



# Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)



Volume 1

October – November – December 2014

Number 2

*“A Quarterly Publication of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring” ©*

## ~~Bro. Fairchild’s Holiday Message: Christmas Day 2014~~

### Brothers, Merry Christmas:

I hope that each of you and your families are having an enjoyable holiday season. I am getting very good feedback on activities where toys are being provided for fathers to give to their kids. These activities are being facilitated through some of our partnerships. There are also mentoring programs that are being introduced and mentoring program graduations being held for young men. This is all good.

Let us continue to encourage brothers to be involved and move these efforts forward. We are at a critical time where we have to reach out to our young men to help them understand how to deal with the issues that we are facing today. I have had several conversations with men of various ages who are reaching out looking for answers. *Brothers, your role in this effort is critical in rallying our brothers to step out and be involved and engaged (italics added).* They must realize they have a lot to offer.

What we are doing in the Fatherhood and Mentoring/My Brothers Keeper effort is so important. It is vital in helping develop solutions and in addressing issues that Black men are facing. What we do today may well be the linchpin that determines the successful future of many. I ask that you not take lightly your role and what we are working to accomplish. The more brothers that we can get to step up and be involved, the more likely we are to have success. You are the key to getting brothers engaged in your Districts. Every chapter should have a program that promotes fathers and young men being involved in the lives of their kids and families. We also have to help teach young men so that they can learn how to be more productive and responsible individuals for their communities.

We are already making a difference and making good progress. Think of the impact that we can have if every chapter was engaged with a program in their community. Think of the lives that could be saved and steered toward success. It is our responsibility as a member of the Talented Tenth to step up and make it happen.

In this Holiday season we can look back and feel good and say we have had some successes, and that's a good thing. However, we still have a lot of work to do, and that will be a better thing. Enjoy the holiday season and come back in the New Year with a renewed vigor to make it better and go for the better thing.

*Happy Holidays*

*Bro. Robert Fairchild, Chairman*

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*“... your role is critical ...”©*

## National News Items:

**Washington, DC** – Brother Robert Fairchild, Chairman of the ICFMI reported that Chapters around the country are getting good reviews for Fatherhood and Mentoring program initiatives.

Brothers Fairchild and Thabiti Boone, Omega Psi Phi International Spokesman for the Fatherhood Initiative, have visited several Districts. Bro. Fairchild noted he was particularly impressed with Mothers' responses. "They were very appreciative and thankful for our efforts," he said.

In October, Bro. Boone made a presentation at the White House on FM work of the Fraternity through ICFMI. His report was prepared by Bro. Fairchild who was assisted by Bro. Taylor based on information submitted from the Districts.

Bro. Boone was in Gary, IN and Louisville, KY in November. His focus was on the White House initiative "My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge."

## My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Challenge:

**Washington, DC** – President Obama asked mayors across the country to accept the challenge to become involved in the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative.

The program is prescribed, i.e., when a city has accepted the challenge, it must, within 45 days of accepting the challenge, do a needs assessment, develop a plan of action with metrics for determining success and indicating partnerships and budget; within six months a City's program must be rolled out to the general public.

The names of the cities that have accepted the MBK presidential challenge are listed on the website below. Cut and paste into your browser: ([TinyURL.com/krpf88v](http://TinyURL.com/krpf88v)).

The Challenge is not a new program, but a call to action for leaders of communities across the Nation to build and execute comprehensive

strategies that ensure achievement of key tenants:

- All children enter school cognitively, socially, physically and emotionally prepared;**
- All children read at grade level by third grade;**
- All young people graduate from high school;**
- All young people complete post-secondary education or training;**
- All youth out of school are employed; and,**
- All young people are safe from violent crime.**

## NIH/ Partnership and Project:

**Washington, DC** – Brother Fairchild informed the committee of a meeting held at NIH led by Vice Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion and included brothers Fairchild, Ricky Lewis, Thabiti Boone and Dr. Lewis Sears.

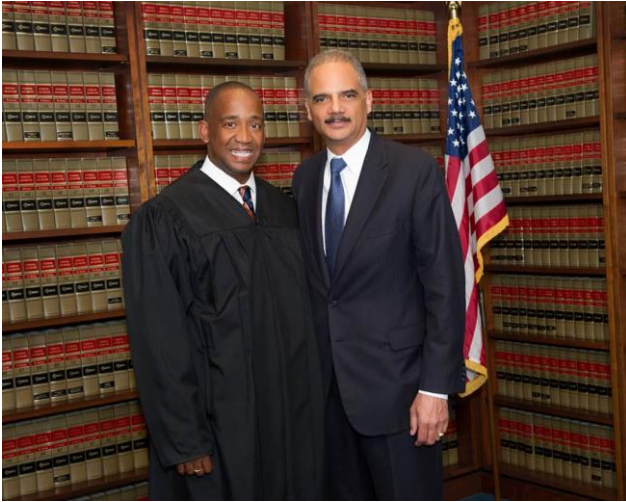
The purpose of the visit was to gather information about a developing partnership between NIH (National Institutes of Health) and the fraternity to focus on health issues facing African American men, i.e. bullying, depression, violence and so forth. The Supreme Council (SC) approved the Fraternity's participation at its September Meeting.

Brother Fairchild is on an advisory board working with Howard and Hampton Universities to develop a six-month mentoring program. This is part of the partnership between OPP and NIH. One hundred-twenty young fathers and men are being targeted to participate in this program. Brothers are asked to support the effort.



## Around the Districts:

### Ω 12<sup>th</sup> District



**Judge André Birotte, Atty. General Eric Holder**

**Los Angeles, CA – Brother André Birotte Jr.** was sworn in on August 8, 2014, as United States District Judge for the Central District of California. He previously served as U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California. Congratulations, Sir! <http://urls.ht/4Ce>

**Moreno Valley, CA** - On Friday, December 12, 2014, eleven brothers from several SoCal Chapters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., led by brother Ricky Lewis, President of the Omega Educational Foundation Inc., traveled from the Southern California area (Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, Ontario and Riverside) amid SoCal's heaviest rainfall of the year to have "the talk" with 90 plus young men of Moreno Valley High School.

Students, teachers, staff, principals and Board members were there to greet the Omega men as they arrived at 7:30 a.m. sharp. "We promised you we would be here and we are here," said Rick Lewis to the Principal, staff and students of Moreno Valley High School. The team set out from LA, Long Beach and Pasadena at 5:30 a.m. for the trip to Moreno Valley. There, they met brothers from Ontario and Riverside. Lewis continued, "Driving in

pouring rain this morning, nothing could deter the men of Omega" from seeing it through!

Among the members of the fraternity were engineers, retired officers of the armed forces, law enforcement personnel, college and university administrators, city planners and other professionals – all college graduates. Each man in his own way carried a single message to the youth. That message to the youth – artfully articulated by Brother Paul Turner in powerful voice was, "Never, never, never, ever, never ever, never, never, ever give us on fulfilling your dream! Never give up!!!" He told the youth about how his own educational aspirations were thwarted. But with perseverance and faith, Bro. Turner attained his goal of a college degree, a great job and how much more enriched his life has become.



**Program participants:** L-R: Brothers Jim Wilson, Marcus Bedford, Sr., Paul Turner, Ronan Hill, Nick Thompson, Ricky L. Lewis, George D. Taylor, Ronnie Walker, Rodney Jones, Keith Parker, and Rodney Brooks.

**Los Angeles, CA** – Omega Educational Foundation and Tau Tau Chapter sponsored its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Conference on the campus of the University of Southern California (USC) October 25, 2014. Six-hundred youth ages 8-18, 250 mothers and 200 fathers were there to listen, learn and grow. Click on the link below or cut and paste to your



browser to view the Youth Leadership Conference Corporate Video.

<http://youtu.be/eBSZRAYHoBE>

Brother Ricky Lewis, Youth Leadership Conference Coordinator said, “We accepted the challenge from POTUS (President of the United States), our Grand Basileus Dr. Andrew Ray and Fatherhood Initiative Chairman Robert Fairchild, to incorporate the Fatherhood Initiative as a part of our overall YLC.” Going forward, Brother Lewis said, “We will continue to encourage fathers to be the best they can be and to play a more vital role in the well being of their children’s lives.” Brothers Keith Parker and Hasani Johnson stepped up and planned the Fatherhood portion of the conference.



**Bro Ricky Lewis “Out Front Leading”**

A number of community leaders were present for the YLC speaking to parents and youth about contemporary issues facing the community. The participants heard topics including the importance of registering to vote and voting; community policing-dos and don’ts, staying engaged with family.

Several members of the Supreme Council attended the Los Angeles YLC. “The 21st Annual Male Youth Leadership Conference held in Los Angeles was simply awesome,” said Bro. Bleu Colquitt, International Chairman of the Ways and Means committee. He continued, “The director of this event was Bro. Ricky Lewis. For 21 years, he has provided the

Blue Print to make this one of the most successful conferences in the nation.”



**Bros 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Grand Basileus Anthony Kadri, GB Knox, 1<sup>st</sup> VGB Marion with YLC attendees**

Newly elected Grand Basileus, Bro. Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Bro. Dr. David Marion, and, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Grand Basileus Bro. Anthony Kadri from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Supreme Council greeted mentees as well as their parents. Bro. Bleu, said of the visit by the international team, “They were astounded by the turnout of participants, the impressive line up of facilitators and the wonderful comments directed towards the men of Omega.”

**Pasadena, CA** – Brothers Johnnie Drawn, Jr., Basileus and Raphael Briscoe, III, Vice Basileus of Zeta Tau Chapter announced that the Chapter has acquired a local meeting site in Pasadena where it will continue to hold mentoring meetings with young men from the community. In addition, the Chapter partners with local organizations to present and facilitate life changing Fatherhood and Mentoring programs for boys/men of color, including:

- At risk youth mentorship partnership with Lions Den and Exceptional Gentlemen 3rd Saturday of every month in South Central Los Angeles, Watts.

- ACC – Neighborhood Beautification (On-Going)–Cleaning, Graffiti Removal and leading the charge for youth to take responsibility for their community.
- Work Investment Act-WIA At-Risk Youth Job Placement and Life Skills Training Ages 17-21.
- Let’s Talk – Community Outreach: An open dialogue forum with the Chief of Pasadena Police Phillip Sanchez and Deputy Chief Darryl Qualls. They are giving local youth and families the opportunity to address concerns about police policy and procedures.
- Poll Worker Jobs and Voter Registration sign up.
- Partnership with the Los Angeles Health Department – Disseminating Condoms and Safe Sex pamphlets to all free of charge.
- Know Thyself Movie Nights to enhance awareness of Black and Brown similarities and involvement in history. (Showed Hidden Colors I, II, & III & The Truth About Hip Hop).
- Show Your Styles Open Mic – Spoken Word, Rap, Singers and other artists. Given a platform to be heard and debuted amongst friends, family and community.
- Celebration of Life – Monthly Birthday Party Celebrations.
- MPYD (Mentoring Partnership Youth Development) – Working with local High School youth in cooperation with our program goals (Critical Thinking & Goal Setting) while assisting MPYD with theirs.

**Sacramento, CA** – Epsilon Xi Chapter began a mentoring program in partnership with the North State Building Industry Foundation (NSBIF). Several brothers, Paul Pradia and Miguel Sanchez, spoke to youth about ways to find their purpose.



**Bro Miguel Sanchez helping mentees “find their way”**

OSY Life Skills Coach, La Vonnia De Loach, came to its November chapter meeting asking the brotherhood to engage with “at risk” youth. The youth are participants in a program sponsored by NSBIF which focuses on delivering jobs and educational opportunities aim at those who have experienced challenges.

**Sacramento, CA** – Brothers of Epsilon Xi were asked to submit anecdotes describing their roles as fathers in their families. Brother Dr. Angelo Stanton presented his story: Brother Stanton’s father began Drag Racing in the early 1960's. This experience instilled the passion for the sport into Bro. Stanton. He, in the spirit of being good father, passed the same enthusiasm for the sport onto his prodigy.



**Kennedy: “Suited and Booted”**



When Dr. Stanton's daughter Kennedy was about five years old her mother nicknamed her K-LOVE, which happened to be the same call letters of a local Radio Station. Years later this same radio station announced their sponsorship of the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) "Top Fuel Funny Car."

"That's when it clicked for me to introduce my daughter to the sport which happens to run 4 seconds at over 300mph in a quarter mile distance," he said.

Bro. Stanton's daughter was only 6 when they went to a local Junior Dragster race track and met a few families. Bro. Stanton recalled that one family was kind enough to let his daughter sit in one of the 1/2- scaled race cars. "She said she wanted to try it. So, I sold a beloved Corvette that I purchased from a fellow fraternity brother, Eric Stevenson," recalled Dr. Stanton. He then used the proceeds to buy a used Jr. Dragster.

Initially, his paternal efforts were met with skepticism from Kennedy's mom until he showed her that K-LOVE was sponsoring a professional car. Bro. Stanton then revealed his plans – he and Kennedy's Grandpa were going to seek that sponsorship by making Kennedy's car a Jr- sized replica of the big one.



Nine-Year Old Kennedy: "Taking Her Bow"

Kennedy's mother reluctantly agreed to allow her to participate in the family sport. Then came the day for her to compete. Like any concerned father, Bro. Stanton said that he and Kennedy's mom were very nervous about the plan that he and Kennedy's grandpa had devised. Yet, Kennedy's attitude was "no worries." She was very calm and unaffected by her parent's ambivalence. Kennedy went on to win a few races in her first year and she is now looking forward to participating in her second season of competition.

Bro. Stanton summarized their experience by saying, "The sport of Drag Racing was a way for us as a family to bond, pass on knowledge and showcase skills." He said that this experience was also "a great way for Kennedy to develop responsibility, but more importantly, it was spending time with each other and creating exciting memories to be cherished for years to come." Kennedy is now 9 years old and knows a little more about who she is, where she's going and what just might be her purpose in life. Submitted by Bro. Robert Jenkins.

#### Ω 4<sup>th</sup> District:

**Cleveland, OH** – September 18, 2014 - Zeta Omega participated in Cleveland's Metropolitan School District's Annual Fathers Walk held at Kenneth W. Clement Boy's Leadership Academy with the 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and Fathers.



Fathers from across the city took to the streets and sidewalks to walk School District scholars to their schools. Hundreds took part in the annual Fathers' Walk, sponsored by the Healthy Fathering Collaborative of Greater Cleveland.

One father, Arvil Cummings, came down from Canada to be with his 11-year-old son, Maclin, for the annual Father's Walk. "It's important to let him know today, and as often as I can, how important it is to go to school,"

said Cummings who joined more than 50 others in the cafeteria for breakfast with Principal Jacky Brown.

Zeta Omega Brothers were outside the school, shaking hands, giving hugs and walking young men into the school, especially those who may not have had a father to walk them in.

“Zeta Omega is committed to this city and its young people and the schools,” said James Wingo, head of the Fatherhood Initiative. Committee members: Brothers James Wingo (Chairman), Bennett Gaines, Lamar Cole, Rufus Heard, Michael Fordham, Bobby Jenkins, Shawn Smith. Submitted by Jason Clotman, Zeta Omega Keeper of Records and Seal.



**Mentoring by Zeta Omega** - Brothers of Zeta Omega Chapter participated in John Adams High School’s 3rd Annual “Lock-In” Mentoring Program at John Adams High School. The title is appropriate because the hope is that none of the participating young men will end up “locked up.” The Program mission is to teach skills that empower you to take control of your life -- to be all that you can be without fear of ridicule or without forgetting the proud, rich history of black men in America.



The program was as follows:

**6:50 p.m.:** Welcome to “Lock- In”

**7 p.m.:** Breakout sessions (four stations, 20 minutes at each session)

**7:30 p.m.:** Station 1 - Critical Thinking

**7:55 p.m.:** Station 2 - Stereotypes

**8:25 p.m.:** Station 3 - How to iron a shirt; how to tie a tie; hygiene; how to conduct yourself around a police

**8:55 p.m.:** Proper dinner etiquette

**9:10 p.m.:** Dinner

**9:30 p.m.:** Keynote Speaker

**9:45 p.m.:** Speaker

**10 p.m.:** What is chivalry and is it dead?  
(Group discussion with video clips)

**10:45 p.m.:** Group Discussion

**RECREATION:** Basketball, stepping lessons, video games



### **Ω 3<sup>rd</sup> District**

**Alexandria, VA** - In April 2014, brothers of Psi Nu Chapter partnered with the City of Alexandria, Virginia for its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Arts Festival, serving as greeters, sports officials, and disseminating information on Fatherhood. In June of 2014, Psi Nu partnered with Brother Franklyn Malone (Alpha Omega), CEO and Founder of 100 Fathers, Inc., to host a viewing of the documentary “Spitting Anger.”

**Petersburg, Virginia** - In May 2014, the brothers of Delta Omega Chapter sponsored its Annual Male Protégé Banquet on the campus of Virginia State University. Young men from across the Petersburg, Virginia area were recognized for their community service and charitable work before a packed house of family and friends. During the course of the year, the young protégé’s also gained valuable lessons in financial management, safety and health, public speaking and etiquette classes to a few.

The keynote speaker for the banquet was Brother (Attorney) Tony Pham, Phi Phi Chapter, who shared his story of coming to America as an immigrant with his family from Viet Nam and taking the opportunities presented to him to persevere in becoming an Attorney and a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



**Loudon County, Virginia** – In June 2014, the brothers of Sigma Mu Mu hosted a Father's Day pancake breakfast at Applebee's, which was very well attended. Brothers and fathers from across Loudon County, Virginia were invited to come and have breakfast with their children. Fathers were also provided a gift DVD of the documentary, "From Fatherless to Fatherhood," written and directed by Mr. Kobie Brown.

**Washington, DC** – On June 13-14, 2014, the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee along with the International Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman partnered with the District of Columbia (D.C.) Government, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, D.C. Healthy Starts, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency to sponsor its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fatherhood and Youth Initiative, "Men of Purpose... Youth of Promise." The event drew men from across the city, and service organizations from D.C. Healthy Start Program and other non-profits organizations were available to address men's concerns from health issues to parental issues. Mayor Vincent C. Gray was on hand to welcome attendees and thank the Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc. for the work it does in issues that affect our community.

**Woodbridge, VA** – As part of its Achievement Week celebration, the Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative Committee of Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter partnered with the Missionary Ministry of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia to donate 82 suits, 29 pairs of slacks, 75 shirts, and over 200 neckties for their support of homeless men and men leaving incarceration. Submitted by Bro Al Woods.

### **Ω 7<sup>th</sup> District**

**Tuskegee, AL** – Lambda Epsilon Alumni and Iota Omega members honored **Bro. Burnel Elton Coulon, Sr., 31<sup>st</sup> Grand Basileus** and

TU alumnus at Tuskegee University's Homecoming Week festivities, Friday, October 24, 2014. Bro. Coulon was thanked and deeply appreciated for his more than 60 years of service to the fraternity and for providing much fatherly advice and counsel to thousands of brothers and young folks throughout the world. Bro. Coulon was born July 6, 1929 in New Orleans. He is the Father of 4 adult children and a grandfather.



L-R, Brothers Dr. Lewis Sears, Chairman of the Board, OLMF (<http://olmf.org>) and TU Alumnus; Bro. Coulon; Dr. Saul T. Wilson, LE Charter member.

Bro. Coulon has served the Fraternity and the Omega Life Membership Foundation well. He is a mighty, mighty son of Omega – a proud servant leader!

### **Ω 6<sup>th</sup> District**

**Durham, NC** – December 6, 2014, Beta Phi Chapter sponsored "A Celebration of Prayer and Parenting" at Abundant Hope Christian Church, 1011 Junction Road in Durham. Under the theme "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. ~ Proverbs 22:6, this was an opportunity "for fathers and their children to fellowship and worship together, and celebrate the bond they share!," according to the host organizations, Proud Fathers, Inc., and several Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., (Beta Phi, Iota Iota and Xi Mu Mu Chapters).

Rev. Mark Anthony Middleton is the Pastor of Abundant Hope Christian Church.



## Special Announcements:

**Atlanta, GA** – International Headquarters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., announces the 2015-Undergraduate Leadership Summit to be held January 22-24, 2015 in Atlanta, GA.

**San Antonio, TX** – The 9th District (Psi Alpha) will hold its Fatherhood Initiative meeting on Saturday, Feb 28, 2015 on the campus of St. Philips College. Bro. Dr. Mateen Diop, 9<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood Chairman,

reports, “We will discuss those pressing issues around our theme of engaging, educating and enhancing the lives of our children and their fathers.”

**La Verne, CA** – Brother James Wilson former SoCal area representative announces the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Youth leadership and Parent Conference to be held March 7, 2015 at the University of La Verne. Brother Wilson said that more than 200 youth and parents are expected to be in attendance.

**Los Angeles, CA** – Brother Ronnie Walker announced that Tau Tau Chapter has opened a mentoring program at Baldwin Hills Elementary School, in Los Angeles. This is the latest effort of Brother Walker and members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity to reach into the community to engage enhance and actively participate in bringing uplift to community youth in greater Los Angeles.

### About This Newsletter:

**Washington, DC** – Our aim is to include information from each District each quarter about their Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives. Our collective desire is: 1. Share what Chapters are doing world-wide to educate, enhance and engage fathers in closing the gap of father absence in the lives of their children; and, 2. As we mentor primarily young African American men, we focus on helping them to live a life of aspiration, hope and life sustaining productivity.

**Submittal process:** District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairmen are asked to submit at least One Fatherhood Activity and One Mentoring Activity from their District for each quarter to Brother George D. Taylor at:

[geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net), ICFMI, Marketing and Public Relations.

### Submittal dates:

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 March 15, 2015, for  
     Publication April 1, 2015  
 June 15, 2015, for  
     Publication Sept 1, 2015  
 September 15, 2015, for  
     Publication Oct 1, 2015  
 December 15, 2015, for  
     Publication January 1, 2016

### Future Issues:

Past Events by Districts; Future Events by Districts; College and University Outreach; and Partnership Collaborations.