



# *The Mighty Ninth News*

The Official Newsletter for the 9<sup>th</sup> District



Volume 16, Issue 3

Fall 2007



## *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Edgar A Love Spiritual Wellness Seminar 2007*

The weekend of September 14<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> saw history being made in the Mighty Ninth District. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bishop Edgar A. Love Spiritual Wellness Seminar sponsored by the District Chaplain was held at the Crowne Plaza Market Center Hotel in Dallas, Texas. The theme of this seminar was "Pursuing Spiritual Renewal: A Focus on the Family, Fraternity, and Friendship".

The seminar, which was the fulfillment of a campaign promise by the newly elected District Chaplain Brother R. Ray Gatewood featured a worship service, dynamic seminar speakers, and a luncheon, which ended with a question and answer session that drew positive comments from everyone involved.

The Friday night worship service began with praise and worship singing led by Mrs. Kim Gatewood who serves as the worship leader for Bethesda Fellowship Ministries in Copperas Cove, Texas, and ended with a dynamic message entitled "Under New Management" by our very own Chaplain Ray Gatewood. Saturday's activities featured an energetic presentation by Brother Derek Lewis II on the topic of Spirituality in the Community. Brother Lewis is the interim pastor of New Victory Life Baptist Church in Plano, Texas.

The second seminar presenter, Brother Rickey Hill astounded the audience with powerful and anointed speaking as he addressed Spirituality in the Fraternity. Brother Hill is the Executive Pastor of



Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas and a former 2nd Vice District Representative.



**Worshiping on Friday Night**

His presentation brought the audience to their feet as he recited renditions of Live Your Creed and See It Through. The seminar portion ended with a skilled presentation by Brother Larry Johnson and his wife Patricia Johnson. They are the Pastor and First Lady of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Bald Knob, Arkansas and as certified marriage instructors, they spoke to the need for couples to envelop their marriages with grace.



**Worship Service Friday Night**

Saturday's luncheon speaker was none other than our own Chaplain Gatewood who spoke a message entitled "Obeying the Right Laws" reminding the seminar participants that there

is a "law of the flesh" and a "law of the spirit" which we all are compelled to obey. The goal of the seminar was to serve as a platform for spiritual renewal in the areas of reclamation, information, and celebration among members of the Mighty Ninth District.

The seminar ended with as much as \$1,500.00 being pledged by individual seminar participants to ensure that this format continues in the future.



**Worship Service Saturday Morning**



**Leading Worship**





African American Youth Leadership Conference  
Team 2008  
(Omega Voter Action Project/Session III)



(Left to Right) Bro. Cletus Wilkins, Basileus, Epsilon Iota Chapter, Onnescha Williams, Program Manager Austin Eastside Story, Bro. Larry Williams, OMEGA Voter Action Project Coordinator, Richard Franklin, East Austin Economic Development Corporation, Art Arcevedo, Austin Chief of Police, Bro. Deone Wilhite, Voter Action Chairman Epsilon Iota Chapter, Bro. Curt Childers, OMEGA/Ninth District Voter Registration, Education and Mobilization Chairman, and Felicia Owo, University of Texas BLACK Student Alliance Representative.

This is something that might interest you: Our goal is not to advocate but, to educate so Texans can make an informed decision when they cast their vote. Our concern is that voters will lump Prop 2 in with other, unrelated bond issues and not draw the important distinctions between the two namely that ours **does not impact taxes in any way.**

I have attached a Prop 2 FAQ with detailed information; however, here are the key points:

- Proposition 2 is a \$500 million bond financing low-interest student loans for Texas students attending Texas colleges and universities.
- Prop 2 is **self-sustaining with absolutely no tax implications** the **bonds are repaid by the students who benefit from the low-interest loans.**
- *Coordinating Board loans* differ from private loans by offering a *low, fixed 6% interest rate; a six-month, post-graduation grace period* before payments begin; numerous repayment schedules; interest is *never capitalized* (interest added to the loan balance); loans are serviced by the Coordinating Board and are *never sold to other lenders.*
- The program helps tens of thousands of students every year. Since the program started, more than \$1 billion in low-interest loans have been provided to help 290,000 Texans pay for college.

Please take a look at the FAQ and let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I've also attached an editorial that recently appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times FYI. We would greatly appreciate anything you can do to share this information with interested persons or community groups.



**Greetings Brothers,**



**Shawn Brewer**

**9th District 1st Vice DR**

Attached is a completed list of all committee chairmen for the Ninth District. The list is arranged by the district committee grouping. Those committees that are nationally mandated program committees are highlighted in Purple.

Please assess you chapters and determine if there is need to communicate with any of the respective committee chairs on this list. If you have questions or simply need information on these committee responsibilities within your own chapters, please contact the respective chair.

Remember, we are striving for excellence. It is through our committee activities that Omega's work is done. Let's use our resources, and as always, if you have questions for me, feel free to call or email.

### **9<sup>th</sup> District Committee Chairmen**

#### **Mandated Programs & Standing Committees**

**Achievement Week**

**Reclamation**

**Retention**

**Scholarship**

**Social Action (Bood Drive, ADA Walk, etc.)**

**Talent Hunt**

**Memorial Service**

**College Endowment Fund**

**Doctors Registration**

**Youth Leadership**

**IAACP**

**Healthy Ques/Communities**

Chapter Activities

Economic Development

Webmaster

Technology

MLD Johnson Foundation

Political Action

Protocol

Undergraduate Fund

Quette Appreciation

Emergency Relief Fund

#### **Chairmen**

Charles Stewart

Vernard Grice

Vernon Weakley

Lawrence Williams

Nelson Anthony

James Doss

R. Ray Gatewood

Robert Morgan

Curt Childers

John Cooper

Roderick Smith

Dr. Derek Lewis

Warren Green

Mathew Butler

Marchette Gulley

Patrick Smith

Ivan Barnes

Roger Watkins

Carl Johnson

Kevin Anthony

Earnest Burke

Michael Harris

#### **Phone**

823-439-8810

210-310-2514

281-589-9178

225-229-9152

713-201-0177

979-997-1281

254-258-4536

281-660-3395

512-217-8750

210-602-7901

469-337-8691

501-834-1111

504-391-7413

225-603-4635

214-543-2523

214-282-5714

817-907-8714

210-827-5109

318-843-4917

469-766-8936

225-907-3395

#### **Email**

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[omega1vg82@aol.com](mailto:omega1vg82@aol.com)

[swalos@aol.com](mailto:swalos@aol.com)

[1dw61630@yahoo.com](mailto:1dw61630@yahoo.com)

[nanthony@houston.rr.com](mailto:nanthony@houston.rr.com)

[jedoss@hotmail.com](mailto:jedoss@hotmail.com)

[bfsm@clearwire.net](mailto:bfsm@clearwire.net)

[9thDistrictKRS@oppf.org](mailto:9thDistrictKRS@oppf.org)

[CURTDQUE@aol.com](mailto:CURTDQUE@aol.com)

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[kvn\\_nthny@yahoo.com](mailto:kvn_nthny@yahoo.com)

[eburke@airmail.net](mailto:eburke@airmail.net)

[mharris1@ldol.state.la.us](mailto:mharris1@ldol.state.la.us)



**Group 2: Special Functions Committees**

Artifacts & Memorabilia	Edwin Marshall	318-543-7778	
Budget & Finance	John Veal	580-695-9090	<a href="mailto:9dkf@sbcglobal.net">9dkf@sbcglobal.net</a>
Constitution / By-Laws	Larry Dunklin	501-960-4494	<a href="mailto:larrydunklin@aol.com">larrydunklin@aol.com</a>
Credentials	Gerald Spears	504-723-7429	<a href="mailto:gerald.spears@usda.gov">gerald.spears@usda.gov</a>
Public Relations	Roger Watkins	817-907-8714	<a href="mailto:roger_t_watkins@yahoo.com">roger_t_watkins@yahoo.com</a>
Recommendations	E'Vinski Davis	225-755-7968	<a href="mailto:ten_dawg92@yahoo.com">ten_dawg92@yahoo.com</a>
Rewards Program	Charles Johnson	214-388-9522	<a href="mailto:lhq-moderator@oppf.org">lhq-moderator@oppf.org</a>
Colonel Young Award	Varnado Talmadge	254-368-5664	<a href="mailto:tvarnado@hot.rr.com">tvarnado@hot.rr.com</a>
District Meeting Committee	John Cooper	210-602-7901	<a href="mailto:cjd78230@yahoo.com">cjd78230@yahoo.com</a>
Elections	Ramon Simon	713-304-5248	<a href="mailto:quesqueaky@earthlink.net">quesqueaky@earthlink.net</a>
Ninth District History	Vernon Weakley	281-589-9178	<a href="mailto:swalos@aol.com">swalos@aol.com</a>
Brothers Bonded by Blood	Open		
Ninth District Life Membership Foundation	Open		
Director of Security	Open		
Brothers on Wheels	Open		

**Group 3: Special Committees**

Membership Selection Process	Kevin Coney	318-443-6689	<a href="mailto:coney.kw@pg.com">coney.kw@pg.com</a>
Bereavement	R. Ray Gatewood	254-258-4536	<a href="mailto:bfsm@clearwire.net">bfsm@clearwire.net</a>
News Letter	Roger Watkins	817-907-8714	<a href="mailto:roger_t_watkins@yahoo.com">roger_t_watkins@yahoo.com</a>
Undergraduate Advisor	Tevin Williams	405-269-6720	<a href="mailto:omegadog357@yahoo.com">omegadog357@yahoo.com</a>
Chapter Coordinator	Robert Morgan	281-660-3395	<a href="mailto:9thDistrictKRS@oppf.org">9thDistrictKRS@oppf.org</a>
State Organizations	Council Responsibility		
Chapter Assessment (HBCU/UNCF)	Robert Morgan	281-660-3395	<a href="mailto:9thDistrictKRS@oppf.org">9thDistrictKRS@oppf.org</a>
Communications	Open		
District Meeting Evaluation	Edward Smith	225-802-9634	<a href="mailto:ebsmith@brgov.com">ebsmith@brgov.com</a>
HIV/Aids	Isha Hutchinson	972-691-2046	
Legal Task Force	Carl Franklin	318-429-6822	<a href="mailto:franklin_carl@yahoo.com">franklin_carl@yahoo.com</a>
New Brother Orientation & Lampodos	Raymond Bougeois	713-805-2224	<a href="mailto:bushwar@aol.com">bushwar@aol.com</a>
Role of the Past Ninth District Reps	Council Responsibility		

**UPCOMING DATES**



**January 2008**

**1/12 Winter Ninth District Council Meeting, San Antonio, TX**  
**1/24 - 1/26 International Undergraduate Summit, Atlanta, GA**

**February 2008**

**2/8-2/9 Lone Star State Ques (LSSQ) Meeting, Houston, TX**

**March 2008**

**3/13-3/15 IHQ District Officers Training, Raleigh, NC**  
**3/19-3/23 71st Annual Ninth District Meeting, San Antonio, TX**

**July 2008**

**7/19-7/24 Conclave, Birmingham, AL**

**2007 KRS Incentive Program**

- ↪ The first Chapter KRS to complete error free electronic submission of the ENTIRE Chapter membership dues will be awarded a pre-paid registration to the 2008 Grand Conclave.
- ↪ Each Chapter KRS that completes electronic submission of the ENTIRE Chapter membership dues will have their name included in a raffle drawing. The drawing will occur at the District Meetings in 2008.
- ↪ The first DKRS to manage to have 50 Chapters in his District to complete error free electronic submission of the ENTIRE Chapter membership dues will be awarded a pre-paid registration to the 2008 Grand Conclave.
  - For Districts that have fewer than 50 Chapters, this milestone would require 100% of the Chapters to fulfill the objective
- ↪ Keep in mind; these incentives are only available when the entire Chapter dues are included and that the submission is accomplished error free and electronically – forms and funds.
- ↪ The first District Representative to have 100% of his Chapters submit their ENTIRE Chapter membership dues error free, regardless of the submission format, will be awarded a Special Prize.

Note: additional information can be found in the fraternity Summer Bulletin Special Edition on the official web page at [www.oppf.org](http://www.oppf.org)



**2007- 2008 National Achievement Week Project**  
**“Three Looks, One Focus: Family | Fraternity | Friends”**

**The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

Announcement of the Annual

**National High School Essay Contest**

As a phase of the Annual National Achievement Week Observance

**November 12-18, 2007**

**National Awards:** Four College Scholarships

1st Scholarship, \$3000; 2nd Scholarship, \$2,000; 3rd Scholarship, \$1,000; 4th Scholarship, \$500.00

**District Awards:** One College Scholarship per District of \$1,500

**Eligibility:** The Contest is Open to all College-bound, High School Seniors.

**Contest Closes November 1, 2007.**

**RULES**

**The essay must be entitled:**

**"What is the number one issue that would make the biggest difference in the lives of black people and if you were President, how would you address it?"**

The essay must be **original**, neither previously published nor secured by copyright.

The essay must be between 700 and 750 words in length.

**Three typewritten, double-spaced copies must be submitted.**

The following information for the contestant **must appear** on the **first page** in this manner.

**Title:**

An Essay by: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity National High School Essay Contest**

**Name of Chapter Sponsoring Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location Of Chapter:** \_\_\_\_\_

The manuscript must be postmarked not later than midnight, November 1, 2007 and **mailed to the LOCAL CHAPTER SPONSORING THE ESSAY CONTEST (Omicron Gamma Gamma, P.O. Box 5792, Arlington, TX 76005).**

Persons submitting manuscripts thereby grant to the **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.** the right to keep the manuscripts and to exercise full publishing right to them.

Awards will be announced on or about **July 31, 2008, and the decisions of the judges will be final.** The manuscripts must present an adequate treatment of the essay topic.

Winners will be required to furnish written proof that they were enrolled in their respective high school at the time the essays were submitted.

Awards will be submitted to each winner, **upon written verification from an institution of higher education that the individual has enrolled. Actual enrollment (not just acceptance) is required.**

Awards must be claimed within 18 months after the announcement date to be valid.

**RATING CRITERIA FOR ESSAYS**

- 1. Development of Topic/Thesis** (30 possible pts.) --Topic well developed (covers and develops major points, supplying enough information for understanding).
- 2. Progression** (20 possible pts.) --Composition progresses from beginning to end in a logical flow of information.
- 3. Readability** (25 possible pts.)-- Concise prose that sticks to the point and does not ramble (holds reader's attention.)
- 4. Grammar** (15 possible pts) -- Agreement of subject and verb; proper tense; correct sentence construction; paragraphing, including transitional phrases linking same.
- 5. Spelling** -- (5 possible pts.)
- 6. Punctuation** -- (5 possible pts.)



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## OMEGA CHAPTER

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*Brother Percy W. Holden*  
*Brother Roy Roberts*  
*Brother Alvin Patterson*  
*Brother Charles Thompson*

Brothers,

Please allow me to share this with you. I realize that there are many of you who might not have had the privilege of knowing "Uncle Charles".

The late Brother Charles Thompson was a member of Pi Omicron Chapter, Little Rock, AR Brother Thompson was inducted into Tau Sigma chapter in the fall of 1958 at Pine Bluff, AR Bro. Thompson served as Basileus and the Annual Chapter OMEGA Ball Committee chairman for five years. He served as KRS for six years and served as Achievement Week Chairman for four years. He was selected the Pi Omicron OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR three times. He also was selected and received the Chapter's Unsung Hero Award for outstanding service. In addition, Brother Thompson served as Arkansas' Graduate Representative to the Ninth District Council. Brother Thompson retired from the Arkansas public school system and was President of the Arkansas Education Association. He was a member of the First Baptist Church where he served as an usher and he could often be heard singing in the sanctuary choir.

On a personal note, he earned the nickname "Uncle Charles" for his quiet leadership style. He was known for his mentoring and coaching of several of the current and past Ninth District elected officers as well as local chapter officers. He was well respected on the National Level and he was constantly reminding us all to continue to maintain high standards in matters relating to OMEGA. It was not uncommon for those who were ambitious to seek out "Uncle Charles" in advance of launching their political campaigns to get his advise and have him share his wisdom as it related to the political aspects and the inner workings of OMEGA. "Uncle Charles" stood tall in the eyes of many on the graduate and undergraduate levels. His influence was very much a part of what shapes the Ninth District today. Brothers like: Jerry Rutherford, Past DR, Glenn "Rock" Gowans, Garland Pruitt, Larry Dunklin, Curt Childers and R. S. McCullough will all tell you that "Uncle Charles" was one of a kind. They will all agree and say, "He boosted our confidence, made us better men and even better OMEGA MEN".

"Uncle Charles" will be missed...May GOD bless his soul.

Bro. Curt Childers  
Epsilon Iota Chapter

Austin, TX Just wanted to share with you so you can let others know what I thought of the late Brother Charles Thompson of Arkansas. On my recent trip to Philadelphia for the Leadership Conference, I was unable to secure a room at the headquarters hotel. During the first session of the conference, I informed

Brother Thompson that I was living in another hotel about eight blocks from the Marriott. Charles immediately told me that his room was available to me to refresh myself whenever I needed to do so.





We engaged in several long conversations about the state of the Fraternity both district-wide and nation-wide. Throughout the conversations Charles, as always, was positive about the direction of the Fraternity. He was still working for Omega in his state, district and nation. A "giant oak" has fallen in the forest but his works will live on. He is a testament to true Brotherhood.

Lloyd J. Clark  
Gamma Rho

**Tips for Article Submission**

It is our intent to publish everything submitted in the 9<sup>th</sup> District Newsletter. However, please note that some items that are submitted may not be printed. Here are some common areas that we need to improve on:

- Photograph quality. Photo are either too dark or not in focus. Hard to use.
- Photographs should be submitted separately from the article.
- Chapters should submit articles and not one or two statements describing the event.
- Please double check spelling. I can catch most of the common words, but proper names, places, etc. are hard to catch.
- Please adhere to the established deadlines.
- Chapters can help me by identifying the Chapter's Editor to the Oracle and sending me that information to the email listed below. I will establish a distribution list for the chapters and send everything directly to the chapter's point of contact.
- Feedback. Give me your feedback. I want to make sure this is a document for all of us. It can only get better with your feedback. End comments to the email address listed below.

There are a lot of great things going on in the Ninth District. Let's continue to submit articles and tell the story of the Ninth District. Your continued support will ensure that we will always produce a first class product for the Mighty Ninth.

**YOUR AD HERE**

Advertise in "The Source"

Advertising space is available in The 9<sup>th</sup> District Source. Rates are:

**Black & White Ads**

Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	50.00
Quarter Page	25.00

**Color Ads**

Full Page	\$200.00
Half Page	100.00
Quarter Page	50.00

Camera-ready copy needs to be provided in electronic format. Please note that the District reserves the right to refuse advertising that does not meet with standards established for this publication.

For more information contact the Director of Public Relations at [dpr\\_9thd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dpr_9thd@sbcglobal.net).



## Omicron Pi Celebrates Thirty Three Years of Living the Creed



On the morning of July 21, 2007, the Brothers of Omicron Pi were as nervous as pigs on roller skates, because this was the day of their celebration for a third of a century of service to their "city without limits" community. It had been raining in Central Texas everyday for the last month. Many Brothers prayed that this would be a glorious day in the history of the Chapter, and continued to execute the plan that addressed most of the possible consequences. The plan included canopies and overhead cover for rain as well as heat. After erecting those, the

Brothers turned the lions park recreation area into a sea of purple and gold. Purple and gold banners, purple and gold three foot balloons, happy anniversary and congratulations balloons, purple and gold table cloths, purple and gold chapter signs, car flags and topping it off with a touch of class, the pennants of all the Pan Hellenic organizations that are operating locally were flying, with the Omega Psi Phi pennant flying the highest. In addition, we flew the institutional/state of origin pennants of the birth chapters of the Brothers who had more than one brother currently in Omicron Pi. We had the space gym; puzzles of the founders, Brothers: Tom Joyner, Vernon Jordan, and Charles drew as well as the United States and different animals and metal entanglements to occupy the kids.





The biggest attraction for the kids was a special attraction-horseback rides. All of this plus the smell of Central Texas Q-b-Q and music from the 70's to the latest releases got your attention as you drove into the park. After getting out of their cars, and being greeted by the welcoming Brothers, our guests were taken on a tour. They reviewed a static display highlighting the Charter Brothers and the actual charter. Moreover, the tour provided a snapshot of the growth of the chapter since 1974 with more specifics on the last two years. Also included were upcoming attractions including a Rodeo, which was being advertised with the kids horseback rides. Pointing out some noteworthy accomplishments: the chapter went from nine charter members in 1974 to 60 financial Brothers in 2007. From a low of 2 units of blood collected during a blood drive to 353 units collected in 2006. From zero Brothers reclaimed to 11 reclaimed so far this year; from one \$150 scholarship to thirteen (13) \$1,000 scholarships in 2007. From zero Prayer Breakfasts to a quarterly prayer breakfast to name a few. .... And what to my wandering eyes should appear but fourteen of our brothers from Austin,



Texas (Epsilon Iota) are here... Then the rain came...then the rain left...and the eating, and the partying. In addition, the queuing begins like you never have seen. At this point about 350 people were present-- white ones, brown ones, yellow ones, Deltas, AKA's, Zetas, Sigma's, Kappa's, Alpha's; President of the Pan Hell, local businessmen, educators, promoters and the que nation (our family and friends). The celebration was supposed to stop at 5 pm but it continued well pass 9 pm.

The intent of the celebration was two fold. First, was to give Omicron Pi a historical perspective of the chapter's growth and accomplishments. Second, was to say thanks to the community for their support and to show them what Omicron Pi had done with their support/donations toward improving the lives of black people.



Three lessons learned that we would like to share. First, invest in some type of data warehousing system to capture and preserve historical data. Second, capture significant events of each administration. Third, take an annual picture of Brothers and Officers.

We would like to thank the Austin Brothers (Epsilon Iota) for making our celebration special, the Local Que Nation, our Greek friends and the Supreme Basileus of the universe who again smiled on Omicron Pi and granted us an awesome celebration. We wish you the same success

with your celebration.. Ques lead the way! -- OP ("*The Best Never Rest*")