

BLUE NOTES



**Official Publication of the Gamma Alpha Sigma Chapter
Of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated
Cleveland, Ohio (Chartered May 9, 1951)**

Fall 2013 Edition (#3)

*(From left to right) Bros. Anthony Garrett, Dorrian Hawkins, Semir Medencevic,
Sergio Scudder, Jamie Taylor and, Samuel Morris*



~*The newest members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.!!!*~
Fall 2013 initiates
G.O.M.A.B!!!

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Sigma Beta Club of Greater Cleveland

The Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma (as of now) is THE ONLY GRAD CHAPTER IN THE STATE OF OHIO TO HAVE AN ACTIVE SIGMA BETA CLUB! With that being said the bruhs of the chapter are proud of all the things that the Sigma Beta Club has done thus far since their initiation ceremony back in March of this year. These young men have already hosted their own car wash and candy sales which has put funds into their treasury, participated with the bruhs at Relay for Life at Solon High School, help set up apartments for needy families through Family Promise of Greater Cleveland and, participate in a Youth summit hosted by the Cleveland Graduate chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. The young men of the Sigma Beta Club are currently in the process of planning out a gaming tournament which they look to have early to middle 2014 and looking to raise further funds to sponsor a trip to Howard University in Washington D.C. to not only get a taste of a HBCU and view a college campus but to support one of their own fellow Sigma Beta's who now plays football for the school. We are asking that if any bruhs would like to participate in the mentoring and activities of the Sigma Beta Club, please contact Sigma Beta Club Coordinator Bro. Bobby Shepard at phone number 216-536-7710 or at sbccleve@yahoo.com. The Sigma Beta Club meets every 4th Saturday at Maple Heights Library 5225 Library Lane, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137 (Time's vary but usually start between 11am and 1pm). We hope to see you there to help aid in the events and endeavors of our young men.



Adopt-A-Highway/Litter Control Project: 2014 & Beyond

The members of the Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter currently underwent training from a representative from the Ohio Department of Transportation and live webinar from the Ohio State Patrol to begin the steps necessary to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway/Litter Control program. The 2+ hour training session (although tiresome and boring at many points) yielded some very interesting information in regard to peculiar and dangerous items that could (and in recent years and cases) have been found on the side of the road and highway by other groups and individuals doing the adopt-a-highway program ranging from deceased individuals to one-stop-shop methamphetamine labs, made from Gatorade/PowerAde bottles and other everyday items. The bruhs will look forward to add the adopt-a-highway program to the list of initiatives and community endeavors the chapter will be undertaking during our centennial year. The Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter has been designated a section of Interstate-271 near the Broadway/Forbes Roads area where in upcoming months our sign will be visible for all commuters to see with the chapter and fraternity name on it. For any brothers looking to participate and help us out with this environmental endeavors in the 2014 year and beyond please contact Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter president Bro. Percy Turner as he is the official contact person for the adopt-a-highway project to make sure forms are signed and training is conducted as needed before anyone steps foot on the highway (his contact information is located at the end of the newsletter).



Open Doors Academy Annual Kickball Fundraiser

We want to acknowledge of the bruhs who participated in the Open Doors Academy Annual Kickball Fundraiser that took place at Bexley Park in South Euclid, Ohio October 5, 2013. Open Doors Academy is a local nonprofit organization that works to protect, inspire, nurture and challenge adolescents to reach their full potential through the provision of meaningful out-of-school enrichment programming in a safe and structured environment. The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma, Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter served as volunteer referees for the various kickball games that were played throughout the day at the park.



The Brothers of Gamma Alpha Sigma received a “crash course” on the rules of how the game should go from the event coordinator days before so that they would be prepared for the kids when they arrived. The chapter looks forward to further working with Open Doors Academy and volunteering where possible to do our part in nurturing our youth.

GOMAB bruhs!!!



Newest Members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Fall 2013 Initiates!!!

The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. would like to give a tremendous shout to the newest members of our brotherhood. Our fall 2013 candidates where initiated Nov 3, 2013 with many brother showing up to attend the ceremony. The Fall 2013 initiates were composed of candidates of the following chapters they were seeking membership through:

Gamma Alpha Sigma (Cleveland Alumni Chapter):

Bro. Sergio Scudder

Bro. Jamie Taylor

Bro. Samuel Morris



Beta Nu (Cleveland State University Undergraduate Chapter):

Bro. Dorrian Hawkins

Bro. Semir Medencevic



Delta Rho Sigma (Akron Alumni Chapter):

Bro. Anthony Garrett



We would also be remised if we didn't thank the Membership Intake Team which undertook the task of planning and executing the candidate's membership intake process, educational sessions and all that had to take place and followed under the fraternities newly re-vamped M.I.P. Process which was rolled out at the Serious Sigma Summit in Charlotte, North Carolina a few years ago. Thanks to the Fall 2013 Membership Intake Team which included:

Bro. George Baker (Gamma Alpha Sigma)
Bro. Lee Jackson (Gamma Alpha Sigma)
Bro. Narayan Stitt (Gamma Alpha Sigma)
Bro. Michael Brown (Gamma Alpha Sigma)
Bro. Taurean Adams (Gamma Alpha Sigma)
Bro. Duvall Brown (Gamma Alpha Sigma)
Bro. Keith Orr (Iota Beta)
Bro. Michael Leftwich (Delta Rho Sigma)

And we want to send a special shout out to the Northeast Ohio Membership Intake Chairman and Gamma Alpha Sigma's own Bro. Lee Tate who spent countless hours with the candidates via meetings, phone calls, etc. to further make sure the candidates had everything they needed in a timely and prompt manner to assist in their membership intake process going as smoothly as possible. With this being the first time that the chapter has had to conduct intake under the new M.I.P. process bruhs have unanimously agreed that Bro. Tate did an excellent job handling all the logistics, financials and other items associated. The chapter is proud to see that younger brothers in Sigma such as Bro. Tate are willing to take the lead and answer the call of Sigma

Bro. Lee Tate

GOOD JOB!!!

GOMAB!!!



The Chapter 501c3 :
~*The Gamma Alpha Sigma Educational Foundation*~



4+ years ago after a tedious and time consuming process involving substantial amounts of paperwork and multiple revisions sent back and forth with the Internal Revenue Service of the United States of America the Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. established its own non-profit entity: The Gamma Alpha Sigma Educational Foundation. The Gamma Alpha Sigma Educational Foundation has been establish to further aid in the chapter and fraternity's cause of our 2nd guiding principle of scholarship. The educational foundation will be utilized to issue out scholarships to deserving individuals in the Greater Cleveland area as they pursue knowledge in institutions of higher education both here in the city, state and, abroad. The Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter would like to once again recognize Bro. Ed Long and Bro. Troy Ezelle for all their hard work in completing this complicated task 4+ years ago. These bruhs spent countless hours making sure that this feat became a reality in giving the chapter another vehicle to further impact the community. Brothers are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** to come up with ideas to further fund the foundation and also make donations as we further strive to build up the financial stability of the 501c3. The brothers recently held a fundraiser selling coupon books at \$20.00 a piece, raising significant funds to help aid in the building of the scholarship fund. Brothers, our hope is to help those individuals whose wish is to go to college, realize and, achieve their goals and aspirations by means of a higher education just as we all have had the opportunity of doing in the past. Our hope is that you will support the Gamma Alpha Sigma Educational Foundation as our cause speeds on its way.

Fall 2013 State of Ohio Leadership Conference Columbus, Ohio

A lot of information was passed along this year at The 2013 State of Ohio Leadership Conference / Meeting this year in Columbus, Ohio. Along with the relaying of crucial information regarding not only the state and region, efforts and plans heading towards our centennial in Washington D.C. was high on the list of topics to discuss.

The meeting focused around two main areas: training brothers on the still fairly newly M.I.P. Process and recruitment / retention for our upcoming centennial. In addition

part of the state meeting was ran by 27th and 29th International President of Phi Beta Sigma Bro.

Carter Womack as he challenged bruhs

knowledge of the frat be means of asking who

were the last 10 international presidents of our fraternity. Many bruhs groaned and scratched their head as the room from the oldest bruhs to the newest of neophytes pondered and went on to answer the question. One of the main takeaways (that I got at least) from the question was this: If we do not know our own history then who will join an organization where its own members are not sure of its own past? (just food for thought). The conversation then quickly shifted to the all-important topic of recruitment and retention. Here are a few of the figures and stats that were shared at the meeting in regard to retention and membership:



- Our chapter, Gamma Alpha Sigma only had between 23-27 active/financial members for 2013 (a few numbers down from 30 we had in 2012 and a definite far cry from the 65 we had during the reactivation initiative during 2011)
- The Fraternity in total had only 8300 active/financial brothers in 2012...
- For our centennial year, the fraternity is looking to have 10,000+ active and financial brothers
- Many chapters in the state didn't have numbers to technically qualify them as a recognizable chapter!

Many chapters in the state of Ohio are well below expected numbers (both collegiate and alumni) with many chapters not even at a level to run a successful and productive chapter. After an open floor discussion amongst the bruhs, ideas and techniques shared from Bro. Womack and other dialogue that took place a centennial membership committee to increase numbers across the state was set in place spearheaded by Bro. Carter Womack to get numbers up in the State of Ohio up for our 100 year anniversary. Each chapters has been asked to not only identify brothers they have or will consider for future membership in the fraternity but also those bruhs in their respectful cities they plan to go out and reclaim as many brothers (as we all know) have fallen off the radar for whatever reason. The numbers chapters presented were great and will prove challenging but can be achieved with the hard work and dedication that has pushed Phi Beta Sigma to the brink of seeing 100 years. Our chapter, Gamma Alpha Sigma has been charged to have 50+ financial active members for our centennial year. Brothers...if you know someone who has not been at chapter meetings, fallen off the radar or, simply has not been in touch with the fraternity, reach out to them and let them know they are still family as we look to not only bring brothers in from the cold and back into the warmth of our wondrous band and hopefully rekindle that spark and drive that brought them to Sigma.



Brothers in session having an open floor discussion with 27th and 29th International President Bro. Carter D. Womack

Centennial 2014 Washington D.C. How you getting there???

Brothers....

How do you plan on getting to the Sigma event of all Sigma events in July? Well Gamma Alpha Sigma has a great alternative that you may have not considered... How about riding on the charter bus the chapter is getting for all those Sigma's, Zeta's and friends who are looking forward to traveling to Washington D.C. this summer? The Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter has secured a deposit with Lakefront Lines as our transportation to Washington D.C. and will soon be taking money for deposits for seats. Now I here you saying, "why would I ride the bus?" Well here are just a few reasons use should...

*You don't have to drive the 8+ hours there and back...

*You can relax and hang out with other Sigma's and Zeta's as we travel...

*You don't have to pay the high parking fees that are associated with the hotels...

*Have all the blue juice you want without worrying about getting a DUI (YES THERE WILL BE BLUE JUICE ON THIS BUS!!!)

After looking at just these 3 alternatives I think the option is clear, stay tuned as we finalize details in regard to departure/return times/locations, ticket prices (which will include early bird prices), other activities to take place on the bus and more! Whichever way you make it to Maryland in July one thing is for sure: PHI BETA SIGMA IS GOING TO CELEBRATE LIKE NO GREEK ORGANIZATION HAS CELEBRATED BEFORE!!!



Bro. Wayne Dawson Celebrity Bowling Fundraiser

We would like to shout out all of the brothers of Sigma who went to participate in WJW television Newscaster and co-host of Fox 8 in the Morning and Gamma Alpha Sigma's own Bro. Wayne Dawson during his annual celebrity bowling fundraiser at Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe, Ohio back on November 30th. The Fundraiser raised monetary support for the Annie L. Dawson Foundation for Justice, Education, and Achievement. The Mission of the foundation is to raise money for scholarships for inner-city children. Sigma's, other Greeks, friends, family and many others joined in to participate in this worthwhile and just cause. Bro. Wayne Dawson will also be one of the keynote speakers at our founders day and centennial celebration program January 11th, 2014 at the Solon Community Center. Once again big ups to all who came out to support and we look forward to hearing from Bro. Dawson in the upcoming weeks.



Members of both Sigma and Zeta supporting Bro. Wayne Dawson at his Fundraising Event



2013 Blue and White Christmas Party

hosted by:

Nu Theta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

Our lovely sorors of the Nu Theta Zeta chapter would like to further cordially invite all of Blue and White to come out fellowship and celebrate the holiday season together as brothers and sisters December 20th, 2013 at the Bedford Heights Community Center located at 5615 Perkins Ave. Bedford Heights, Ohio 44145 starting at 7:30pm. There is a \$5.00 cost to attend which covers food (Mexican style buffet...from what I was told), music and games. Unfortunately there won't be any alcohol consumption (that cost another \$125.00 for security then) but rest assured, a good time will be had by all who plan to attend as usual when blue and white gets together. Another important point to emphasize is that there **WILL NOT BE ANY MONEY COLLECTED AT THE DOOR PER THE RULES OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER** so if brothers plan to attend brothers need to drop off their money at the listed locations below:

-Monday December 16th, 2013 6:15pm-8:15pm at the Alpha Estates 4100 E. 187th St. Cleveland, Ohio 44128

-Tuesday December 17th, 2013 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Warrensville Heights Library on Northfield Rd.

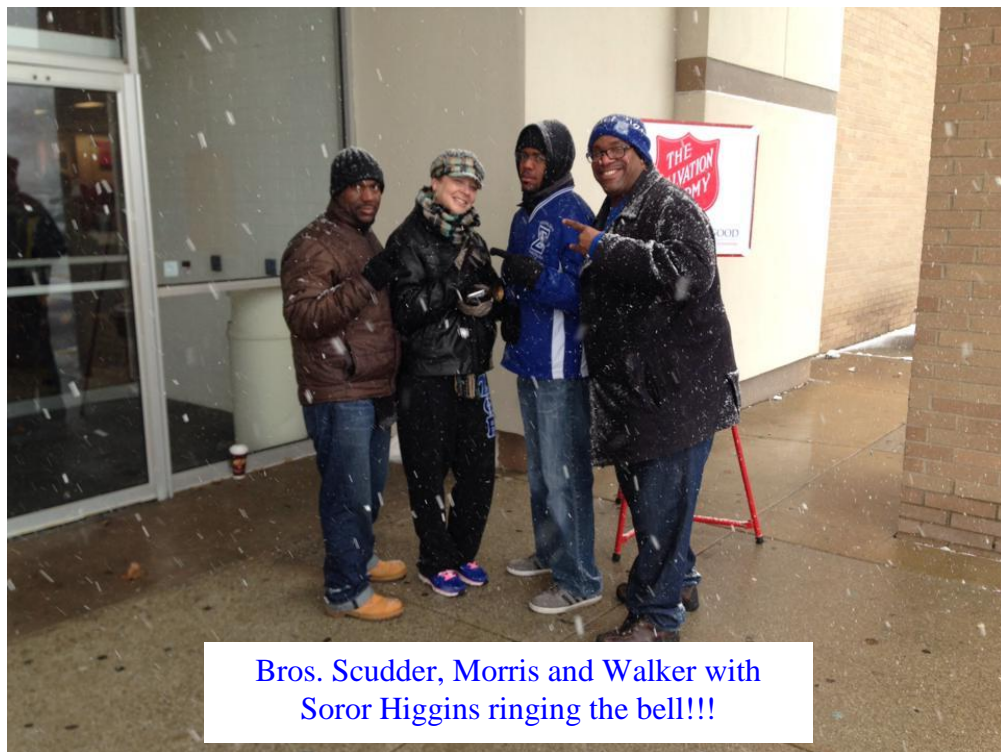
If brothers have any other questions that can get in contact with Sorors Chamomile Ware at cwarezphi2008@gmail.com or Wendy Horn at blueduece2u@yahoo.com. Everyone looks forward to seeing one and all as we come together as family.



2013 Annual Zeta /Sigma Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ring



Want to recognize the brothers and sisters who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the annual Salvation Army Kettle Ring that took place November 23rd, 2013. The Sigma's and Zeta's this year set up shop in front of the J.C. Penny's in Richmond Town Square collecting much needed monetary donations for those who are not as fortunate as others during the holiday season. Every year brothers, sorors and both organizations youth affiliate groups undertake the task of setting up a time schedule for all who would like to participate in those who need it most.



Bros. Scudder, Morris and Walker with
Soror Higgins ringing the bell!!!



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~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

If you have anything that you would like to have included into the quarterly Blue Notes Newsletter you can send all information/articles/pictures to:

Blue Notes Editor-In-Chief:

Bro. Taurean Adams

Taurean.Adams@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events:

- *Cleveland Centennial Celebration Updates*
- * Zeta Phi Beta Regional Conference April 2014*
- *Sigma Beta Club Activities and Events*
- *2014 Centennial in Washington D.C.*
- *2014 Founders Day/Centennial Celebration Recap*

OTHER EVENTS, ENDEAVORS AND
 INFORMATION!!!