



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Rho Phi Chapter
New Orleans, LA



“Friendship Is Essential To The Soul” **December, 2023**

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Bro. Adrian Thibodeaux
Basileus

Rho Phi Chapter 2023-2024 Officers:

- Basileus:** Bro. Adrian Thibodeaux
- Vice-Basileus:** Bro. Darrin Browder
- Keeper of Records and Seal:** Bro. Ryan Banks
- Asst. Keeper of Records and Seal:**
Bro. Brandon Avery
- Keeper of Finance:** Bro. Bobby Major, III
- Keeper of Peace:** Bro. LaKendrick Wright
- Reporter:** Bro. Keith Taylor, Sr.
- Chaplain:** Bro. Calvin Woods, Jr.
- Parliamentarian:** Bro. Kyle Augillard
- Chapter Counselor:** Bro. Marion Floyd
- Immediate Past Basileus:** Bro. Charles Allen, III
- Other Fraternity Officers:** S.E. Louisiana State Representative:
Bro. Terrence Augillard



Pan-Hellenic Council Toy Distribution

December 11, 2023—Rho Phi Chapter brothers participated in the New Orleans Pan-Hellenic Council's Community event to donate toys to children in the city. The event was held at Baldwin & Co. bookstore. Note: more pictures can be view on the chapter's website: <https://rhophi.org/2023-photos>.



Doll and Toy Fund Distribution

December 11, 2023—Rho Phi Chapter participated in the 128th annual New Orleans Times Picayune’s Doll and Toy Fund Distribution by handing out toys and other items to struggling families in the Greater New Orleans area. Rho Phi Chapter is also one of the sponsors of the event. The event was held at Xavier University’s Convocation Center. Note: More pictures from the event are posted on the chapter’s website: <https://rhopi.org/2023-photos/>.

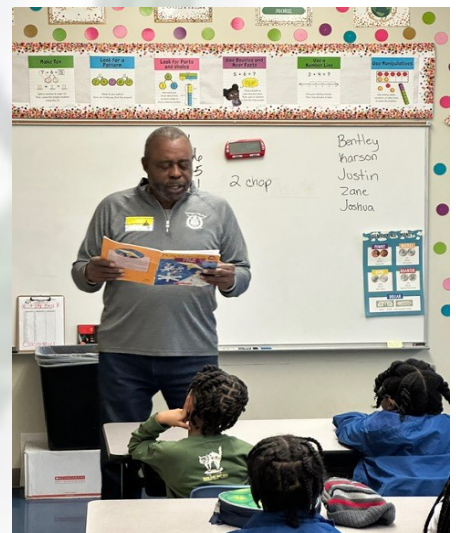
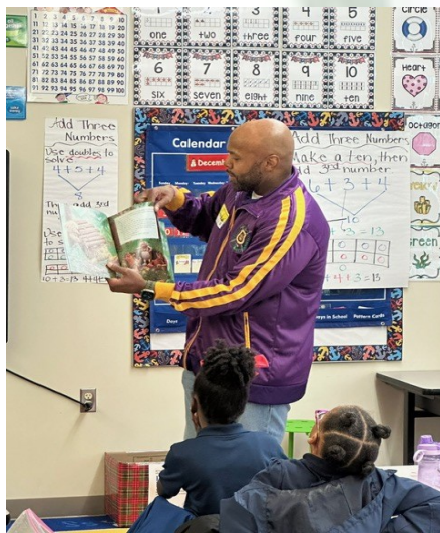
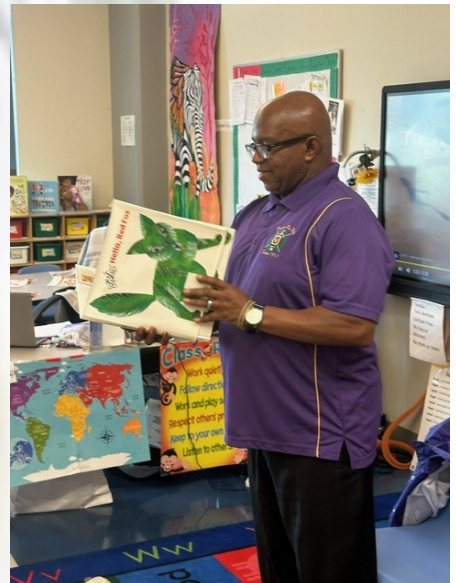
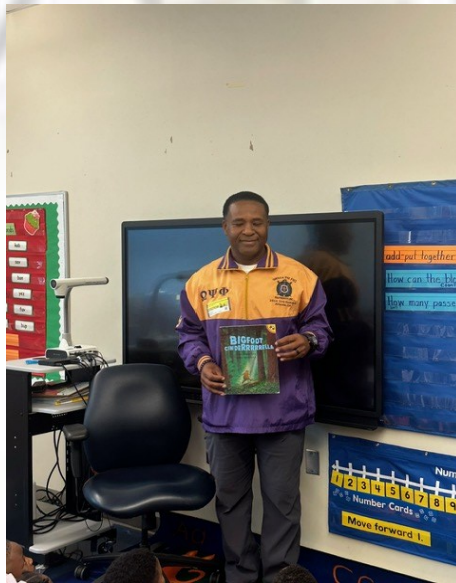
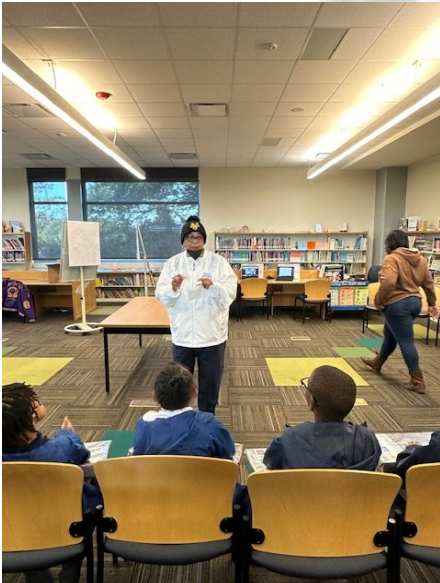


Volunteer Keith Taylor, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, hand out bags of fresh fruit to children and parents during the 128th The Times-Picayune Doll and Toy Fund gift distribution Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at the Xavier University Convocation Center in New Orleans.



Real Men Read

December 15, 2023—Rho Phi Chapter and the Omega Men Foundation hosted their annual Real Men Read program at Mary Bethune Elementary school. Brothers read books to students in grades kindergarten, first and second grades along with an emphasis on the importance of reading. This is the 15th year that Rho Phi has held the event with partner schools in the New Orleans area. The Omega Men Foundation presented the school with a check in the amount of \$500.00 through a grant from The Entergy Corporation, to purchase books for their library. Note: More pictures from the event are posted on the chapter's website: <https://rhopi.org/2023-photos/>.



Star Reader Program

December 15, 2023—Rho Phi Chapter and the Omega Men Foundation hosted their annual Star Reader program at Mary Bethune Elementary school. Through grants from Entergy Corp, the Omega Life Membership Foundation, New York Life and McCormick Corp. laptop computers were given to a male and female student in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades whose reading skills have improved the most this school year. This is the 14th year that Rho Phi has held the event with partner schools in the New Orleans area. Note: More pictures from the event are posted on the chapter's website: <https://rhopi.org/2023-photos/>.



Omega Wise Men Project

December 21, 2023—Rho Phi Chapter and its partner The Omega Men Foundation, raised funds to purchase children's storybook bibles and donate badly needed money to local transitional housing shelters in the Greater New Orleans area. Note: More pictures from the event are posted on the chapter's website: <https://rhophi.org/2023-photos/>.



Initiation Anniversary

Congratulations to the following Rho Phi chapter brothers on the anniversary of their initiation into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in December.

December 01, 1973 — Bro. Almore Cato — Beta Theta

December 02, 1977 — Bro. Darrell Brown — Gamma Gamma

December 04, 1981 — Bro. Wondell Smith — Theta Kappa

December 05, 1975 — Bro. Darryl Boykins — Xi Sigma

December 07, 2013 — Bro. Bobbie Smith — Rho Phi

December 07, 2013 — Bro. Willie Wilson — Rho Phi

December 08, 1978 — Bro. Kelmer Steverson Jr. — Omega Kappa

December 09, 1984 — Bro. Kenneth Bazile — Theta Kappa

December 10, 1966 — Bro. Alfred Liggans — Eta

December 12, 1963 — Bro. H. Kenneth Johnston — Rho Phi

December 12, 1970 — Bro. Rhusus Eckles — Beta Theta

December 13, 1968 — Bro. Michael Wingate Sr. — Theta Sigma

December 18, 1953 — Bro. August James — Rho Phi

December 21, 1987 — Bro. Firmin Brown — Rho Phi

December 22, 1970 — Bro. Freddie Baptiste — Rho Phi



Congratulations

- Bro. Maurice McMorris - principal of ReNew Schaumburg Elementary School, the staff, students and parents of Schaumburg for being honored as one of most improved schools in the state.
- Bro. Marion Floyd – on receiving the Past Master Service Award from Sons of Solomon Lodge #278.



International News

Message from the Grand Basileus

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

3951 Snapfinger Parkway Decatur, GA 30035
Telephone: (404) 284-5533 Fax: (404) 284-0333

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS



December 27, 2023

Greetings Brothers,

As we conclude the Christmas festivities and start to celebrate the rich traditions of Kwanzaa and usher in the New Year, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for our illustrious Fraternity and the remarkable journey we have shared. As your Grand Basileus, it is my honor to extend warm Kwanzaa greetings and New Year wishes to each one of you and your families. May this season bring you and your families joy, peace, and prosperity.

This time of year, is a poignant reminder of our shared values, unbreakable bonds of friendship, and the deep connections that unite us. Our fraternity's legacy of service, leadership, and excellence continues to thrive because of your commitment and dedication.

We accomplished a lot in 2023, ending with the highest fraternity marks in our history. Now looking ahead, 2024 promises to be an extraordinary year, poised with promise and opportunity for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. I want to highlight some key significant upcoming events that will define our journey together. Your active participation in these events will not only enrich your fraternal experience but also strengthen our collective impact on the communities we serve.

1. **Undergraduate Summit in Atlanta – February 01- February 04, 2024:** This summit is a crucial opportunity for our undergraduate brothers to gain insights, develop leadership skills, and connect with distinguished members of our fraternity. I look forward to seeing you there.
2. **District Meetings – April – June 2024:** These meetings are pivotal for discussing fraternity matters, planning community service initiatives, and reinforcing our fraternal bonds. Your presence and contributions are vital for the success of these meetings.
3. **84th Grand Conclave in Tampa - June 26 to July 2, 2024:** The Grand Conclave is not just a great convention; it is a celebration of our brotherhood, a time for reflection, and a platform to plan our future endeavors. This event will be marked with purposeful discussions, fraternal fellowship, and memorable activities as we impact the community and this country. I urge each of you to attend and participate actively in shaping our future.

As we step into 2024, let's continue to uphold our cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. Let's commit to making a positive difference in our communities and in each other's lives. I encourage you to pay your fraternity dues and reclaim one brother back into the fold of Omega. Call and check on a brother you have not seen in a while.

Together, we can make 2024 a remarkable year for Omega.

Ricky L. Lewis
42nd Grand Basileus (President)

MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE, AND UPLIFT.

International News

Message from the Executive Director



FROM THE DESK OF
JOHN F. HOWARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 6, 2023

Greetings Brothers,

I trust this message finds you in great health and good spirits as we approach the conclusion of the 2023 calendar year. My sincere hope is that each of you has successfully achieved the personal and professional goals you set for yourselves.

Our fraternal 2023 fiscal year, spanning from November 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023, concluded on a strong note. I am delighted to report that the recently concluded fiscal year saw an impressive response, with 939 brothers seizing the opportunity for life membership in the month of October. This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication and commitment of our Brotherhood.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Brother Sherman Charles, our Grand Keeper of Record and Seal, for his exemplary leadership and support to the operations of the fraternity. I also express appreciation to the IHQ family, a team dedicated to supporting the noble deeds of our brotherhood. Lastly, I am grateful for the numerous volunteers who bring the vision of our beloved founders to life daily. Reflecting on the accomplishments of the past year, I am thrilled to announce that we concluded 2023 with 33,752 financial members, 481 Graduate Chapters, and 238 Undergraduate Chapters. The Brotherhood is now at its strongest point in history.

While we encountered a brief delay in the reclamation billing process due to unforeseen circumstances, I am pleased to share that the information has been meticulously reviewed and is now accurate. Special thanks to our dedicated IHQ IT Team, who consistently stand by us when needed. I extend my gratitude to Brother Marion Williams (International Reclamation Chair) and the District Keepers of Records and Seal for their support and valuable feedback. The completion of reclamation and billing is just the beginning; we have 64,442 reclaimable members, and I am excited to report that we have already reclaimed 569 members.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.
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@OFFICIALOMEGAPSI

International News

Message from the Executive Director



FROM THE DESK OF
JOHN F. HOWARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I encourage each brother to log in and update their profile, contributing to the strength of our brand, enhancing our partnership outreach, and ensuring the highest level of service from the International Headquarters. Notably, as of 11/1/2023, we have reinstated the birthday cards program, and brothers who have provided their email and date of birth will now receive virtual birthday cards.

In closing, I am pleased to announce that as of 11/1/2023, IHQ is now open for tours. To ensure the best hospitality and minimal disruption to member services, kindly submit a visitation request via Zendesk to schedule your visit.

Wishing you all joyous and safe holidays.

In Harmony,

Sincerely,

John Howard
Executive Director
The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Ninth District News

2024 Winter Council Meeting Registration

Our 2024 Ninth District Winter Council Meeting (WCM) will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, 8:30 AM, at the Embassy Suites NWA Hotel, Spa, & Convention Center, Rogers, Arkansas. We will offer In-person and Virtual attendance for this year's WCM. All brothers can register for the WCM and select the option to attend the WCM 'In-person' OR 'Virtually' via Zoom.

Please carefully read the meeting information below:

[Register for 2024 Ninth District Winter Council Meeting](#)

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES (after clicking the link above and landing on the jotform ...)

1. Click the virtual registration link "[Click here to register in advance for the Zoom Webinar](#)", you will be taken to the Zoom registration page to complete your registration.
2. Fill in all required information on the registration page and click the Register button.
3. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provide.

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

1. Fill in all required information under the In-person Attendee heading on the page and click the SUBMIT button.
2. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provide.
3. **Room Reservations:**
 - a. Telephone or online – Rooms for Individuals can be made by phoning in their reservation requests, to the following number: 479-254-8400, or through the Hotel's web link. It is important that each guest contact the Hotel by Reservation Due Date, Monday, January 8, 2024, and identify themselves as part of our group – Ninth District of Omega Psi Phi | 2024 Winter Council Meeting to receive our rate of \$145.00/+tax, fees per night.
4. Business Attire (required): Suit, sport coat or jacket, shirt and tie, dress pants, dress shoes, socks. No jeans or other tattered wear or boots.

In Friendship

Bro. Harold L. Bailey

Ninth District Representative

9thDistrictDR@oppf.org

CONTACT US

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

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

Visit us on the web:

<https://rhopi.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>