



The Philo Club

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. has a history of bringing women together to foster social change and to support one another. African American women have always formed organizations and groups that not only provided community service, but provided support systems that women in general and women of color in particular never received from society.

Questions of race and gender have been at the forefront of organizations founded by African American women and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was no different. But in her quest to bring like minded college bound women, educators and college graduates, Sigma never forgot about the women that made it possible for them to pursue education.

It was the women that "lifted as they climbed" that scrubbed floors, cleaned houses, and performed every menial job possible that encouraged and fought for their daughters, sisters and any other female relatives to strive for higher education. It was by the sweat of their brow that many women were able to obtain their education and were taught of its importance.

Philo Club Quick Facts:

- Formed as an auxiliary in 1943
- Named nationally as "Philo Club" in 1954
- Recognized as an affiliate in 1980
- Composed of over 50 chapters nationwide
- Philo Flower- White Carnation with gold ribbon
- Philo Colors- White and Antique Gold.

Sigma women paid homage to such women by working along side them to improve their communities. Auxiliary groups were formed by their mothers, sisters, aunts and friends that were unable to attend college. So many groups were formed nationally that in 1943 the Sorority recognized their existence and rewarded their work.

In 1954, the Sorority officially recognized the auxiliaries as a united group and gave them the name of "Philo" which is the Greek word for "Friend." In 1980 the Philos were organized on a regional and national level similar to the Sorority and were recognized as an official affiliate of the Sorority.

More than 50 Philo Clubs and hundreds of members have dedicated thousands of hours of service and thousands of dollars to further the work of Sigma Gamma Rho. Their proud history is one built on the love of women that worked hard to make a brighter day for their daughters and future generations that they knew would come to make them proud.

Today, Philo Clubs offer dynamic women the opportunity to serve and be a part of a national organization structured like a sorority. Membership is available for women that have attained professional success, associate degrees and other certifications but have not yet attained a bachelor's degree. Philo Clubs offer women a sorority experience by working closely with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. The national Philo theme is "Progress in Love, Peace and Service" and exemplifies the legacy of the "Friends of Sigma Gamma Rho."