THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED

MASSIVE PROGRESSIVE

12TH DISTRICT NEWS LETTER

We Celebrate 42nd Grand Basileus
BROTHER RICKY L. LEWIS
& FAMILY

THE FIRST BROTHER
MADE IN THE 12TH DISTRICT
TO SERVE AS GRAND BASILEUS
Greetings My Brothers,

Another Fraternal year is coming to a close and once again the work you and your Chapters are doing to uplift our communities is front and center. Let me say it, “thank you my Brothers!” While sometimes the work we do may seem thankless know that it isn’t and my you are making a difference!

It is a great time in Omega but it’s an even greater time in the Massive and Progressive Twelfth District. The newly elected Grand Basileus, Omega’s 42nd Brother Ricky Lewis resides in the 12th District. At the Charlotte Grand Conclave Brother Lewis was unanimously elected. This is certainly a result of the hard work that Brother Grand has been putting in for the last 4 years but it is also because of each of you. This only happens because you shared your personal experiences, stories, and work that you have either done with or witnessed Brother Lewis doing which validated the work that all Omega Men across the world have seen Brother Grand executing in his role as 1st Vice Grand Basileus for the past 4 years. You all made sure Brothers understood that’s it’s not an anomaly that just started, it’s who he is and it’s real!

Omega is in great hands with our 42nd Grand Basileus and we are all excited to be part of taking her to new heights.

1621 financial Brothers in the Massive and Progressive 12th District. Never in the history of our District have we ever been so large. This growth is a testament to each of you and the work that is being done. My Friends we are well on our way to 2000 financial Brothers in the 12th. This is not about a number it’s about the work that number allows us to do. It’s a multiplier it allows us to do more mentoring, voter outreach, scholarships and so much more. My Brothers I am asking you to help us get there. Brother Taurus Richardson and the Reclamation and Retention Committee is working hard to get us there. The Brothers have launched a survey to get to the heart of what is keeping our Friends away. Please make sure you send the survey to our Friends who have been away.
We are now 47 active Chapters strong 39 graduate, 8 undergraduate with the chartering of Rho Nu Nu, Chula Vista CA established 7/21/22 with Charter Members Brothers Keith Ellison, John McKay, Athanison Monroe, Kevin George, Terry Brooks, Orlando Hooks, Michael Andrews, Karlos Steele, Raffeal Woods, Lawrence Trapp, Eric Johnson, Christopher Williams, Fred Willis Jr. Delta Jackson and Kamal Johnson. We have also reactivated two undergraduate chapters Alpha Epsilon and Xi Mu Chapters.

As we make our way into the fall and the election season we are once again encouraging members of our community to register and vote with our 2022 GOTV (Get Out The Vote) Campaign. Voting rights are the most important thing to our country if we lose the vote nothing else matters as we will not be able to implement the agendas, we have to benefit those who need it most. Go Vote!

It was great seeing you all in Portland for our Fall Council Meeting hosted by the Brothers of Zeta Nu Chapter on October 7th and 8th on the campus of Portland St. University! I want to thank Brother Basileus Jerry Jackson and all of the Brothers of Zeta Nu for being outstanding hosts.

Let’s carry the great energy of the 2021/22 Fraternal year into the 2022/23 Fraternal year. Thank you for the taking a moment to read the Massive & Progressive Twelfth District Newsletter.

Long live the Massive and Progressive 12th District and long live the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.!

Go vote!
In Friendship,

Brother Kwame Dow
34th Twelfth District Representative
The Massive & Progressive 12th District
@12thDistrictRep
My Brothers of the Massive and Progressive 12th District,

Thank you for your continued support of the Massive and Progressive Newsletter. The number of submissions continues to grow and the work the brothers are doing is being highlighted for the brotherhood and community to see.

Our presence on social media (@opp12thD on Instagram and Twitter, Facebook.com/opp12thd) continues to grow due to the support of the brotherhood. Please continue to share your news, events with District accounts so we can share the work the brothers are doing across the District.

Also, don’t forget to subscribe to 12thDTV on YouTube, where you can find a collection of videos with messages from 34th 12th District Representative Brother Kwame Dow, our Get Out To Vote campaign and more. It’s a great way to share what the District is doing, too.

So thank you to all the chapter reporters who make it possible to produce the newsletter. This is the third installment in the last 12 months with a fourth edition coming before the end of 2022. You can find the previous editions on www.oppf12d.org.

It is an honor to serve the brothers of the 12th District. Thank you for your support across all our platforms and I look forward to connecting with the brotherhood even more to share the good work that we do. Continue to send your submissions to 12thDPR@gmail.com as you have events and projects so the fraternity and the world can see why the 12th District is truly Massive and Progressive.
In Service,

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Ricky Lewis Elected 42nd Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

By Brother Jason Jones
Theta Pi Chapter

History was made July 23, 2003 at the 83rd Grand Conclave when Brother Ricky Lewis was elected Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Brother Lewis became the first Grand Basileus initiated in the 12th District (Nu Mu Chapter, University of the Pacific, 1981) and just the second Grand
Basileus to serve from the 12th District. Brother Lewis joins 32nd Grand Basileus Brother Dr. L. Benjamin Livingston (1982-84) in holding that honor. Making the moment more historic was Brother Lewis was elected with one unanimous ballot cast. With Brother Lewis running unopposed, 12th District Representative Brother Kwame Dow made the motion to cast one unanimous ballot to elect Brother Lewis to the highest leadership position in the fraternity. Upon his election, the delegates from the 12th District rose to their feet in approval to celebrate the historic moment.

It wasn’t just a time for celebration for the delegates. Many brothers traveled from the 12th District to be a part of history. Many were in the room later that night when Brother Lewis stopped by the 12th District caucus to thank the brothers for their support during his campaign.

Brother Lewis has been busy since his election, traveling the country in the name of Omega with the work ethic that has endeared him to the brothers not just in the 12th District, but across Omega Psi Phi and the Divine Nine.

Sigma Iota Iota Chapter Celebrates 30 Years of Service

By Brother Robert Salone
Sigma Iota Iota Chapter

Sigma Iota Iota Chapter celebrated 30 years since the chapter was chartered on August 7, 1992, in Barstow, California. The vision for the chapter began on the base of Fort Irwin National Training Center in 1990, when a small group of men with like attainment, committed themselves to the cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. The Sigma Iota Iota Chapter was the creation of founding members Randy Charleston (Upsilon Theta 1980), Leroy Jones (Gamma Epsilon 1977), Larry Day (Beta Theta 1973) and Stuart Young (Tau 1988).

In Omega’s history there have been many chapters to celebrate 30 years since founding and many are now getting ready to celebrate their centennial celebrations. What made this particular 30 year celebration so special, was the attendance of the 42nd Grand Basileus of the Fraternity, Brother Ricky Lewis. In fact,
this was Brother Grand Ricky Lewis’ first public appearance as the newly appointed Grand Basileus of the Fraternity. The 12th District truly made history this night and all who attended enjoyed the celebration filled with laughter and friendship. The event was by no means centered around the 12th District, and Omega with her cardinal principles and motto, were on full display. Two of the founding members were in attendance. Brother Charleston, who traveled from Florida and is a current member of Chi Tau, and Brother Jones who traveled from Anchorage, Alaska, and is a current member of Gamma Alpha Alpha.

Friendship is essential to the soul and during the Grand Conclave in Charlotte, current Basileus of Sigma Iota Iota, Robert Salone, who initiated through Sigma Iota Iota in 2010, met a fellow Alabama State alum, Brother Walter Benson Thomas, initiated through Gamma Sigma 1961, and is a current member of Delta Pi. Brother Thomas was at the Grand Conclave to handle the business of Omega and also to receive his 60 year service pin. While fellowshipping together, it was communicated to Brother Thomas that Brother Grand Lewis would be making his first appearance as the Grand Basileus in which Brother Thomas replied, “I would like very much to attend the event”. Preparations were then made for Brother Thomas (who flew in from Texas) to be with the Brotherhood.

Sigma Iota Iota had two members on its charter line in 1993: Brother John Ward and Brother Greg Barnette, who had not physically seen each other in almost 25 years but who were reunited for the weekend festivities. The 12th District Representative Brother Kwame Dow initiated at Beta Chapter in 1993, greeted the chapter with a video message to start the night. DR Dow was physically unable to because he was busy working for Omega in Anchorage, preparing for the next 12th District meeting. His line Brother Lamar Thompson, owner of Creative CNC Carvings, was also hard at work preparing custom wood carvings as gifts to be given during the celebration. Brother Grand Lewis was presented with a gift from the chapter, courtesy of CNC Carvings, as well as Brother Moses Primus, initiated Lambda Epsilon 1967, who celebrated 55 years of service to the Fraternity.

Brother Grand Lewis gave a stirring keynote speech to the Brotherhood and guests about the need to mentor our young Black Boys and Girls. He stressed how important it was for the Brotherhood to maintain mental health, check on our fellow Brothers, and reach out and reclaim someone who is inactive as Omega needs “all hands on deck”. He promised to keep Omega at the forefront of Social Change by continuing the Next Level leadership, spawned by Immediate Past Grand, Dr. David Marion.

The night concluded with a comedy show hosted by Omega's own Dannon Green, initiated Phi Beta Beta 2016, who kept Brother Grand Lewis and First Lady of Omega, Vicky Lewis along with everyone else, rolling with laughter. Brothers and guests who attended Sigma Iota Iota 30th Anniversary came from near and far to celebrate, and the Chapter could not be more proud to be a part of Omega Psi Phi Inc. Thank
you to all who attended the event, sent a video message, gave a donation in support, or contributed to make the event a night to remember!

Coldplay and H.E.R. on World Tour Which Includes More Than Music: Feeding the Hungry!
By Brother D. L. White
Phi Iota Chapter

British rock band Coldplay, along with R&B sensation H.E.R (Gabriella Sarmento Wilson), are on a world tour with scheduled stops across America, Germany, Poland, France the UK, Belgium, Peru and Argentina (to list a few sites) and they are leaving fans musically satisfied. The tour came to Phoenix in late April and those inclined to follow the group and the artist enjoyed an evening of hits and popular sounds from both. Two days prior, hundreds of families in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area enjoyed and were thankful for a generous food box assembled by volunteers, brought together for the common good.

A very viable and valuable effort goes on behind the scenes in each tour City which also “rocks,” and it has nothing to do with the magic of Coldplay and H.E.R’s music, although both have chart climbing hits. During each tour stop Brother Don Muhammad and his team of Lovebutton (the Charitable arm of Coldplay), reach out to local organizations to either implement a food distribution or, work closely with an established distributor to ensure the increasing number of hungry are fed. “There is no question inflation is hitting so many families harder with increases in rent, gas and food prices. Some of the federal programs in place during the Covid pandemic are ending,” Muhammad said. “St. Mary’s, the first food bank in Arizona (established in 1967), is seeing an increase in the number of families coming to the food bank, and equally important, distribution through the resources of agency partners and those able to make it to the location is making a positive difference,” noted a Food Bank Coordinator on site to welcome Lovebutton, members of Phi Iota, the Phoenix graduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and others donating their time for a notable cause. “I approached Coldplay and those involved with the band and
proposed an initiative of feeding the poor and hungry on each and every stop,” recalled Muhammad adding, “especially in Black and Brown communities often hit much harder during a crisis”.

“The outpouring of volunteers and those willing and wanting to assist has been nothing short of outstanding,” added Bro. Muhammad. “Arizona is leaps and bounds ahead of some states on the tour stop. Here (Arizona), you have established food banks in those places where we don’t want to inundate those already working so, we call upon the community to join us for a few hours,” Muhammad said.

In Phoenix a day before the scheduled concert, Bro. Muhammad reached out to his fraternity brothers and anyone else he could contact. “It is often short notice, so we are extremely appreciative of those that come out and assist us with our distribution,” noted Muhammad, a graduate of South Carolina State University. Brothers were happy to help. “I rearranged my schedule so I could come out and support my fraternity and chapter Brother,” noted Warren Dickey, who also is a graduate of South Carolina State University.

Helping with the cause provided a welcome break from the workday, too. “I don’t get a lot of opportunity to leave the farm (ASU) during mid-day, but I felt this was a notable and noteworthy cause,” shared Brother Dr. Terry Alford, who works with graduate research students in the sciences. It was also an opportunity to learn more about how other organizations serve the community. “I was interested in coming out to see how the process operates on this end, as we (Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church) is one of the community distribution sites that receive shipments on the fourth (4th) Saturday of each month at the Church which is located at 1401 E. Jefferson,” said Brother Lee Topps, a member of Phi Iota and a coordinator for the PRBC distribution. It was also a chance to build bridges and help more in the area. “We are open and willing to partner with organizations for the betterment of the community,” said Phi Iota Social Action Chairman, Thomas Perry.
In 1967, the Food Bank was established on S. Central Avenue in Phoenix. In 1979, the St. Mary’s Food Bank distributed over two million pounds of food through (35) distribution agencies. The St. Mary’s Food Bank serves to alleviate hunger through the gathering and distribution of food, while encouraging self-efficiency, collaboration, advocacy and education.

**The 77th 12th District Meeting Recap**  
By Brother Eric Warren  
Kappa Xi Chapter

The Massive Progressive 12th District held our 77th District meeting May 12-15, 2022, hosted by Kappa Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi in Las Vegas, Nevada. The assembly was one of the largest gatherings to date, demonstrated by well over 470 registered members in attendance. The meeting was held at the Westgate Hotel where Grand Basileus, Brother Dr. David Marion and First Vice Grand Basileus Brother...
Ricky Lewis were in attendance. The leadership of the 12th District was led by 34th 12th District Representative, Brother Kwame Dow.

The visionary of this year’s district meeting was District Marshal Brother Damon Hodge whose leadership made this innovative meeting successful. The Undergraduate Initiative “Lifting as They Climb,” was included in this year’s meeting. This was a way of mentoring the undergraduates in academics and the general challenges of life as a college student and fraternity brother. This was designed to help aid in the reclamation and retention of brothers that may be graduating to function as a conduit into the local graduate chapters in their area. The introduction of the Omega Training Camp lead by Brother Jaleel Rodgers, was incorporated as part of the health initiative to get members to exercise and be active during the district meeting. Attendees also learned “hops” as well as walking or jogging. Over a dozen members attended the workouts each day. Another innovation of District Marshal, Brother Hodge’s, was the “Band of Bruhs” which were a group of brothers together playing music for the brothers in attendance. The Brothers displayed phenomenal talent performing various genres of music. This innovation is something that will continue to grow in the 12th district for many years to come.

The Youth Leadership Conference held at Chaparral High School where the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program was the primary focus. This conference was designed to bolster the interest of the students that are considering a degree in STEM and pique the interest of high school students to consider majoring in any of the STEM disciplines. The University of Nevada Las Vegas as well as local businesses were present to speak with students regarding admissions and internship opportunities for the Fall 2022 semester. The student body were tasked with building drones as part of their program. The emphasis was on teamwork and being able to take instruction. After the release of the drones, the students had lunch and participated in short lectures in time management and study skills presented by the brothers of Omega Psi Phi.

The district meeting was capped off with the 12th District March Down. The boisterous crowd were treated to a step show that was absolute fire. Groups throughout the district gave spectacular performances that had the Bruhs jumping out their seats. After the smoke cleared the brothers of Kappa Xi Chapter, Las Vegas were declared the winners. The group consisted of Brother Trenton Quinn, Brother
Jaleel Rodgers, Brother Henry Jackson, Brother Jonathan Irvin, Brother Talmadge (TC) Carson and Brother Courtney Moore. The brothers not only hopped but sang to give a well-rounded performance leaving no doubt that the Kappa Xi Ques deserved the title.

Overall, the 77th 12th District Meeting was a success. On behalf of the District Marshal, Brother Damon Hodge and the brothers of Kappa Xi Chapter, we would like to thank everyone that participated in the district meeting. Without brothers registering and attending the meeting, it would not have been successful. Much gratitude is extended to the Supreme Council Representatives and the 12th District Representatives for your guidance, leadership, presence, and support during this time. Thanks to all the participants of the March Down. The District Marshal and the Executive Board would be remiss if we did not give a special shout OWT to the members of Kappa Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, for your hard work in all areas of need before, during and after the district meeting. Your efforts were appreciated and did not go unnoticed.

*The Kingpin Ques Juneteenth Voter Registration Drive*

By Brother Karl Harris
Sigma Iota Chapter

On June 19th of this year, Sigma Iota Chapter’s Voter Registration and Education Committee (VREC), held its first major voter registration drive at the City of Berkeley’s 35th annual Juneteenth festival.

The significance and celebration of Juneteenth carries a lot of weight for African Americans: celebrating our emancipation from chattel slavery, but never forgetting the nightmare of slavery; celebrating the journey of our ancestors, and of our resilience as a people for what we have had to overcome as a result of the systemic legacy of slavery and in spite of the obstacles that were placed before us; celebrating our unique culture, made in America, but rich with our African heritage; celebrating the contributions we have made to the fabric of America, notwithstanding our humble beginnings, and finally a re-commitment to the fight for equal justice under the law for Black Americans.

The VREC had a booth at the event and was staffed by several tried and true Brothers of Omega who were tasked with reaching out to the Juneteenth event participants, determining if they were registered voters of Alameda County, and if not, assisting them with their registration using county-supplied voter registration applications.
Community and Civic Engagement: Post 83rd Grand Conclave

By Brother George D. Taylor, EdD

Zeta Tau Chapter
I’d like to share a personal experience about my trip to the 83rd Grand Conclave in Charlotte. First a disclaimer: I've never attended a Grand Conclave before on the East Coast even though I was inducted into the fraternity near the East Coast, Lambda Epsilon. In fact, the last Grand Conclave I attended in person was 2018 in New Orleans.

On Monday, July 25, 2022, my daughter and I left the Hotel where we were staying and had lunch at Eddie's On The Lake, Seafood Restaurant (near Lake Norman). Two things happened that caught my attention; one, a group of ladies of Charlotte came in and took seats at their table, which was diagonally across from ours - and did they chatter!!

As my daughter and I finished our meal (fish and chips, crabcake, calamari and oysters) and began making our way out of the restaurant, two other couples had entered the restaurant and were seated at a table next to the "ladies" table.

I was of course dressed in the Que garb (purple cap and purple polo shirt). When we passed by the two couples table on our way out of the restaurant, one of the gentlemen smiled and the other one initiated a conversation. After we had chatted for a while, I told them a little about the fraternity’s emphasis on fatherhood and mentoring and about some of the other programs we support, such as social action, GOTV, health and wellness, talent hunt, saving our young Black boys from the school-to-prison pipeline and other community-based programs. After the chat and as my daughter and I turned to leave, that is when the other gentleman said, "Thank you for what you all are doing in the community.” They all nodded in agreement.

The next day, my daughter and I headed out of Charlotte on our way to the Virginia and DC area. I have friends there. During our trip, we decided to stop off at the nearest Waffle House for a late morning breakfast. We had big breakfasts and were cared for by Cathy. She was nice and took good care of us. It was apparent to me that she was the head honcho of the place. Again, I was wearing my Omega garb, she recognized it and said some amazing things, such as, “Y’all take care and we'll be waiting on the rest of them to come through here. They (meaning the bros and their families) always do.”

Again, having never attended a Grand Conclave before or any large Omega event on the East Coast, except maybe the CBCF Omega panel, I have reflected on those two moments. I surmise with humility:
We are not alone and there are people who know us and who are depending on us to do good for the community and for our youth! Let us continue and not let them down!

**Northern California Mentoring Camping Trip**
By Brother Jeffrey Douglas, Jr.
Epsilon Xi Chapter

The Brothers of Epsilon Xi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., participated in the Annual Northern California Mentoring Camping Trip August 12-14, 2022, at Anthony Chabot Camping Park in Castro Valley, California. Other participating chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. were Theta Pi, Delta Iota Iota, and Sigma Iota. The Annual Northern California Mentoring Camping Trip is a kick-off of the chapters’ yearly Omega Gentlemen “GENTS” Programs in Vallejo, Tracy, Modesto, Stockton, Oakland, and Sacramento, Calif. The mentoring weekend is focused on inner-city African-American males throughout Northern California. The program was guided by a schedule of activities geared toward building confidence, and having fun with other youth, in a positive environment. This inspiring group of youth, ages 10–18, learned to be assertive, take initiative, and work as a team, while developing trust and a sense of loyalty as peers. Omega is here to support the young men through our program philosophy of, “Brotherhood, Empowerment, Academics, and Determination equals Success.”

The setting of the Mentoring Camping Trip provided an opportunity for the youth to build trust and realize their potential as young men. Not every young man begins at the same stage, but with guidance, they all have the ability to make a positive impact on society. The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Northern California Chapters continue to deliver unique mentoring initiatives that help tap into young Black men annually and bring about a change in their lives.

The weekend was set to support and positively impact the lives of tomorrow’s leaders today through group activities and opportunities to share experiences. The youth were encouraged to cover numerous thought provoking topics, in large and small group settings. The topics covered, but were not limited to, the following:
Skill-Related: The young men were able to share with the group their personal skills and how they can apply them to academics and future career paths. The young men were asked to discuss their three best skills, areas where they could improve, and what skills were the most beneficial for their current place in life.

Workforce Pathways: The mentors presented workforce activities that focused on helping expand the youth’s resources in the area of job training education. The presentation included soft-skill development, career exploration, job readiness and summer job opportunities.

Situational Advice: The purpose of conducting this activity for the young men was to get a better understanding of the factors that will affect their ability to adapt to the many different situations they may encounter in a fast-paced society. The results of the situational analysis provided insight as to how the young men should move forward for a positive outcome/result when making decisions. The mentors also worked with the young men by engaging their minds before their hands, by considering the task they face and envisioning the desired outcome.

Career Path: The group activity consisted of the young men writing down four industries they envisioned as a potential career goal.

Leadership: As a leader, you’re never going to get away from the need to connect with others to create meaningful work. This is why we brought in some of the best minds in building connections, with a focus on strategies that build trust and community, showing the group the importance of teamwork. We’ve learned that building culture is one of the most important skills needed for leaders today. Building culture became a consistent theme amongst our mentors. For this theme, our mentors had conversations about trust, relationships, servant leadership, navigating disruptions, and building bridges. Additionally, the youth were asked to discuss long- and short-term goals. The short-term goals were centered around being responsible in school, being a leader by example to peers, and formulating a timeline for high school graduation. For the long-term goals, the focus was on attending college, areas of study and formulating a plan for post graduate career or education.

Overall, the weekend provided a safe and positive environment for the 26 young men, who participated, to actively work in group discussions with an emphasis on self-improvement and growth. The young men were able to discuss a variety of topics that provided opportunities for them to expand their thought base and share ideas. Additionally, they were able to enjoy good food, engage in fun activities, make new friends, and become more confident in themselves and with their future goals.

Fatherhood and Mentoring: A Mandated Program of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., 83rd Grand Conclave
By Brother George D. Taylor, EdD
Zeta Tau Chapter
By an overwhelming majority of the membership of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., its Grand Conclave enthusiastically approved the recommendation to make Fatherhood and Mentoring a Mandated program. In a written statement, Brother S. Earl Wilson, Chairman of the International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee, thanked the brotherhood and the committee for the rousing endorsement of its work.

Brother Wilson wrote about this important, significant and major Conclave vote: “This historical vote of confidence acknowledged that the brotherhood/chapters/districts and fraternity are committed to executing and implementing FM activities in their annual programs. We can be proud of this achievement!” Further, he said, “Now, it is time for us to continue our hard work and commitment to making our fraternity, nation and world better through FMC activities.”

So, what does this new mandate mean for the fraternity and its membership? In an article for the January 1, 2022 edition of the FIMC Newsletter, Brother Wilson wrote: “The Fraternity is strategically positioned and uniquely prepared to continue our partnerships with others (community organizations, public agencies, school districts, corporate, governmental, civic, and private entities), who share the same values in a direct and expanded way. Our annual Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring’s Congressional Black Caucus Forum, enhances the fraternity’s brand and expands its political, social, economic, and public outreach capacity.”

Moving Fatherhood and Mentoring to a Mandated Program allows for increased attention, focus, and funding (AFF).

Brother Wilson explained:

- Fatherhood and mentoring are embedded in the fraternity’s DNA. The fraternity was born by examples of the work of fathers and mentors. A faculty member who, older and wiser, and one of the world’s most prodigious science thought leaders of the time, was our first example as he advised and mentored three scholarly undergraduates. These students and their mentor envisioned bringing about an organization consisting of men of like minds, that would always matter to Black Americans and the greater society.
- In 2020, U. S. Census data revealed there are 4.25 million single Black mothers who are head of household – an increase from 1990 levels, when there were about 3.4 million Black
families with a single mother as head of household and single Black fathers in 2020, totaled 1.23 million.

- As we teach and work externally with the community of fathers, men, and boys, we also, work with and mentor Omega men, those who are young as well as the more mature.
- Learning is lifelong and we learn to be better fathers, men and boys in reverence to our cardinal principal – Manhood. All parties – Fraternity and community – benefit from our efforts.
- Indeed, now is the time to renew and resurge our efforts to cement this relationship to our communities and working with Brother Ricky L. Lewis, the 42\textsuperscript{nd} Grand Basileus.

\textit{Announcing the Birth of Rho Nu Nu Chapter (The South Bay Ques)}

By Brother Orlando T. Hooks
Rho Nu Nu Chapter

On July 21, 2022, Brother 12\textsuperscript{th} DR, Kwame Dow, announced the charter approval for the newest chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Rho Nu Nu Chapter. This Instagram announcement was met with applause and joy by the brothers whose names appeared on the post and others.
The Rho Nu Nu Chapter held its first official chapter meeting on Sunday, August 21, 2022, one month after the charter approval announcement. The Rho Nu Nu Chapter Charter Basileus, Brother Rev. Keith Ellison opened the meeting with an impassioned plea to the Rho Nu Nu chapter brothers in attendance at the hybrid meeting. Too profound and impactful to merely summarize, his remarks are captured in full below:
The following Saturday, August 27, 2022 Rho Nu Nu Chapter brothers were out supporting the Xi Gamma Gamma Chapter, Oceanside, California in their collaboration with the Omega Community Charity Foundation, by attending their inaugural All White Garden Party. Brother Dennis R. Martinez, Immediate Past 12th DR and President of the Omega Community Charity Foundation, Inc., said of their 501(C)(3) organization’s inaugural event, “This event is our major fundraiser for our scholarships and community service events through the coming year,” said Brother Martinez.

Rho Nu Nu Chapter is planning a formal charter celebration, tentatively scheduled for October 21-23, 2022. Stay tuned and… stay righteous!

*Phoenix Ques Team with Red Cross for “Gift of Life!”*

By Brother D.L. White

Phi Iota Chapter

The brothers, Phi Iota and Xi Nu Nu, Phoenix area graduate chapters, rolled up their sleeves recently to host their quarterly Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood drive at the Cesar Chavez Library and Community Center, located at 37th Ave & Baseline, in Phoenix. The cumulative units donated benefitted hundreds of individuals across the state in need of whole blood and or any of the derivatives from a unit of blood.
During the summer months, blood is often needed at greater rates than at any other time during the year, as regular donors go on vacation and supplies become quite limited.

"Blood is always needed, and more so during the summer as blood supplies often run low. If we can have those individuals come in and donate that are O negative, that helps as that particular blood type can be used by any blood type", said Blood drive Coordinator April Sykes.

The quarterly drive is held in honor of Brother Dr. Charles R Drew, a dear member of the Fraternity, who is regarded as the Father of Blood Banks and who is known for having discovered the process to preserve whole blood and its many derivatives, including blood plasma in the 1930s. The drives held in conjunction with the Red Cross, are held at various venues across the greater metropolitan Phoenix area.

"I want to thank the brotherhood and everyone else for coming out and donating today. Blood of all types is always appreciated and needed and especially during the summer," said Thomas Perry, Phi Iota’s Social Action Chairperson, and Blood Drive Coordinator. "I'm especially grateful to the Brothers from Xi Nu Nu, for supporting this effort," Perry said as the chapter Basileus (presidents) of XNN and Phi Iota, Terry Williams and Jeff Birthright, looked on.

"It's been a good start to the day and weekend," said Birthright, noting hours earlier both chapters took part in Service Saturday, Project Humanities Homeless Outreach. "Service is what we (Omegas) do and why I became an Omega," said Williams, adding "I saw early how Omega's contributed to the community when I was growing up. I always knew I would one day become an Omega."

Writers note: All Americans and people/nations around the world owe a great deal to Dr. Drew and his life-saving work! Another Critical Race Achievement. No theory here. All facts! To learn how you can donate and locate a Blood Drive near you, go to https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767)
Pi Rho Partners with the Center For Youth and Community Development For Blood Dive

By Brother Ken Morris
Pi Rho Chapter

The Pi Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., recently held a blood drive at the Center for Youth and Community Development. The event was held in San Bernardino, where Pi Rho is domiciled. The
men of Pi Rho, as well as the Center, wanted to bring awareness to the need for blood donations, especially in the surrounding African American and Latino communities. The men and members of the community came together to make the blood drive a success.

LifeStream Blood Bank was in charge of collecting the donated blood. LifeStream Blood Bank has served the Inland Empire and surrounding areas, since 1951, providing life-saving blood products and services to more than 80 Southern California hospitals and medical facilities. As a non-profit organization, LifeStream relies upon the public generosity of more than 500 blood donations daily.

The Nurse Pub, a non-profit organization composed of nurses and students, studying towards careers in the medical field, provided free COVID tests. The Center for Youth and Community Development provided free backpacks and gave away furniture, when a blood donation was given, or a COVID test was taken. The brothers of Pi Rho also used this opportunity to host a Voter Registration Drive. Information and applications were used for the surrounding counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange. Chapter brother, Damon Alexander, a Councilman for the city of San Bernardino, was a major sponsor for this event. He provided breakfast and lunch for those in attendance.

Pi Rho Chapter was chartered in 1964, and primarily serves the Riverside and San Bernardino County areas of Southern California, also known as the Inland Empire.

*Desert Ques Host Charles C. Peevy History Workshop*

By Brother Patrick Cannon

Phi Iota Chapter
The Charles C. Peevy History Workshop was held at Arizona State University on Saturday, August 27, 2022 and hosted by the Desert Ques from the Land of the Burning Sands (Phi Iota and Alpha Theta Chapters). History committee chairman Dr. Brother Carl Blunt (34th First Vice Grand Basileus, 23rd and 25th 12th District Representative) secured the International History & Archives Committee presenters which included Special Guest Presenters Brother Jonathan Matthews (7-Alpha-Spr ’83), David Carl (1-Gamma-Spr ’93), and Alfonso Morrell (1-BAA-Spr ’08). This committee touched on a variety of important topics which included “Know the difference” between made up information, bka “Betty Crocker,” Omega folklore and fraternity rituals and history.

Brother Peevy was a proud and prominent member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He was initiated into the Fraternity, September 3, 1966, through Xi Omega Chapter in Tulsa, OK and served unselfishly for over 50 years, most recently through Phi Iota Chapter in Phoenix. Brother Peevy held nearly every executive board position within the fraternity in both the 10th and 12th Districts and has been the recipient of numerous fraternal awards at the chapter, district and international levels.

He was affectionately known by many as the “Founder” for his efforts in the chartering of Epsilon Theta (1969) and Gamma Gamma Gamma (1984m Madison, Wisc.). He served as the 29th District Representative for the Fraternity’s 12th District. He was our friend! He entered Omega Chapter in 2019.
Tau Tau’s 16th Annual Charles Drew Blood Drive and Health Fair
By Brother Nikiah Hawkins
Tau Tau Chapter
On June 25, 2022, the brothers of Tau Tau chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in conjunction with Cedars- Sinai Hospital, held its “16th Annual Charles Drew Blood Drive and Health Fair”. The event took place at the Black owned Grocery Outlet in the City of Compton. With the help of partnering vendors, Tau Tau brought to the Compton community free healthcare seminars, screenings (including prostate exams, blood pressure checks, and cholesterol levels), products and service awareness, blood mobile, COVID testing, networking opportunities, giveaways, music and snacks and entertainment for the children.

There is always a need for blood donations. But roughly only about three percent of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. As a result of the efforts of the brothers of Tau Tau, 38 life-saving units were collected during the event. This event and the collection of donated blood was very impactful because the 38 units collected can be used to support three heart surgeries, one heart transplant, and one bilateral lung transplant.

In addition to raising awareness of the importance of donating blood, the members of Tau Tau participated and coordinated activities that promote good health practices. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in American men. At the health fair, members of the community were given information regarding prostate health and offered free screenings. Attendees were also provided the opportunity to have their cholesterol levels measured and offered some tips for lowering cholesterol and cardiovascular risk such as focusing on eating at least five servings of fruits and vegetables daily and making 30 minutes of exercise, a daily routine.
As students prepare for the upcoming school year, the men of Omega wanted to show their affinity for scholarship on an International scale by coordinating a backpack drive supporting The Queen Street Baptist Church and School. Located in Belize City, Belize, the Queen Street Baptist Church is the second oldest church in Belize and was established in 1822. The church once served as a place of worship for
many slaves in the community. It is recorded that on the eve of August 1, 1838, the slaves gathered in great portion at the church to pray and celebrate the emancipation of slavery in the then British colony.

Due to the magnitude of this global endeavor, multiple partnerships were forged. The brothers of Alpha Theta (Phoenix, Arizona) and Delta Iota Iota (Stockton, California) Chapters coordinated with Road Warrior Logistics, Inc., and Cleft of the Rock Church in San Antonio, Texas. Both chapters, along with Cleft of the Rock Church, organized donation drives to collect backpacks and school supplies for stuffing each backpack. Overall, this project was an effort to collect, ship, and distribute 106 backpacks, with school supplies to the QSBS. At the close of the donation drive, the backpacks were delivered to a freight company in Houston, and transported to the Belize Diaspora office in Miami, FL, for shipment to Belize.

Built as a two-story building, the Queen Street Baptist Church had an upper floor which served as the chapel. The bottom floor would eventually be used as a school in order to assist with educating the community. The QSBS started instruction in 1828. In 1869, Reverend Robert Cleghorn, arrived in Belize from Scotland, UK, and is credited with taking charge of the school and making great strides in the school’s continued development. This year, 2022, commemorates 200 years of service to the Belizean community. In the early 1990’s, a two-story addition was built to accommodate the students as the school had outgrown the first floor of the church.

Belize City, the largest city in the Country of Belize, is home to an urban population of roughly 60,000 plus people in a concentrated area of 13.77sq miles. In 2020, the average salary in Belize was roughly $800 USD a month. UNICEF and ECLAC have classified Belize as having a high rate of poverty. Fifty-eight percent of Belizean youth, under 18, are classified as multi-dimensionally poor. UNICEF and ECLAC estimate that 6 out of every 10 children in Belize lack at least one of the basic needs, i.e., adequate nutrition, poor sanitation, clean drinking water, and access to education and information.

*Brother U.S. Army General, Xavier Brunson Hits the Ground Running
In the Pacific Northwest*
As soon as Brother Xavier Brunson arrived at Joint Base-LeWish McCord in the Pacific Northwest, he hit the ground running, becoming a member of Delta Pi chapter and participating in community outreach programs immediately. Brother Brunson’s presence is impacting the Omega brand and helping bring brothers back to the fold of Omega and attracting young students to the Fraternity at the University of Washington-Tacoma. He recently participated in a panel discussion focused on “Belonging,” targeting university students of color who are challenged with being accepted on campus.

He was recently promoted to Lieutenant General (three star) and assumed the position of commanding General of First Corps. In this role Brother Brunson is responsible for Army units in the Asian-Pacific region including Hawaii and Alaska that comprise over 44,000 Soldiers.

Brother Brunson was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and an Infantry Officer upon graduation from Hampton University in 1990. His previous assignment was as the Deputy Commanding General of First Corps.

Brother Brunson has served at every level of command up to the Corps across a 31-year career. He has had multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan including service as the Assistant Commanding General Support of 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, NC and Operation Inherent Resolve. He has also served as the Deputy Commanding General-Operations, 10th Mountain Division (Light) and the Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps including a forward deployment as the Chief of Staff of the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq. Brother Brunson then took command of the 7th Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord before serving in First Corps.
His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College, and Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, and Army Staff Identification Badges.

Brother Brunson holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Hampton University, a Master of Arts in Human Resources from Webster University, and a Master of Science in National Security and Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. He is a life member of The Rocks Inc., Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Infantry Association and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He is married to Kirsten Brunson (Campbell), and they have two daughters and one son.

Brother Brunson was initiated in Gamma Epsilon Chapter at Hampton University in 1990.

*Delta Pi Conducts Passport to Manhood*

By Brother William Moseley

Delta Pi Chapter

The Brothers of Delta Pi Chapter completed its sixth execution of the Passport to Manhood Program at the Al Davies Boys and Girls Club in Tacoma, Washington. The program is designed to guide the boys on their journey to manhood, encouraging and supporting them as they face specific challenges related to becoming an adult man. The goal of the journey is for each boy to become aware of his unique gifts, to seek ways to contribute to his family, and to learn to become a valuable member of the community. As part of the program, the boys are invited to participate in the chapter’s monthly Adopt-a-Street cleanup project. At the conclusion, the boys were presented a stamped passport indicating their journey through the fun-filled and insightful 14-session program.
8th Annual Pearl Foundation Charity Golf Tournament
By Taurus Richardson
Delta Pi Chapter

On August 20, 2022, the Pearl Foundation of the Puget Sound, a 501 (c)(3) organization and Delta Pi Chapter, sponsored its 8th Annual Scholarship, Mentorship, and Youth Charity Golf Tournament at the Hawks Prairie Golf Club in Tacoma, WA. The Pearl Foundation was created in 1998 by Delta Pi Chapter, to cultivate mentorship for youth golfers from area high schools in the Puget Sound and to create funding and self-development opportunities for at-risk youth in the Puget Sound community. It is a 501 (c)(3) organization with the specific objectives of (1) creating personal and career developmental programs; (2) establishing mentoring programs; (3) developing scholarship programs; and (4) supporting family and community maintenance programs.

This year we were able to sponsor 15 youth golfers and one of the youth participated in the Junior PGA League Regional Tournament. This event pulled in supporters from Seattle, Portland, Houston and Northern California. We had a total of 140 golfers, 33 sponsors and 18 Brothers from the chapter to volunteer to work on the day of the event. Our past 12th District Representative, James “Big Game” Walker, joined us as well. Also, we had a special guest to assist with the awards.

Brother Jordan Babineaux -- former Seattle Seahawks football player and current analyst/host of Seattle Seahawks TV, was in attendance. He's also a member of Delta Pi Chapter. Here is a list of our Key Sponsors: Tacoma Urban League, Ovation Technology, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, State Farm Insurance, Diversity Recruiters, Edward Jones Investments, Meridian Campus Family Dental, Oberto, Mgeezy Golf, Sports Art Fitness, QBM Property Management and Distinctive Tile and Stone. This tournament was the most successful to date in its eight-year history. A credit to our sponsors and the brother’s ability to build strong community relationships which resulted in the overwhelming show of support.

Global Day of Service
By Brother William Moseley
Delta Pi Chapter

The Pearl Foundation of Puget Sound, in partnership with the Delta Pi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Tacoma National Pan-Hellenic Council, The Links, Incorporated (Tacoma Chapter), and the Coffee Oasis kicked off its first-ever collaboration event for the Global Day of Service. The theme for the event was the 2022 Community Service Project: Tacoma Youth Homelessness Initiative, held in person at the Tacoma Youth Shelter on March 26, 2022, while meeting CDC guidelines. Each organization listed here has a pivotal role regarding youth in their communities, whether engaging, mentoring, educating.

The Tacoma Youth Homelessness Initiative increased its community partners' engagement and involvement by supporting youth in our communities who do not have the necessary support or items to be successful adults. This first collaboration event provided 166 backpacks filled with hygiene items,
critical need items, school supplies to include 80 sleeping bags, cases of hand sanitizer, flavored water and so much more while raising nearly $1,500 for our new community partner, The Coffee Oasis.

The Coffee Oasis is a faith-based non-profit organization that exists to create pathways of opportunity for youth to be restored in heart, soul, mind, and body. The Coffee Oasis' mission is to restore communities through compassionate youth programs and coffee businesses. They believe youth are the future of our community, but many are hurting, homeless, and hindered from living their full potential. The Coffee Oasis youth programs offer a place for the community to invest in their future—the youth. They create safe shared spaces, mentorship, street, and school outreach, goal setting, job training, shelter, and crisis intervention.

Omega Youth Leadership Academy’s 11th Annual Living Above the Influence Conference and Workshops
By Brother Carl A. Blunt
Phi Iota Chapter
Phoenix, AZ. On May 21\textsuperscript{st} 2022, the board of directors of the Omega Youth Leadership Academy re-launched its face-to-face Living Above The Influence Conference and Workshop after two years of being conducted virtually. Brother Danny White who was the conference moderator, kicked off the opening session by setting the order of the day then introducing motivational speaker, Dr. Will Moreland, whose interactive presentation definitely got the attendees motivated.

The young men then moved upstairs to workshops that were diverse in content and covered areas such as: college preparation and admission, vocational and entrepreneurial alternatives to college, surviving a police stop, brother you are on my mind mental health wellness, naturopathy-healing naturally, successful virtual interviewing skills, creative intro to filmmaking and creative YouTube programming and Manhood-preparing for the future.

Each year an additional workshop is set aside for the parents and mentors in attendance. This year the parent/mentor registration was so high that two back-to-back workshops were scheduled for them. The first workshop titled Moving Forward Post Pandemic hosted by Bro. Dr. William Smith, dealt with regaining academic, recreational and spiritual balance for parents and their children. The second workshop, hosted by Bro. Clyde Miller, addressed maintaining mental balance.

Both the parent and student workshops were very well attended, and the feedback received by the attendees was positive and very encouraging. Several parents promised to bring friends next year. The closing session speaker was Brother James Jones, former Green Bay Packer Super Bowl Champion who accumulated over 5000 receiving yards and 51 touchdowns. Brother Jones' message was about setting goals and not allowing others to lead you astray and divert your focus. His message was punctuated by his admission that his story is living proof of “Living Above The Influence”, due to the fact that he was homeless the first 15 years of his life.
The Conference ended with awards and a proclamation that future Living Above The Influence Conference/Workshop will bear the name of OYLA co-founder Bro. Larry C. Ross Sr., who entered Omega Chapter in 2021.

The Gallantry of Friendship
By Brother Rome Mubarak
Lambda Omicron Chapter

The past has come and gone like the present - so akin to now and then; Ahh! So much for fleeting time amongst good solid friends.
Hadn't seen Walt G in over 30 years; Yet hurriedly picking up where we'd left off.
I wonder when we'll meet again just so our utterances can set it off.
We believe to understand the value in friendship - something I'd never abandon;
Make not immemorable our time enshrined in the flickering distant glow of forgotten lanterns.
To defend a friend is the gallantry sworn never to be forsaken; and in a friend's darkest hour assure him resolute as he meets his maker.
Therein awaits the cunning of the reaper, the jackal and jester afoot. But with true friendships protection no brother's soul is left unshielded or overlooked.
That duty, one to the other—let not diminish our oath;
Changing times and its technology should never dictate our spiritual growth.
What we make of it is ours alone; Let not the pressures of other worlds befall us;
Rest assure in that light of Omega in God we resoundly trust.
The value in friendship exceeds the individual—a greater you—a greater me; for the collective strength in friendship extends far beyond our wildest dreams.
With friends such as these no trickery or clever intellect could surpass; It is our friendship that we rely a value built to last.

**Omega On the Gridiron**
By Brother Jason Jones
 Theta Pi Chapter

We all have different allegiances during college football season. Some root for their alma mater. Others might cheer for a team based on family ties. Others might lean toward a childhood favorite if their college did not have a football team.

No matter what color jersey our favorite teams wear, we can all agree we want to see any player who wears the purple and gold of Omega Psi Phi off the field succeed.

Omega Psi Phi is represented on the field this fall by numerous brothers across the 12th District. Be sure to support them this season. Here are some photos and words from some of the brothers across the district who are doing their thing on the football field this season.
There’s always a sense of pride when we see one of our brothers throw up the hooks during a game. This season there are brothers representing at five schools in four different states as students and as athletes. Be on the lookout for them as the football season winds down and support our brothers, no matter who you root for.

**Shaihi Baker, Defensive Lineman, Cal Lutheran, Senior**
1-Lambda-21

“It means a lot of bruhz at each and every game throughout the LA area. Gives me the enthusiasm I need to know they support so much and so strongly.”
Brison Cobbins, Running Back, Oregon, Sophomore
1-22-Iota Theta
“What’s goin on bruhz! I’m Brison Cobbins Spr 22’ Iota Theta Ace Dawg 8th D. It means a lot getting support from the bruhz, all the love & support helps motivate me to keep representing the greatest fraternity there is.”
Stephen Herron, Edge, Stanford, Senior
3-21, Alpha Mu

“The Bruhz help me remember the amount of support I have throughout my season, with being an out of state guy seeing my fraternity brothers only further solidifies the brotherhood for me.”
Omari Porter, Safety, Stanford, Jr.
1-Alpha Mu-21
Nic Toomer, Cornerback, Stanford, Senior
2-Alpha Mu-21
Dion Wilson Jr., Defensive Line, Arizona, Sophomore

4-22-Alpha Epsilon
“The support from the Bruhz this season means everything to me. For me to know that I have brothers across the 12th D and the nation that’s watching me play and supporting me makes me want to play harder and throw up the hooks any chance I get and RQQ TO THE BRUHZ”
Shelton Zeon III, Tight End, UNLV, Senior
4-22-Kappa Xi

“The support of the bruhz goes a long way for me. Seeing my dawgs in the stands sparks my dawg mentality on the field.”