamble, Constitution and Bylaws, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

**Alpha Kappa Alpha  
Sorority, Inc.**

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**Official Newsletter of the  
Mid-Western Region**  
*The Mid-Western Milestone*  
is published quarterly.  
Submit articles of interest to the public  
information officer at  
**drkmc50@netscape.net**

#### **Deadline for Submission**

Fall - September 30  
Winter - December 30  
Spring - March 30  
Summer - June 30

#### **Communications Team**

Mary E. Carey, *Newsletter Editor*  
Joann Clark, *Newsletter Editor*

Karen Clark  
*Public Information Officer*

Lynn Shipley  
*Chair, Communications  
Committee*

*Communications  
Volunteers Are Welcome!!!*

Vicki Miles-LaGrange  
*Mid-Western Regional Director*

Barbara McKinzie  
*Supreme Basileus*

(continued from p. 1)

- ♥ **Reinstatement** – For Sorors who have been suspended and their time has expired, the Reinstatement Workshop will be Thursday, August 30; however, there are materials that must be submitted prior to that date. Pass the reinstatement flyer on page 16 on to Sorors you know who need to attend the Reinstatement Workshop.
- ♥ **Graduate Advisors** – Be sure that you have requested the official grades for all of your undergraduates and send these to me in one package. You should also send a list of undergraduate Sorors who graduated in May or Summer. Please note Article IV, Section 41 (a) of the Constitution and Bylaws, page 38; thus, you should have processed a transfer for all graduates to a graduate chapter OR to General Membership—not just to General Membership.
- ♥ **Reclamation/Reactivation** -- Remember Sorors, our goal is to reclaim as many of our Sorors who are inactive as we can. Even though October is “Reclamation Month”, we can begin contacting Sorors now and encouraging them to reactivate. We have too many Sorors who are not within our sisterhood; therefore, we must invite them to reactivate; show them sisterly love, and help them become active again. Work on your retention percentage!!!
- ♥ **Undergraduate Round-Up** – The tentative date is September 21-22, 2007. You will get more information later.
- ♥ **“Basilei Briefs”** – Review the points in this document on page ---- and share with all of our Sorors.

Let's serve and serve and serve!!

Sisterly yours,

**Soror Vicki Miles-LaGrange  
Centennial Mid-Western Regional Director**

# IT'S HERE !!!

**Mid-Western Region Website**  
**www.akamidwestern.com**



## Centennial Regional Director's Calendar

### JUNE

- 1 Dinner with Governor Brad Henry, Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and, members of the Committee on International Judicial Relations of the U.S. Judicial Conference (Oklahoma City)
- 5 BSO Ivy Foundation (Oklahoma City)
- 6 Keynote Speaker for Social Action Luncheon of Central Regional Conference of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. (Tulsa)
- 13 Ivy Beyond The Wall for Soror Ralphia Richie (Oklahoma City)
- 16 Beta Sigma Omega Chapter Meeting (Oklahoma City)
- 19 Portrait Unveiling of Soror Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, State Capitol (Oklahoma City)  
1st Black to Integrate The University of Oklahoma Law School in 1949 (Oklahoma City)
- 22 Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc Southwest Regional Public Program and Awards Banquet – Special recognition award for rule of law work in Africa (Oklahoma City)
- 26-28 Instructor at U.S. Attorney General's Trial Advocacy Institute of U.S. Department of Justice (Charleston, S.C.)

### JULY

- 6 A Salute to Soror Dr. Jean Bell Manning: "A Promise Keeper/A Sojourner" Petroleum Club (Oklahoma City)
- 13-21 Leadership 2007 (New Orleans, LA)
- 27-31 Instructor for Gender-Sensitivity Training for Rwandan Judges, Prosecutors and Police in preparation for hundreds of unprosecuted gender crimes being transferred from the War Crimes Tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania to the local Rwandan courts (Kigali, Rwanda, AFRICA)

### AUGUST

- 1-4 Training Rwandan Judges, Prosecutors and Police in Gender-Sensitivity Issues (Kigali, Rwanda, AFRICA)
- 10-12 78th Far Western Regional Conference (Sacramento, CA)
- 29-31 77th Mid-Western Regional Conference (Denver, CO)



**STANDARDS: THE ESSENCE OF EXCELLENCE****“By The Numbers”****45**

Number of days the Regional Director has to inform a chapter of an impending evaluation.  
(*Alpha Kappa Alpha Chapter Evaluation Process*)

**30**

The maximum number of days following an election that outgoing officers have to complete and transfer chapter records to new officers. (*2006, Manual of Standard Procedure, p. 22*)

**12**

The maximum number of voting delegates a chapter can have at a Boule.  
(*2006, Manual of Standard Procedure, p. 55*)

**10**

Number of meetings each chapter must have during the year.  
(*2006 Alpha Kappa Alpha Constitution and Bylaws, Article III, Sec.11, p. 22*)

**7**

The number of days in which the chapter is advised to contact the Regional Heritage Chairman after receiving notice from the Regional Director of the scheduled evaluation date.  
(*Alpha Kappa Alpha Chapter Evaluation Process*)

**7**

The maximum number of days the evaluated chapter has to submit their financial form to their Regional Representative to the International Standards Committee after the evaluation.  
(*Alpha Kappa Alpha Chapter Evaluation Process*)

**3-5**

Number of evaluation team members a chapter can expect on a visit.  
(*Alpha Kappa Alpha Chapter Evaluation Process*)

**2**

Number of copies of a chapter's bylaws that must be sent to the Regional Director for approval. (*2006 Alpha Kappa Alpha Constitution and Bylaws, Article III, Sec.10, p. 22*)

**2**

Number of joint meetings each sponsoring graduate chapter should hold with the undergraduate chapter(s). (*2006 Alpha Kappa Alpha Constitution and Bylaws, Article III, Sec.19, p. 23*)

**1**

Number of Standards Chairman each chapter must appoint.  
(*2007 Standards Resource Guide, Page 2*)

*International Standards Committee  
Alma Ivey Clarke, Chairman*

## Letter from Our Second Supreme Anti-Basileus Soror Ranika Sanchez

Hello Sorors,

Platform IV, the Undergraduate Signature Program: Economic Educational Advancement through Technology has officially been introduced to the world! The Undergraduate Launch kicked off on the campus of North Carolina A&T on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> in Greensboro, NC.

The program began with speakers and presenters such as our Supreme Basileus, our two Undergraduate Members-at-Large, our Program Chair, other sorors, and North Carolina A&T's Chancellor Lloyd Hackley. We also took time out to pray for our fellow students at Virginia Tech.

The program was followed by a reception and then an informational session where some of our beta chapters presented how they have and/or will implement Platform IV. Their ideas and work range from teaching technology in the area of cell phone usage to computers. Their target audiences range from disadvantaged youth to immigrants.

I wish that each of you could have experienced the mass of Undergraduates, Graduate Advisors, and other sorors in Alpha Kappa Alpha joining to celebrate in what we do best—giving back. Although we are still tallying names and chapter representation, over 400 sorors were in attendance.

The International Undergraduate Activities and Program Committees would like to thank all undergraduates who came out to show your love and dedication to service. Thank you to all graduate advisors and sorors for your continued support of Platform IV. Thank you to those who could not attend the event but are still feverously implementing Platform IV on your campuses. We send a special thanks to the sponsoring chapters: Alpha Phi, Zeta Xi, Nu Rho, Beta Iota Omega, and Sigma Kappa Omega. You all truly stepped up to make the first program in Alpha Kappa Alpha history, spearheaded by undergraduates, a success.

And lastly, thank you to our beta chapters who have set the precedent for our over 350 undergraduate chapters as we give back to our communities in the area of technology.

If you have any questions about how to implement Platform IV, please contact your International Undergraduate or Program Committee Representative(s). May God continue to bless each of you as you move forward.

With Love,  
*Soror Ranika Sanchez*  
Soror Ranika Sanchez  
Second Supreme Anti-basileus  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



## Our Leadership Fellow Kendra Smith

**Kendra Smith**

***Hometown:*** Lawton, OK

***School:*** University of Central Oklahoma- Edmond, OK

***Chapter:*** Beta Beta

***Initiated:*** Fall 2006

***Major:*** Corporate Communication/Political Science

***What I Learned at Leadership Fellows:***

At Leadership Fellows I learned many great skills. I learned the importance of being professional at all times. Our mentors showed us professionalism on a daily basis. I also learned the true meaning of being sisterly. Although we've left Leadership Fellows, we keep in close contact with each other. I also stay in contact with the mentors and also executives at Tyson Foods, Inc. Leadership Fellows was a great opportunity to meet sorors from all over and also a once in a lifetime chance to create a true fellowship.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to represent the Mid-West at Leadership Fellows. Leadership Fellows was a great program that I wish all sorors had the opportunity to experience.





### “SISTER – TO- SISTER”

Beginning with the next issue of *The Mid-Western Milestone*, I invite Mid-Western Soror to send in newsworthy “Sister-to-Sister Brief Notes” about themselves or other Sorors. The specifics are as follows:

**Subject of the “Sister-to-Sister Brief Notes”:** any item relative to a news item of the Soror or her immediate family; i.e., spouse, parents, children, or grandchildren.

**Purpose of the “Sister-to-Sister Brief Notes”:** to inform our Mid-Western sisterhood of accomplishments and other life occurrences in order for more Sorors to congratulate, pray for, encourage, and/or support our sisters.

**Submission Process:** complete the form below and email to Soror Mary Carey at [marycarey@cox.net](mailto:marycarey@cox.net).

**Due Date:** “Sister-to-Sister Brief Notes” must be postmarked or emailed on or before September 30 for the next issue of The Mid-

Western Milestone.

**Soror Vicki Miles-LaGrange  
Centennial Regional Director**

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**“SISTER-TO-SISTER”**

**Name of Person in Brief Note** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address of above Soror (street/PO box)** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Note (no more than 4 lines)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Soror submitting Brief Note** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email to Soror Mary Carey at [marycarey@cox.net](mailto:marycarey@cox.net)**



## “SISTER – TO- SISTER”

--An Opportunity for Sisters to Connect with Sisters—



**Congratulations, Soror Jean Bell Manning (Alpha Upsilon Omega Chapter) on your election as president of AME University in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. Soror Jean and her late husband, Dr. Reuben Manning, had dreamed of returning to West Africa as servants. This opportunity to serve as president of one of three main universities in the country is a dream come true. Soror Jean will assume her duties at the helm of this university of approximately 4,000 students and 200 faculty in the fall semester.**

**Congratulations, Soror Kendra Smith of Beta Beta Chapter at the University of Central Oklahoma for being selected as Mid-Western Region’s “2007 Leadership Fellow”. Soror Kendra, a native of -----, is a junior majoring in Communication. As a “Fellow”, Soror Kendra will meet outstanding undergraduate and graduate Soror from all over the nation, and she will learn strategies to hone her leadership skills.**

**Lift Up in Prayer – Soror Karen Clark (Beta Sigma Omega Chapter) is experiencing medical problems. Email your sisterly “Get Well Wishes” to [drkmc50@netscape.net](mailto:drkmc50@netscape.net).**

**Lift Up in Prayer – Soror Marilyn Ashley (Alpha Upsilon Omega) whose husband, Lewis Ashley, is critically ill in Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. Send her a card to P.O. Box 900, Langston, OK 73050.**

**“One of the best blessings in life is to have a sister (or brother) who loves unconditionally, who encourages without envy, who gives without a reason, and who prays with the expectation of receiving an answer.”**

## Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Presents Donation to Liberian President's LET Program

On behalf of International Centennial Supreme Basileus, Soror Barbara A. McKinzie, Soror Vicki Miles-LaGrange, Mid-Western Regional Director, presented a donation of \$10,000 to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, on Saturday, May 11 at Langston University.

In making the presentation, Soror LaGrange said to Soror Sirleaf, "Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is honored to support your Liberian Education Trust (LET) program and to continue to be among the first organizations to lend support to such a worthy effort for the education of girls and women in Liberia." Alpha Kappa Alpha's donation was included in President Sirleaf's announcement of receiving over \$325,000 in contributions in May 2007 in the United States for her LET program.



Pictured Above (Left to Right): Soror Vicki Miles-LaGrange; President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; Dr. Joanne Haybert, President of Langston University.



Soror Sirleaf, as President of The Republic of Liberia, West Africa, is the first female president of any African country. About the Liberian Education Trust, she explained that it was organized particularly to support girls and women. She said, "The LET is intended to redress years of neglect of the girl child and to support literacy programs for mothers to enable them to read and write."

At Langston University as the keynote speaker for the 107<sup>th</sup> Commencement, Soror Sirleaf is the first Head of State to address a Langston University graduation ceremony. The \$10,000 donation was made at a VIP luncheon given in honor of Soror Sirleaf by Langston University President, Soror Jo Ann W. Haysbert. Accompanying the Honorable President were Bishop David Daniels, presiding prelate of the Twelfth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Nigeria) and the Liberian Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Charles A. Minor.



## Graduate Advisors Are “Endorsed, Sensitive, and Prepared”

The lifeline of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is the undergraduate Sorors. The graduate chapters have the supervisory responsibilities for the undergraduate chapters through the elected Graduate Advisors and the appointed Graduate Advisory Council/Committee. It is mandatory, therefore, for the graduate chapters and the Graduate Advisors to be clear on specific operational requirements as specified in our Constitution and Bylaws 2006. Given below are a few of these requirements that have initiated discussions during Graduate Advisors’ Certification training thus far in 2007.

**Joint Meetings** – Chapters know that undergraduate and graduate chapters should have two (2) joint meetings per year; however, many think these meetings should be one social and one business. Article III, Section 19, page 23 reads, “Where there are graduate and undergraduate chapters in the same city, there shall be at least two joint meetings of the chapters during the year, between the chapter that provides Graduate Advisor(s) and the Undergraduate chapter(s). The main purpose of these meetings shall be social in order to increase fellowship and better understanding. Only business of joint interest may be discussed and voted on at these meetings. Such meetings shall be presided over alternately by the Basileus of each chapter and attended by active members of the chapters.” *The main points to remember are* (1) there must be two joint meetings, but there may be more; (2) the agenda of the meetings must be social in nature and designed to increase fellowship and better relations between the chapters; (3) the only business that is discussed and voted on must be of joint interest to both chapters; (4) the undergraduate basileus must have a turn for being in charge of the meeting just as the graduate basileus, and (5) all active members of both chapters may attend these meetings.

**Undergraduates Who Have Obtained One Bachelor’s Degree** –Some undergraduates think that when they have obtained one Bachelor’s Degree and desire to continue in college and receive a second Bachelor’s Degree, they can remain active in the undergraduate chapter. Article IV, Section 4, page 26 reads, “An undergraduate member is a soror who is pursuing a course of study leading to a baccalaureate (bachelor’s) degree in an accredited two, three, or four-year senior college or university who has been initiated under Article IV (New Members) of the Bylaws.” Article IV, Section 41(a), page 38 reads, “Immediately after graduation a soror shall transfer to a graduate chapter or to the Boule with the status of General member.” The main point to remember is the singular noun phrase, “a baccalaureate (bachelor’s) degree.” The undergraduate Soror who is seeking a second bachelor’s degree must transfer from the undergraduate chapter. She does not have to transfer, however, if she is pursuing a second major without having received the first bachelor’s degree.

**Undergraduates’ Transferring After Graduation** – Many Graduate Advisors think undergraduates must transfer to General Membership immediately after graduation; however, this is not true. Article IV, Section 41(a), page 38 which is given immediately in the point above gives two (2) options: a graduate chapter OR to the Boule as a General Member. The Graduate Advisor should facilitate the undergraduate Soror’s transfer to a graduate chapter if she is relocating to an area which has a graduate chapter.

**C+ Grade Point Average for Undergraduate Sorors** – Graduate Advisors, please read the following information – Article VI, Section 4 (a), page 42 and page 39 of the Manual of Standard Procedure. Please note that these sections only refer to “cumulative” grade point average and not “semester” grade point average. Note also the requirement for “full time status”. There is a different requirement for persons “seeking” membership.

Soror Jo Ann R. Clark, Centennial Chairman  
Graduate Advisors’ Certification Committee



## Centennial Reminders:

Dear Sorors:

The Mid-Western Region Centennial activities' deadlines are rapidly approaching. On June 2, 2007, "then and now" chapter photographs for Centennial Yearbook are due to Soror Vicki Miles-LaGrange, Mid-Western Regional Director, quilting squares are due to Soror Alberta Jones and Chapter Charters are due to Soror Deborah Parson. All monies for the Banner Project are due to Soror Vicki by June 29, 2007 and entries for the song and poetry competition are due to Soror Linda Samuel-Jaha by July 1, 2007. If you have any questions or concerns contact Soror Alberta Jones, Chair, Centennial Committee Mid-Western Region, [agjones60@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agjones60@sbcglobal.net) or co-chair, Soror Linda Samuel-Jaha, [lsjahalaw@aol.com](mailto:lsjahalaw@aol.com)

Sisterly,  
Linda





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**Soror Vicki Miles-LaGrange  
Mid-Western Regional Director  
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