

Traditions and Songs

Every organization has formal or informal traditions that help members bond, and many organizations sing songs to enhance this bonding. Kappa Beta is no exception. Although I have not been able to locate any "official" source of records for Kappa Beta, I have found scattered sources of traditions and songs that are part of KB's history.

In the section titled History and Tradition on the Kappa Beta website (http://www.kappabetasunyalbany.com/history_and_tradition.htm), the writer states that "The fraternity seal was adopted on May 4, 1938 and the fraternity colors of Royal Blue and Gold were selected on March 28, 1938. On November 8, 1938 the yellow rose was taken as the official flower of Kappa Beta."

The program booklet for the October 2002 Kappa Beta Reunion sent to me by Paul Michel '67, contains the following KB Pledge response, probably used in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Sound Off (for pledges)

I, (state your name), am a humble and lowly pledge of Kappa Beta Fraternity, in reality nothing more than a worm which crawls along the ground always under foot. I serve no other useful purpose than to fear my superior beings and to obey their every command. Sir!

In the copy of the Pledge Book sent to me by Paul Michel '67, the following section which describes what pledges of Kappa Beta must do and what tasks they must complete during their pledge period is included.

The Pledge Period

During the next few days we want you to become acquainted with Kappa Beta. Thus, we have prepared several pledge duties with which you will be required to comply. The Pledge Committee is ready to help you in any reasonable way; please feel free to come to us with your problems.

Your Pledge duties:

To enable the Brothers to judge the depth and extent of your interest in Kappa Beta, these duties are set down for you to execute.

1. Wear your pledge pin at all times (and don't lose it!).
2. You will carry this book with you at all times.
3. On every day of the Pledge Period you will wear a sport coat or suit, tie, and neatly pressed pants. No sneaks or dungarees.

4. You will address all Brothers as "Mister."
5. You will obtain the signatures of all Brothers, their home towns, and in the case of faculty Brothers, you will get their major department instead of their hometown. Memorize each as you obtain it.
6. You will make a fraternity paddle, according to specifications, by a date designated by the Pledge Committee.
7. You will be required to know:
 - a. the Sound Off on the first day of the Pledge period.
 - b. the fraternity Hymn and Drinking Song by the time of the first meeting.
 - c. the Greek Alphabet* by the time of the second meeting.
 - d. the fraternity history by the time of the third meeting.
8. You will do any service requested by a Brother.
9. The Pledge Committee may issue other duties at its discretion.
10. You will be required to carry out the provisions of your Hell Letter.
11. You will learn the names of all officers and committee members of the fraternity by the time of the second meeting.

*Learn the Greek Alphabet forwards and backwards.

--- The Pledge Committee

The Kappa Beta Drinking Song or Stein Song was printed in the programs of the Kappa Beta Reunions held in June 2002 and in October 2002.

Raise high your steins, men, and drink a toast then,
 To the colors of Blue and Gold.
 And let your hearts sing, while foaming steins bring
 Golden Memories of old.
 And so be glad then, that you have drunk when,
 Hearts were gay and handclasps free.
 Be glad that you have drunk as one of the men of old KB.

The Fraternity Hymn (tune: Gaudeamus Igitur) was printed in the program of the Kappa Beta Reunion held in October 2002.

Kappa Beta be our guide, of Thy name we speak with pride.
 Brothers all fraternally; one for God for State, for Thee.
 Let our voices now resound,
 For Thy glorious name renowned;
 Keep us ever in Thy fold, Kappa Beta, Blue and Gold.