

# The Light



San Diego, California • Spring 2004 • Volume 3 Issue 1

## 56<sup>th</sup> Western Regional

From March 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Alpha Phi Alpha held this year's 56<sup>th</sup> annual Western Regional Convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Bellevue, Washington. Bros. Reggie Marbray, Don Long, John Smith, and Gene Moore served as delegates from Zeta Sigma Lambda chapter. The convention was attended by 243 of the Region's most able College and Alumni Brothers, who conducted legislative sessions, luncheons, seminars, and social gatherings. By the end of the convention, Brothers were leaving filled with reenergized spirits; from the daily morning fraternal breakfasts to the successful conclusion of Alpha business conducted at the business sessions to the wide spectrum of information available at its well-organized seminars.



Bro. Ron Celestine, Western Regional VP and Iota Mu Lambda, Alpha Xi, and Zeta Pi Lambda, the host chapters, graciously welcomed the Brothers of Alpha to Bellvue. On the first day, each district had their own Caucus where they discussed issues facing their particular region.

On the second day, General President Bro. Harry E. Johnson gave the State of the Fraternity Address. He noted that other organizations look to us for leadership and stressed that our appearance should always look good – not like an “excuse or accident.” He spoke about the need to always “be at the table” before decisions are made because we have power and “clout” and need to always use it – that’s exercising leadership. Additionally, he spoke about hazing and the fact that it needs to die and not resurrect in any form.

All district reports were accepted. Financial issues were discussed thoroughly and the majority of them were fiscally sound and profitable.

There were several luncheons and dinners where brotherhood was very evident. On Friday, the MLK Jr. Fraternal Luncheon gave brothers an opportunity to give a full report on Memorial accomplishments in 2003. The MLK chair stated the project is at the \$30M level of a \$100M project goal. The Executive Leadership Cabinet involved several key businessmen such as Marriott, GM, Ford, and other executives. We expect to break ground in late 2005 with ribbon cutting in 2007. Bro. Russell stated alumni brothers are being asked to contribute \$250 and college brothers \$100 on an annual basis until the memorial is built, and that the Western Region has contributed more dollars per capita than any other region. Past President Milton Davis was the guest speaker, and spoke of the centennial and our mission to motivate our young people and become involved with them.

## President’s Message

After spending a few days in Seattle for the Western Regional Convention, I feel compelled to ask all brothers for your increased support of our chapter. As an Alpha, it is your responsibility to pay your national and local dues, as they support so many of our programs. Our goal is to support the youth of our community, and your financial support is needed to accomplish that goal. In addition, we need your professional, life experience and presence to support our youth. A little time can go a long way with our programs. Have a great year, and thanks for your support.

Bro. Reginald Marbray

### 56<sup>th</sup> Western Regional (continued)

The Regional Director's report for the Southern California District noted that 15 of 20 chapters are in good standing, they are working to obtain non-profit status for District. They also nominated two brothers for AVP – Bro. Grenen Vitte of Iota Psi and Bro. Brown of Delta Omicron. Bro. Vitte was elected as the new AVP of the So. Cal. District.



Bro. Quentin Brooks, a former Morse High School student and a former member of the CAEP program won the Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Contest. He is a member of Mu Chi Chapter at Long Beach State.

## Alpha History

### DuBois – was Alpha in his heart?

The fact that W.E.B. DuBois was admitted as an honorary member by Jewell Callis at Alpha Chapter in 1909 has led some to believe that he was just that – an honorary member.

Not so. Bro. DuBois, though busy with his various writings, teaching posts, and speaking schedule took the time to speak at Alpha conventions, including the 17<sup>th</sup> General Convention in New York, and various Alpha chapters like Xi Lambda in Chicago in 1925. He also wrote an article for the Sphinx Magazine and mentioned Alpha Phi Alpha in the Crisis in 1912.



## Upcoming Events

Activity	Date and Time	Location
Next ZΣΛ Meetings .....	May 21, 2004 • June 25, 2004 • July 23, 2004 .....	Neighborhood House
Executive Committee Meetings .....	May 12, 2004 • June 9, 2004 • July 14, 2004 .....	Neighborhood House
March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon .....	April 24, 2004 @ 7:00 AM .....	Balboa Park, see Bro. Ellis
Bro. Darryl Matthews Meet & Greet.....	May 7, 2004 @ 6:30 PM .....	Mission Valley Hilton
Breakfast for M'Lady.....	May 8, 2004 @ 8:30 AM .....	see Bro. Reggie Marbray
Alpha/AKA Scholarship Breakfast .....	June 12, 2004 @ 8:00 AM.....	Doubletree Inn, Hazard Ctr. MV
A Phi A Constitutional Convention.....	August 5–8, 2004 .....	Philadelphia Marriott, Philadelphia, PA



Henry A. Callis



Charles H. Chapman



Eugene K. Jones



George B. Kelley



Nathaniel A. Murray



Robert H. Ogle



Verner W. Tandy

## Bro. John Houston becomes Federal judge

On October 3, 2003, the United States Senate confirmed President Bush's nomination of the Honorable John A. Houston, then U.S. Magistrate Judge, to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Judge Houston assumed his new responsibilities on October 8, 2003, and his formal investiture, on February 5th, 2004, was greeted with with pride as several of the brothers of Zeta Sigma Lambda chapter witnessed his installation at the U. S. District Court here in San Diego.

The courtroom had an overflow crowd, and Bro. Joe Littlejohn (Superior Court Judge) spoke at the proceedings, representing the Superior Court of San Diego. He was one of several dignitaries who delivered accolades on behalf of Bro. John.

Brother Houston was initiated into Zeta Sigma Lambda 22 years ago and is a life member of the fraternity. A native of Greensboro, NC, Bro. Houston graduated with honors from North Carolina A & T State University in 1974 with a degree in Political Science. He was also commissioned



as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, receiving recognition as the Distinguished Military Student and Distinguished Military Graduate. In 1977, he graduated from the University of Miami School of Law in Florida. He is admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the Florida Bar, the State Bar of California and various military courts. He is married to Charlotte Clarke Houston, Ph.D. His son, John Allen Houston, recently graduated from Stanford University with a degree in Human Biology, and will begin medical school in the fall of 2004.

We are very proud of you and also the fact that you wanted the brothers around to support you on this special occasion. You will always have our strong brotherhood and support.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  
Zeta Sigma Lambda Chapter  
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## Miss Black and Gold Pageant

On February 7, 2004, Eta Sigma held their first Miss Black and Gold Pageant at Montezuma Hall on the campus of San Diego State University. The



affair showcased the talents of four SDSU co-eds and the organizational skills of the undergraduate chapter. The pageant, featuring a swimsuit competition, was well received by all attendees, including Bro. Don Long, who served as one of the judges.

Attended by over 100 people, the pageant was won by Miss Lorraine Mayfield, a sophomore majoring in Communications. Her poise and talent was evident in her essay and her vocal selection. Lorraine won the \$500 grand prize and the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles to compete in the Southern District Miss Black and Gold Pageant, held in Los Angeles on February 28, 2004. (Editor's note: Miss Mayfield did not place in the district competition and did not represent the Southern District at the Regionals in Bellvue, Washington.)

All congratulations should go to Eta Sigma who mounted a successful and profitable first-time event.



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edited and published by Bro. Gary Nash  
contributions by Bro. Don Long, Bro. Reggie  
Marbray, and Skip Mason's Historical Moments  
Published quarterly  
Spring 2004 edition  
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