

# KAZ Sorority



## 2022 Rush Booklet

*Serving the Central Georgia community since 1983*



### ***What is KAZ?***

KAZ Sorority is a local high school service sorority that has participated in over 38 years of service to the Central Georgia community. We have chosen to have honorary “brothers” as a part of our sorority, making us a very unique organization.

Until 2017, members of KAZ have been drawn from Warner Robins, Northside, Houston County and Veterans High Schools. Due to years of repeated requests, KAZ decided to open the membership opportunities to all area high school students. This was new and uncharted waters for KAZ, but we were extremely excited to pursue this idea and share this great organization with many other high school students. We are proud to say that we have added members from Perry, The Westfield School, and other area high schools.

KAZ members are leaders within their own schools, yet they join together in KAZ to be actively involved in many charity projects. In the past 38 years, KAZ has donated *hundreds of thousands of dollars* in in-kind contributions to the community by providing thousands of hours to various projects. In addition, wonderful, lifelong friendships are developed and members encourage each other daily.

We are looking for girls who have a positive personality, as well as those who will uphold our moral values, and work hard to benefit our community. We are a special extended family, and we share the good times, the bad times, the happy ones and sad ones.

With over 800 alumni, KAZ has touched many lives and continues to build on that legacy.

### ***How and why did KAZ get started?***

In 1983, after returning to Warner Robins from college, Mary Ann Branch (now Coskery) wanted to create an organization that would benefit high school students, particularly since her youngest sister, Kim, was at WRHS. Mary Ann had a vision of a high school sorority that would be an amalgamation of things she learned through her own college sorority experience, as well as her involvement with the Miss America program and other organizations, including some high school ones of her own. She shared this concept with her sister, and a few weeks later,

September 25, 1983, at Dry Lake Park, KAZ was “born”. Four high school girls and Mary Ann embarked upon a journey and the same principles, by-laws and traditions remain today.

### ***Who are KAZ Members?***

In short, they represent a stellar cross section of the student population in Houston County. They are leaders in school, church, and the community.

Athletes. Our membership reflects a tremendous diversity which includes members in nearly every sport: Soccer, Cheerleading, Football, Basketball, Baseball, Swimming, Cross Country, Wrestling, Volleyball, Tennis, Softball, and practically any other sport you could name!

Academic Achievers. Many KAZ members are involved in honors programs, AP classes, and receive scholarships to further their education. Academic achievement is highly regarded in KAZ.

Church Members. Many KAZ members are active in their church in various facets: participating in youth groups, choir and mission trips.

Community Contributors: In addition to the tremendous amount of charity projects and civic involvement that KAZ members participate in through our organization, many are involved in other community groups as well.

School Leaders. KAZ members not only participate in various school activities, but many hold leadership positions within those activities. As Vice President of Beta Club, Treasurer of Math Club, Class Officer....the list goes on. They demonstrate their ability to lead and juggle many things well.

Bottom line. KAZ Members are good people. They are teenagers that you would want to hang around....they are people you want to know....and friends you would be proud to introduce to your parents!

### ***Who are the adults responsible for KAZ?***

KAZ is directed and managed by an Advisor Team, comprised of the KAZ Founder, KAZ Head Advisor and KAZ alumni. These ladies contribute their time, money, heart and talents---completely as volunteers with no compensation.

#### **Founder, Mary Ann Branch Coskery**

Mary Ann is proud to call Warner Robins “home”. As a graduate of WRHS, Mary Ann then attended Troy State University, where she became involved in her collegiate sorority, and served as President of Alpha Delta Pi. Following college, Mary Ann created KAZ in 1983, and has remained extremely active and involved throughout the 38 years, always in a Founder and

Advisor role. Although her husband's career path has taken them to Canada, California and Florida, she has made numerous trips regularly to coordinate and participate in KAZ events. She most recently resided in Nashville with her husband Stephen to manage her daughter's career as a country music artist (Colby Dee). Their oldest daughter, Brittany, also a KAZ Alumni, is married, has identical twin girls and a new baby boy and they live in New York. Mary Ann is a professional event producer, having produced shows and events all over North America. In addition, she is a free-lance writer and former magazine editor/publisher and has served as the Executive Director of several non-profit organizations throughout the years. Mary Ann now lives in Warner Robins and is the owner of The Honey Bees Group and the Producer of Nashville Night here in Central Georgia. In 2014, Mary Ann handed over the reins of the role of Head Advisor to her good friend and KAZ Alum, Jamie Green Floyd, but she's still very involved and provides many resources for KAZ. Mary Ann is so relieved and appreciative to have the Advisor Team and others who help out as they can, to help keep this dream of an organization alive and well.

#### **Head Advisor, Jamie Green Floyd**

Jamie graduated from WRHS in 1996 and during that time, she was an active KAZ member, serving as KAZ Secretary and KAZ President. She later also assisted as a KAZ Co-Advisor, so this is her 2<sup>nd</sup> tour of duty as a KAZ Advisor! Jamie attended Valdosta State University and graduated from Wade College in Dallas, TX. She has her PHR and SHRM-CP certification and currently works as a Human Resources Consultant at Ricoh, where she was named "Ricoh H.R. Professional of the Year" for the Ricoh North America division in 2016. She resides in Centerville with her husband (also a KAZ Alum) John David. Jamie is now the KAZ Head Advisor, handling the administrative and day-to-day management of KAZ, as well as sharing her creativity in planning all events and activities and takes the lead for managing the KAZ finances. She is present at the Monday night meetings, which is a true commitment in itself. Jamie's dedication is critical to the ongoing success of KAZ.

#### **Advisor, Tina Williams Rasmussen**

Tina is a Warner Robins native, having graduated from NHS in 1990. While at NHS, Tina was an active member of KAZ and served as Vice President her Senior Year. She graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in Business and Computer Science. Tina has worked at Robins Air Force Base for 20 years and is currently a Cyber Network and Infrastructure Action Officer. She lives in Kathleen with her husband Ryan, and they have four children. Her daughter, Madison, was in KAZ and also served as a Vice President. She loves to travel and has traveled to over 20 countries. Tina has assisted on the Advisor Team before, so this is also her 2<sup>nd</sup> tour of duty on the KAZ Advisor Team. We value her assistance in so very many ways.

#### **Advisor, Joella Thomaston**

Joella is a class of 1995 Warner Robins High School alum. She was in KAZ from 1992-1995 and was an officer her Junior and Senior years. Joella received her Bachelor's Degree in International Business from Liberty University. She is employed by Northrop Grumman

Defensive Systems where she is a member of the leadership team as the Global Supply Chain Senior Manager for the Business Unit.

Joella has three children. Griffen, Jordan and Emma. Griffen graduated from HOCO in 2020 and the twins, Jordan and Emma, graduated from HOCO in 2022. Cale and Joella were married in 2010. She was blessed with two bonus daughters when their families joined. Joella's oldest son, Griffen was an active KAZ Big Brother from 2017-2020. Her daughter Emma was Co-President of Kappa Alpha Zeta her senior year after receiving her Bid to join her Freshman year.

#### **Advisor, Jennifer McCauley**

Jennifer was in KAZ in 1990-91. She graduated from Warner Robins High School and received a Bachelor's Degree in Child & Family Development from the University of Georgia. Jennifer is married to Josh McCauley and has 3 beautiful daughters; Kaitlyn, Keira, & Kamryn. Two of her oldest girls are KAZ alumni and her youngest daughter is a current member and officer. Josh is also the Coordinator of our KAZ Golf Tournament. Jennifer is employed through the division of Family and Children Services as a Quality Assurance Manager. Her favorite thing about KAZ is all of the civic events that we participate in and how involved we get the members with our community. Her oldest daughter, Kaitlyn has recently joined the advisor team. KAZ is a McCauley family affair!!

#### **Advisor, Kaitlyn McCauley**

Kaitlyn was a member of KAZ in high school and graduated from Houston County High School in 2017. She attended Georgia College and State university and received her Bachelors of Science in Middle Grades Education in 2022. Kaitlyn was an active member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority at GCSU. She currently teaches 8th grade Math at Warner Robins Middle School. She is engaged to her high school sweetheart and will be married next June.

### ***What are "KAZ Standards"?***

This is an area that KAZ is well known for. We have a high expectation of our members to maintain a positive reputation in their school and community. When our members decide to join, it is with an understanding of our strict by-laws, which include:

KAZ members cannot consume alcohol, smoke or vape, participate in taking drugs, nor engage themselves in inappropriate activity for a high school student and a representative of KAZ.

KAZ members are expected to be a role model in the community and represent KAZ in a responsible manner at all times. We do not tell teenagers you cannot drink, smoke and do drugs. We simply tell them that you cannot do those things **AND** be in KAZ. *It's all about choice.* Sometimes we have members who veer onto another path during their time in KAZ, and when that happens, we wish them well and remain their friends, but have to terminate their KAZ membership. Again, *it's all about choice.*

### ***What can I expect to get out of KAZ?***

So many things.

- 1) ***Friendships.*** Lifelong friendships. KAZ members have the opportunity to get to know and hang around students from other high schools. Many will tell you that they developed close friendships with girls and guys that they never would have known if not for KAZ. Not only are those friendships so important and special during high school years, but our KAZ members have gone on to become college roommates, bridesmaids/groomsmen and friends for life. Many have remained the best of friends throughout the years.
- 2) ***A “safe haven” in many ways.*** When the peer pressures are out there tempting teenagers in a variety of ways, it is wonderful to have a group of friends....KAZ sisters and brothers....that share your beliefs, and make you feel comfortable to walk the same, positive path. AND have fun doing it!
- 3) ***Opportunity for Community Service.*** KAZ is well-known throughout the community for our endless years of service to the Central Georgia area. KAZ members benefit greatly from participating in these great projects, and learning that giving really does feel better than receiving. KAZ is a certifying organization for the President’s Volunteer Service Awards, and each year, many KAZ members are awarded one of the 3 levels, along with a medallion, certificate, pin and letter from the President of the United States.
- 4) ***Confidence and Leadership Building.*** Within KAZ, members are encouraged continuously to explore their leadership potential and feel confident in their decisions in life. They are given the chance to serve as Chairpersons for projects and events, as well as the opportunity to hold an Officer position within KAZ.
- 5) ***College Application & Scholarship Assistance.*** While we don’t physically prepare college applications, KAZ members’ college applications have been significantly enhanced by the charity projects and leadership development opportunities received through KAZ. In addition, upon request, our KAZ Head Advisor provides scholarship recommendation letters, as well as letters of recommendation for collegiate sororities.
- 6) ***Loads of Fun.*** With all of the benefits listed above, having FUN is also something you will get out of KAZ. Whether it is a breakfast, a party, or a charity project, YOU WILL HAVE FUN! With this great group of people, it’s just simply impossible not to!

### ***What does KAZ expect from me?***

While members receive all of the benefits mentioned above, we are expecting people to be hard working, excellent role models and representatives, good spirited and compassionate, and willing to adhere to our moral standards. We know that members are extremely busy and we never expect KAZ to be a top priority---we just want and need you to participate as often as you

can. While we meet every Monday (except holidays and summers), and host many socials, participate in numerous civic projects and just hang out and have fun together.....we do not have an attendance policy and we trust that you'll come when you can!

### ***Common terms we use:***

Many of the terms below are also commonly used with college sororities/fraternities (which is where we got them from!)

**"Rush/Rushee"**: "Rush" is the official period of time where KAZ hosts events in order for students to learn about KAZ, and get to know each other. "Rushees" are those students who attend the "Rush" events and are applying to be considered for KAZ membership.

**"Legacy"**: A student whose sister, brother, mother or father was a member of KAZ. Although legacies are strongly considered, please know that it is not a guaranteed invitation into KAZ. We also like to know if an aunt, uncle, or cousin was in KAZ, but a KAZ Legacy are only those whose sister, brother, mother or father were in KAZ.

**"Bid Day"**: The day somewhere after the end of the Rush Week, where formal invitations are delivered to ask students to join the organization.

**"Bid"**: A formal invitation to join KAZ.

**"Pledge"**: Those who have been given a formal invitation to join the organization. A "pledge" period is the time that the new invitees get the opportunity to know a great deal about the organization and this "pledge period" leads into "initiations". You are no longer considered a "pledge" once you are initiated.

**"Initiations"**: The period of time (usually 1 week or spread out over 2 weeks) where Pledges are asked to participate in a variety of fun activities, which lead up to special ceremonies to welcome them into the organization. Please note: KAZ Initiations are not to be confused with the reputation of some college fraternity initiations. All initiation activities, with the exception of the final ceremony, are open to parents and the public. They are positive, fun and legal!

**"Sister/Brother"**: A girl/guy who has met all pledge requirements and has been formally initiated into the organization.

**"Member"**: A common term to describe both "sisters" and "brothers". Those who are initiated sisters and brothers are also considered "members".

### **What are my financial obligations to be a member of KAZ?**

We are very sensitive to the fact that high school students and their families already have many expenses to shoulder. Therefore, it has been a KAZ policy for many years to keep the financial commitment to a minimum. The only item that is required for a KAZ member to purchase is a KAZ jersey to wear once they are initiated (one time cost of \$65.00—deposit of \$40 is due in November). During the course of their membership, we may have small fundraisers but we do not overload our members with fundraisers because we know how busy they are with other fundraisers for school, church and sports activities. Instead of hosting many fundraisers, the members have elected just to primarily pay yearly dues. Yearly dues are payable all at one time at the beginning of the school year for \$85.00. These dues help to pay our meeting facility rental each week, copies for distribution, planning social and civic events, as well as myriad of other expenses to operate the organization.

We will require a one-time Pledge Fee for those who join the organization. The Pledge Fee is \$75.00 and will be due by October 17<sup>th</sup>. This amount includes defraying expenses we incur from KAZ Rush activities as well as a rush t-shirt, pledge t-shirt, pledge notebooks, copies, etc. There are optional items available for purchase during their time in KAZ, such as additional T-shirts. We also offer a “KAZ Kabin Fever” trip for the members each year, but that is also optional.

Here is an overall breakdown of required expenses for the year:

\$ 75.00	New Pledge Fee	-- ONE TIME FEE -Due Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> (this does not include partial or annual dues)
\$ 65.00	Jersey	-- ONE TIME FEE -Deposit of \$40.00 due Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> Balance of \$25 due when jerseys are received
\$ 45.00	Partial Annual Dues	-- ONE TIME FEE - Due January 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pledges only for remainder of 2022-23 school year dues
\$ 85.00	Yearly Dues	--Due annually in August each school year

We are very fortunate to have Advisors, Alumni and parents, who provide generous donations (food, products, services, equipment usage, and time!) to help keep costs down. KAZ members and parents will tell you, it is quite the bargain and a high return for all of the activities and events KAZ provides.

Note: *Our members come from all socio-economic backgrounds and we will work with each member to ensure that KAZ is not a financial burden to them.*

***How is KAZ different from college sororities or fraternities?***



While many college sororities and fraternities DO NOT participate in the behavioral stereotypes that some think of when referring to a college sorority/fraternity, it is important to us that people understand what our policies and rules are and how they differentiate from college sororities and fraternities. Please refer to the section on “KAZ Standards” for further explanation. We do embrace some similarities (sisterhood, friendships, brotherhood, service projects, formal initiations) and many of our members go on to participate in college sororities/fraternities and have found their KAZ experience very useful in their college Greek recruitment process and membership experience.

### ***How do you get into KAZ?***

This is a commonly asked question. The simple response is that there is not a magic formula, nor a secret strategy. The best answer is for you to get to know as many KAZ members as possible and express a sincere and enthusiastic interest in KAZ. Each year, we wish we could give everyone an invitation to join, but unfortunately, we cannot. We have to keep limits on our size, due to meeting space and event logistics, but also because we want to ensure that our members actually know each other and have the opportunity to become close friends.

“Legacies” (defined on another page) are given strong consideration, but we must emphasize to EVERYONE that KAZ has never promised a bid to anyone. No KAZ member, Alumni or Advisor can or will do that.

### ***What are the next steps?***

After reading this material and for most of you, attending recent KAZ events, the next step is to fill out the KAZ Rush Application and return it on the dates listed in the Rush Application information. You will then receive an invitation to participate in “KAZ Rush.” At the end of “KAZ Rush”, you will let KAZ know if you are interested in becoming a member (at an event known as the “Preference Party”), and then KAZ will complete a selection process and distribute the “bids” (invitation to join) on “Bid Day.”

If you have any questions (students or parents), please feel free to email us at the address below. We also encourage you to check us out and “like” us on Facebook, “follow” us on Instagram, or view our website at [www.kazsorority.org](http://www.kazsorority.org).



### ***What do Community Leaders, KAZ Parents and Alumni say about KAZ?***

"Yes, we had great fun and fellowship, but KAZ, at its core, is about service and community---so very grateful for the experience and the friendships forged along the way."

Rep. Shaw Blackmon  
KAZ Alumni  
State Representative, Georgia House of Representatives

"We simply could not have done so much for MDA without KAZ. They have supported us year-round and the work they do for the community is tremendous. We are grateful for their support for the past 20+ years".

Chief Robert Singletary,  
Former Fire Department Chief Warner Robins Fire Department

"KAZ has been involved with the Christmas for Kids project since the very beginning (30 years). They are so hard working and delightful to be around. It is wonderful to see their enthusiasm each year as they purchase gifts for the kids and families in need. They are such a great addition to the community."

Martha Ard, Coordinator  
Christmas for Kids Project

"I don't think you could really totally measure the impact KAZ has had on so many lives. It is an incredible experience and I am so glad my children were members. It makes me happy to be involved and continue to help out. "

LaNell Waller  
Retired Teacher, Feagin Mill Middle School  
3 children – all members of KAZ

"KAZ is a great organization! My girls thoroughly enjoyed the many different activities that KAZ has to offer. The community service opportunities are FUN; there's never any complaining about KAZ projects! How often do you find teenagers volunteering without whining? The fellowship among students from three different high schools is amazing~~ cross town rivalry is left at the door. The great friendships that they have made through KAZ will last forever. KAZ...what an awesome experience!"

Debbie Crenshaw  
Retired Teacher, Houston County School System  
2 daughters – members of KAZ

"It really is amazing how this group sticks together and supports each other. They don't mind taking the heat for being strong in their standards, especially since all of these great people have made the same pledge about high morals and standards. Knowing I had these great role models and loyal peers made my high school years even better. I will always be proud and grateful to be a KAZ girl."

Kelsey Grubbs  
KAZ Member 2004-06  
GA Southern University, Homecoming Queen  
& HCHS Homecoming Queen, Owner, State Farm Franchise

"There is but one KAZ! I was a quiet, shy high school freshman girl, but the self-confidence I developed through KAZ was life-changing for me. No one, including myself, would have expected so much change that I would become KAZ President! Some of my greatest friendships today were created through KAZ. I'm so proud to say I'm a KAZ Alumni"!

Amber Shaw Lamb  
KAZ President 1997  
Elementary School Teacher in Cumming, GA

"High school can be a difficult time for many. KAZ is one of the best things I did during that time in my life. 20 years later some of my dearest friends in life are my KAZ sisters. I was proud to be a member then, and I'm even more proud to be a KAZ alumni now. "

Erica Brown  
KAZ Member, 1999-2000  
Walt Disney Co/ABC Network  
Former Digital Media Manager, *Greys Anatomy*, *The Bachelor*