



Fall 2011

Volume IV, Issue 1



Greetings Sorors of the Fantastic Far West,

It is time for celebrations! What should we be celebrating at this time? Allow me to offer my thoughts on the matter. We have so many blessings that we lose sight of in the process of being so busy doing what we do. It is important to pause periodically and take stock of those blessings.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and the Christmas season we must realize how fortunate we are first of all to be alive and living under a roof (in most cases, a very comfortable one). The food in our pantry along with at least a modicum of good health, provide us with the energy to do what we do. **Let's pause briefly and give thanks before going any further.**

Sorors, I hope by now that you have your slate of officers, budget and program plans for 2012 ready

for membership approval and implementation. All of this will provide you with a smooth transition for the new year. The officers, whether outgoing or continuing, deserve to be celebrated and told how grateful we are for their willingness to serve. Appreciation for leadership, whether it is an elected or appointed position, encourages new leadership with potential to be willing to step forward and take the risk.

Continuing on with our celebration, let's congratulate our Winter Leadership Fellow, Soror Roda Barket of the University of Washington. She will have the opportunity to refine her leadership skills, network with our business partners, as well as graduate and undergraduate sorors from around the world. We look forward to hearing great things from Soror Barket.

The Far Western Region has a new chapter, Psi Nu Omega, located in Northeast Washington State. The chapter also includes sorors from Moscow, Idaho. We will also have two new undergraduate chapters by the end of November. We are very excited about Loyola Marymount University and Pepperdine University chartering their first Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority chapters. We can celebrate the growth of the Far Western Region that will ultimately help our national goal of 100,000 by July, 2014.

Congratulations to the host chapters of the fall conferences: Kappa

Xi of Las Vegas hosted the Undergraduate Roundup, Chi Kappa Omega of Lancaster, CA hosted Southern California Cluster, Sigma Delta Omega Chapter hosted Northern California Cluster, Zeta Omega Omega hosted Pacific Northwest Cluster, and Delta Beta Omega Chapter hosted Intermountain Cluster. Fantastic job Sorors! I am very grateful to all who attended for your contributions toward the capitalization of my endowment. The total for all conferences was in excess of \$5000.00. We will have a total report at regional conference. Thanks ever so much for your thoughtfulness. Congratulations to all presenters. Evaluations indicate that all of the presentations were well received. Certainly **any "pink and green anger" will be in check** for chapter members who were fortunate enough to be there. For those sorors who could not personally attend any of the fall conferences, please share the information to provide maximum benefit for the entire chapter. Some of the points presented at the fall conferences need further highlight so that our region does not miss any awards we may be **entitled to.** The **"Choose You"** Campaign is a simple one for us to take advantage of and it will benefit each of you as well. Look for this option on the AKA1908 website and select **"Partnerships."** Sorors, please include that you are from the Far Western Region. Chapter historians and EDITING teams will be convened for further training either through webinars, conference calls and/or regional

conferences. Please send me their names. The sorors appointed should remain in office until 2014. More information is to come.

Our celebrations need to include friends and family as they support us in our effort to make the communities in which we live a better place for all. Let us always be mindful of our own health (physically, mentally, and spiritually) while we do for others. We cannot continue to be **our "Personal Best" if we do not** pause to do for ourselves.

I wish each of you and your families, a Blessed Thanksgiving and Glorious Holiday Season!

Sisterly Love,

*Sora Adams*

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# Pearls of Wisdom

Official Newsletter  
of  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Far Western Region  
1616 West Moody Trail  
Phoenix, AZ 85041

Phone: (602) 276-2125  
Fax: (602) 268-5512  
E-Mail: ltark@att.net  
Website: www.akafarwest.com



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*Cara Weddington*  
Executive Assistant  
to the  
Regional Director



*Doni McClendon*  
Assistant to the Regional Director,  
Undergraduate Documentation



*Candra Loftis*  
Communications Chairman



*Karen Atkinson*  
Newsletter Editor



*LaVern Tarkington*  
Far Western Regional Director



*Carolyn House Stewart, Esq.*  
Supreme Basileus



# A Glimpse from the Leadership Conference Atlanta, Georgia



## Leadership & Service: A Timeless Mission



Congratulations to the more than 3900 Sorors who recognized that membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has its privileges by attending Leadership 2011 in Atlanta, GA. **This year's Leadership Seminar offered 106 informative workshops, staffed by 145 knowledgeable presenters and over 300 experienced facilitators.**

During the seminar, sorors had the potential to: complete 23 hours of training scheduled during pre-conference workshops, special forums and seven workshop time blocks; direct their attention to the comprehensive, broad and diverse topics that were current and aligned **with today's program initiatives and global issues and to share "best practices."**

It is our hope that sorors are energized and prepared to move their chapters and regions to the next level of leadership. In the spirit of each one, teach one and sisterly sharing, sorors who attended the Leadership Seminar should maximize what they learn and **PASS ON THE KNOWLEDGE**, not only in words but by their actions both internally and externally.

The Internal Leadership Training for External Service Committee encourages you to:

- **Use it, don't lose it:** By all means, put what was learned at Leadership into practice. The 2011 Leadership Seminar provided a wide variety of workshops and forums that are critical for: effective chapter operations, knowledge of our rituals and sorority protocol, implementation our 2010-2014 Program Initiatives, continued sisterly relations and improved interpersonal dynamics and communication skills.
- Encourage sorors to take advantage of the learning opportunities: There are 16 opportunities (Undergraduate Round Ups, Regional Conferences, Leadership Seminars, Fall Cluster Meetings, Boule, and **Leadership Fellows**) during **Supreme Basileus Carolyn House Stewart's 2010 -2014** administration to complete workshops in order to receive a certificate of completion for the 2010-2014 Internal Leadership Training Program. Program completion is based on completing a total of 20 courses that include four Core courses in one curriculum and 16 Elective courses from any curriculum. Details of the program are highlighted in the article, *Cultivate the Leader Within for Timeless Service*, pages 22 - 23, in the Spring 2011 *Ivy Leaf*.
- Transfer and apply your knowledge and skills: The added advantage of our formal Internal Leadership Training Program is to ensure we present a poised and knowledgeable presence externally. As you collaborate with our organizational and community partners, do so with confidence in the knowledge you gained through your Leadership 2011 experience
- Always be prepared. Leadership is focused on "learning" about Alpha Kappa Alpha, and as such, sorors should make sure they have all necessary sorority documents with them when they attend meetings.

For more information, comments or questions related to the 2010-2014 Internal Leadership Training Program, feel free to contact: [internalleadership@aka1908.com](mailto:internalleadership@aka1908.com) or Soror Venita Clisby King, [venita@getmethru.com](mailto:venita@getmethru.com)

Soror Wanda Herndon  
Member,  
Internal Leadership Training for External Service Committee

## Communications 101:

In a world where the ability to communicate is no longer a commodity but a genuine necessity, it becomes ever more apparent why the media really matters to Alpha Kappa Alpha. Traditional media outlets (i.e. television, radio, print) have **the ability to provide 24/7 coverage of the world's events. With the advent of social media, the ability for news to be instantly disseminated takes only the time it takes to type 140 characters and hit "Post". With the click of a mouse, the news reaches an inspired network of thousands. Their "friends" or "followers" in turn, outreach and forward or "retweet" the news to their thousands of connections. This has a multiplying effect that is powerful, penetrating, effective, and yields results.**

Specific to Alpha Kappa Alpha, the influence of the media is an important element that enhances our stature as a global organization. With chapters in every corner of the world cementing our worldwide service brand is critical to carrying out our mission. On a regional level, it is important that we continue to improve our media presence throughout the region in order to gain better results and support for our programs of service, our advocacy positions, our fundraisers and for all other initiatives. We can also deploy media to complement our efforts to seek support from foundations, businesses and other prospects that could be persuaded to provide financial or in-kind support to our programs.

### *Why Media Matters:*

1. **Heightens Sorority & Chapter Visibility:** Working with the media allows those that are unaware of the work of Alpha Kappa Alpha to be introduced to our key messages, significant work in our community, and members who demonstrate outstanding achievements inside and outside of the organization.
2. **Transmits Messages Quickly:** Media has the ability to get our message out to the masses quickly and across the three screens (TV, Phone, and PC). The reach of the media is also pervasive and immediate. The Nielsen Company estimates that in 2010-2011, there will be 115.9 million television viewers. In addition, Facebook has over 800 million users, Twitter generates more than 155 million tweets per day, and 294 billion emails are sent per day. Media outlets utilize all of these vehicles to report the news. With this kind of coverage, it is absolutely essential that we get our message to the media.
3. **Represents a Branding Tool:** The media has the ability to continue to extend and build the International Alpha Kappa Alpha brand, as well as chapter brands in local communities.
4. **Builds Relationships:** People like to work with individuals they know. The media allows community members, partner organizations and potential donors with a greater ability to get to know local chapters and explore why they should participate in local community service programs or sponsor chapter fundraisers.
5. **Broadens Exposure:** By working with the media, a chapter has the ability to broaden their scope beyond their local community and extend it to nearby cities, non-African American organizations and community members, and beyond service based organizations. Also through the use of social media, a chapter can increase the number of younger and/or tech savvy members of the community, as the chapter looks to extend their programs of service to new audiences.
6. **Endorses AKA's Programmatic Initiatives:** Positive media attention has the ability to increase the number of people served through chapter programs. Media assist in adding credibility to our program initiatives and to Alpha Kappa Alpha as a partner and service provider of choice.
7. **Advances Legislative Agenda:** Through AKA C.A.R.E.S, Alpha Kappa Alpha has the ability to continue to be an important component of the legislative process and encourage others to get involved in their local, state or national electoral process. As noted during our cluster and UG Round-Up Connection presentations, Soror Doreathea Johnson, **Representative to the International Connection Committee emphasized the importance of getting AKA's Connection message out through the usage of positive media exposure.**

## *Why Media Matters*

Supports Completion of End of the Year Reports: During our 2011 Undergraduate Round-Up and Clusters, we learned from Soror Linda Gaines Brooks, Representative to the International Program Committee, the importance of not only implementing our programs but also documenting the number of people served, partners that are participating in the program initiatives and the importance of actively communicating our programs of service. These among other items are required fields to complete end of the year reports and can assist sorors in winning sorority and community awards. Furthermore, by documenting these important program elements, it can assist chapters in receiving grants and future media publicity.

**Due to its scope, numerous delivery mechanisms, ability to establish credibility, and “go viral” effect, the importance of the media continues to be one of the key strategies in our pursuit of Global Leadership.** As your international and regional communications liaisons, we are poised and eager to host a workshop, webinar, teleconference or other forum to provide strategies on how your chapter can effectively reach the media. Our contact information is below. We also direct you to obtain a copy of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Media Guide, which is a reference tool that provides tactics you can use to **maximize your media presence.** **The Guide can be accessed by logging on to the “Members Only” section of the AKA web site and going to the “Documents” section; or by ordering it through the Corporate office.**

Sisterly,  
Soror Leona Dotson  
Representative to the International Communications Committee  
[lhdotson@live.com](mailto:lhdotson@live.com)

&

Soror Candra Loftis  
Region Information Officer &  
Far Western Region Communications Chairman  
[tnc33@netzero.net](mailto:tnc33@netzero.net)



Our 12<sup>th</sup> Far Western Regional Director, Soror Laura Banks Reed, turned 90 years young on June 29<sup>th</sup> of this year. She celebrated this momentous time in her life with parties and well-wishes from all over the country. We salute our very own Precious Pearl who, no matter where she lives, will always belong to the Fantastic Far Western Region!

## *Educational Advancement Foundation*



Left to Right: Soror Barbara Sutton, EAF Executive Director; Soror Linda Grooms-Cooper, EAF Board Member; Soror Barbara Trotter, EAF Advisory Board Chairman; Soror LaVerne Tarkington, FW Regional Director; Soror Velma Marshall, FW EAF Coordinator; Soror Carolyn House Stewart, AKA President; Soror Dorothy Buchannan, AKA Vice President.

**The Far Western Region was the recipient of not one, but two prestigious awards at the EAF “Sassy in White” Luncheon held this past July at the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The Region won *The Constance K. Holland Overall Achievement Award for the greatest amount of contributions among Small Regions* and *The Constance K. Award Overall Achievement Award for raising the Largest Amount of Contributions to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation*. The Far Western Region contributed \$88,608 to EAF making it the leader of all the 10 regions. A large part of the contribution came from an anonymous donor; however, the region raised over \$28,000 from chapter and individual donations. This recognition serves as a testament to the Region’s commitment to the goals and purposes of EAF.**

THANK YOU SORORS OF THE FAR WESTERN REGION!

Sorors you answered the call at the Regional Conference and expressed your love and support to Soror LaVern Tarkington and Soror E. Lavonne Lewis. A special Thank You to all the chapters and individuals who made

## *Congratulations Far Western Region!*

contributions to help capitalize the Endowment Fund of our beloved Regional Director and former Regional Director. Overall the Region contributed over \$6,700 from donations and the EAF Luncheon held at the 2011 Regional Conference. Both Sorors LaVern and Lavonne were so impressed and very thankful for your outstanding support. Soror LaVonne received the Emerald Endowment Award at the Leadership Conference for having reached the \$15,000 mark in her endowment.

### 2012 FAR WESTERN REGION EAF GOALS

Sorors as a Region we raised the bar in our commitment to EAF during 2011. We can do no less in 2012. We can double our efforts in this upcoming year by striving to meet these goals on a regional level.

#### A. INCREASE GIVING AT CHAPTER LEVEL

- 100% Membership;
- 100% of Chapters Attain Silver Level Status (Chapter Donation Based On Chapter Size)
- Increase By 50% Chapters Attaining Gold Level Status (Silver Level Plus \$500 - \$999 Over And Above the Silver Level)
- Increase By 50% Chapters Attaining Platinum Level Status (Silver Level plus Gold Level Plus \$1,000)

#### B. INCREASE PARTICIPATION BY CHAPTER CAPTAINS

- All chapters appoint an EAF Chapter Captain
- All Chapter Captains submit all chapter documents and payments to EAF International Office by February 15

#### C. CAPITALIZE UNCAPITALIZED ENDOWMENTS OF PAST AND PRESENT FAR WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTORS

### EAF--CREATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS

The Far Western Region has been a leader in Creating Global Opportunities for Success. We must take every **opportunity to show our support to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's legacy of supporting life long learning.** Each donation is a vote of confidence in our children and our community—that we will succeed in assuring that opportunities for higher education are available. Each donation assures that we have the opportunity to improve our communities through the EAF community grants program.

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

Velma C. Marshall, Far Western Regional Coordinator

# Global Leadership Through Timeless Service

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE ~ Global Service: The SMART Way!



## Sorors: Have you registered?

Partnering with American Cancer Society affords every active soror the opportunity to take steps toward making **their health a priority**. **“Choose You” was created to encourage us to put our own health first in the fight against cancer.** This is an on-line program that helps you track and achieve your personal health goals. ACS will award a prize to the region with the highest percentage of registered sorors by the end of this year. Sorors, accept the challenge and register through our corporate website, adding life to your years – [www.cancer.org/aka1908](http://www.cancer.org/aka1908)



## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM 4 MONTH FORECAST...

GRADUATE CHAPTERS	UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTERS
<i>September</i>	<i>September</i>
National Women's and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Aging Out of Foster Care Public Policy Briefing-Congressional Black Caucus National HBCU Month	Global Poverty Initiative – Volunteer at the local food bank Host Donor Awareness Program to spotlight Organ Donors Undergraduate Round-Up
<i>October</i>	<i>October</i>
Domestic Violence Month Recycle Cell Phones for Local Battered Women's Shelter Breast Cancer Awareness Month Heifer International Donations “Choose You” Clusters Conferences	Social Justice and Human Rights Initiatives Conduct the “Know Your Campus” survey Cyber Security Awareness Month “Choose You” Cluster Conferences
<i>November</i>	<i>November</i>
Good Nutrition Month American Diabetes Month Cluster Conferences	Global poverty Awareness Month/Fundraiser for Heifer Organize “recycle, reduce, reuse” day on university campus Events for November 17 <sup>th</sup> “Great American Smoke out Day” Cluster Conferences
<i>December</i>	<i>December</i>
Angel Tree End of the Year Annual Reports On-line reporting-deadline 12/31/11 Presidential ENVIRONMENTAL Youth Award Deadline	Angel Tree project End of the Year Annual Reports Due On-line reporting-deadline 12/31/11 Presidential Environmental Youth Awards Deadline

Linda Gaines-Brooks  
Far Western Region Representative  
Eta Nu Omega  
6215 N. Orange Ave.  
Rialto, Ca 92377  
[rmzbroks@yahoo.com](mailto:rmzbroks@yahoo.com) / [lgbaka1992@gmail.com](mailto:lgbaka1992@gmail.com)

Sharon Bridges, Chairman  
Chairman, International Program Committee  
South Eastern Region  
P.O.Box 119  
Jackson, MS 39205  
[Sharon.bridges@arlaw.com](mailto:Sharon.bridges@arlaw.com)

## Chapter News



ALPHA NU OMEGA PARTICIPATES IN THE 27TH ANNUAL UNCF WALK FOR EDUCATION - Alpha Nu Omega collaborated with the UNCF of the San Francisco Bay Area for the 27th Annual Walk for Education on September 17.

Sorors of Alpha Nu Omega made the 5k trek in their pink and green, around Lake Merritt in Oakland, California, in support of the 39 HBCUs in the UNCF network. Hundreds of attendees throughout the Bay Area came out to participate and enjoy food, entertainment, and a health education fair.

Alpha Nu Omega contributed over \$1,000 in support of UNCF. UNCF HBCUs are responsible for producing some of the brightest and most talented leaders today.

Alpha Nu Omega graciously continues to move forward Alpha Kappa Alpha's legacy and journey to provide Service to All Mankind!

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EPSILON ETA OMEGA PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY – On September 28, 2011, as part of the sorority's **Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Initiative**, Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter attended the Pomona City Commission Planning Meeting to participate in the discussions on build-

ing an eco-friendly waste transfer station in the city of Pomona. The Pomona Valley Transfer Station project offers a smart focus within the environmental zones in an urban community such as Pomona Valley. The project will help to resolve conservation issues and provide a solution to energy efficiency and smart eco-living. Mrs. Jillian Reiff of Valley Vista Services and environmental consultants educated the Pomona commissioners and the residents on the environmental impact and benefits to area-wide traffic and air quality. In an effort to increase awareness, Valley Vista Services provided facts and encouraged us to visit the site of the transfer station. The Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Initiative Chairman is Soror Alicia Flowers-Hamilton and the basilus is Soror Juanita Dawson.



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SEPTEMBER FILLED WITH SERVICE FOR ETA NU OMEGA - During September, the ladies of Eta Nu Omega Chapter participated in various service projects. Sorors showed up at Fairmount Park in Riverside, California in their pink and green attire in support of increasing awareness of heart disease and other related conditions among women. Continuing the annual tradition, the **"Pink and Green Heart Beats"** participated in the American



Heart Association Walk, raising over \$800.00.

Feeding those in need was another community service project the women of Eta Nu Omega Chapter undertook the same weekend at the Orange Valley Lodge #13 in Riverside, California. In remembrance of 9/11, members volunteered their time from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sorors prepared meals for over 500 people in need. With the help of James Beauregard, Good Samaritan and member of the Orange Valley Lodge #13, who donated all of the food for the event, the activity was a terrific way to give back on the ten-year anniversary of a day of tremendous loss.

Furthering their mission of service, Eta Nu Omega Chapter, in partnership with Heritage Intermediate School in Etiwanda School District, launched its Emerging Young Leaders Program on Thursday, September 15th. The chapter has selected 25 young women to participate in the program.

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KAPPA OMEGA OMEGA SPONSORS SUMMER LEADERSHIP RETREAT - **Kappa Omega Omega's "Beautiful Bakersfield"** sorors, along with Soror

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Chapter News

(Continued from page 9)



Linda Gaines Brooks, Far Western Regional Representative to the International Program Committee, traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, to attend the chapter's annual Summer Leadership Retreat at the Hilton Grand Vacations Club. Workshops included sessions on finance, program, connections, standards, membership, nominations, bylaws, audit and archives. A highlight of Saturday's workshop was Soror Linda Gaines Brooks' presentation on program goals and GLTTS Initiatives. Sunday's activities included praise and worship. The retreat fulfills the Internal Leadership Training for External Service Initiative and is a chapter membership reclamation activity. Sorors came away with a greater sense of purpose and a deeper sense of commitment to carry out the goals of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The chairman of the retreat is Soror Linda McKnight and the chapter basileus is Soror Ruscel Reader.

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**MU LAMBDA OMEGA GRADUATES FIRST EMERGING YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM CLASS** - This summer, seventeen young ladies graduated from **Mu Lambda Omega's inaugural Emerging Young Leaders** program class at Frank D. Parent School. Over the course of the year, Mu Lambda Omega sorors engaged the young ladies in weekly meetings and multiple events. The class learned how to start a business and showcased their

new businesses at a Small Business Expo which featured MLO's Soror Anissa McNeill, JD, as keynote speaker. They also participated in etiquette workshops, the Drew Auxiliary Health Fair, and a Teen Economic Summit to further enhance their entrepreneurial skill set.

Soror Eleanor Wallace and Soror Mei-Li Thomas, Co-chairmen of the EYL Committee, praised the young ladies at the graduation ceremony for their growth and dedication to the EYL program. Additionally, each of the eighth grade EYL graduates shared their experience in the program, while their parents, family, friends and sorors looked on with pride. MLO sorors were extremely encouraged by the success of the first graduating class and expressed great sentiments for their future. MLO will begin the next EYL class this fall with even further vigor and excitement for the new class.

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**RHO UPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER LAUNCHES EMERGING YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM** – Rho Upsilon Omega launched its Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) program at the Walnut Creek Li-



brary on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one young ladies and family members attended the launch which included various activities. The day started with a continental breakfast, introductions and gift basket presentations for all the participants. Each young leader was presented with an EYL polo-shirt, a pink or green bracelet, an EYL notebook, and pens and pencils. The young leaders were



also awarded monetary prizes based on scholarship and scholastic improvements. Soror Linda Walls, Basileus, gave a wonderful presentation on the history of Alpha Kappa Alpha and an explanation of the benefits of the EYL program. EYL Program Chairman, Soror Marci Brown, presented the program goals and assisted the young leaders in selecting a mission statement and developing personal goals. Soror Christine Pauley and the EYL Committee provided the leadership for a wonderful and exciting, sisterly day. The EYL Launch was followed by an information session for the Rho Upsilon Omega Rosebuds program. This mentoring program is geared toward young ladies attending high school. Overall, the day was a huge success.

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**SIGMA LAMBDA OMEGA CHAPTER CONTINUES TO SERVE THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY WITH ITS ONGOING COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVES** - In August, sorors of SLO gathered for an annual planning retreat where new ideas were **formulated for next year's program**-ming. Attendees engaged in a vision board exercise, attaching phrases to a poster for visual inspiration. Sorors also began the first steps in developing a chapter strategic plan by doing a SWOT analysis of the chapter. Later that month, SLO held its annual Networking Mixer in honor of National Black Business Month. Black-owned businesses and other companies were invited to sponsor

## Chapter News

a table where patrons could gather information on the various services. Over 100 community members attended and enjoyed raffle prizes and refreshments. In September, sorors and friends of SLO served the community through Coastal Clean-up Day where they volunteered at Lake Balboa Park in Van Nuys for California's largest annual community service project. 1,948 lbs. of trash was collected. In the same month, SLO co-sponsored an estate planning seminar attended by nearly 50 guests at the Sherman Oaks Galleria. Estate planning is a subject often neglected in the Black community, according to seminar speaker and Harvard-trained attorney Caprice Collins. The event was a first-time collaboration of the four San Fernando Valley National Pan-Hellenic Council sororities.

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**TAU BETA OMEGA PROMOTES HEALTHY LIVING** - Tau Beta Omega trained its Emerging Young Leaders while raising health awareness at the annual 186<sup>th</sup> Street School Health and Safety Fair. At TBO's sponsored booth,



both sorors and the chapter's EYL mentees distributed guides with health and safety tips. In an effort to support the school's Peace First Program, TBO sold bumper stickers advocating domestic violence awareness as well as hand-painted wooden flowers with each petal representing a message of peace. TBO and EYL donated all proceeds to the Jenness Center. Dozens of families visiting

**TBO's booth supported a worthy, life-saving cause** while also receiving valuable instructions on how to live a healthier way of life.

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**THETA ALPHA OMEGA HOLDS INAUGURAL PEARL FOUNDATION CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT** - The Pearl Foundation, Inc., held its Inaugural Golf Tournament on August 8, 2011 at the Navy Destroyer Golf Course in Cypress, California. The tournament raised money that will benefit young students in the community and the Emerging Young Leaders program. KABC Eyewitness news Co-anchor Soror Leslie Sykes served as the event chair. The event was sponsored by Lexus, Mercedes Benz, Broadway Federal Bank, and City National Bank.

Over 100 golfers were in attendance including a junior golf team, African-American firefighters and other civic personnel. Honored at this event was Long beach City Councilman Dee Andrews for his outstanding contributions to the Long Beach community.

The Pearl Foundation, in association with Theta Alpha Omega Chapter, is dedicated to providing scholarships to college-bound students and developing the nations next generation of young leaders from underserved communities. It has awarded thousands of dollars to deserving young students and has funded various community projects since its inception. Signature programs have included providing scholarships to college bound students, spearheading a well-baby project, implementing the Emerging Young Leaders Program in middle school, and mentoring ongoing leadership building projects at the high school level.

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**HISTORYMAKERS BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY UPSILON BETA OMEGA** - As students across the country begin the new school year, Utah area *HistoryMakers*, and Sorors Joyce M. Gray and Emma E. Houston, joined more than 500 African American *HistoryMakers* nationwide for the 2nd Annual Back to School with The *HistoryMakers* program on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Gray made history in Utah when she was named principal of Arcadia Elementary in Granite School District in 1984. Gray shared a piece of her African-American history with students at Murray's Horizon Elementary on Friday.



Bryant Middle in Salt Lake City had a visit from two "history makers," University of Utah history professor Dr. Ronald Coleman and former Girl Scouts administrator, community activist and business owner Soror Emma E. Houston.

Principal and Soror Frances Battle, stated, "I try to have as many role models as possible come in and share their stories to make a difference."

# Around the Far Western Region



## Far West's Very Own 2011 Leadership Fellow

Soror Elisabeth Archer, *Sigma Rho*, is a student at California State University, Fullerton, majoring in history with a double minor in Afro-Ethnic Studies and Human Communications. Upon earning her BS she plans to attend graduate school. Her goal is to attend law school and work in corporate communications or become a corporate attorney.

Soror Elisabeth inspires others through her thought-provoking leadership and sisterly attitude. She takes her role as a leader in the organization very seriously. Currently she serves as grammateus in her chapter. She is conscientious about her work and always delivers a great product. Soror Elisabeth is a strong leader who is to be commended for her diligence to serving others as well as her commitment to excellence and academic achievement.



## Pearls on the Move



The Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) named **Denny International Middle School's** Chanda E. Oatis, *Delta Upsilon Omega*, the 2012 Washington State Assistant Principal of the Year. Oatis, who was chosen from a pool of regional winners across the state, earned the award for her work on the **school's literacy program. She also**

**makes an impact on today's media-minded students.** She leads a tradition at Denny of making parody videos to encourage students to feel positive about state testing and academics in general. She co-wrote and appears in a **YouTube video called "Teach Me How to Study" that has garnered more than 38,000 views.**



Soror Juanita Dawson, *Epsilon Eta Omega*, was honored and recognized for her achievements by the San Bernardino Black Culture Foundation at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Humanitarian, Community Service and Black Rose Awards Gala held at the National Orange Show Renaissance in San Bernardino, California on September 9, 2011. She was selected as the recipient of

the 2011 Black Rose Award for her dedication to making the world a better place to live. Soror Dawson was among other unsung heroes that have worked diligently to improve the lives of others. She has personified the highest standards of service, leadership, character and excellence, and someone that the community believes should be honored. Soror Dawson consistently seeks strategic partnerships with other local organizations to engage in further community service efforts. Her selfless attitude sets her apart from others due to her willingness to help others and share of

herself. Soror Dawson is a Life Member and currently serves as basileus of Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter, Pomona Valley, California.



Soror Lisa Cox, *Mu Lambda Omega*, was elected national secretary to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) at the Annual Convention. Soror Lisa will hold this prestigious position for the 2011-2013 term.

**The NABJ is the world's largest journalism organization of color and Soror Lisa has held several leadership positions in her ascension to national secretary.** She was the Region 6 Director of NABJ and a past president of the Black Journalists Association of Southern California. Professionally, Soror Lisa is a producer at KTLA-TV 5 Los Angeles and broadcast journalism lecturer at California State University, Long Beach. Soror Lisa also lends her journalistic talents to the Far Western Region Communications Committee.



Monica Sudduth, *Rho Upsilon Omega*, is the newly appointed Western Regional Development Director for the United Negro College Fund. Soror Monica is responsible for securing **1.6 million dollars for the region's annual campaign to support students who attend historically black colleges and universities as well as other institutions.** UNCF provides academic scholarships

for these students who are in need of financial assistance. We salute our Soror and the great work she is doing to insure that during these difficult times, we take two steps forward and no steps back holding true to the motto **"A mind is a terrible thing to waste."**

Congratulations to the newest Golden Soror  
in the Far Western Region!

Soror Maxine Dandridge Marshall, Epsilon Eta Omega

## The Newest String of Pearls in the Far Western Region!



*Psi Nu Omega's new charter members pose with Far Western Regional Director, Soror Lavern S. Tarkington.*  
 Front (L. to R.) Carmento Floyd, Far Western Regional Director- Lavern S. Tarkington, Felicia Gaskins  
 Second Row (L. to R.) Shelvona Roby, Nicole Hatcher, Cheryl Harrelson, Kelly Dotson  
 Third Row (L. to R.) Ashley Jenkins, Tonisha Jones, Ebony Moore, DaVina Hoyt, Ce'Kedra Cole, Elaine King, Dana McLeod, Elm Williams  
 Fourth Row (L. to R.) Carrie Swafford-Bennett, Rosalyn Page, Bree Muai, Charlene Kay, Fanny Bush, Geneva Ellis-Balone

PSI NU OMEGA CHARTERED IN FAR WESTERN REGION—On Saturday, September 24, 2011, the Twenty Pearls of the Inland Northwest interest group was chartered as Psi Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. Far Western Regional Director, Soror Lavern S. Tarkington conducted the ceremony, making the chapter the newest in the region and only the third graduate chapter in the state of Washington.

A celebratory luncheon followed the ceremony. Among the approximately 100 guests were the mayors of Pullman, WA, Moscow, ID and the president of Washington State University. Each of these dignitaries welcomed Psi Nu Omega to the communities and expressed their eagerness in supporting the Chapter in accomplishing the goals of the Sorority.

The 21 charter members of Psi Nu Omega members include Soror Carmento Floyd, Basileus; Soror Felicia Gaskins, Anti-Basileus; Soror Nicole Hatcher, Grammateus; Soror ReAnna Roby, Anti-**Grammateus**; **Soror Ce'Kedra Cole, Epistoleus**; Soror Cheryl Harrelson, Tamiouchos; Soror Kelly Dotson, Pecunious Grammateus; Soror Elaine King, Parliamentarian; Soror Kimberly Williams, Hodegos; Soror Ebony Moore, *Ivy Leaf* Reporter; Soror DaVina Hoyt, Chaplain; Soror Dana McLeod, Philacter; Soror Ashley Jenkins, Member-at-Large; Soror Tonisha Jones, Historian and Graduate Advisor; Soror Fanny Bush, Soror Geneva Ellis-Balone, Soror Sonya Johnson, Soror Charlene Kay, Soror Bree Muai, Soror Rosalyn Page, and Soror Carrie Swafford-Bennett. This chapter serves communities in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. Psi Nu Omega Chapter is the first chapter to be chartered under the leadership of Far Western Regional Director, Soror Lavern S. Tarkington.

## Our Thoughts and Prayers are With...

Soror Barbara A. McKinzie, our 27<sup>th</sup> *Supreme Basileus*, who lost her father Mr. Leonard T. McKinzie. Cards and **condolences may be sent to Soror McKinzie's home: 301 Wysteria Drive, Olympia Fields, IL 60461**. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: The McKinzie/Moses Scholarship Fund AKA – EAF, 5656 South Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637.

Soror Sonya Simril, *Alpha Nu Omega*, who lost her father in August.

Soror Linda Harrington, *Sigma Pi Omega*, in the loss of both her father Lemuel Vaughn, and her brother Glenn McGraw.

Soror Rose R. Strong, *Sigma Pi Omega*, in the loss of her only brother, Larry C. Rolland.

Soror Janyce Teasley, *Mu Lambda Omega*, who lost her mother in July 2011.

Soror Marcal Maye-Henderson, *Mu Lambda Omega*, who lost her grandfather in July 2011.

## *Ivies Beyond the Wall*

Soror Jean Williams, *Delta Beta Omega*, became an Ivy Beyond the Wall on July 23, 2011. Judge Williams was the first African-American woman to be appointed to a municipal court judgeship, both in Tucson and Phoenix. She received her law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1951 and passed the bar in Illinois that same year. Described as feisty and outspoken, she was the only African-American woman in her entering law school class of 200 in 1948. Judge Williams received many awards for her distinguished legal career and for the fact that she prevailed as a pioneering black woman lawyer in Arizona. She was a longtime member of Delta Beta Omega and served as Chapter President from 1990 -1991.

Golden Soror Goldye Jones Hart, *Delta Beta Omega*, became an Ivy Beyond the Wall in August. She was very proud of the fact that she had been taught by Professor **Melvin Tolson, who was the college's debate coach and was depicted in the 2007 film, *The Great Debaters*, starring Denzel Washington.** Soror Goldye and her late husband, Alcee, along with her brother founded the first African-American owned insurance company chartered in Arizona. She was a successful business woman, exemplary teacher and was the first African-American female principal in the Roosevelt School District in Phoenix. She was an active member of the sorority for nearly 72 years and a long-time member of Delta Beta Omega.

Soror Evelyn Juanita (*Horton*) Jackson, Life Member of *Delta Upsilon Omega*, became an Ivy Beyond the Wall on August 30, 2011. Soror Jackson was initiated into Delta Upsilon Omega in 1978. She graduated from Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia where she began her career in music education. In 1942 she married Robert Ellis Jackson. For 90 years, she lived a pearlescent existence that demonstrated hard work, perseverance, and pure delight. Soror Jackson was the magnificent accompanist for the Ivies Beyond the Ceremony at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Far Western Regional Conference in May; a month before celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Soror Mary Davis, *Alpha Nu Omega*, was born October 5, 1926 in Grand Cane, Louisiana and became an Ivy Beyond the Wall on August 25, 2011. She earned an RN Certificate from the St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing and

a BA in Nursing from San Francisco State College, where she was initiated into Rho Chapter in 1947. She later earned a PhD in Nursing Science from UC Berkeley. Soror Mary provided outstanding leadership and service to Alpha Kappa Alpha through the years. She served as past Basileus of Alpha Nu Omega chapter and was a Charter Life Member of EAF. Soror Mary was a Golden Soror, a Life Member, and an active member up until her passing.

Soror Maudell Humphrey-LeFort, *Eta Gamma Omega*, who was initiated 67 years ago in Alpha Chi chapter at North Carolina Central University, was a charter member of Eta Gamma Omega Chapter in Sacramento. She served graciously as president of Eta Gamma Omega and also on several committees, including Debutante Ball, Arts and Scholarship. A lifelong music and English educator, Soror Maudell was the second African-American hired to teach in the Stockton Unified School District, where she taught for four years. She also taught music and English for 32 years in the Sacramento City Unified School District before retiring as a counselor.

Diamond Soror Kathleen Cook Pitts, *Eta Gamma Omega*, became an Ivy Beyond the Wall on July 18, 2011. Soror Kathleen was a retired educator who never stopped learning and teaching. During her retirement, she enjoyed traveling the world with her husband, Dr. Raymond J. Pitts, Sr. Soror Kathleen was initiated in 1931 in Chi Chapter at Talladega College in Alabama. She later became a member of Eta Gamma Omega where she chaired and served on numerous committees. Throughout her 80 years as an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman, Soror Kathleen also participated in The Links, Inc.; UNCF and NAACP.

Soror Rena Belle Bruce Williams, *Epsilon Eta Omega*, became an Ivy Beyond the Wall on July 30, 2011. She was born August 14, 1941 in Texarkana, Texas. Soror Rena was hired by the Upland Unified School District—becoming its first African-American teacher—and began her 35-year teaching career at Magnolia Elementary School. She retired from the school district in June of 2000, but remained committed to achieving a quality education for all children. Soror Rena was initiated into Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter and was a member for over 25 years.



*Chapter Basilei & Graduate Advisors Checklist*

1. 2011 Fall Semester grades are due at the close of the semester. Chapters who have not submitted transcripts to the Regional Director by January 30, 2012 will be on Withdrawal of Privileges.
2. Graduate Advisors should submit the list of graduating sorors, including addresses, to the Regional Director immediately after graduation.
3. Graduate Advisors should plan for a transition meeting with undergraduates to obtain all documents such as checkbook, minutes, financial records and any documents needed for the Spring semester. She should plan to store it for the chapter until the Spring semester.
4. Update basilei information and chapter mailing address with the Regional Director and the Corporate Office.
5. Save on long distance phone calls. Use e-mail, if possible, when communicating with the Regional Director Itark@att.net.
6. Remind undergraduate basilei to review the important information from international committees and the checklist in this newsletter.
7. Be sure that undergraduate chapters have a P. O. Box as a permanent mailing address.
8. Submit information for the Winter 2012 newsletter. The deadline is December 30, 2011.

**Regional Director's Calendar**

November

- 3 – 6 Fall Directorate Meeting
- 12 – 13 LMU Chartering Ceremony
- 19 – 20 Pepperdine Chartering Ceremony
- 24 – 27 Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed

December

- 3 AKARAMA Foundation Fashion Show
- 11 – 12 **Theta Mu Omega's 45<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary
- 12 – 13 84<sup>th</sup> FWRC site visits
- 17 Delta Beta Omega Chapter Meeting
- Dec 23 – Jan 3 Christmas Holidays - Office Closed

January

- 21 Delta Beta Omega Chapter Meeting
- 27 – 28 Southern California Founders Day
- 29 83<sup>rd</sup> FWRC - All Hands Meeting at Arizona Grand

February

- 18 Northern California Founders Day

March

- 9 – 10 Epsilon Xi Omega Debutante Ball

*Far Western Region*

*Representatives*

Archives  
Soror Hansiona Caldwell,  
Chairman  
[jkoroed@gmail.com](mailto:jkoroed@gmail.com)

Connections:  
Soror Doreathea Johnson,  
[Doreathea.Johnson@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Doreathea.Johnson@dca.ca.gov)

Constitution:  
Soror Aneesha Giroux,  
[agiroux@usc.edu](mailto:agiroux@usc.edu)

EAF:  
Soror Velma Marshall,  
[vmarshall047@gmail.com](mailto:vmarshall047@gmail.com)

Membership:  
Soror Sonya Simril  
[ssimril@aol.com](mailto:ssimril@aol.com)

Nominating:  
Soror Lynette Henley,  
[HenleyL@aol.com](mailto:HenleyL@aol.com)

Rituals:  
Soror Sharon Godbolt  
[sharon\\_godbolt@yahoo.com](mailto:sharon_godbolt@yahoo.com);  
and,  
Soror Karol Widemon,  
[kwidemon@comcast.net](mailto:kwidemon@comcast.net)

Program:  
Soror Linda Gaines-Brooks,  
[rmzbrooks@yahoo.com](mailto:rmzbrooks@yahoo.com)

Standards:  
Soror Deloris Carns  
[Dcarncarn@aol.com](mailto:Dcarncarn@aol.com)

Technology:  
Soror Sharon Robinson,  
[svrobinson@earthlink.net](mailto:svrobinson@earthlink.net);  
and,  
Soror Tina Pompey,  
[tpompey@me.com](mailto:tpompey@me.com)

*Cluster Coordinators*

Pacific Northwest:  
Soror Kellie Coleman-Johnson  
[ivykfj@hotmail.com](mailto:ivykfj@hotmail.com)

Northern California:  
Soror Emmie Hill  
[jhillco@juno.com](mailto:jhillco@juno.com)

Southern California  
Soror Bridgette Berry-Smith  
[berrysmith@earthlink.net](mailto:berrysmith@earthlink.net)

Intermountain  
Soror Billie Rayford  
[billieray@aol.com](mailto:billieray@aol.com)