



Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Committee - Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)



Volume 3

April - May - June 2016

Number 2

80th GRAND CONCLAVE SPECIAL EDITION

"A Quarterly Publication of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring" ©

~Brother Fairchild's Corner~

In this season of Fatherhood celebration, I reflect on the work of those Chapters that have been actively engaged in both the Fatherhood and Mentoring areas. In the mentoring area we have received many letters and notes from parents of young men thanking us for changing and in some cases saving their lives.



In the area of working with fathers, we are seeing an increase in activity as we understand the importance and the impact that a father has on the lives of the children.

As we have discussions on father issues in the Chapters, it gives us a better appreciation for the need to assist fathers external to the Fraternity. Fathers have expressed great thanks for our work with them

**"Helping fathers
make a successful
transition back into
society is critical..."**

addressing issues on child support, visitation rights, depression, how to have a better relationship with their children, just to name a few.

Of particular note are those Chapters that are reaching out to fathers who are in prison.

With the administration's focus on addressing sentencing issues, reentry has become a hot subject. Helping fathers make a successful transition back into society is critical because of the impact that it can have on the

children. At our upcoming **Grand Conclave in Las Vegas**, the local chapters will have a program (Building Bridges Back to Society) reaching out to fathers in the prison.

These efforts and many more addressing father issues are critical to **helping fathers be successful as fathers**. Our work in fatherhood and mentoring is critical to helping our young men have successful lives in the future. Brothers, we are and can have a significant impact on our future. Your work is truly appreciated. If you need help, **contact your District Fatherhood Chairman** or call me @ 703-899-0111. See Fatherhood and Mentoring website at: www.omegafandm.org.

In Friendship Brothers,

Bro. Robert W. Fairchild

Chairman International Committee, Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives,

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"... helping fathers be successful ..." ©

See 80th Grand Conclave related websites: www.oppf.org; www.omegatakeover.com

www.omegafandm.org

National News Items: 2016 Fatherhood Trailblazer Honoree

By Brother Thabiti Boone, NBA Representative, President Obama's White House Fatherhood Mentoring Initiative Representative and Fatherhood Champion

Raleigh, NC – Saturday June 18, a packed Convention Center Ballroom witnessed North Carolina's annual Fatherhood conference, where **Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus** of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, was **one of four honorees** to receive the **2016 fatherhood trailblazers** award.

The Grand Basileus was introduced by his son, Antonio Knox, Jr., who gave a powerful testimony of his love for his father and how much his father has meant to him. The 40th Grand Basileus thanked his wife, who was in attendance, his children and shared his years of dedication to community service.

The North Carolina Fatherhood Conference was hosted by the City of Raleigh Family Resource Center. The Conference is one of the premier conferences in the country. It brings together leading local, State and National Fatherhood leaders and experts in the Field of Fatherhood. The conference includes attendance and support from elected officials, and Faith, Civic and Corporate Communities.

Iota Iota and Xi Mu Chapters sponsored several conference luncheon tables in support of the Grand Basileus receiving the award. There were at least 10 Omega Men at luncheon to support Grand Basileus Knox.

Other notable conference attendees, included NBA Basketball Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins, who provided the keynote address, Raleigh, NC

Congressman David Price, Olympian LaShawn Merritt and Brother Thabiti Boone.



Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus Receives 2016 North Carolina Fatherhood Trailblazer Award

Grand Conclave Website: www.oppf.com
www.omegatakeover.com

*Las Vegas Iconic Welcome Sign
to Light Up in Purple;
1st Time in 57 Years! See story page 16*



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12th District YLC committee members and brothers along with seated officials (l-r) Brother James Walker, 12th District Representative, City of Phoenix Vice Mayor Kate Gallegos, Brother Antonio Knox, 40th Grand Basileus, Brother Charles Peevy, 12th District Marshal, and Brother Ricky Lewis, Chairman, International Youth Leadership Committee. Read story page 12.

Welcome to Fatherhood and Mentoring on Display in Las Vegas:

The Place of the 80th Grand Conclave!!

From L-R: Brother Russell and Tyriij Pratt, Xavier and Brother Kurt McKenzie and Justin and Brother Maurice Page.

Kappa Xi Defining Father/Son Mentorship

Las Vegas, NV - Kappa Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has a long history of mentoring. The Chapter started a mentoring group, the Omega Gentlemen's Club (Gents), in 1989. The Gents members are male students from 6th to 12th Grade.

The goals of the Omega Gents are: 1) To develop character and leadership and improve the chances of positive life outcomes, 2) To boost academic proficiency and scholastic aptitude of mentees, 3) To increase the percentage of mentees passing proficiency exams and, 4) To instill the value of service.

We interviewed three members of the Kappa Xi Chapter who are all fathers and who have sons who are active members of the Omega Gents Mentoring Club. They are Brother Kurt McKenzie a Sargent with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department his son Xavier, 15, Brother Russell Pratt an Officer with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department his son Tyriig, 15 and Brother Maurice Page Executive Director of New Genesis, a 501 (c) 3 organization which provides housing and other needed services for the homeless, and his son Justin, 13 years old. Each responded to a series of **questions on Fatherhood and Mentoring**:



The Dialog:

Kappa Xi: As a father, what is your most important role with your children?

Kurt: I feel that it is to be their provider, protector, and most of all to be their teacher, mentor, coach and their biggest cheerleader.

Russell: The most important thing is being there for your kids during the good and bad times and to teach them to be productive people in society.

Maurice: A father's role is to teach them to push forward when times are tough. I show my sons how to get up, dust themselves off and keep going, I am teaching them how to keep moving forward in life despite of setbacks.

Kappa Xi: What do you think of when you hear the term “Mentoring?”

Kurt: Mentoring is giving insights about things you cannot learn from a book, listening and spending time with someone that looks up to you.

Russell: I think of it as one who provides “Guidance”.

Maurice: Mentoring is a relationship between two individuals based on a mutual desire for growth. It is a non-reporting and powerful way for young people to develop competence and character. It plays an important role in a child's life.

Kappa Xi: Your son is a member of the Omega Gentlemen's Club. How do you feel it has benefited your son?

Kurt: The Omega Gentlemen's Club has benefited my son by allowing him to meet with other young men his age for a purpose more than hanging out. It allows him to take on leadership roles that he may not have had the chance to do before. He is excited for the challenges the Club poses. Both his mother and I are excited to see him excited about something other than sports.

Russell: It is a great program that creates a positive atmosphere for him.

Maurice: It has helped my child to become more vocal and I have seen his self-esteem increase. He has a healthy respect for what community service is about and how to develop positive relationships.

Kappa Xi also interviewed their sons; here are their responses to questions they were asked.

Kappa Xi: Describe your father and what is his best trait?

Xavier: My dad is strict, kind, smart and funny. His best trait is that he is a leader.

Tyriig: My dad is hardworking and inspirational. His best trait is that he is a strong communicator.

Justin: My dad is a special kind of leader, a nice guy, honest and the best father ever. His ability to handle business is his best trait.

Kappa Xi: What has been the best part or best experience being a member of the Omega Gents?

Xavier: The best part has been making new friends, having new experiences and activities and learning manhood.

Tyriig: The best parts have been that I have become more of a leader and my public speaking has improved. I enjoyed the college tours and community service projects.

Justin: The best parts have been that I have improved my communication skills; I can better manage my anger and have improved my school performance. I have enjoyed the travel, going to Gravaty (a trampoline park) and attending the college fairs. (Submitted by Brother Jerry Holliday)

FROM WHERE I SIT: “Now What?”

First and foremost, it is important to appreciate that the establishment of paternity is the very beginning of a process that will span at least eighteen more years. The court retains jurisdiction over paternity cases until the child turns eighteen.



The Honorable

Gregory C. Pittman, Esq.

“From time to time, I will share commentary and thoughts, from a legal perspective on the issue of Fatherhood.”

**Presiding Judge
Family Court
State of Michigan**

The relationship between the child and his/her legal mother and father is one that is governed by very broad but consistent principles that translate from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. I, as always, urge those who may be in the midst of dealing with the issues that we discuss here to seek competent, local legal counsel.

“...three concepts keep thousands of lawyers and hundreds of courtrooms busy ... every business day...”

The matters that are discussed here are applicable as general concepts, but may have differences and nuance that are particular to the state in which you live. A well-versed attorney will be indispensable in helping you to understand the law as it

pertains to your state and your specific situation.

So... You are now declared/recognized as the legal father of “**Lil Dude**”. Now what??

From a legal standpoint, a number of responsibilities are triggered and become legally binding in some form. It is also the point at which the rights associated with being recognized as the legal father of Lil’ Dude (aka LD) become available for you to assert as father.

Consider the following: You and the mother now have the responsibility and right to establish the custodial care that each parent will have with and for LD. You and the mother now have the responsibility and right to establish the amount of time that each parent can and will spend with LD. You and the mother now have the responsibility to provide for the legitimate and necessary material needs of LD. These three concepts are commonly referred to as:

**Custody
Parenting Time
Child Support**

Brothers, these three concepts keep thousands of lawyers and hundreds of courtrooms busy and humming every business day in every state of this country. These three concepts are responsible for multiple billions of dollars changing hands (in some manner) on an annual basis. These three concepts, when not properly understood and left unattended, are the basis for ongoing frustration and consternation that visits havoc upon our communities and most essentially upon our families.

Please consider this as a concluding thought for this edition of our newsletter. The preceding paragraphs are presented from the perspective that focuses upon the legal processes attendant to matters of paternity. I think it is of the highest priority for me to express to you that your involvement

in the legal system up to this point is pretty much unavoidable. As a matter of law, up to this point, the establishment of paternity requires some form of legal action and/or acknowledgement.

Going forward, however, it is imminently possible to eliminate or greatly minimize the involvement of the courts in the lives of Mother, Father, and Lil' Dude. That occurs when Mother and Father are able to come together and establish their own rules of engagement. Arrangements that work specifically for them as it relates to Custody, Parenting Time, and Child Support. Simply put, the more Mother and Father can work out and agree to on these issues, the less that the courts are required to do for, or more often than not, to Mother, Father, and LD.

As you read and think on these words and the columns to come, always realize that the voluntary settlement of differences and discrepancies leads to stronger relationships and more lasting bonds among Mother, Father, and Lil' Dude. And, it results in the minimization of the role of the courts in making critical decisions that affect how our families function. That's where we really want to be!

In our next edition, we will discuss in greater detail the concept of Custody and its ramifications.

~~~ Friendship is Essential to the Soul! ~~~

Fatherhood and Mentoring activity from around the Districts:

1st District

Cambridge, MA – On April 17, 2016 Brothers from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Iota Chi Chapter, held their monthly Brunch and Ball Mentoring Program at the Dorchester YMCA.

Bro. Nick Vance from City Year was the key note speaker and spoke to the fathers and teens about setting goals and planning now for their future. There were many brothers in attendance. Brunch was provided for the teens, and brothers played a friendly competition of basketball against the teens.



Thabiti Boone attends Prestigious Fathers Summit

New York, NY – The Summit, held in NYC, June 14, was a continuation from the 2015 United Nations First World Convening on Fatherhood, which focused on the state of Fatherhood issues and successes in countries and cultures around the world.

Invited to the Summit were Fatherhood leaders and organizations from across the country. They were brought together to discuss the State of Fatherhood.

A State of America's Fatherhood Report was provided for each summit participant. The report outlined the tremendous progress that is being made in the field of Fatherhood.

Topics discussed included Fatherhood in the Workplace, Fatherhood and Mental health, Non Resident Low Income Fathers, From Prison to Fatherhood, Public Policy, Fathers, the need for strategic Funding Streams.

The Summit also discussed on-going challenges, access and visitation, impact of incarceration, societal barriers, inequities and employment.

Summit guests included Former NBA All Star, NY Knicks Legend Allan Houston, Prominent Fatherhood Leader Joe Jones, Fatherhood organizations, NYC Dads, Johnson & Johnson. (submitted by Thabiti Boone.)

2nd District

Inaugural Fatherhood Initiative

Annapolis, MD – Mu Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Annapolis Maryland has partnered with the Anne Arundel County Maryland Department of Social Services, Responsible Parent Employment Network to establish the Mu Rho Fatherhood Initiative.

This partnership will bring an array of opportunities to local parents

to connect them with services that are available including monthly roundtable discussions, mentoring, and support.

The Inaugural Fatherhood Initiative and Cookout will be held on Saturday June 25, 2016 with a Fatherhood celebration and cookout to be held in Annapolis. This father and child(ren) celebration will include games and food prepared by the Brothers of Mu Rho Chapter and their children. (Submitted by Jeffrey L. Diggs, Basileus, Mu Rho Chapter, Annapolis, MD)

68th Annual 2nd District Conference: 2016 Youth Leadership Conference

Rockville, MD – As part of this year's 68th annual 2nd District Conference the brothers of the Mu Nu Chapter, with the assistance of Brothers from the 2nd District, under the leadership of Bro. Donald Williams, YLC Chairman, held the 2016 Youth Leadership Conference on April 30, 2016 at Thomas Wootton High School in Rockville, MD.

The theme of this year's conference was "Life Principles to Live By: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift".

The goal of the conference was to educate and exhibit to local HS students the vital principles that the Brothers of Omega stand by and how those principles have helped the Brothers succeed in life.

The YLC was organized to mirror our four Cardinal Principles. The young male students enjoyed interactive sessions designed to enhance our young males in the areas of academics, social interaction, civics and leadership.

District and Sponsors, such as Chick Fil A of downtown Silver Spring and the North Bethesda McDonalds, we were able to connect with approximately 40 students. A special note of thanks goes to Bro. Dr. Marco Clark, CEO of the Richard Wright Public Charter School, who brought over 15 students from his school in Washington, D.C., to the event.



Much praise was received for an outstanding program. The most poignant comment came from a mother when dropping off her son. She mentioned how her oldest son originally signed up for the program for himself, but while dropping him off she saw and realized the impact of the presence of so many well-dressed professional African American men - she returned home and got her younger son and brought him to the program. And, she told a friend to bring her son as well.

Congratulations to the men of **Mu Nu and the 2nd District** for an exceptional program. (By Brother Omurhu Onokpise)

3rd District

Man The Block – The History

Washington, DC – Since the doors opened to students in 2011, Richard Wright Public Charter School began implementing the Man The Block Richard Wright Safe Passage Program

on a daily basis. Founder, CEO, and Head of School, Dr. Marco Clark, understood the importance and need of connecting communities with schools to create safe environments for children to learn and be successful.

The Richard Wright Safe Passage Program was created to provide Safe Passage to and from school by concerted efforts of staff, parents, and volunteers in the community to escort students to metro and bus stops each day.

In 2015, after having implemented the Man The Block Richard Wright Safe Passage Program, with success through before and after school posts as well as bike and pedestrian escort teams, the Man The Block initiative was expanded through the combined efforts of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Through the Fraternity's outreach to other organizations such as, 100 Fathers, Inc., The Honorable Man Campaign, and the Promise Program, attention has been brought to the need for concerned individuals and community members to unify and work together to provide encouragement, support, and safety for children traveling to and from school.

Hundreds of men of different generations, professions, and backgrounds came out to escort students from school to the metro to ensure safety, deflect harassment, and deter crime and violence, while building relationships and increasing mentorship opportunities.

Man The Block II - Due to the success of the first Man The Block Initiative in August 2015, Man The Block Part II expanded to include 5 public charter schools in Southeast, Northeast, and Northwest.

From strong support and partnership with the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and 100 Fathers, Inc., collaborating schools hosted events at their respective schools and increased community awareness and advocacy around the city.



The participating schools along with parents, men and women from various civic organizations, businesses, colleges, DC Councilmembers, DC representatives, and the U.S. Marines, came together to demonstrate and model what communities can achieve by working together in order to create encouraging environments for our youth all over the city.

Man The Block III – The Symposium – The Symposium was held in February of 2016 to discuss with the community various aspects of the importance of working together across the District. With strong support from Councilmembers Grosso, Allen, and May, as well as the D.C. Public Charter Board and the Deputy Mayor's Office of Education, Man The Block City wide was planned to generate awareness and participation from all sectors across the District.

Most recently, the D.C. Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) has become a strong partner with Man The Block to spread the word that the need for Safe Passage and for overall community involvement is now.

4th District

University of Akron Black Male Summit: by Bro. Thabiti Boone

Akron, OH – University of Akron Black Male Summit is one of the largest and most prestigious annual convening's in the country exploring the critical issues and challenges facing Black Boys.

The summit is designed to provide young men with hope, aspiration, resources, advancing their future. It was an honor for myself and Brothers of Omega to be participants at their 9th annual summit in the City of Akron. It was a powerful Summit that Omega proudly played a part in its success. The young men were impacted and forever enriched because of Omega.

There were over 1700 Black Boys, 30 workshop presenters, 7 main keynote speakers, that included myself, Omega brother, TV, radio sports personality Stephen A Smith, TV One Roland Martin, TV host Tavis Smiley, Urban League CEO and President Marc Morial, Ohio city and state elected officials, over 500 community and faith leaders, organizations, including City of Akron Fatherhood Coalition Initiative were present at the summit.

Young men enjoyed 2 days of empowering workshops such as: The Power of Males in the Classroom, What Does it take to Succeed, Black Male Health, Defining Identity, Elements of Manhood, Leadership Development.

My address was titled: The Role of Father's In the Development of Black Boys. I was invited as a Rep for President Obama White House Fatherhood Mentoring Initiative. My

introduction and presentation included the work of our Fraternity Fatherhood Mentoring Initiative.

Brother Tom Joyner, "Tom Joyner Morning Show," broadcasted on location live at the summit to its millions of listeners. National Brothers Bryant Smith, Brandon Jackson, Brian Heat did a great job as workshop presenters.

The City of Akron, Xi Chi Chapter Brothers, under the leadership of Immediate past Basileus Larry Tolson really stepped up with their support and involvement at the Summit.

The Black Male Summit served as a chapter and International Fraternity activity in support of the Fraternity Fatherhood, Mentoring Initiative and partnership with President Obama WH Fatherhood Mentoring Initiative.

Chapter brothers sponsored male participants, supported Brother Tom Joyner Morning Show, assisted with transportation, served as volunteers, workshop presenters, videographers, photographers, and hosted an enjoyable reception and fellowship for visiting Brothers. Chapter Brother Fred Barrett filmed the entire summit events and activities.

The Fraternity was well represented to a national audience on the Tom Joyner Morning Show. Brother Boone, who was interviewed on the show, and Tom Joyner gave shout outs to the Fraternity for their great community work.

Brother Boone was featured in the City of Akron Newspaper and local radio. The Fraternity was also well represented at the summit VIP reception and dinner hosted by the City of Akron Urban League.

Xi Chi was commended for their support and commitment to service as well as their representation of the 4th

District and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Special thanks again to Brother Larry Tolson, the 4th District and Brothers of Xi Chi for leading the way for Omega.

5th District



David Bland Receives Award

David Bland of Memphis, Father of the Year

Memphis, TN – David Bland of Memphis, is a father of 10 – six biological and four non-biological.

Bland treats his children, whose ages range from young to young adult, all the same. He is the only father that some of them know. “I feel that just because a relationship didn't work out, it would be selfish of me to turn my back on a child that I raised from six months old,” Bland wrote in a personal essay.

Fatherhood is about being present, more than just physically but being an active participant in the lives of one's children. For Bland, that means taking them to the park, or basketball practice, or reading to them at night.

Everything is a reflection of his responsibility, which he doesn't take lightly – that helps explain why Bland

was named Father of the Year during the Third Annual Favorite Fathers of the Mid-South Awards at the Hollywood Community Center, April 30, 2016. The event featured Bro. Eric McClinton, keynote speaker.

Other awardees included: Eric L. Brent, from Covington, Tennessee; T.C. Hailey, Jr., Horn Lake, MS; Reginald Jones, Derrick Pointer, Theodore King, and Joseph D. Byrd, Memphis, TN; T. Ray Greer, Mason, TN; and James Hyde, Union City, TN.

Participants were nominated for demonstrating responsible Fathering in one of five protective factors: parental resilience (the Dreamer), social connections (The Blessing), concrete support in times of need (The Rock), knowledge of parenting and child development (The Owl) and social and emotional competence of children (The Empathic). (Submitted by Bro. Oliver Williams.)

6th District

Cary, NC - The Mighty 6th District's Iota Iota and Xi Mu Mu Chapters partnered with PROUD Fathers, Inc. to host the 2016 Fatherhood Conference. The conference was held on April 9, 2016 with the annual golf tournament preceding the conference on Friday, April 8, 2016.



This year's theme was Fatherhood & Mentoring: The Two Pillars to Manhood, which led to very

informative workshops and interactive discussions.

The conference highlight was one of the most powerful panels ever assembled in North Carolina's history. It included: The Honorable Cheri Beasley, Associate Justice, NC Supreme Court; Brother Rev. Frank White, Pastor, Antioch Bible Fellowship; The Honorable Brother James Clemmons, Sheriff Richmond County, NC; Captain Michael Bruce, Raleigh Police Department; and The Honorable Craig Croom, Wake County District Court Judge.



Moderated by the Honorable Brother Michael Morgan, NC Carolina Superior Court Judge, this esteemed panel addressed various topics centered around the Black Lives Matters movement, the vital roles of fathers and mentors in the lives of young Black youth, and the legal systems, nationally and locally, along with other great topics of interests.

The 2016 Fatherhood Conference keynote speaker was our very own, Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr. 40th Grand Basileus. Also, recognized at the conference was Miss Chevonne Parker, the high school scholarship winner who will be attending Harvard University in fall. The winner of the 2016 Father of the Year award was

Brother Alton McCoy of Iota Iota Chapter.

Father/Child Prayer Breakfast

Cary, NC – The Brothers of Delta Rho Chapter hosted their Father Child Prayer Breakfast on June 11, 2016. The Father Child Prayer Breakfast is the Mighty 6th District's signature fatherhood program.

In addition to Delta Rho, three other chapters in the Mighty 6th District have hosted Father Child Prayer Breakfasts during this quarter: Iota Iota, Xi Mu Mu, Mu Pi, and Eta Beta Chapters. These chapters were able to touch and positively affect the lives of approximately 462 fathers and 235 children at the breakfasts.



Most impressive among the Mighty 6th District's statistics is this fact: **800 fathers and 475 children have attended the Father Child Prayer Breakfast events** since the beginning in fiscal year 2013-2014. In addition, the Mighty 6th District and local chapters have partnered with 25 different churches and 15 community agencies.

7th District

Atlanta, GA –The Atlanta Metro Omega Chapters and the State of

Georgia invite all to join the IHQ Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative as we present the 2nd Annual Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative Male Youth Leadership Conference, August 26-27, 2016.

The free two-day event will be held at the Omega World Center, 3951 Snapfinger Parkway, Decatur, Georgia. On the first day, a business expo will be held followed by an empowerment conference on the second day. The conference is for male students grades 7th-12th, non-custodial (fathers) and single mothers.



Several chapters were engaged, and supported the 2015 conference. We are asking for your input to improve the program as we enact the theme "Dads Matter-Cultivating Future Fathers".

The program's ultimate goals are: (1.) To increase fathers' involvement in their children lives, (2.) To provide both parents and students with life skills that will help the students to be better citizens and, (3). To become productive future fathers.

We encourage Chapters to bring their youth program participants and members as powerful information will be delivered. We need business owners to sign-up and exhibit their companies at the expo as well. Your chapter can receive social action man-hour credits for participating in the event.

Again, we welcome your ideas and look forward to your participation. For information contact: S. Earl Wilson, Co-Chairman, IHQ Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative 404-219-6624. (Submitted by S. Earl Wilson)

Paving the Way for Higher Education, Youth Mentoring and Fatherhood Initiatives



Jackson, MS – Brothers in great numbers attended the 79th Seventh District Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi on March 17th - 20th, 2016. The public opening ceremony set a continued progressive tone that has been echoed by the current 7th District Representative, Bro. Leslie A. Gamble and predecessors.

Brothers of the Mighty 7th District were majestically welcomed to the City of Jackson by local government officials and community leaders. The 7th District and host Chapter, Epsilon

Kappa Kappa, presented over \$16,000 in scholarship monies to deserving high school students and contributed financial support to the Ambassador for the Evers Academy for African-American Males Mentorship Program to support youth mentorship and fatherhood initiatives.

(Written & Submitted by: Brother Jonathan Gaines – Chairman, 7th District Fatherhood Initiatives & Mentorship Committee)

The Value and Benefits of a College Tour



Orlando, FL – Firmly committed to the development of young male youths and promoting higher education, Florida Brothers from the Chi Omega, Tallahassee; Sigma Alpha, Miami; Beta PI, Pensacola; and Beta Omicron, Gainesville, will continue in 2016 to provide their Lamplighters Male Mentorship Programs the opportunity to travel and take in the experience of a college tour. They will attend the Florida Football Classic hosted each year in the City of Orlando, Florida.

As with many local chapters in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Georgia, College Football Classics provide great opportunities to

introduce and reinforce the goal of attending college.

The Florida Football Classic features two traditional HBCU football powers, Florida A&M University and Bethune Cookman University. This is one of the many Collegiate Football Classics hosted throughout the Seventh District.

In addition to experiencing a great college football game, Lamplighters and parents attend college recruitment fairs and college testing workshops to receive needed information to begin preparing youth for college.

Often the Presidents and student bodies from both universities gather to welcome visiting youth groups to the Florida Football Classic. More importantly, they provide a message about the advantages of earning a college degree. (Written & Submitted by: Brother Jonathan Gaines – Chairman, 7th District Fatherhood Initiatives & Mentorship Committee.)

8th District



Denver, CO – The Omega Leadership academy partnered with Colorado Big Brother Big Sister to produce a Black History Month event that included games, workshops, and roundtable discussions.

The goal was to bring matches from Colorado Big Brother Big Sister together with fathers and mentors of the Omega Leadership Academy to learn about the history of Black History month and how it is relevant today.

The participants learned about Black historical sites in Colorado, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and other historical figures. The University of Colorado-Denver students assisted with all of the activities and provided refreshments. The event was a huge success!

9th District

Happy Father's Day!

Rowlett, TX – As we prepare for Father's Day Weekend, let's remember the "True Spirit of Fatherhood" within our Fraternity. We mentor, we coach, we teach, we do it all for our children and for children within our communities.

Let's share our stories. The Fatherhood Initiative, Youth Leadership, Big Brothers and the Next Generation Bridge Builders committees are **connecting** to make Father's Day a wonderful experience. We ask for your continued support and uplift, as we **synergize** our committee's efforts.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me @ 713-822-9353. (Submitted by Sedric Myers, Next Generation Bridge Builders – Chairman).

80th Grand Conclave info:

www.oppf.org

10th District



Retired NFL Player Bryan Cox and
Brothers of Nu Chi

Bryan Cox Speaker at Nu Chi Youth Mentorship Event

East St. Louis, IL – Last fall the men of Nu Chi Chapter, in keeping with its commitment to mentoring area youth, sponsored a youth development seminar at East St. Louis High School. The guest speaker was the popular and well-known local and national football great, Mr. Bryan Cox.

Mr. Cox was well received by the students and staff during his session with the assembled high school juniors and seniors. Mr. Cox expounded upon strategies that would be helpful to the students as they set and pursued their individual life ambitions.

There was a vigorous Q & A period that allowed the young people assembled to pose questions to Mr. Cox. Bryan's responses and his presence made an impression on the students. Shown in the picture are retired NFL Player Bryan Cox and the men of Nu Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

Bryan Cox was a member of the East St. Louis High School Flyers. Cox attended Western Illinois University and was a Mass

Communications Major and a letterman in football. As a senior, he was named a First Team All-America by the Football Gazette and was a First Team All-Conference selection.

Cox played twelve seasons in the NFL. He was a three-time Pro Bowler during as a member of the Miami Dolphins. The highlight of his career was as a member of the Super Bowl XXXVI champion New England Patriots.

Theta Nu's M.A.N.H.O.O.D. Initiative



Muskegon, MI – The Brothers of Theta Nu Chapter (Muskegon Heights, MI), as part of their Social Action work in the Greater Muskegon Area, took part in the Muskegon Heights Festival in the Park Parade on June 18, 2016.

Theta Nu Brothers and the Chapter's M.A.N.H.O.O.D. Initiative participants marched in the parade to promote their stand to end violence and strife in the Greater Muskegon community. The young mentees wore T-shirts that read March for Brotherhood/Stand for Peace. They passed out literature (and candy!)

promoting the need to increase the peace in the community.

M.A.N.H.O.O.D. acronym stands for Muskegon Area Network Honing Our Own Destiny. The Initiative is Theta Nu's contribution to the Fraternity's national commitment to promoting responsible and effective fatherhood and mentoring activities by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

M.A.N.H.O.O.D. provides opportunities for young boys in the Greater Muskegon Area to be exposed to life affirming and enriching activities. That exposure will have a positive impact on their personal, academic, and social development, and light a path toward true MANHOOD.

12th District

(Continued from, p 3)

20th Annual Youth Leadership Conference



Phoenix, AZ – As part of the 71st Annual 12th District Meeting, the brothers of Phi Iota chapter hosted the 20th Annual Youth Leadership Conference on Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Phoenix.

The event was chaired by Brother Larry Ross and attended by 100 youth

from across the state of Arizona and Southern California.

The theme was: Mission to Manhood. The event started off with greetings and remarks from 40th Grand Basileus Antonio Knox, 12th District Representative James Walker, International Youth Leadership Chair Brother Ricky Lewis, District Marshall Brother Charles Peevy, City of Phoenix Vice Mayor Kate Gallegos, and My Brother's Keeper representative Martin Whitfield.

The event included special guest keynote motivational speaker Mr. Lionel Lyons, workshops on leadership development, higher educational pathways, careers in STEM, and a powerful undergraduate panel discussion on the realities of being a black male in college. In addition, youth were provided with lunch, t-shirts, and door prizes.

Sponsors and supporters included the Earnest E. Just Youth & Community Services Foundation, The College Depot, EDU Inc., and the City of Phoenix's My Brother's Keeper Initiative. (Submitted by Brother Larry Ross)

Zeta Tau's 4th Annual Pre-Father's Day Rose Bowl Walk



Zeta Tau Fathers, Families and Friends

Pasadena, CA – Saturday, June 18 marked the Zeta Tau Chapter, (voted most recently the 12th District's 2016

Small Chapter of the Year) in partnership with the Zeta Tau Foundation, Inc., held its annual Pre-Father's Day walk around the Rose Bowl.

Led by Fraternity event organizer Brother Harold Reese and its unfaltering Basileus Johnie Drawn, the event drew its largest group of participants. Added to the three canopy staging area was a table set aside to register potential voters for the November presidential election.



L-R, ZT Basileus Johnie Drawn and ZT Foundation Pres. Dr. George D. Taylor

Basileus Johnie Drawn has encouraged all who have not yet registered to vote to please do so and "encourage your friends and neighbors" to get out and vote, he said.

Kappa Xi Chapter 2012 Talent Hunt Winner Plays Carnegie Hall

Las Vegas, NV – February 7, 2016 – The old joke goes "How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice".

Kappa Xi Chapter's 2012 Talent Hunt Competition winner Braizahn Jones has been doing just that with his appearance as the Second Chair Double Bass position at a recent performance by the Curtis Symphony Orchestra at the majestic Carnegie Hall on Monday, February 1, 2016.



L-R, Brother Sedrick Spencer, Former 12th DR, Braizahn Jones, Bro. Jerry C. Holliday

Braizahn Jones is a 2012 graduate of Edward W. Clark High School and a distinguish product of its music program. Braizahn's talent was recognized, nurtured and flourished at Clark High School.

He competed and won in the local Kappa Xi Chapter Talent Hunt competition before competing in the 12th District Talent Contest held in Indian Wells, CA. The judges recognized his talent with his instrument (the Double Bass) among a talented field. One judge commented "you rarely see someone who is able to play that instrument that way; it's very impressive".



Braizahn Jones at Carnegie Hall

Braizahn was admitted and attended the prestigious Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He is continuing to develop his talent and to playing with various musical assemblies across the Country.

Braizahn was presented with an opportunity by the Curtis Institute of Music located in Philadelphia, PA to continue his studies there which he accepted saying "The Curtis Institute of Music is one of best training institutions for my instrument in the world."

Gladys Recinos, Braizahn's mom said she is so proud of her son and attended the performance at Carnegie Hall. But she was also quick to add she is equally proud of her daughter Adeija, who started her studies at New York University this past fall.

So the question is answered by a talented performer Braizahn Jones, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" Practice, practice, practice!

Kappa Xi and Omega Gents Support Local Families

Las Vegas, NV - Parent Citywide, a local Las Vegas not-for-profit, held its 17th annual toy and food drive giveaway. This year's drive provided 90 low income families with food and toys for the holidays. The toys and food were distributed on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at the South Continuation High School in Las Vegas.

The men of the Kappa Xi for six consecutive years assisted with the Parent Citywide toy and food drive. The Omega men with members of the Omega Gents, the Kappa Xi mentoring group, made up of middle and high school young men assisted

families with their food baskets to their cars. The food baskets contained turkeys with all the trimmings and various donated toys.

Join us! 80th Grand Conclave Website:
www.oppf.org



Kappa Xi Omega Men with Omega Gents

Patricia Hurd, President of the Parent Citywide, thanked the Brothers and the young men for their willingness to collaborate and volunteer to support this event alone with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department Volunteers and Clark County School District employees who made the toy and food drive distribution a success.

Brothers present were Elbert Gray, Jerry Holliday, Maurice Page, Khary Black and a dozen members and prospects of the Omega Gentlemen's Club.

Following the community service event, the Omega Gents were treated to a trip to Gravady Extreme Air Sports for an afternoon of fun. Gravady is a popular indoor trampoline park featuring a variety of courses with rope climbing, tire swings and climbing walls. The young

men spent several hours enjoying the afternoon while bonding and learning to respect each other individually.

The Uplift Foundation of Nevada who sponsor's the Omega Gentlemen's Club has had a long history of offering vibrant and varied activities and programs for our young African American and other males. Brother Maurice Page stated "As we began to plan for the year we recognized there was a need to empower our young Gents -- knowing when to provide uplift and rewarding them when they extended themselves to help those who are less fortunate".



The Gents and Prospects that participated in this event were: Bryce Gray, Denzil Dixon, Dominique Minniefield, Idris Shuaib, Isma'il Shuaib, Justin Page, Tyriiq Pratt, Xavier McKenzie, Jacob Blandburg, and Robert Blandburg. A big thanks to the mentors that also came out they were Maurice Page, Khary Black, Jamar Johnson, and Dior Stephens.

13th District

Daddy/Daughter Date Night

Okinawa, Japan – Chaplain Brother Cortez Pree and Keeper of Peace Brother Anthony Gantt of Sigma Gamma Chapter took their beautiful

daughters to the Daddy and Daughter Date Night event held on April 16, 2016, at Camp Kiser Surfside Club in Okinawa, Japan. The event featured an elegant three course meal, live entertainment, dancing and a fun photo booth.

According to recent research, parents have a major impact on the development of their children. This is a two-way street which deals with how the parent treats the child and how the child views the parent.

In 2012, Utah State University conducted a study that showed daughters who perceived their fathers in a more positive light could lead to more fulfilling lives.

Brothers Pree and Gantt used the Daddy and Daughter Date Night as a way to have their daughters see them in the best possible way. Thus, the evening events were dedicated to treating their daughters like a Princess.



Brother Cortez Pree with Daughters
Paschence & Cortiah

80th Grand Conclave
Website: www.oppf.org.
Join Us!



Brother Anthony Gantt with Daughters
Akili, Nalani, Nyomi and Anistyn

Sigma Gamma Gamma Participated in Reading at Kinser Elementary School



Brother Aaron Cooper reading to students
at Kinser Elementary School

SGG Participate in Month of the Military Child Event

Okinawa, Japan – April is the month of the Military Child. The 2016 theme for the **Month of the Military Child** is “Their Journeys and Adventures”.

This awareness month was established to underscore the important role children play in the Armed Forces community.

On April 30, 2016, Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter had two members to participate in an event called

CALTRAP Kids Warrior Day at Camp Courtney Marine Base.

Opened to all kids of 3rd Marine Division Marines and Sailors, children participated in deployment cycle stations, obstacle courses and observed demonstrations from the K-9 and EOD Units.

Brother Anthony Gantt and his family enjoyed the different activities set up for kids. Basileus Michael Robinson provided an information booth that highlighted Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter events for children such as the Art Contest, Talent Hunt, Que-Nic Back 2 School Jam, High School Essay Contest and Scholarship Programs.

There are approximately 2 million military children, ranging in ages from newborn to 18 years; 1.3 million military children are school-aged. Care of military children sustains our fighting force, and strengthens the health, security, and safety of our nation’s families and communities.

Pi Xi Chapter Fatherhood Initiative

Nassau, Bahamas - Pi Xi Chapter took on the Fraternity’s mandate to ensure that a Fatherhood and Mentoring Program is implemented on the Islands and is suited to local issues and needs. With escalating crime rates, slow economic growth, rising unemployment amongst persons between the ages of 18-30 and dismal Junior High and High School academic performance, Pi Xi Chapter sought to find a solution which would actively address these issues.

The Chapter aligned with the Fraternity's Fatherhood Initiative, began a mentorship program at the Cleveland Eneas Primary School. This

school was chosen as it is named after the first Bahamian Omega Man, the late Bro. Dr. Cleveland W. Eneas, Sr., a 1937 graduate of Tuskegee University (nee Institute) and 1941 graduate Meharry Medical College.

From January 6, 2016 through May 20, Brothers volunteered 1-2 hours every Wednesday to mentor primary school students. They engaged students by participating in



reading, writing and comprehension workshops, life discussions and teaching useful skills.

Students from grades one through six were involved in the program and were mentored by Brothers of the local Chapter.

This program has proven successful; it has provided positive male role models for the students, imparted wisdom to the students and encouraged them to reach their full potential.

The faculty and staff lauded Pi Xi Chapter for taking an active role in the community. The Chapter was honored with an award of appreciation at the school's graduation ceremony.

Pi Xi seeks to expand the program to other schools and develop an island-wide initiative that will get other civic organizations involved. The Chapter further seeks to combat literacy issues through donating books to various schools throughout the Islands.

The Fatherhood Initiative is important here in the Bahamas. We are able to address critical challenges of non-existent positive male figures in the lives of many Bahamian children, families and the nation's communities.



The Chapter is committed to the further evolution of this program, understanding that building productive male citizens begins with actively mentoring and grooming the next generation of young men and fathers.

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Makes Historic First In Las Vegas for 80th Grand Conclave

Atlanta, GA - For the first time in 57 years the iconic "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada" sign will bear purple light bulbs to symbolize the official opening of the 80th Grand Conclave!

Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus stated, "The 80th Grand Conclave is weeks away and we are honored that Clark County has blessed Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., with this historic first." See Website: www.oppf.org



(l-r) Leon Pearson, Jr., Grand Marshal & Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly

About This Newsletter:

The goal is: to include information from each District each quarter about their Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives.

Submittal: District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairmen should submit at least one Fatherhood Activity and at least one Mentoring Activity from their District each quarter to:

Bro. Dr. George D. Taylor:
geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net

Submittal dates:

**December 15, for
Publication January 1**

**March 15 for
Publication April 1**

**June 15, for
Publication July 1**

**September 15, for
Publication Oct 1, and
December 15, for Publication
January 1 of each year.**