

LAMBDA STATE FOUNDERS' SKIT

All individuals in all scenes will be dressed in hats, gloves, and dresses appropriate to the times. This skit has been written so that the chapter can do just one act or can do the entire skit. The skit, if the chapter chooses to do one act, does not necessitate the use of too many characters. Chapters may want to consider doing one act at each chapter meeting. If one of the founders was a member of your chapter you may want to add more information about the founder. More information about each of the founders can be found on the website. One person should plan to hold up cards that tell what act and scene it is and where the scene takes place.

Act 1

Texas, USA, 1929

Annie Webb Blanton—"My dream is to remove barriers that limit the advancement of women educators. I want to form an organization to honor those women who have made us proud. I want to call our organization, Kappa Gamma Delta. I wonder whether we can use that name. I must check. No, that is the name of a national aeronautics fraternity. Then we shall be called Delta Kappa Gamma."

Act 2

Scene 1

Chicago, Illinois, 1935

Miss Norma Smith, National President, and Dr. Helen Koch, a key individual who moved from Texas to Illinois

Miss Norma Smith—"Dr. Koch, I am so happy that you have moved from Texas to Illinois, because you can now assist us in forming our society in Illinois. I want Illinois to be the first state organized north of the Mason Dixon line. It will be the eleventh state organized by Delta Kappa Gamma and it should be called Lambda."

Dr. Koch—"I know I must check with the Secretary of State to make sure we can use the name Delta Kappa Gamma here in Illinois."

Miss Smith—"Good idea—please check and do let me know."

Short pause and both ladies walk away and then return quickly.

Dr. Koch—"We have had a problem but it is resolved. Another organization had legal rights to our name—Delta Kappa Gamma—but they are not active and we have secured the name."

Miss Smith—"Thank you so much for checking and now let's discuss your ideas for who should be initiated and who should become officers in Lambda State."

Act 2

Scene 2

February, 1935

Miss Norma Smith and Dr. Koch

Miss Smith— “We must now plan for our initiation of members and officers into the Lambda State Organization. Our installation ceremony will be held at the Chicago Womens’ Club on March 16 and we must be prepared. Dr. Koch, can you tell me about who will be initiated?”

Dr. Koch—“Miss Smith, I feel very honored that we have so many ladies who will become our founding members of the Lambda State Society. They will be initiated based on true faith that this organization can do many things to improve the status of women in Illinois. They have hope for a brighter future for all women educators in Illinois.”

Miss Smith—“Do tell me just a little bit about each of these ladies.”

Dr. Koch—“There is Stella Bench and she is a Principal at Galena High School. Dr. Ruth Brown is a Professor of Classics at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Mrs. Ethel Coe is the County Superintendent of McHenry Schools, Miss Flora Cooke will be an honorary member and is the former principal of Francis W. Parker School in Chicago, Miss Isabella Dolton is the Assistant Superintendent of Chicago Schools, Miss Erma Imboden is a training teacher at Illinois State University, Dr. Mayme Logsdon is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Chicago, Mrs. Ada Manning is the Superintendent of Lombard Schools, Dr. Helen Messenger is a Professor of Education at Northern Illinois University, Mrs. Livia Peterson is a first grade teacher in Winnetka, Dr. Emma Reinhardt is the Head of the Department of Education at Eastern Illinois State Teachers’ College in Charleston, Miss Grace Storm is Assistant Professor of Kindergarten and Primary Education at the University of Chicago, and Miss Pearl Tiley is the Superintendent of Kindergarten and Primary Grades in Belleville. Of course, I am an Associate Professor of Child Psychology at the University of Chicago.” I believe we have a well qualified group of ladies to form our organization.”

Miss Smith—“I have noted with pride that you have excellent representation from all over the state of Illinois and you also have individuals who serve in many different roles. I believe this diversity will serve Lambda State well for many years to come. Our organization must represent individuals from different areas of education and from different parts of a state. I predict success for Lambda State.”

Dr. Koch—“Our nominating committee has worked hard to prepare a slate of officers. Would you like to meet with the nominating committee so they can share the names of the proposed officers?”

Miss Smith—“Yes, I definitely do want to meet with these hard working ladies. The nominating committee is charged with such a serious responsibility to choose those ladies that will lead in the success of Lambda State.”

Act 2, Scene 3
February, 1935

Miss Norma Smith, National President, Stella Bench, Ada Manning, and Pearl Tiley –members of the Lambda State Nominating Committee

Miss Norma Smith—“You ladies have served a very important role in our organization. You have chosen the women that you believe will lead this organization successfully. They have set themselves apart as leaders, as organizers, as diligent and committed to Lambda State.”

“Ladies, please let me know who constitutes your slate of officers.”

Stella Bench—“We have taken our responsibility seriously. We know the ladies that we are proposing as officers are hard working, dependable, knowledgeable, and truly committed to the purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma.”

Ada Manning—“I have been honored to interview the ladies being proposed as officers. They represent a diverse group of women who have pledged their full support to our organization.”

Pearl Tiley—I am pleased to propose this slate of officers to be initiated at our banquet at the Chicago Women’s Club on March 16, 1935:

Dr. Helen Messenger, President
Dr. Helen Koch, First Vice President
Mrs. Livia Peterson, Second Vice President
Grace E. Storm, Corresponding Secretary
Ethel C. Coe, Recording Secretary
Erma F. Imboden, Treasurer
Isabella Dolton, Parliamentarian
Dr. Ruth M. Brown, Keeper of the Records

Miss Norma Smith—“This sounds excellent. I want to thank each of you for serving on the important nominating committee.” I have faith and hope that your recommendations will be good ones and will serve our organization well. We must now make final plans for our banquet on March 16, 1935.”

Act 3
Chicago Women’s Club (Prior to the initiation)
March 16, 1935

Miss Smith and Dr. Helen Koch and Dr. Helen Messenger—dressed up with hats and gloves. They are talking before the official initiation and installation.

Miss Smith—“All of our hopes and dreams are coming true tonight. Tonight we initiate fourteen members into Lambda State and after the dinner and initiation, we will install our officers. All of the planning and hard work you ladies have done has made tonight possible. Do you think you are ready for this evening?”

Dr. Koch—“I am so grateful for the leadership that you, Miss Smith, and Annie Webb Blanton have given to us. I am confident that Illinois will become the best State in Delta Kappa Gamma and that many leaders in Illinois will become leaders in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society at the National level.”

Miss Smith—“I know your predictions will come true.”

Dr. Messenger—“I believe in the ability of each one of our ladies that has been chosen as a founder. It will be my honor to be the first president of Lambda State and our team of individuals will move us forward and will make a positive impact on women educators throughout the state of Illinois.”

Miss Smith—“Shall we begin our program for tonight and begin the Lambda State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society.”

