

Feb. 2009 Western Region Update



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February Photo of the Month



Iota Alpha Sigma book donation encourages reading

National

Phi Beta Sigma's Five-Year Countdown to its Centennial Celebration 2014

Press Release for Immediate Release

Washington, DC -February 16, 2009 - On January 9, 2009, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. launched the five-year countdown to its celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Fraternity on the campus of Howard University in 1914. Several significant events held in the greater Washington, DC area marked the preparation and approach of this milestone in the history of this organization of college and professional men, established by Abram Langston Taylor, Charles Ignatius Brown and Leonard Francis Morse.

These events were superimposed on the momentous time in our nation's capitol of the election of the 44th President of the United States, Barack H. Obama, and the advent of his historic inauguration as the first African American to hold the most powerful position on this planet. It was also the eve of the celebration last week of the 200th birthday of the 16th US President Abraham Lincoln who signed the Emancipation Proclamation and the celebration also of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). These historic markers are not without significance as we embrace the spirit and men that gave rise, purpose and passion to Phi Beta Sigma, a fraternity committed to championing Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service to Humanity.

On February 12, 1900, "Lift Ev'ry Vo ice and Sing" , known as the Negro National Anthem, written by Phi Beta Sigma Brother James Weldon Johnson, was sung publicly for the first time on the occasion of the celebration of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln at the Colored High School in Jacksonville, Florida. Johnson, who would be an early leader of the NAACP, said that "the song not only epitomizes the history of the race, and its present condition, but voices their hope for the future." Small wonder that it was aptly chosen to begin the benediction delivered by Reverend James Lowery at the inauguration of President Obama, on January 20, 2009:

***God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.***

Even as our country faces dire economic times, we rejoice in the grace of Almighty God that has led us as a people and a nation to this moment in time, with the strength of spirit to carry on as stewards of the legacy passed to us for future generations. And, so it was that the current and living past International Presidents of Phi Beta Sigma gathered in Washington with the Brothers of the mother chapter, Alpha Chapter, on January 8-9, 2009, and paid tribute to the Founders of our wondrous band as we march in pride and humility toward our Centennial.

In so doing:

A Past International Presidents Welcome and Rededication Ceremony was held on January 8, 2009 hosted by Paul L. Griffin, Jr., current International President (32nd); in attendance were Demetrius C. Newton, Esq. (24th), James T. Floyd (25th), Moses C. McClendon (26th), Carter D. Womack (27th & 29th), William E. Stanley, Jr. (28th), Peter M. Adams, Esq. (30th), Arthur R. Thomas, Esq. (31st) and Roswell O. Sutton (17th) joined by teleconference; President McClendon rendered the Invocation; Eastern Regional Director, Daryl Williams and Vice President of Alpha Chapter, Kyle Denning brought Greetings; Centennial Co-Chairman Carter D. Womack gave an Overview of the Weekend, together with further briefing by the Centennial Co-Chairmen William E. Stanley, Jr. and Peter M. Adams, Esq.; also in attendance were International Vice President Jimmy Hammock, Executive Director Marco McMillian, International Director of Education William Powell and Centennial Committee member and the Countdown logistics coordinator Eric Gilliam;

The Fraternity's current and Past Presidents and leadership met with the Howard University officials at Howard University President Sidney Ribeau's Offices on the campus, on January 9, 2009; the meeting was facilitated by Alpha chapter alumnus, Medgar Evers College President, Dr. Edison Jackson and Centennial Co-Chairman Peter M. Adams, Esq.; The Fraternity leadership was warmly received and graciously hosted by the President's Chief of Staff, Phi Beta Sigma Brother Andrew A. Rivers and Director of Development Virgil Ecton; Introductory Remarks were brought by Dr. Edison Jackson, Alpha Chapter President Steven Page and International President Paul L. Griffin, Jr.; Greetings were brought by Andrew Rivers and Virgil Ecton; an overview of the Centennial plans were presented by Centennial Co-Chairman 28th International President William E. Stanley, Jr. and Centennial Co-Chairmen Carter W. Womack and Peter M. Adams, Esq. and, with President Griffin, outlined the anticipated involvement of the University when we return to the campus in mass during the Centennial; Closing Remarks were provided by President Griffin; the Fraternity's plans were met with great excitement, pledge of support and commendation for the early involvement of the University by the Fraternity, as we begin the strategic planning leading to 2014, which will be mutually beneficial to both institutions;

A processional and Wreath-laying Ceremony was conducted on the campus of Howard University at the Alpha Chapter monument near Locke Hall (named for Professor Alaine Leroy Locke, a Phi Beta Sigma Brother, and the first Black Rhodes Scholar); Executive Director Marco McMillian, Executive Director Marco McMillian served as Master of Ceremony; Eastern Regional Director Darryl Williams brought Greetings; the 28th International President William E. Stanley, Jr. rendered the Reflection and Purpose; in the course of the wreath-laying ceremony, three strong white doves were individually released into the clear blue sky (the first by International President Paul Griffin, Jr., the second by Alpha Chapter President Steven Page, and the third by the oldest Past International President in attendance, Demetrius Newton, Esq.), symbolizing the release by the three Founders of the grand idea of Phi Beta Sigma; each dove, intriguingly, took flight in a different direction, then gracefully came together in the sky above the Brothers assembled, soaring off into the blue yonder in majestic formation - a remarkable sight to behold;

A police-escorted motorcade next proceeded to the grave site of Founder Abram Langston Taylor in Suitland, Maryland, where a further wreath-laying ceremony was held; the 24th International President Demetrius C. Newton, Esq. brought Reflections on this Occasion; the 25th International President James T. Floyd provided the Prayer; and the 30th International President Peter M. Adams, Esq. rendered Closing

Remarks; at this elevated area of the cemetery on a very gusty, very chilly, yet spectacularly sunny day, warm and moving respects were paid to Founder Taylor (wreath-laying ceremonies will take place 2010 in Jacksonville, Florida and 2011 in Kansas for Founders Morse and Brown, respectively);

The Fraternity leadership also met on January 9 with the A. Philip Randolph Institute's President, Clayola Brown at the APRI's offices in Washington, DC to explore plans for the erection of a full statue and dedication of a national park or space, during the Centennial Celebration 2014; this would provide more conspicuous recognition to this historically significant civil liberties advocate, A. Philip Randolph (1889-1979), a Phi Beta Sigma Brother, the organizer of the first union of predominantly black workers to be granted a charter by the American Federation of Labor, who served as President of the Sleeping Car Porters Union, Vice President of the AFL/CIO, and was organizer of the 1963 March on Washington and counselor to Past US Presidents; International President Paul L. Griffin, Jr. provided introductory Remarks at the meeting; an overview of Centennial plans was provided by Centennial Co-Chairman Peter M. Adams, Esq.; APRI President Clayola Brown greeted the leadership present with great enthusiasm and introduced her APRI Board member present; Phi Beta Sigma Historian Clarence Davis and Centennial Co-Chairmen William E. Stanley, Jr. and Carter D. Womack provided remarks; the Fraternity was very warmly received with obvious excitement by President Brown regarding the plans and prospects for partnership between APRI and Phi Beta Sigma to stage a march, and to honor and dedicate a monument to A. Philip Randolph during the Centennial Celebration 2014;

A Reception at Howard University's Blackburn Center hosted by Alpha Chapter and alumni, Alpha Sigma Chapter and the Eastern Region, with a 100-Year scroll book-signing, concluded the day's activities; in attendance were University administration officials, local Brothers, Zeta Phi Beta Sisters, Pan Hellenic members, friends and family; Greetings were brought by representatives of the foregoing, including Eastern Regional Director Darryl Williams, Chapter President Steven Page; remarks about Phi Beta Sigma were made by the 31st International President Arthur R. Thomas, Esq.; and, finally, a special tribute and toast to the 44th President of the United States, Barack H. Obama was made by International President Paul L. Griffin, Jr..

The Countdown clock to Centennial 2014 was activated on the International web site: www.pbs1914.org on January 9, 2009, at 00:00 hours. Photos of the various events of the Countdown-launch, during these Founders Day 2009 activities in Washington, D.C., will be available for viewing on the web site. This was a symbolic gathering only, to mark the beginning of the Countdown. Look for updated information on the web site of other Centennial Countdown activities planned for the next five years, as Phi Beta Sigma men prepare with great anticipation to converge en masse on Washington, DC for our 100th birthday Celebration!

The Fraternity will capture and preserve, as part of the Centennial Countdown memoirs, your Founders Day activities for 2009 and years 2010-2014. Special Request, please note: Chapters are requested to forward your Founders Day 2009 photos and stories by March 15, 2009 to president28@pbs1914.org

- Carter D. Womack, William E. Staley Jr., Peter M. Adams, Esq. Centennial Co-Chairmen
- Paul L. Griffin, Jr - International President
- Marco McMillian - Executive Director

Region

Western Region Leadership Conference Update

The 2009 Western Region Leadership Conference Schedule is attached to this e-mail

Time to plan a road trip to Las Vegas March 6-8, 2009 as the Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity descend upon "Sin City" for our Leadership Conference.

Special invite is for SATURDAY, MARCH 7th for our Blue Revue Concert. Yours truly, Flash, will be performing alongside Twix. If you were there for Boule in 2008, then you already know how it goes down!!! 40/40 Club & Icehouse was shut DOWN!!

We really would like your presence & I'm personally sending you an invite, If you don't know by now about the Flash Music Xperience, well, you're in for a treat. www.officialflashmusic.com www.myspace.com/twix

That Saturday evening, the admission would include the Ms. Phi Beta Sigma Pageant then the Blue Revue Concert then the stepshow THEN the afterparty. I believe the price is between \$20-\$25/person but i can find out the definitive price. The venue is the Texas Station Gambling Hall & Hotel 2101 Texas Star Lane, North Las Vegas, NV 89032

There is a special room rate for those who are arriving Friday and/or Saturday. The Texas Station is extending the room rate special to all who wishes to take advantage of the special. \$65 per night plus 9% tax and gratuity. You must call the following number in order to receive the special, if you call the hotel directly you will not be extended the special rate; 800-654-8804 ext. 8358 Maria Schellhase, Sales Manager.

Also, we have added a special event for Friday night. Starting at 8pm the Texas Station has opened its bowling alley to the blue and white. For a Price of \$20 you can play four games and get some shoes to rent. Additional games will be \$2.50 per game.

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Iota Alpha Sigma urges enthusiasm for reading with books donation



Responding to the need for more age-appropriate and culturally relevant material in school libraries, the brothers of the Iota Alpha Sigma chapter donated 41 books this month to Emery Secondary School.

A group of brothers from the Greater Bay Area chapter presented the books, along with a shelf, to the school in a ceremony on Feb. 11 as part of its Social Action program Project Educate. The books, worth about \$300, will be placed in the school's resource library, showing the importance of reading and leaving a piece of the fraternity in each book the students read.

"Phi Beta Sigma will be memorialized in each book as we are appropriately dedicating the books in honor of Bro. Alain Leroy Locke, the first African American Rhodes scholar," said chapter president Bro. Ira Young. The school staff and students who were present to receive the book collection said they were grateful for the donation, especially because Emery's school library—like so many other school libraries—has been drastically underfunded because of state budget cuts.

"Library services have been cut long before the economic crisis," said Anakarita Allen, deputy superintendent in charge of educational services for Emery Unified School District and wife of

Bro. Craig Snellings, a member of the chapter. “So anytime anyone can donate books to us, we’re more than happy to have them, especially since a lot of books are outdated.”

The collection of books included *The Bond*, the follow-up story to *The Pact* about the well-known Three Doctors and their relationships with their fathers, President Barack Obama’s *Dreams of My Father* and a number of titles from the Blueford Series, popular among many young adults.

All of the books, Bro. Young said, were meant to reflect the demographics of the school population, which is about 70 percent African American.

Dashaun Reynolds, 15, a junior at Emery, said he was especially excited to check out the books from the Blueford Series. He had already read *Fallen*, a novel about a teenager who struggles to rebuild his life after the death of his little brother. Next on his list, he said, will now be *Shattered*, a story about a girl who discovers her friends have been secretly telling lies on her. After the book presentation, Reynolds told a brother: “It’s good that you guys came out here.”

- Submitted by Bro. Martin Ricard

AAES Scholarship Workshop



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Alpha Alpha Epsilon Sigma Alumni chapter successfully completed its third Scholarship preparation workshop at National University in San Bernardino, CA. Bro. Steven M. Walker,

AAES scholarship chair and AAES chapter Brothers Ruben Galvez, John Iszard, Alex Roy and Greg Alexander III were on hand to facilitate a workshop that gave high school juniors and seniors applications tips and hands prep in preparing their personal statements and application essays. Special thanks given to the Brothers of AAES chapter that stepped up and donated raffle prizes such as Bluetooth head sets, calculators and box lunches. Thanks Brother John Miles and Brother Mark Johnson. Our next workshop is scheduled for September 2009. – Submitted by Bro. Steven M. Walker

Bro. Ernest Miller anointed



On Bro. Ernest Miller's recent trip to Nigeria in Jan 2009 of the ordination service as i was Ordained and anointed as Bishop to the Acts Of Apostles International Churches, Inc headquarters located in Nigeria, West Africa. This corporation of churches consists of 42 individual locations and Pastors. Apostle/Prophet Dr. Z. B. Adeboriota, General Overseer. Elevation and promotion comes both locally and national.

Director of Collegiate Affairs Message

My collegiate brothers of the Great Western Region, as your Director of Collegiate Affairs, i am your voice to the Region & Nationals. I have not had the opportunity to meet with each chapter & I would like to so I can hear your concerns & needs that need to be met by your Region. I would like all chapter presidents to send me an e-mail at: iwantflash@hotmail.com & let me know what your chapter needs to fulfill its duties in implementing the National Programs for this school year. Take care & I look forward to meeting you at the upcoming Leadership Conference in Las Vegas!"

Are you interested in Sigma History?

Greetings Brothers of the Western Region

I hope all is well. My name is Brother Kaine L. Nicholas. I was initiated into the Fraternity in the spring of 2002, Beta Alpha Chapter. I was appointed the Western Region Historian by the Regional Director Raphael Forbes. The regional director and many other Brothers have a strong desire to preserve and illustrate the rich history of Phi Beta Sigma in a dignified manner. We have some exciting ideas to present the History in new way and would like to invite you to join the PBS Western Region History Committee. By being an active member on this committee you will have firsthand experience on how Sigma is presented and preserved on a regional level for years to come. If you are you are interested you will join the call this Sunday, February 8th. The purpose of the conference call is to solidify a Western Region History Committee and sub committees.

Name: Kaine (323)286-7679

Email: kainenicholas@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Notable Regional Events

- 3/06/2009 - Western Region Leadership Conference March
- March of Dimes – Walk for Babies (Check the March of Dimes Website)
- Relay for Life – Check with the PBS National Website for information
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, Phi Theta Zeta Chapter is pleased to announce the 2009 Miss Blue Revue Debutante Cotillion to be held on Friday April 3, 2009 at 7:00pm. For your convenience, attached you will find an invitation and ticket reservation form. Tickets purchased through March 1, 2009 are \$60. Tickets purchased on or after March 2, 2009 are \$70. There will be no tickets sold after March 28, 2009.

We look forward to the pleasure of your company at this auspicious occasion as we present our 2009 SAPPHERE Court Miss Mia Crittenden, Miss Bryonna Jackson and Miss Karrington Taylor.

For more information please contact Soror Donielle Cole at brwnsug126@aol.com