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THETA RHO LAMBDA CHAPTER ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

THE IMAGE OF ALPHA

SUMMER 2023

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings Brothers,

I'm pleased to report the 2022-2023 fraternal year has been great for us as Brothers and a Chapter. Throughout the year, we have maintained a firm commitment to serving and partnering with individuals and organizations that share our aims of manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind.

As you read this issue of the Image of Alpha, you will learn that we partnered with Volunteer Arlington to honor our dear Bro. Martin Luther King Jr. in January. We also began partnering monthly with Alive Food Program to distribute nutritious foods to Alexandria residents. Theta Rho Lambda Brothers also visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. in February in honor of Black History Month. In March, we hosted a Phirst Friday fundraising happy hour for the March of Dimes that contributed to us raising \$4,547 for that worthy cause.



Theta Rho Lambda Brothers also participated in a family day at the Scramble indoor playground in Alexandria in April. Our chapter was very represented at the 91st Eastern Regional Convention in Hampton, Va., at which our very own Bro. Kevin Glover was installed as District Director for VACAPAF and our Fall 2022 neophytes were pinned by him. Additionally, we partnered with the Arlington branch of the NAACP to host a virtual forum on "Why Virginia Local Elections Matter" under the banner of our A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People national program.

On the social side, our Phirst Friday happy hour events in Arlington and Alexandria in April, May, and June were well attended and supported by fellow members of the Divine Nine. We plan to continue hosting Phirst Friday happy hours through the remainder of the summer, and our annual Chapter Cookout will take place in August.

Brothers, as I have said before, the past several years have taught us that the work we do in our communities is more vital than ever and that nothing can stop us from doing it if we put our minds and hearts to it. Serving as your president continues to be the honor of my time in our dear Fraternity. Let's continue to Hold High The Name as we move forward into the 2023-2024 fraternal year.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Laing". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Bro. Keith Laing
Chapter President

THETA RHO LAMBDA EDUCATION FOUNDATION: UPDATE

Greetings Brothers of Theta Rho Lambda Chapter, The Theta Rho Lambda, Alpha Phi Alpha Education Foundation (TRLEF) has been busy this season with updating the administrative elements of the Foundation in preparation for the rebranding in addition to preparing for the 56th Annual Black and Gold Gala.

Welcoming New Directors

To assist with the Education Foundation's workload, the Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation Board of Directors welcomed two new members: Bro. Curtis Norman and Bro. Ryan Norman (TRL, Fall '22). Bros. C. Norman and R. Norman started immediately leading and assisting, respectively, with Foundation initiatives.

Project Alpha

Under the direction of Bro. Michael Frempong, Project Alpha Chair, the Foundation hosted a Project Alpha session in May 2023. Although we had a lower student turnout in attendance than registered, the students who did attend left the event more informed on topics such as manhood, peer pressure, and healthy relationships.

The 56th Annual Black & Gold Gala

The Education Foundation hosted the 56th Annual Black & Gold Gala on August 12 in conjunction with the Chapter. Bro. Kasseem Smith, Gala Committee Chair, and his team worked diligently to make sure the evening was one to remember. Bro. Vic Carter, anchor at CBS WJZ-TV in Baltimore, served as the emcee for the evening.

During the Gala, we celebrated the winners of the 2023 TRL Chapter Awards. Congratulations to the following individuals: Chapter Man of the Year Award recipient, Bro. Corey Quill (TRL, Fall '21); Rising Brother of the Year Award* recipient, Bro. Marc Peters (TRL, Fall '16); and the Outstanding Community Service Award recipient, Ms. Laurese M. Gerald, founder of Uncut Youth LLC. Additionally, the Education Foundation was pleased to announce the new name of the Education Foundation, which will use the name of one of the charter members of the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter, Bro. Dr. William T. Syphax. Bro. Syphax's daughter and son were in attendance to accept a TRLEF Appreciation Award and to provide remarks on behalf of the family.

This year's Gala was well attended and attendees were able to celebrate the chapter award winners as well as the five 2023 scholarship recipients. Guests were able to hear directly from one of the scholarship recipients, Malik Kunata of Alexandria City High School, about his intended college major and other career plans.

In closing, many thanks to the members of Theta Rho Lambda Chapter who helped to make this year's Gala a success. As always, the success of the Black & Gold Gala was contingent on our collective efforts as members of the 293rd House of Alpha! We needed every Brother's help and many of you came in above what was required.

In the true Alpha spirit
Bro. Mark Forrest
Chairman
Theta Rho Lambda, Alpha Phi Alpha Education Foundation



FRATERNAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The brothers of Theta Rho Lambda had a full social calendar for the 2023 spring season. The year started with a brothers-only outing to the New Orleans Pelicans vs Washington Wizards Basketball Game. This outing also served as a reclamation event for the chapter. We then visited the Bro. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Memorial on MLK Day to sing the Fraternity Hymn which was followed up with lunch at Pen Quarters Sports Tavern. In honor of Black History Month, the committee organized a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture for family and friends. The month of February was wrapped up with an NBA All-Star Game Outing to Crystal City Sports Pub in Alexandria, VA.



As the weather got warmer in March, the committee hosted a brothers-only outing to MacMillans Whiskey Bar for St. Patrick's Day. Our first Phirst Fridays happy hour of the year was held in April at Pamplona. The committee then held its first family event of the year at Scramble Play Center in Alexandria, VA. Our spring social calendar was anchored by successful Phirst Friday happy hours at San Antonio Bar and Grill in May and Arlington Rooftop Bar and Grill in June. Brothers of TRL supported Bro. Mark Forrest and the NPHC of Northern Virginia in April at the Council's Fish Fry event.



MLK Day of Service

On January 16, 2023, in honor of MLK Day of Service, the Brothers of Theta Rho Lambda volunteered with Volunteer Arlington at Washington-Liberty High School, as they hosted over 10 different community service projects for the community to support. Brothers of TRL made handmade blankets for unhoused children in local shelters, STEM kits for students, and Valentine's Day cards for children in need.



Alive! Food Bank Partnership

To start the new year, our chapter decided to volunteer monthly to assist with the Alive Food Bank Program. Waking up early in the name of service — rain, shine, or snow — the brothers of TRL helped to distribute free bags of groceries (produce, chicken, eggs, bread) to an average of 300 residents.



March of Dimes

On Sunday, April 23rd, 2023, the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter participated in the DC March for Babies Walk. Each spring, the chapter partners with the March of Dimes (MOD) Organization, to raise funds for research and other programming that seeks to improve the health of mothers and babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. Along with soliciting funds on the chapter's team page, the committee held a fundraising happy hour in March at the Greene Turtle Restaurant in Kingstowne, VA. The event brought out the brotherhood, friends, and other Divine Nine Greeks for a great time of fellowship.



This year, Theta Rho Lambda surpassed our goal, along with last year's total funds raised, and was able to raise \$4,547 for the MOD Organization. Together with other Alpha chapters within the DMV area, we were able to raise over \$118,000 for the organization. The March of Dimes Committee would like to thank the brotherhood, family, friends, and all other supporters that aided us in reaching our goal. See you all next year!



Eastern Regional Convention Recap

Theta Rho Lambda was very well represented at the 91st Eastern Regional Convention which was held from April 13th 2023 - April 16th 2023 in Hampton, VA. Chapter Delegates were Brother Eric Kincaid, Brother Corey Quill, Brother Ivan Swain, Brother Philip Wilkerson, and Brother Gerald Wynn. Over the course of four days these brothers along with others from across the Eastern Region participated in the business of Alpha. Alpha East currently holds 85 Alumni chapters and 87 college chapters. Membership in Eastern Region of at total of 25,318 Brothers south a split of Life Members - 48%, Alumni Brothers - 45%, and College Brothers - 7%. During business sessions they had the opportunity to review financial statuses and propositions for the Eastern Region, heard from the candidates for the General President and Comptroller position, received updates on the fraternal organization, and discussed Constitutional Amendments being presented to the General Organization. Our Fall 2022 neophytes even had the privilege of being pinned by our very own newly installed VACAPAF President/District Director Bro. Kevin Glover while at the convention.



VACAPAF Election Results

The brothers of the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter congratulate the recently elected VACAPAF officers!

VACAPAF President-Bro. Kevin Glover
VACAPAF First Vice President-Bro. Tony Moss
VACAPAF Second Vice President-Bro. Ian Yeaton
VACAPAF Historian-Bro. Andre Taylor
VACAPAF Associate Editor of The Sphinx-Bro. Ralph Holloway
VACAPAF Parliamentarian-Lyndon Clark
VACAPAF Sergeant-at-Arms- Bro. Harold Jones



Voteless People is a Hopeless People

On Tuesday, May 23rd from 7:00- 8:00pm, Theta Rho Lambda Chapter Hosted a captivating Virtual Panel Discussion on Why Virginia Local Elections Matter! The event was well attended and is on our Chapter YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q55bBosXgX0> for posterity. Our panelist included Traci Deshazor who served as the Former Deputy Secretary for the Commonwealth of Virginia and Michael Hemminger who serves as the President of the Arlington Branch of the NAACP.

Why Virginia Local Elections Matter

Join us for a captivating virtual panel discussion on the importance of local elections in the Commonwealth of Virginia

MAY 23, 2023
7:00 - 8:00pm

LIVE
Zoom ID: 859 6160 2507

Hosted by the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
www.thetarholambda.org

OUR PANELISTS

Traci Deshazor
Former Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Michael Hemminger
President, Arlington Branch of the NAACP

THETA RHO LAMBDA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

PROJECT ALPHA

SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023
9:30AM-2PM

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY - ARLINGTON CAMPUS
VAN METRE HALL - ROOM 312
3351 FAIRFAX DRIVE ARLINGTON, VA 22201

Project Alpha

The TRLEF held another Project Alpha Workshop on Saturday, May 6th, 2023. The four attendees of this year's Workshop sat through sessions discussing Manhood in the 21st Century, Peer Pressure & Healthy Relationships, and Goal Setting, which were all facilitated by TRL brothers. The Project Alpha committee was able to reconnect with returning participants and build on the mentoring relationships formed through the Project Alpha program. New connections were also formed with new participants and overall, the goal of improving the chances of success for young African American males was realized. We're looking forward to furthering the mentoring relationships formed as well as to planning next year's workshop.





Congratulations to the newly elected 2023-2025 Executive Board



PRESIDENT
BRO. KEITH LAING

VICE PRESIDENT
BRO. LENARD WILLIAMS

RECORDING SECRETARY

BRO. SAMUEL GAINER

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

BRO. TYLIN SCOTT

CHAPLAIN

BRO. LEVAR CROOMS

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

BRO. MATTHEW MASCOE

DIR. OF INTAKE & MEMBERSHIP

BRO. KASSEEM SMITH

PARLIAMENTARIAN

BRO. RYAN NORMAN

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

BRO. LEVAR CROOMS

ASSOCIATE EDITOR TO THE SPHINX

BRO. SIVAD ROGERS

HISTORIAN

BRO. COREY QUILL

TREASURER

BRO. DEL CONYERS

DIR. OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

BRO. GERALD WYNN

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

BRO. CHRIS JONES

W W W . T H E T A R H O L A M B D A . O R G

Milestones

Bro. Mike Bajit

On 19 June 2023, Bro. Mike Bajit celebrated 30 years in the House of Alpha. He was initiated through the Delta Omicron Lambda Chapter, seated in Princess Anne, MD.

Bro. Samuel Gainer

Bro. Samuel Gainer passed his CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner (CASP+) exam!

Bro. Philip Wilkerson

Brother Philip Wilkerson received the Margaret C. Howell Award from George Mason University. The Margaret C. Howell Award recognizes individuals whose efforts demonstrate the character of its namesake and carry on her legacy of making a difference. The recipient of this award displays evidence of work that promotes respect, diversity, and individual dignity (e.g., providing mentorship for students/staff/faculty, developing programs that promote cross-cultural understanding and cooperation, resolving problems arising from individual differences, etc.).

During the pandemic, Brother Wilkerson created a Black Male Faculty and Staff Employer Resource group to support Black men on the campus of George Mason University.



PREMIUM SINCE 1964