





December 2008 Western Region Update



National Updates

Pages 2..... Important Conclave information

Around the Region

Pages 3-7... 2009 Leadership Conference/Feeding the Homeless/Sigma-Zeta Scholarships/Blue and White Christmas

Health Alert

Pages 8-9... Effects of Fluoridated Water on African Americans

December Photo of the Month



Blue and White Scholarship Recipients

PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY INC - SINCE 1914 - ONE SIGMA WEST







National

Important Message from our International President, the Honorable Paul L. Griffin

We truly have a lot to be thankful for during this time of year. So, on behalf of the General Board of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving! A very special Happy Thanksgiving goes to all the Brothers serving in the United States Armed Forces. We appreciate you for the sacrifices you make for us. As we enjoy the fellowship with family and friends during this Thanksgiving Holiday, let us be reminded of another event that is fast approaching. Conclave New Orleans 2009 will commence in eight short months. Our official dates are July 6-12, 2009. We want to provide you with information on the registration process and the process to secure your hotel room at the host hotel (Sheraton New Orleans Hotel). **Please note the following:**

Conclave New Orleans Registration: Please log on to the Fraternity's website at www.pbs1914.org to download the registration form to handle your Conclave registration. The form on the site will be available through January 31, 2009 for all types of registration (credit card, money order, and certified check) for the early bird time period. On February 1, 2009 through June 15, 2009, registration will be available via an online service (Acteva) which will be posted on our website at that time. Acteva online will be the preferred method of registration. Special request for those requiring other methods should be directed to our International Headquarters.

Hotel Room Reservation: The Fraternity has secured a great rate for Conclave New Orleans at \$129.00 plus taxes per night single or double, \$154.00 plus taxes for triple and \$179.00 plus taxes for quad. If you would like a club level room, please let the hotel know when you call to secure your reservation because the rates are more than what are stated above. We have arranged for those who are registered for Conclave New Orleans to be able to secure one room per registrant. You will be required to pay in advance one night room and taxes when making each reservation. Please contact the hotel seven (7) days after you have registered for the Conclave and paid your fees to the International Headquarters in order to secure your hotel room. This time is needed for us to provide the hotel with the name of each Conclave registrant. Please contact the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel at 1.800.325-3535, or 504.525.2500, to make your hotel reservation at the appropriate time.

As stated earlier, we have a great hotel rate for you, and we are guaranteeing those early bird, Conclave registrants (between November 26, 2008 and Jan. 31, 2009) an opportunity to secure a hotel room at the host hotel. Only registered Sigma Brothers and guests (Sigma Beta Clu b Members not included) will be able to secure a room at the host hotel between November 26, 2008 and Jan. 31, 2009. You can visit the hotel on the web at www.sheraton.com for hotel information. We are excited about seeing you in New Orleans! Sigma Brothers and guests who are registered for Conclave New Orleans will also be able to secure the \$129.00 rate plus taxes, for three days prior to the start of the Conclave on July 6, 2009 and extend their stay for three day after July 12, 2009 at the same rate, upon availability. However, you must make these arrangements when you secure your regular Conclave hotel reservations. Contacting the hotel at a later date after you have made your Conclave hotel reservations may not guarantee you a room three days prior or three days post. Thank you for making your plans early to attend Conclave 2009 in New Orleans!



PHI BETA SIGMA WESTERN REGION

CONFERENCE



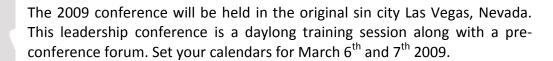


Region

Western Region Leadership Conference

Greetings Brothers,

The Western Region is proud to announce the 2009 Western Regional Leadership Conference/Sigma Academy. We have comprised the budget and set the dates.



Friday, March 6th, we are asking every brother to arrive before 7pm to participate in an important discussion put together by the International Program Director of Social Action, Brother John White; A Conversation Among Men – A dialogue on AIDS/HIV and its impact on our community. This forum is free and open to the public. The goal is to get up to 75 men together and discuss preventative measures and other issues surrounding

this important topic. Also, immediately following the town hall meeting, the region will host a brother's only candidates forum. All brothers seeking an international office within the fraternity have been invited to discuss their ideas with us. Afterwards we will hit the town for the night life.

Keep in mind that any chapter failing to register at least one representative will be fined a registration and one hotel room day and placed on close probation until the fine is paid.

Not only do we have a full day of training and development we also have some exciting competitions scheduled. Our scheduled competitions are:

- Gilbert A. Daily Debate and Oratorical Competition.
- Miss Western Regional Phi Beta Sigma Competition.
- Western Regional Step Show Competition.

The winners will represent the region at Conclave 2009. The region mandates we convene a post-conference board meeting. The meeting is set for Sunday morning, March 8th. Roll call will commence promptly at 10am.

Do not forget to place an ad in the conference booklet. Ads are very reasonable and we have a commission program for those who wish to sell additional spaces. For more information contact Brother Cedrick Soso at BiggerBetterBusiness@pbs1914-west.org.

As we get closer to the conference we will send out information reminding you that this is the conference not to miss! I hope to see each of you in Las Vegas. Review the attached memo for further information. REGISTER EARLY!!!! NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.







Additional Items

Executive Meeting Conference Call

- There will be an Executive Board Conf call in coming days to discuss:
- 1. The upcoming Western Regional Leadership Conference
- 2. Membership Intake Process
- 3. Officer reports
- Chapter Officer Reports are due Jan. 15th, for those that have elected new board
- Membership Dues are to be mailed by Dec. 31st, if not mailed by Dec. 31st you will be assessed a 10% late fee.

Alpha Epsilon Sigma Chapter Scholarships

The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Alpha Epsilon Sigma Chapter proudly commit themselves to Brotherhood, Scholarhip, and Service and as a result are able to provide a scholarship opportunity for young men. Young men that have demonstrated dedication to Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service will be evaluated based on merit. Applications are available under the menu (to the left) and should be typed and submitted to admin@pbs-phoenix.org no later than 5:00pm, Friday, February 13, 2009.

Complete scholarship applications can be found at www.pbs-phoenix.org/scholarships

Minimum Criteria:

Graduating High School Senior accepted at any of the State Universities in Arizona - University of Arizona, Arizona State University, or Northern Arizona University or Enrolled student at any of the State Universities in Arizona - University of Arizona, Arizona State University, or Northern Arizona University

Minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher reflected in attached transcripts (if High School student from all High Schools attended or if college student from all college/universities attended)

Completed application

Letter of recommendation from brother of Phi Beta Sigma

Character letter of recommendation from teacher/professor







Blue and White Feed the Homeless



On Saturday Nov. 15th, 2008 the Brothers of LIS, LI and volunteers took the time to serve our community by feeding the homeless at the St. Vincent DePauls shelter. By serving our community we have the opportunity to aid those that are less fortunate than us and at the same time realize that by serving our communities we encourage change Arriving well before dawn at 5:30AM we got a chance to serve breakfast to the residents of Father Joes in addition to those that needed a meal off the streets. Everyone had the chance to contribute, the duties included serving breakfast at two kitchens (one for long-term residents and families the other for short-term and people from the street) making 100's sandwiches for lunches, lunch preparation, and cleaning the dining facilities before we left. Though this but a small thing to contribute, we feel that by taking the time for our fellow man, we not only serve them but we serve ourselves.







13th Annual Blue and White Scholarship Luncheon



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Alpha Alpha Epsilon Sigma Chapter and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Pi Zeta Zeta Chapter and Phi Mu Zeta Chapter held its 13th Annual Blue and White Scholarship Luncheon at Castaway Restaurant in San Bernardino.

The Luncheon allows PBS and ZPB to honor local community servants for their outstanding work in the community, and they present high school seniors and college freshman with scholarships and book grants to help finance their education.

This year's awardees for Outstanding Community Award went to Bealuh Pitts, Outstanding Service by an Entrepreneur went Donye Cobb of Nu Flava Barbershop in Pomona, Outstanding Service by ab Agency went to Veronica's Home of Mercy in San Bernardino.

Receiving Scholarships were: Ms. Taylor Gordon of Holy Names University, Oakland CA (\$500), Roman Scott of Los Osos HS (\$400), Darrin Duncan of Victor Valley HS (\$400), Michael Sullivan of Ontario HS (\$1,000) and Leonard Tampkins of Wilma Amina Carter HS (\$1,000).

The 2008 Scholarship Luncheon Committee was comprised of Manzell Baskerville, Malika Whitlock, Taniyika Walker, Tiffany Lynch, Allison Rivera, and Eva Brent - Cubit. Upcoming Sigma/Zeta events include the Feeding for Thanksgiving, Christmas Toy and Blanket Drive, Blue and White Easter Extravaganza.







Blue and White Christmas

San Diego's Blue and White Family held its 3rd Annual "Blue and White Christmas" celebration on December 6th on the campus of San Diego State University. The "Blue and White Christmas" celebration is an opportunity for the Brothers and Sisters of the Blue and White Family to give to the less fortunate young people of our community by inviting them to a wonderful Christmas Party where we will be presenting 34 teenagers with sneakers, socks and event T-shirts. This event will be held from 10 AM – 2 PM and include an interactive Ice Breaker games, food, a raffle and the presentation of gifts. Also at this event we will take the time to have a Kid's informational fair with booths with topics ranging from self-esteem to HIV/AID's education booths and over lunch we will take the time to talk about our prestigious organizations. We believe that we were able to bring joy to these families during this Holiday season. For more photos go to www.lambdaiotasigma.org

Health

African Americans Are Being Harmed by Fluoridated Drinking Water

By Daniel G. Stockin, MPH

The black community is learning the shocking truth that fluoride added to drinking water is not a safe and effective means to help prevent cavities. Contrary to assurances that water fluoridation would be the great equalizer that would help minorities particularly, now it turns out that the opposite is true. Fluorides are harming kidneys, thyroid glands, teeth, joints, and bones.

In 2005, buried in the very last of 23 data tables in a Centers for Disease Control oral health article was proof that black Americans suffer from disproportionate amounts of the most severe forms of a condition called "dental fluorosis." Enamel fluorosis, as it is also called, is a lifelong staining or pitting of teeth caused by exposure to too much fluoride while a child's permanent teeth are being formed under the gums. In 2006, the National Research Council issued a 500-page report on fluorides that acknowledged that infants and young children in our country are ingesting three to four times the amount of fluoride as are adults, on a body weight basis. Uncontrolled doses of fluorides from water, in juices, in baby foods and formula, in many other foods and beverages, and in fluoride supplements and toothpaste are to blame. Not long after NRC's report was issued, both the American Dental Association and the CDC quietly put up new information on their websites saying that parents of newborns may wish to consider using unfluoridated or low-fluoride water when mixing infant milk formula.

Every day millions of families use fluoridated water from their kitchen sink to mix baby formula and juices. But neither the Centers for Disease Control nor the American Dental Association issued a press release about the baby formula news or the disproportionate amounts of moderate and severe dental fluorosis in blacks, and







neither actively showed photos of dental fluorosis to the public or the media. Their actions are disturbing, since the developments directly affect millions of families with babies and children, especially poor families that do not have funds to buy unfluoridated bottled water or a home water fluoride removal system.

The story about fluoride gets much worse. Almost everyone in the black community knows someone with kidney disease, as blacks are disproportionately harmed by kidney disorders. Earlier this year the National Kidney Foundation again utilized the tactic of changing a position on fluorides on a little-noticed web page. Once again, the change occurred without so much as a press release to announce it. NKF now states that chronic kidney disease patients "should be notified of the potential risk of fluoride exposure." The American Dental Association has now been forced to remove the National Kidney Foundation's name from ADA's list of water fluoridation supporters.

The story of harm from ingested fluorides is exploding. Now there is concern that fluorides may be causing or exacerbating thyroid disease and its weight gain and other ill effects. Fluorides ingested in uncontrolled amounts from numerous sources are also causing bone and joint disorders. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture says we don't know how much fluoride we're ingesting from foods and beverages. Attorneys are circling, as fluoride and the cover up about its harm are quickly going to become huge civil rights, medical malpractice, and personal injury issues in the courts.

Black Americans with moderate and severe dental fluorosis should not be told to simply "live with it" if they do not have funds for teeth veneers or other fluorosis teeth repair. Black families' babies do not deserve to be poisoned by fluoridated water in milk formula. And black citizens with kidney disease do not need their conditions caused or exacerbated by fluoridated water. The greed and corruption in every other institution today is being exposed. It's time for health agencies and groups to similarly be held accountable.

Daniel G. Stockin, MPH, is affiliated with The Lillie Center, Inc., a small Georgia-based public health training firm that is working to end water fluoridation. He is a 20-year-career public health professional with a background in hazardous materials management and toxics assessment. He is the former manager of the EPA Western Regional Lead Training Center. He may be reached at: stockin2@yahoo.com.

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We are always looking for articles promoting the Blue and White throughout the Region...From Korea to New Mexico... Collegiate and Alumni, feel free to use us to promote what your Chapters are doing in our Region and your community, Thank you.

Contact information is provided below.







Please submit articles and photos for Monthly updates and Quarterly newsletters to:

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