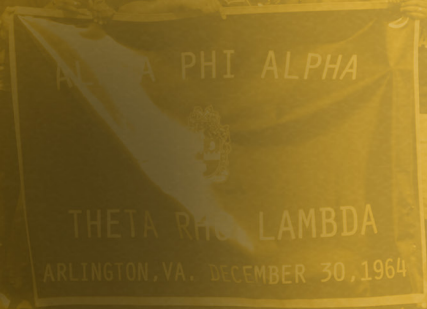


THETA RHO LAMBDA CHAPTER  
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

# THE IMAGE OF ALPHA

WINTER 2024



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings Brothers,

I'm pleased to report that 2023 has been a great year for us as Brothers and as 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 kicked off the new fraternal year by holding our annual cookout in August, at which Brothers displayed that Goodwill is always the Monarch of the 293rd House of Alpha. As we continued moving into the new fraternal year, we resumed holding hybrid chapter meetings in September. We also raised \$1,180 for our Gift Card drive and donated 43 gift cards to residents at the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria. We partnered with Alive! Alexandria to distribute bags of groceries to residents of Alexandria who are experiencing food insecurity in September and November. We also hosted our annual Pumpkin Carving With The Alphas event for families in October and distributed Thanksgiving Baskets to families at the Ruby Tucker Center in Alexandria, Va. in November with members of the First Agape Baptist Community of Faith in Alexandria.



Brothers have also participated in a Quincy Park clean up, and our chapter was well represented at the VACAPAF District Staff Member in Norfolk, at which our very own Bro. Kevin Glover was chairing his first staff meeting as VACAPAF President. Additionally, we hosted successful Phirst Friday happy hour events in Arlington and Alexandria in September, October, November and December.

I'm also proud to report we have also reclaimed several brothers this year. 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 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 2024.

Fraternally,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Laing'.

Bro. Keith Laing  
Chapter President



# DR. WILLIAM T. SYPHAX CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Brothers of Theta Rho Lambda Chapter, I extend warm greetings to each of you as the Chairman of the newly rebranded Dr. William T. Syphax Charitable Foundation (WTSCF), formerly known as the Theta Rho Lambda, Alpha Phi Alpha Education Foundation. It is with genuine excitement that I share the remarkable potential that awaits our great Foundation, and I am thrilled at the prospect of witnessing the positive impact we can achieve under this administration.

As we embark on this transformative journey, our focus is directed towards five key areas that will shape our path to a brighter future:

1. Rebranding: We are committed to creating a fresh and compelling identity for the Foundation that reflects our vision and resonates with our community.

2. 2024 Scholarship Class: Our mission to empower the next generation of leaders through education is steadfast. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for deserving individuals to thrive and excel.

3. 2024 Black & Gold Gala: A momentous occasion awaits as we showcase our achievements and celebrate the unity within our community. This gala will serve as a testament to the impact we can make together.

4. Administrative/Financial Standard Operating Procedures: We are laying the groundwork for seamless operations by establishing robust processes, ensuring that every aspect of our Foundation functions efficiently and effectively.

5. Bylaws: To streamline and enhance our organizational framework, we are diligently working on refining our bylaws. This will contribute to the overall efficiency and transparency of our Foundation.

In addition, I am delighted to announce the addition of six distinguished individuals to our Board of Directors this year—Bros. Tony Scurry, Curtis Norman, Gerald Wynn, Phil Wilkerson, Jason Hawkins, and Ryan Norman. Their wealth of experience and dedication will undoubtedly strengthen our Foundation and contribute to our collective success.

Now is the time for us to unite and channel our collective efforts toward shaping the future of the Dr. William T. Syphax Charitable Foundation. Together, with the brothers of the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter, we can create a lasting impact and leave a legacy that reflects our commitment to positive change in our community.

Sincerely,

Bro. Kasseem Smith  
Chairman  
Dr. William T. Syphax Charitable Foundation



# CHAPTER MAN OF THE YEAR

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year.” - W.E.B. DuBois

My soul is full, but I am not done. The opportunity to wake up every morning as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. is not something I take for granted. I believe it is vital to live every day as if it were your last and go to sleep better than you woke up. I am thankful to be surrounded by brothers who consistently want to make the world better and transcend the generations that follow us. This year, I have had the opportunity to serve on multiple committees such as Community Service, Fraternal Engagement, Historical, and Project Alpha. I attended and served as a delegate at three conventions, where I was able to cross-pollinate and grow amongst brothers from across the country. I know that work needs to be done now, and I am motivated to do it. I thought that the community and my wish to make our Jewels proud would be the primary fuel to stay hungry; however, I learned that my greatest fuel to grind is my undying desire to not let the brother to my left or to my right down.



I am genuinely thankful to the TRL Brotherhood for this recognition. While we do the work of Alpha to make a difference, not for recognition, I recognize that I would not be where I am today without the brothers of this chapter. I vow to make every “today” and “now” the accepted time to work hard and do the right thing for my family, community, and our great fraternity!  
O-SIX!

Fraternally,  
Brother Corey Quill





# FRATERNAL ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

## Chapter Cookout

*"GOODWILL is the monarch of this house. Men, unacquainted, enter, shake hands, exchange greetings, and depart friends. Cordiality exists among all who abide within."*

The strength of our brotherhood was on full display on Saturday, August 5th, 2023, as we gathered at Quincy Park in Arlington, Va., for our annual chapter cookout. This staple event for the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter has grown every year. This year was no different as we hosted a record attendance of brothers, family, friends, and fellow Greeks. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped to make the #TRLCookout23 an ICE COLD success!



## Cotton and Reed Rum Distillery

On Saturday, October 7th, 2023, the brothers of Theta Rho Lambda Chapter enjoyed a brothers-only fraternal engagement event at the Cotton and Reed Rum Distillery in NE Washington, DC. This successful event saw a solid mixture of young and seasoned brothers breaking bread, sharing stories, and fellowshiping in the name of Alpha!





## Carving with the Alphas

On Saturday, October 28th, 2023, the brothers of Theta Rho Lambda Chapter hosted their annual "Carving with the Alphas" pumpkin carving event with children of the community. This year's event was held at Haynes Park in Arlington, Virginia. It was the largest pumpkin carving event since its inception, hosting 15 participants from the Arlington / Alexandria area! We appreciate the brothers who supported this event and are thankful for the opportunity to impact the children in our community!



## Founders' Day Breakfast

Theta Rho Lambda Chapter participated in the Area IV annual Founders Day Breakfast on Saturday, December 2nd, 2023. This year's event was held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Woodbridge, VA. Chapter President Brother Keith Laing presented a speech highlighting TRL's accomplishments of the year, while Chapter Recording Secretary Brother Samuel Gainer participated in the ceremony that morning, which saw the attendance of Eastern Regional Vice President Brother Christopher Ellis Jr.





## Phirst Friday

Theta Rho Lambda Chapter hosted five Phirst Friday events this Fall. These happy hours allow brothers to come together and socialize with family, friends, and one another. We continue to see this event grow and attract fellow Greeks near our seat to enjoy a beverage with the Alphas! In August, we took over the patio at Bar Bao in Alexandria, VA. In September, we hosted a happy hour at Continental Beer Garden in Arlington, VA. Our October Happy Hour was at Spider Kelly's in Arlington, VA. We launched our November Happy Hour at Astro Beer Hall in Arlington, VA, and we finished up for a Founders Day edition of Phirst Friday at Hen Quarter in Old Town Alexandria! Thank you to everyone who makes these events the #1 place to be on the Phirst Friday each month!





# COMMUNITY SERVICE

## National Cleanup Day!

On September 16th, National Cleanup Day, brothers woke up early to clean up our adopted highway located on Lee Hwy (Route 29) in Falls Church, Virginia. Brothers cleaned and fellowshiped along the two-mile stretch of road. This service program was created a few years ago to beautify our local roads and community.



## ALIVE! Food Distribution

This is one of the most rewarding service programs brothers perform throughout the year. Through our partnership with a local food bank, brothers of Theta Rho Lambda help set up and distribute free bags of groceries (produce, chicken, eggs, bread) to approximately 200 to 300 residents of the City of Alexandria. In the rain, heat, and/or snow...brothers enjoy assisting with this event throughout the year.





## Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway

With the help of First Agape Baptist Community of Faith and the Ruby Tucker Center, brothers packed and distributed over 40 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need this year. We thank everyone who helped to make this event a success. This event has been a long-standing partnership between our chapter, the church, and the community center for over 15 years and counting.



## Our 2nd Annual TRL Gift Card Drive!

The community service committee kicked off our second annual virtual gift card drive to help families transition in and out of temporary housing. This year, we raised over \$1,100 and purchased nearly 50 gift cards to help families in need.

As promised, the brothers bought gift cards and donated them to residents at the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria, Virginia. These gift cards go a long way. They can help parents buy gloves for work or baby shoes for the winter. If you're interested in donating next year, please keep an eye out for our week-long drive next Fall.





# GENERAL CONVENTION

The 97th General Convention occurred in Dallas, Texas, from July 26 - July 30, 2023. The convention was attended by our Chapter President, Bro. Keith Laing, our chapter delegates (Bro. Lenard Williams, Bro. LeVar Crooms, Bro. Mark Forrest, Bro. DeGeorge Griffin, and Bro. Corey Quill), and over ten additional registered Theta Rho Lambda chapter brothers. The convention hosted a blood drive, which was done in honor of Jaden Blake. Bro. General President Willis Lonzer's daughter, Ms. Camille Adams-Lonzer, spoke to the general body on the importance of donating and her experience with sickle cell anemia.



About 5,200 people were registered at the convention. The public program was excellent, and the topic of "Politics 2023: Where Do We Go From Here?" was moderated by Bro. Roland Martin and included Bro. Ambassador Andrew Young, Bro. Freddie Haynes, and Shavon Arline-Bradley, president and CEO of NCNW. Three awards were presented at the public program. The Alpha Award of Honor was given to Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. from MIT in any field and the first African American woman to chair "a Nuclear" board. Another Alpha Award of Honor was given to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for hosting programs that cross all communities, establishing historical efforts in HBCU fundraising, and opening the first black-owned and women-led financial institution, For Members Only Credit Union. A General President Citation was given to Glenda Glover, Ph.D. who was the 8th president of Tennessee State University, immediate past Supreme Basileus of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., 1st woman CPA-PhD, and one of two women nationwide who hold the PhD-CPA designation.

One of the major topics of discussion at the convention was moving the 2025 General Convention out of Florida. This was done in response to Gov. Ron DeSantis' policies. The brotherhood also narrowed the General President candidates down to the top two brothers, Bros. Lucien Metellus, Jr. and Gregory Parks. Overall, the convention was productive, informative, and well-attended.





# CHAPTER RETREAT ROUNDTABLE WITH CHARTER MEMBER DANIEL L. BROWN

On June 10, 2023, the Brothers of Theta Rho Lambda gathered in Arlington VA for the annual planning retreat. This time-honored tradition marks the official end to business for the year and features a potluck of brother's favorite dishes followed by a social.

This year the brothers were surprised with a special lunch guest, Brother Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Brown, charter member of Theta Rho Lambda. Brother Reverend Doctor Brown spent 60 minutes of his time sharing stories and imparting words of wisdom to the brothers in attendance. He recalled the early days of organizing brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. who resided in Northern Virginia, and detailed the steps taken to officially charter the first chapter in this area outside of Washington DC. Brother Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Brown shared some special moments of interest in Theta Rho Lambda that included the crossing of his grandson Jarryd Taylor in the Fall of 2007. Last, he offered advice on how to balance service to fraternity and life. He received a spirit ovation at the conclusion of his talk.



The fireside chat was organized by Brothers Corey Quill, Kael Dixon, Philip Wilkerson and moderated by Brother LeVar Crooms.



# VOTELESS PEOPLE IS A HOPELESS PEOPLE

Along with the rest of the Commonwealth and country, the 293rd House bore witness to the election of the first African-American Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, Bro. Don L. Scott, Jr. of Epsilon Nu Lambda Chapter. Theta Rho Lambda's "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People" Committee sent a letter of congratulations to Bro. Speaker-Designee Scott (reprinted below).

November 11, 2023

Brother Speaker-Designee Scott,  
On behalf of the Brothers of Theta Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, we congratulate you on your electoral victory. We look forward to working with you, the Virginia House of Delegates, and the rest of the Virginia General Assembly as you work to better the Commonwealth of Virginia. Feel free to let us know if there is anything we may do to assist you.

Fraternally,

Brother Marc Peters

Theta Rho Lambda Chapter (Arlington/Alexandria) Chair—VPHP Committee

## 1 YEAR IN THE HOUSE

Wow, I can't believe it has been a year in the greatest fraternity on Earth already. Every day has been a learning lesson, but one thing stands out more than others: Alpha is way bigger than the chapter you were initiated in. It sounds obvious, but when you're trying to join you are so hyper-focused on that goal the rest of the organization can seem like a distant dream. Some of my favorite moments as a Neophyte have been fellowshipping with other brothers in Area 4 and Alpha nationwide. Since crossing, I have run into brothers of various backgrounds, ethnicities, occupations, ages, etc. I even ran into a couple of prophytes in Paris! In summary, *I'm an ALPHA from here on out. And never again will I be lonely for I have brothers everywhere. In cities of population two, I even have a brother there.* Thank you, '06

Fraternally,

Bro. Sam Gainer





The past year has been the culmination of years of pursuit to become a part of the organization I've come to love more than I knew I would, or could. At one point, I didn't think I'd make it (through no fault of my own of course, lol), but in the true spirit of an Alpha man; I did not waver. I am elated to be around men who have the same passion for giving back to the community, and I have become an even better individual through this experience. I look forward to the years to come, as I am new in my journey beyond seeking the light of Alpha. It cannot be understated what the brotherhood means to me. I will continue to represent my letters to the fullest as a Neophyte, and when the time comes, as a Prophyte. All of my love, my peace and happiness, I've given to Alpha...06' to the good brothers!!

Bro. Tylin J. Scott



To say I've enjoyed my first year in the House of Alpha would be an understatement. The truth is that I've loved my time as a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. In just a short time, I've been entrusted with the honor of serving on Theta Rho Lambda Chapter's Executive Board as Parliamentarian and on the Dr. William T. Syphax Charitable Foundation's Board of Directors. Serving in both capacities, while regularly attending the Chapter's community service events, I've learned how rewarding it is to work alongside passionate and hardworking brothers dedicated to positively impacting our community. In addition to seeing what it truly means to be a servant of all, I've also experienced the unmatched bonds of brotherhood that sets Alpha apart. This past year, I traveled with brothers and attended events at every level of the fraternity, from area-wide events and VACAPAF meetings, to the Eastern Regional and General Conventions. At each event, I've grown closer to my TRL brothers while forming friendships with brothers around the country. To know that these bonds will be lifelong means the world to me.

As I continue to reflect on this past year, I want to express gratitude to all the brothers of the 293rd House of Alpha for welcoming me into this fraternity with open arms. So, too, am I grateful for my T.R.I.A.D. line brothers, Bro. Sam Gainer and Bro. Tylin Scott, for the good times we've already had and the ones I know we'll have in the future. Finally, I offer a heartfelt thank you to Bro. Curtis Norman, who has been nothing short of the best Alpha mentor for which I could have ever hoped. Thank you again, brothers. Onward and Upward!

Fraternally,  
Bro. Ryan Norman





# MILESTONES



## Chartering of Alpha Toastmasters

Bro Philip Wilkerson

On March 28th, 2023, 28 members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., led by Brother Philip Wilkerson, Brother Shane Gilmore, Brother Walter Price, and Brother Chester Chambers, successfully chartered the first Toastmasters club restricted only to brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha. This remarkable feat took months of planning. The brothers of this club come from all over the United States. This initiative aims for brothers to have a space to hone their public speaking skills, as communication is a critical leadership skill. The name of the club is, of course, Alpha Toastmasters, which was chartered with 28 other men including the following Theta Rho Lambda chapter members:

Brother Justin D. Ortique:  
Brother Kasseem A. Smith  
Brother Philip Wilkerson

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches and promotes communication, public speaking, and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Because of this mission, creating a club that synchronizes this organization to develop leaders makes sense. Like a chapter in Alpha, Toastmasters

clubs require leaders to move the clubs forward and lead others in their journeys to be better speakers. The officers of the Alpha Toastmasters are:

President-Brother Philip Wilkerson  
VP of Education/VP of Public Relations-  
Brother Norman Graham  
VP of Membership- Brother Travis Martin  
Treasurer- Brother Shane Gilmore  
Secretary- Brother Darren "DC" Lyons  
Sargent At Arms- Brother Ramon Peralta

## Khalil turns !!

Bro. President Keith Laing's son Khalil celebrated his first birthday on November 21.





### 40 under 40 Recognition

On February 7, 2023 Brother LeVar Crooms and Brother LaMarcus Davis were recognized by The Leadership Center for Excellence and Leadership Fairfax Northern Virginia as 40 Under 40 honorees.

The program seeks to recognize Individuals who demonstrate impact in Northern Virginia through (1) professional and personal achievements, (2) civic engagement, (3) personal story.



### Bro. Gainer's Promotion

Brothers celebrated Bro. Sam Gainer's promotion to Lieutenant in the United States Coast Guard on December 11th.







**PREMIUM SINCE 1984**