



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Rho Phi Chapter

New Orleans, LA



“Friendship Is Essential To The Soul”

April — May, 2020

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Basileus, Bro. Jerome Tinguee

Rho Phi Chapter 2019-2020 Officers:

Basileus: Bro. Jerome Tinguee

Vice-Basileus: Bro. Charles Allen III

Keeper of Records and Seal: Bro. Ernest Parquet Jr.

Asst. Keeper of Records and Seal: Bro. Christopher Hamilton

Keeper of Finance: Bro. Michael Wingate Sr.

Keeper of Peace: Bro. Steve Crandle

Reporter: Bro. Keith Taylor Sr.

Chaplain: Bro. Michael Raymond

Parliamentarian: Bro. Kyle Augillard

Immediate Past Basileus: Bro. Dana Walker

Other Fraternity Officers:

Immediate Past Grand Marshal: Bro. Terrence Augillard

S.E. Louisiana State Representative: Bro. Rene Metoyer

CHAPTER NEWS

Memorial Service

Rho Phi Chapter held its annual Memorial Service at Shiloh Christian Fellowship Baptist Church on Sunday, March 8, 2020. This mandated program is conducted every year throughout Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in March and serves as a memorial to the Omega brothers who entered Omega Chapter the previous year. Bro. Michael Raymond, who serves as the Senior Pastor of Shiloh Christian Fellowship Baptist Church and Rho Phi Chapter's Chaplain, delivered the message.



Talent Hunt

Rho Phi and other chapters belonging to the **Greater New Orleans Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Coalition**, hosted the annual Talent Hunt at the Cook Theatre, located on the campus of Dillard University. The event was held on Friday, February 28, 2020.



Initiation Anniversaries

April

April 04, 1985 — Bro. William Peoples — Tau Eta

April 05, 2003 — Bro. Jamar Alexander — Rho Phi

April 05, 2003 — Bro. Alphonso Gonzalez II — Rho Phi

April 05, 2003 — Bro. Charles Love II — Phi Iota Iota

April 10, 1991 — Bro. Brian Pettiford — Psi

April 13, 1984 — Bro. Christopher Hamilton — Gamma Delta

April 19, 1985 — Bro. Rodrek Williams — Nu Tau

April 21, 1982 — Bro. Mervyn Jackson — Alpha Lambda

April 21, 1982 — Bro. Gerald Spears — Alpha Lambda

April 22, 1988 — Bro. Kendall Parker — Delta

April 28, 1980 — Bro. Burnell Stepter — Theta Kappa

April 29, 1970 — Bro. Marcellus Grace — Rho Phi

April 30, 1983 — Bro. Clarence Verdin — Gamma Delta

May

May 03, 1963 — Bro. Charles Brown — Gamma Gamma

May 05, 1956 — Bro. James Wallace — Psi

May 06, 1966 — Bro. Lloyd Villavaso — Theta Sigma

May 06, 2000 — Bro. Darrin Browder — Lambda Kappa Kappa

May 07, 1980 — Bro. Charles Jones — Rho Phi

May 08, 1976 — Bro. Marion Floyd — Theta Kappa

May 11, 1972 — Bro. Emile Clay — Rho Phi

May 11, 1982 — Bro. Steve Crandle — Rho Phi

May 11, 1982 — Bro. Jay H. Banks — Rho Phi

May 13, 1977 — Bro. Keith Taylor — Rho Phi

May 26, 1986 — Bro. Edgar Alexis — Lambda Alpha

Unified Omegas of Louisiana Meeting

On **March 7, 2020**, The Unified Omegas of Louisiana (UOL) held its annual state meeting in Baton Rouge, La. Meeting was held at the HYATT PLACE Hotel. Candidates seeking office in the Ninth District, and International Officers spoke to those in attendance. An MSP training session was also conducted for brothers who needed MSP certification renewal.



Brother Spotlight

Bro. Bobbie Smith, donated fruit and other snacks to the staff at New Orleans East Hospital on Sunday, May 3, 2020. **Bro. Smith** stated that the staff at the hospital is busy treating patients with COVID-19 and other ailments and don't have time to take breaks, so he donated the items for them to eat as a snack. **Bro. Smith** encourages brothers and others in the community to support the front line workers at the hospital.



Congratulations

Rho Phi Chapter congratulates **Bro. Joshua Metoyer**, the son of **Bro. Rene Metoyer**, who was initiated into **The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.** on March 21, 2020 at **Alpha Chapter**, Howard University.



Congratulations

Rho Phi Chapter congratulates **Clinton Smith III**, the son of **Bro. Clinton** and **Sheryl Smith Jr.** on receiving his Doctoral degree from Harvard University. **Dr. Clinton Smith III** is also the grandson of **Bro. William Sutton Sr.** and the nephew of **Bro. William Sutton Jr.**



Condolences

Rho Phi Chapter extends condolences to the following brother:

Bro. Noel Pinera, on the passing of his father, Richard Valdez Pinera, on April 7, 2020.





“WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES”

**When we wear the gloves
A brother has gone from our midst
And sailed to golden shores.**

**When we wear the gloves
A friend has passed the final test
And walks through purple doors.**

**The circle has an empty place
A voice will raise no more
The song of fellowship and love
Uplift forevermore
When we wear the gloves
When we wear the gloves
A light goes from this earthly life
The visor closed again
Yet all the heavens open wide
To let a new star in**

**When we wear the gloves
A brother leaves the chapter rolls
And moves to other worlds
For when we say our last goodbye
He walks on streets of Pearls.**

When we wear the gloves.

by Brother Dr. Carver A. Portlock



Bro. Kelvin Cooper
Gamma Rho - Basileus



Bro. Larry Hammond
Gamma Rho

Health Tip— (COVID-19) Dealing with Fear and Anxiety

Fear and anxiety about the COVID-19 pandemic can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions.

Things you can do to support yourself

- **Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news** stories and social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- **Take care of your body.** Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid alcohol and drugs.
- **Make time to unwind.** Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- **Connect with others.** Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- **Call your healthcare provider if stress gets in the way** of your daily activities for several days in a row.
- **If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed** with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others call
 - 911
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746. (TTY 1-800-846-8517)

MAY IS LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

This May, during Lupus Awareness Month join lupus warriors, friends, family members, and caregivers to make lupus visible! Lupus is more pervasive and severe than many realize since many of its **symptoms can be invisible**.

Join our nationwide effort in May to make lupus visible by raising awareness and educating the public about this devastating disease, and raise funds for critical research and support programs!

We know people with lupus are being heavily impacted by COVID-19, but that's why we think it's more important than ever that we come together and rally our communities raise awareness and funds to support all those affected. And there is still so much you can do to increase awareness and show your support — even from your home! You can share your story, use social media to raise funds for lupus research, put your purple on and so much more.

Get Involved in May!

Celebrate World Lupus Day

On May 10, take part in the global effort to raise lupus awareness and critical funding for lupus research and programs.

Put on Purple

On May 15, Put on Purple Day, wear your favorite purple items and share why you are helping to raise lupus awareness.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

COVID -19 Letter to Omega Brothers

FOUNDERS: FRANK COLEMAN, OSCAR J. COOPER, ERNEST E. JUST, EDGAR A. LOVE



March 17, 2020

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
3951 Snapfinger Parkway Decatur, GA 30035
Telephone: (404) 284-5533 Fax: (404) 284-0333
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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS



Brothers,

In light of the current situation related to COVID-19 as a rapidly evolving global threat, I have had the opportunity to have many discussions with the Supreme Council, our International Medical and Health Initiatives Committee, and our Grand Counselor and his team over the last week. Based on these discussions and in the interest of protecting the entire brotherhood and our communities in this time of great uncertainty, the fraternity is adopting aggressive new public health measures.

Other countries and organizations who have faced or are facing this crisis have proven that immediate, decisive public health measures are necessary to prevent the spread of the virus and protect public health. The steps we've been taking and those to come in the days ahead will help determine how Omega limits the spread of this virus and protects public health and the health of our brotherhood. While these measures may seem extraordinary, and to some extreme, these are extraordinary circumstances, and our response must rise to the challenge.

That is why, effective immediately, all district meetings have been postponed or cancelled (with the exception of the 13th district meeting that occurs at our international meetings). Please see your district representatives for particulars as we are working through the specifics of virtual meetings and secure online voting. All chapters who choose to "meet" between now and June 1, 2020 should only do so by teleconferencing or video conferencing. All other fraternally-related gatherings of more than 10 people, scheduled to occur before June 1, 2020 are to be postponed or cancelled. This includes community forums and programs, social events, and others. All gatherings of less than 10 people should give consideration to postponement unless it can be assured that social distancing of at least 3 to 6 feet can be maintained between participants, messaging is provided around ill persons not attending, and there are adequate hand washing/sanitizing facilities. This directive is in line with that of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). If there is what the CDC considers to be *substantial* spread of COVID-19 in your community or the community of the event you are considering, you are directed to cancel fraternity-related events of any size. We will revisit these requirements the last week of May 2020.

The fraternity also discourages brothers from travelling to and from areas where there is known to be mild or moderate community spread of COVID-19. If you have traveled to an area where there is community spread, you are encouraged to self-quarantine outside of that community for at least 14 days before attending any fraternal events. Brothers who are ill with flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, etc.) should also self-quarantine for at least 14 days from the start of their illness.

We encourage brothers to keep your families and each other healthy. Develop and discuss a plan for what might need to change if you and your loved ones need to stay home for extended periods.

This situation continues to rapidly evolve, and we know brothers will have lots of questions. One of the questions you have is, "will we have our Grand Conclave in July?" We currently are finalizing our plans for a successful Grand Conclave. We will communicate to the brotherhood by June 1, 2020 if a decision is made to postpone or cancel the Grand Conclave and if so, how we'll conduct the business of our fraternity virtually. We may not have every answer today, but we will provide regular updates via our website and social media outlets and respond to your questions as quickly as possible. Be assured that Omega will continue to work closely with the experts on our International Medical and Health Initiatives Committee and our health partners to monitor developments around the world. The Supreme Council recently participated in an Emergency NAACP Tele-Town Hall meeting with the United States Surgeon General and other leading public health and policy experts and 21,000 participants to learn more about the coronavirus and in particular how it is impacting our communities. If we need to implement additional measures to protect each other, we will do so. The health of our brothers and our communities will always be a top priority.

In Friendship,

David E. Marion, Ph.D.
Grand Basileus

NINTH DISTRICT NEWS

Cancellation of 83rd Ninth District Meeting

Brothers of the Ninth District

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we watch and learn during this uncertain time as the COVID-19 news continues to impact our lives.

I need to inform you that we WILL NOT be conducting our 83rd Ninth District Meeting in Tulsa, OK on April 1-5, 2020.

As I stated in my previous communication, Our number one goal is the safety of the Brotherhood and their respective families.

Obviously, there is a lot scheduling and work ahead for the Council as we plan our next steps.

I will keep you update as decisions are made that impact our Brotherhood.

In Friendship,

Bro. Patrick B Smith

Suspension Of Ninth District Spring 2020 MSP Activities

Brothers of the Mighty Ninth District

I greet you in the name of our LORD and SAVIOR, Jesus the CHRIST! My prayer remains that you and yours are safe!

I am asking for your continued prays for the Brothers in the District that have already been impacted by COVID-19 whether it be their physical or fiscal health.

Brothers, COVID-19 has impacted and continues to impact the 9th District's 2020 Spring MSP. As I informed you in an earlier message, with the help of the District Technology team, our Area MSP Chairmen and State Representatives had rolled out a virtual MSP education schedule to those candidates seeking Omega. Those virtual education sessions will conclude by April 5, 2020.

I have informed all 9th District membership selection Chairs to suspend MSP activities after the education phase. What does that mean? We will not be conducting any additional 2020 Spring initiations until the environment warrants. The District will wait for the Center of Disease Control to relax its social distancing guidelines that we have all recently come to know.

I have no idea on when that date may occur; however, I do know we will not expose our Brothers to situations that are unknown when it comes to face to face or near proximity required settings. The District will be following up with our University partners and communicate this decision. Frankly, we do not expect any push back from those entities.

Brothers, please know that the District Council and I are making decisions that we believe are in the best interest of the Brothers and the District.

In Friendship,

Patrick B. Smith
9th District Representative

83rd District Meeting Reimbursement (Payment Preferences)

Brothers,

We are about to start processing the refunds and for those who registered before 10/01/2019, we can not refund you directly from PayPal. We will need you to login into the Ninth District's website, (<http://mightyninth.com>) go to your **MyPage** and input your payment preferences. See the example below.

For any issues, requests, or concerns, please send an email to 83rd-Reimbursement@mightyninth.com.

Thanks,

Bro. Van Newborn

Ninth District Keeper Of Finance

Administration Chapter Administration DM Reporting MSP Coordinator Advisors Documents

Van Newborn,

Current Chapter:
Initiated: Alpha Delta Delta,
International LM#:
Ninth District LM#:

★ District Office:

👤 Local Office:

Last login at 10:56 AM on March 27, 2020.

Member Functions

Payments

Registered Events

Training

Update Profile

Change Password

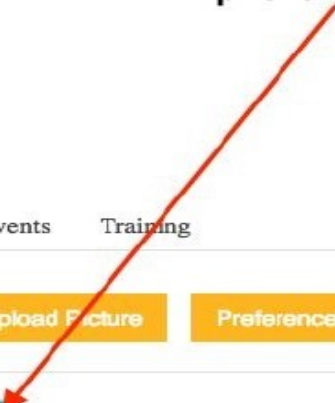
Upload Picture

Preferences

***** 83rd DM Reimbursement Preferences *****

NDM Visiting Brothers Registration System

Click here to set reimbursement preferences



Virtual 83rd Ninth District Meeting (NDM) Update

Greetings Brothers of the Mighty 9th District.

As we approach and prepare for the 83rd Virtual NDM on **May 16, 2020 @ 8:30 AM (CDT)**, we want to keep the brothers inform of any updates. All registered brothers should have received an email that includes an attached document with instructions on how to connect to the 83rd Virtual NDM using Zoom software.

We want this to be an easy and effortless experience for you all. We have scheduled a couple of “DRY RUNS” before we go live with our meeting. We will need your help. We have over 600 brothers registered and we need as many registered brothers on the “DRY RUN” calls as possible.

See the schedule “DRY RUNS” remaining date and time below.

- **Saturday, May 9, 2020 @ 10 AM (CDT)**

We also need all registered brothers to log into the Mighty 9th District website, so we can address any technical issues before the live NDM on the 16th. The link is <https://mightyninth.com>.

We are asking brothers to use their **PC, iPad or Tablet**, “**NO SMART PHONE**” if possible, to attend the meeting due to fact that we will have many screens open with brothers addressing the body, voting, presentation, etc., that you will not be able to see on your smart phone. **Note: your PC must have a internal or external video camera to access the Zoom meeting.**

All registered brothers will be able to log into the meeting 30 – 45 minutes before the scheduled time. **Note: If you log on before the meeting time, please be patient. The portal will open at the schedule time of the meeting.**

Again, Brothers it is VERY IMPORTANT that you log into your 9th District account before May 8, 2020 to ensure that you can log in without any issues. If you are having log in issue contact the 9th DKRS A.S.A.P.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call, text, or email me.

In Friendship,

Bro. David "Petro" Washington, Jr.
9th District Keeper of Records and Seal
10-98-FF
LM #6823 / 9th DLM #155
proseqtor@gmail.com

Congressman Cedric Richmond's Newsletter



March 25, 2020

Dear Friend,

In light of the increasing spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), on March 22, 2020 Louisiana issued a stay-at-home mandate in an effort to promote social distancing practices. As of last night, Governor Bel Edwards requested and the President granted a federal emergency declaration for Louisiana. As the illness spreads, my top priority is to keep you and your loved ones safe and informed. In the past week alone, we have seen more people fall ill, more people lose jobs, and more businesses close than we could have predicted. The people of Louisiana are strong and resilient folks who know firsthand how to rise from adversity.

While uncertainty and anxiety can be overwhelming, our ability to forge a path forward by working together with effective leadership will give us hope in the days and months ahead. That is why I am reaching out to you today to provide the most up-to-date resources and assistance during this challenging time. We applaud the tireless efforts of our mayors, governor, executives, and parish presidents. Please be sure to sign up for my e-newsletter [here](#) to receive the most up-to-date information as more information becomes available.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

As of March 25, 2020, the Louisiana Department of Health has reported 1,795 cases of coronavirus in the state and 65 associated deaths. Of those reported cases, 675 of them originate from Orleans Parish alone. To prevent the spread of the virus, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has recently issued a stay-at-home mandate for all state residents. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has also released the following prevention guidance and recommendations.

- Covering your mouth when coughing
- Avoiding contact with people who are sick
- Washing your hands thoroughly and often for at least 20 seconds
- Staying home if you are sick
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Disinfecting commonly used home and work surfaces, including mobile devices

If you are experiencing fever, shortness of breath, or a dry cough, please seek immediate medical attention. Otherwise, please continue practicing social distancing and stay home as much as possible. If required to leave the home to purchase groceries or visit a medical provider, please keep six feet between yourself and those surrounding you.

We expect to vote by the end of this week to expand and increase the economic assistance that we've already approved. As soon as the bill text is available and printed, we will share the specific guidelines. We are ready and eager to pass a \$2 trillion bill to help with the below necessary services.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

As a result of state-mandated stay at home policies and a severely weakened economy, far too many people have lost their jobs and need financial support to compensate for their lost wages. To apply for Unemployment Insurance, please file a claim with the Louisiana Workforce Commission online at www.laworks.net. If you'd like to speak with a representative to discuss your claim, please call 1-866-783-5567. This line will be open daily to provide assistance from 8:00 AM CT to 7:00 PM CT.

SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF & ASSISTANCE

Entrepreneurs and small businesses make up the backbone of our economy but have seen severe losses as a result of rapidly declining demand. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is currently accepting applications from business owners in need of disaster recovery loans. For detailed instructions on the loan application process, business criteria, and more general information, please visit this SBA overview [webinar](#). To begin the disaster loan application process please visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>. If you have additional questions, please contact SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM CT to 5:00 PM CT. They can also be reached via email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

FEDERAL FUNDING AND LEGISLATION

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently announced a \$31,025,826.33 federal grant for the State of Louisiana for COVID-19 that is being provided to the state under the Robert T. Stafford Act. This funding will play a critical role in the recovery effort right here at home.

Just a few weeks ago, I voted to pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. While this bill was a necessary first step, I have continued to vocally advocate for getting immediate cash assistance into the pockets of Louisiana workers and families who have been hit hardest by this pandemic. Additionally, I have pushed for the suspension of credit card payments and late fees as well as a federal prohibition on evictions and utilities service terminations. While I am encouraged that some of these same proposals are being considered in earnest by my congressional colleagues in relief package negotiations, the time is now for common-sense solutions that help the most vulnerable among us. We cannot afford to wait.

If you have a moment, please read an [op-ed](#) I wrote in The Advocate last week reinforcing the urgency of the moment and outlining the way I'd like to see the federal response take shape.

LOCAL RESOURCES

At a time when we are witnessing our friends and loved ones lose their jobs or businesses, it is imperative to know what immediate local resources are available that can offer support and guidance. Please see the links below for Parish specific updates:

- [New Orleans Updates](#)
- [East Baton Rouge Updates](#)
- [West Baton Rouge Updates](#)
- [Jefferson Parish Updates](#)
- [St. Charles Parish Updates](#)
- [Ascension Parish Updates](#)
- [Assumption Parish Updates](#)
- [St. John the Baptist Parish Updates](#)
- [Iberville Parish Updates](#)
- [St. James Parish Updates](#)

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Coronavirus has a dramatically different nutritional impact on both my younger constituents out of school and older constituents who are less mobile and more likely to fall ill by contracting the virus. For those individuals, there are important food resources available to help them right now.

Louisiana food banks are actively working to serve families in need by cooking and delivering meals to seniors and children out of school. They are also holding pop-up food distributions in underserved communities and offering SNAP application assistance for new workers. Please visit <https://www.feedinglouisiana.org/get-help> for more specific information. To reach the Second Harvest Food Bank in New Orleans, please call (504) 734-1322. To reach the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank in Baton Rouge, please call (225) 359-9940.

PAYING YOUR MORTGAGE OR RENT

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in coordination with the Administration's Coronavirus Task Force authorized the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to direct mortgage servicers to halt foreclosure and stop evictions from people in FHA-insured single-family homes for 60 days. If you are a leasee who cannot pay your rent on time, the apartment complex owner cannot initiate an eviction during this period.

KEEPING YOUR UTILITIES RUNNING

With dramatic job loss across the state and country, millions of Americans don't know how they will make ends meet and pay their power, water, electricity, and phone bills. In an act of leadership, the Louisiana Public Service Commission and the City of New Orleans have both prohibited the disconnection of utilities during this crisis. My hope is that the federal government will mandate similar prohibitions nationwide to help provide relief for struggling workers and families.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The CDC has made recommendations on how to cope with the stress and anxiety that isolation can bring during this time. I encourage you to reach out to your family, friends, and neighbors with a phone call or other electronic forms of communication. Doing so is mutually beneficial and can help make somebody's day.

ADJUSTING TO FAMILY CHALLENGES

This time can be particularly challenging for parents juggling childcare, working, and, in some cases, caregiving. While this is difficult under normal conditions, today's reality requires an updated approach. Here are some ideas and resources to help keep your family functioning during this time.

- Keep a routine with your children at home similar to their normal school schedule.
- Communicate with all family members the importance of safety through social distancing and hand washing.
- Utilize digital platforms to video chat and conference with family and friends who are not in close proximity.
- Cook with your family members or have a special meal delivered to your loved ones or friends.
- Make and send care packages to people and organizations in need.


FILING YOUR TAXES

With the filing deadline right around the corner, the U.S. Treasury agreed to move Tax Day from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020 to give individuals and businesses more time to file without interest or penalties. For more information, please visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>.

WORKING TOGETHER

While the outlook might seem uncertain, we are battle-tested and ready for the challenges that lie ahead. Let us be smart, determined, and use this moment to bring the best out of each other. Together, we can and will get through this. If you need anything, please feel free to reach out to my office at (202) 225-6636 or (504) 288-3777 and subscribe to my newsletter [here](#).

Sincerely,



Congressman Cedric Richmond

2nd Congressional District of Louisiana

Contact Us

For more information on Rho Phi Chapter send an email to:

Bro. Keith Taylor/Chapter Reporter: reporter@rhophi.org

Visit us on the web:

<http://www.rhophi.org>

Or the chapter's social media sites:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rhophinola>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RhoPhiOPP>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rhophiomegas>