

Theta Rho Omega News

Summer Edition 2002

Greetings, Sorors!

I hope that you have had a wonderful and restful summer. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming activities.

The summer newsletter is my opportunity to communicate with you while giving our hard-working Epistoleus a well-deserved break. In this newsletter, there is news from the 60th Boule, information on upcoming events, helpful information, and an inspiring meditation to keep you until we meet again.

Continue to enjoy your summer, sorors. I'll see you in a few weeks.

Sisterly,
Soror Brenda

Blazing New Trails Leads To Orlando

Highlights from the 60th Boule

Theta Rho Omega chapter was well represented at the 60th Boule. In addition to our five delegates, a number of sorors were in attendance, participating in a variety of activities.

Our very own Soror Alfreda Keller, Central Region's representative to the International Program Committee, joined her committee colleagues for a stirring swan song. In addition to recognizing chapters and regions for outstanding ON TRACK programs, US Secretary of Education Rod Paige and Dr. Dorothy Height addressed the delegates and assembled sorors.

In the spirit of her theme song, "I Believe I Can Fly", Soror Norma arrived at one plenary session in a helicopter. Then, following her final report to the sorors, she strode from the podium onto the convention floor, touching the hands of the delegates and sorors, until she was whisked from the room to join the other former Supreme Basilei for a book signing.

The formal banquet was an elegant affair attended by more than 10,000 sorors and guests. As in 1998, we watched the orderly transition of power as Soror Norma joined the ranks of the former Supreme Basilei (Soror Mattelia Grays (17th) fastened the traditional "string of pearls" around her neck) and Soror Linda Marie White was installed as 26th Supreme Basileus.

From the opening performance by the Florida chapters to fading notes of the hymn following the Rededication ritual, the 60th Boule was "one magic moment"

after another.

Catch the SPIRIT of AKA, Sorors!

Our 26th Supreme Basileus, Soror Linda White presented her program initiative to the sorors at the final plenary session. Her theme is the SPIRIT of AKA. SPIRIT is an acronym for Sisterhood, Service, Scholarship, Partnership, Innovation, Respect, Involvement and Technology. The program will focus specifically on three target areas -- Education, the Black Family and Health. Chapters have the option to sponsor programs in Economics and the Arts.

Among the highlights of the new program are the Ivy Reading AKAdemy Pilot Program, The Young Authors Program, the Martin Luther King Day of Service and the National Family Volunteer Day.

At our chapter retreat in September, our Anti-Basileus Soror Patricia Jones-Banks will present the new international program in greater detail.

Additional information on the 2002-2006 national program targets is available on the sorority's website, www.aka1908.com.

New Directorate Members

At the 60th Boule, new Directorate Members were elected and appointed. Our International Officers are

Soror Barbara McKenzie First Supreme Anti-Basileus
Soror Jatisha Marsh..... Second Supreme Anti-Basileus
Soror Carolyn House Stewart Supreme Grammateus
Soror Berna Dean Greer..... Supreme Tamiouchos
Soror Nekeidra Brown Undergraduate Member at Large
Soror Courtney Clark Undergraduate Member at Large
Soror Rachel Mallory..... Supreme Parliamentarian

Soror Dorothy Buckhanan was confirmed Central Regional Director. Soror Nadine C. Bonds was appointed International Regional Director. She had previously served as the 25th Central Regional Director.

Boule Resolutions - Greater Tasks To Begin

In addition to resolutions commending Soror Norma for her outstanding leadership as we blazed new trails from 1998-2002 and extending commendations and appreciation to the hostess chapters, the Boule adopted ten resolutions that require action by our chapters. They are:

1. To support legislation to provide prescription drug benefits for the elderly;
2. To support preservation and restoration of historic buildings on HBCU

campuses;

3. To support passage of HR1193 - the No Taxation Without Representation bill - to provide elected representation in Congress for the citizens of the District of Columbia;
4. To have the 25th Supreme Basileus, on behalf of the sorority, write letters of commendation to Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Advisor Dr. Condoleezza Rice;
5. To continue AKA Day at the State Capitol activities;
6. To continue local Get Out The Vote activities;
7. To urge passage of SB 565 - the Equal Protection of Voters' Rights Act;
8. To have all sorors make a personal commitment to maintain good physical, mental and spiritual health;
9. To fully support the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and its "No Child Left Behind" initiative; and
10. To support and encourage sorors to become members of NCNW.

Pack Your Bags and Save Your Money, Sorors -

Future Boules and Leadership Seminars Schedule

The Boule Time and Place Committee presented the following report:

South Central Region/Nashville, TN	July 12-17, 2004
Great Lakes Region/Detroit, MI	July 12-16, 2006
North Atlantic Region/Washington DC	July 12-17, 2008
Central Region/St. Louis, MO	2010
Far Western Region	2012
Mid Atlantic Region/Charlotte NC (tentative)	2014
Mid-Western Region.....	2016

The 2003 Leadership Seminar will be held July 9-13, 2003 at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. 2005's Leadership Seminar will be held August 3-7, 2005 at the Atlantis Hotel on Paradise Island, the Bahamas.

Items of Importance Closer to Home

Local Chapter News

As summer comes to a close, it's back to school time for our community youth and back to work for Theta Rho Omega chapter.

Our partnership with the Grande Prairie Library to provide tutoring services has been renewed. Beginning Saturday, September 7, sorors we need your help to tutor young people in grades 1-8.

Additionally, our chapter and Executive Committee meetings will be held at Grande Prairie, **except for September (our Chapter Retreat) and October's meetings which will be held at Governors State University in E-Lounge.**

Service projects begin on **Saturday, August 31st** when we participate in the **Robbins Back-to-School festival**. This is a collaborative service project. All sorors are asked to come out and support your committee and your chapter. This project will give us great visibility in the community. Please participate so that our friends and neighbors (including a few missing pearls) will have something to see and admire. For details, please contact Soror Patricia Jones-Banks.

Our signature service project will be a Holiday Marketplace on November 16th at the Matteson Holiday Inn. Vendors are needed, along with other service providers. Please contact Soror Patricia Jones-Banks for more details. This is going to be a high visibility event, sorors. We need your full and enthusiastic participation to make it a success. Can we count on you?.

The enclosed **Schedule of Events** lists our upcoming service projects and meetings. Please put it somewhere handy, refer to it often, then come out and participate in as many activities as possible.

Working together strengthens our bonds of sisterhood.

Congratulations To...

YOU, Soror!

- If you had a birthday or wedding anniversary during the summer (We wish you many, many more!);
- If something wonderful happened to you during the break (Bravo! , You Go Girl!);
- If you are one of the sorors who completed all Leadership Development Training modules in 2001 and 2001. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to implementing our international program initiatives.
- **Soror Elana Clemons** who was recently married. Best wishes to the bride and groom!

Likewise, we extend our sympathies to our sorors who have experienced illness or loss during the break. We love you and are here for you!

Please keep **Soror Ernestine Wright** in your prayers. She is still home-bound.

Chapter Retreat is September 28th

Our annual Chapter Retreat will be Saturday, September 28th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Governors State University. The cost is \$10 per soror which covers meals and materials. Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to Soror Marie Smith by the deadline. The focus for the day will be "Sisterhood and Service". The Standards Committee Program Committee will help us enhance our sisterly relations and Soror Patricia Jones-Banks will present the 2002-2006 National Program.

Additionally, we will have a brief chapter meeting to receive a presentation of the proposed 2003 budget.

Area Retreat is October 19th

The Central Region 2002 Area Retreat - North will be held October 19th at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel, 3400 W. Euclid Avenue in Arlington Heights. Lambda Mu Omega is the hostess chapter. Registration is \$45 for graduate sorors. A \$10 late fee will be assessed on registrations postmarked after September 27, 2002. Late registrations postmarked after October 7, 2002 will be returned. Our new Central Regional Director, Soror Dorothy Buckhanan will preside. Let's turn out in large numbers and show our support for our region's new First Lady.

Registration forms for the conference and the workshops (**these are two different forms**) are enclosed. Please adhere to the deadlines as no on-site registration will be accepted.

If you would like to stay overnight on Friday, October 18, rooms at the Sheraton are \$89 for single and double. Call 1-847-394-2000. Registration will be available in the Hospitality Suite from 3-10 p.m. Vendors will be open from 8 p.m. - 12 midnight on Friday and all day on Saturday.

Attire for Friday is Casual. Saturday's attire is Business - No jeans, No sweats, No paraphernalia.

2003 Joint Founders Day

Theta Rho Omega Chapter will be responsible for Decorations, the Reactivation Appeal and the Rededication Ritual at the 2003 Joint Founders Day celebration. Sorors interested in helping out with these commitments, please contact Soror Vanessa Vavasseur (Decorations) or Soror Brenda Montgomery (Reactivation and Rededication). The committee's next meeting is August 27. We are scheduled to provide refreshments at November's meeting.

A Healthy Fact

Get plenty of calcium. Your body needs at least 1000 mg each day. You can get it from low-fat milk or yogurt, fortified fruit juices, spinach, kale or calcium tablets. From the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

And They're Off to College - A Farewell to our ESSENCE Girls

On Saturday, August 10th, The ESSENCE Committee hosted a farewell dinner for the young ladies who participated in the ESSENCE mentoring program during the last three years. Each young lady received a certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate from the chapter Kudos to Soror Jena Brannon and Noel Frierson for doing a great job leading this program.

Just For Fun

Theta Rho Omega sorors have transferred into our chapter from 15 different chapters. Name the chapters. (Hint: The answers are in your chapter procedures manual)

A Final Word

The following poem was sent to me by Soror Clara S. Lee of Xi Omega chapter in Washington, DC, a soror friend who recently became an Ivy Beyond the Wall.

ASAP

Ever wonder about the abbreviation ASAP?

Generally, we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives.

Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do; deadlines to meet. You've got no time to spare; but as you hurry and scurry...

ASAP -- ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

In the midst of family chaos, 'quality time' is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest...

ASAP -- ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like your worries are more than you can bear...

Slow down and take a breather...

ASAP -- ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

God knows how stressful life is;

He wants to ease our cares.

He'll respond to all your needs...

ASAP -- ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

Today, I'm saying a little prayer that God will smile

On you and send you all the special blessings that you deserve.

Put this on your refrigerator. Or on the mirror in your bedroom.

And, of course, share it with someone else...ASAP

. Truly the LAST Word

The Theta Rho Omega News is going on-line. You can find it at **www.thetarhoomegaAKA.org** after August 26th! Please check it out and tell me how you like it.