



## **MJ INSURANCE**

SORORITY DIVISION

*This is a document that we use to help explain the some additional insight on our clients to assist in better understanding the unique features of a sorority operation. Typically, there is some confusion about the make-up of a women's fraternity or sorority, so we have prepared this brief summary in an attempt to make it clearer to individuals working with women's fraternities and sororities.*

### **Greek 101**

To the lay person, the terminology and names of Sororities can be “Greek” to them!

You will find the name fraternity and sorority is used interchangeably, as some of the organization's when they were formed, incorporated as a women's fraternity, prior to 1950s. From the 1950s on, the groups incorporated under the new terminology of sororities.

Each group takes the Greek alphabet as their name and they are very protective about the proper name and pronunciation of their organization. Should you have any doubt, feel free to ask them or call us to avoid the incorrect pronunciation of their name. They will have the name of the national/international organization such as Kappa Kappa Gamma. The national/international organization will then identify each individual chapter with its own Greek name. (E.g. would be the Beta chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity).

### **Women's Fraternity (or Sorority): (hereafter referred to as “Sorority”)**

They can be either an international or national organization, which is largely dependent upon whether they have Canadian locations. The basic organizational hierarchy applies as follows:

- Executive Staff operating out of a Headquarters
- Elected Council who operate as the Board of Directors
- Regional, District and Local volunteers who operate on behalf of their national organization.

**Executive Staff** operates out of a Headquarters and the office staff includes an Executive Director that is hired by the Council. They are generally incorporated as 501(c) 7's non-profit organization.

**Council (a.k.a. International Council, Grand Council, Executive Board):** Each Sorority elects a board of directors to govern the organization and the elected members usually range in number between 5 and 10 individuals of the Sorority. The elections take place during convention. Term limits vary by Sorority. The Council is the governing body of the Sorority in the interim between conventions and exercises general supervision over the Sorority's business and affairs.

**Regional, District and Local Advisors:** Each group has established their own strategic plan on how best to communicate matters to the individual chapters. This communication is geared towards the education of the members on such issues as risk management, recruitment and community living, to name a few.

**Convention:** The convention is the general legislative body of the Sorority and shall have power to act upon all Sorority matters except as authority is otherwise delegated via the Constitution. The convention body is composed of a delegate from each **alumnae** and **college chapter** in good standing, the Council, the **Foundation** President, the Alumnae district presidents, the college district presidents and the NPC delegate. Convention occurs every two years. During the off-year, the Sorority usually sponsors **Leadership Conferences**.

**Foundation:** The Foundation is the philanthropic and fundraising arm of the Sorority. Each Sorority has a specific cause that they support from a philanthropic standpoint. Also, numerous educational scholarships and grants are awarded to members from Foundation funds. A separate Council runs the Foundation. They are generally separately incorporated as a non-profit organization under 501 C (3)'s.

**National Housing Corporation:** An entity created by the Sorority to oversee the maintenance of nationally-owned chapter properties. A separate Council operates the Corporation. Only a few of the Sororities have created this separate entity for property ownership.

**House Corporation (a.k.a. House Association, Facility Corporation):** A local entity that oversees the maintenance of the chapter facility. In most cases, the Corporation owns the facility and is comprised of local alumnae who serve on the same House Corporation Board.

**Chapter:** A collegiate membership unit of the Sorority. The chapter is operated by an elected/appointed set of officers. Chapter members participate in many different functions, including philanthropic events and social events.

**Chapter Advisors:** A group of Sorority alumnae who provide local leadership and guidance to a specific chapter and its officers.

**Colony:** A collegiate chapter prior to installation as a permanent chapter for the organization.

**Alumnae Association, Club or Chapter:** An organized group of prior collegiate members, referred to as Alumnae. Associations are usually arranged by city or state. Some Sororities

also have Associations overseas. These Associations sponsor various fundraisers and social events, and some may even have their own Foundations.

**Parent's Clubs:** Some fraternities have organized groups of the collegiate member's mothers. The Clubs may meet to raise funds for the chapter or for social gatherings.

**Other Individuals who serve in their organization:**

**New Members:** Recently initiated collegiate Sorority members into the chapter.

**Collegiate Members:** Sorority chapter members.

**Alumnae Members:** Graduated adult members of that particular Sorority. The use of the word Alumna is a reference for a single person, Alumnae is plural for a group of women and Alumni is plural for men and women.

**Volunteers: (non-affiliated with the group)** In some areas, there may be no Sorority Alumnae to assist in providing advice and counsel to a local chapter. In this absence, it would not be uncommon for another Greek group member or university personnel to be enlisted in helping this specific chapter.

**Headquarters (a.k.a. Executive Office, Central Office):** A centralized location for staff to work on behalf of the Sorority, Foundation and National Housing Corporation. Most fraternities own their facility. The Headquarters staff includes an Executive Director that reports to the Council (usually there is a separate Executive Director for the Sorority, Foundation and National Housing Corporation). There is supporting staff at the Headquarters and their staff size varies.

**Leadership Consultants:** These individuals are newly graduated members who travel on behalf of the Sorority for one to two years. They provide guidance and oversight to the chapters on all matters of the Sorority. They are employees of the Sorority, based out of headquarters.

**Leadership Conferences:** On the non-convention year, the Sorority will sponsor either a national conference or several regional leadership conferences. Several members from each collegiate and alumnae chapter may attend. The conferences are geared more toward educating the members.

**Merchandising Entities:** Several of the Sororities have an entity that is responsible for the marketing and distribution of Sorority merchandise, such as clothing, stationary, dolls, etc. A small "store" may exist on the Headquarters premises.