IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President
2017-18 Executive Board
Picnic With a Purpose
Alpha Merit Beautillion
Brothers On The Move
Protocol of the Hymn
Birthday Club
Alpha Toy Dance
Prematurity Awareness Month
Salute Our Troops
Private Screening
Honoring a Legacy of Brotherhood
Chapter Membership
It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Ninety years ago Charles Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis near Paris, France, completing the first solo flight across the Atlantic, and The Sultan of Swat, Babe Ruth, hit sixty home runs for the New York Yankees. But none of those accomplishments has had the impact on the Houston community like the founding of Alpha Eta Lambda on November 27, 1927. This month we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the chartering of our chapter, and the many men that have proudly answered the call of service.

In November we also celebrate Veterans Day, where we honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Like many of you, my family is full of men and women that have served our country in the armed forces. My grandfather served in France at the end of World War I, and with the famed 10th Calvary in the western territories. Alpha Phi Alpha has given its best to the armed forces. Jewel Vertner Woodson Tandy was the first African American to pass the military commissioning examination, and was commissioned first lieutenant in the 15th Infantry of the New York State National Guard. In every war fought by or within the United States, African Americans participated. We salute the many veterans in Alpha for their service!

November is also election time. This year we partnered with the Eta Mu chapter to host a voter registration drive. They say “all politics is local”, so I encourage you to post images wearing your “I voted” sticker on your social media outlets. Let us show the world that in Alpha we believe in the motto “Every Voter, Every Election”, as each community elects local officials and decides on local matters.

Fifty years and a day after the first African American Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, was sworn into service, we gathered for a private screening of the film Marshall, chronicling the early life of our beloved Alpha Brother. Let us also celebrate the members of our chapter who serve as elected officials. A special thanks to Mayor Sylvester Turner, and Council Members Larry Green and Dwight Boykins for honoring our chapter on October 31st with a mayoral proclamation. Alpha stimulates its membership for the greater usefulness. We need more Brothers to step up and lead in the political arena. Who will be next?

Bro. Byron D. Gautier
President
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter

GO ASTROS!
2017-2018 Executive Board

Byron D. Gautier
President
Jeramaine O. Netherly
Immediate Past President
Fredrick G. Turner, Jr.
Vice President
Errol D. Allen, II
Parliamentarian
Larry D. Thomas
Recording Secretary
Jehielk U. Burke
Corresponding Secretary
Omar E. Jones
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Bryan M. Stotler
Financial Secretary
Richard A. Wade
Sergeant-At-Arms
Derrick L. Deal
Chaplain
Thomas A. Brown
Historian
David V. Jones
Membership Intake Coordinator
Duane C. Jubert
Associate Editor of The Sphinx
Clarence L. Sirmons
Director of Educational Activities
Dallas S. Jones
Director of Public Relations
The Alpha Merit Group Educational Foundation, Inc. in partnership with Alpha Eta Lambda, Sigma Gamma Lambda and Xi Eta Lambda hosted the annual Alpha Picnic With A Purpose on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at Christa V. Adair Park. All had a good time as we listened to the sounds provided by DJ Kayenne (Bro. Jehielk U. Burke), played cards and dominoes, plus enjoyed Bar-B-Q prepared by Doing Our Part foundation (Bro. Dedric Myers). Foster Elementary and A.G. Hilliard Elementary were the recipients of our school supply drive, providing additional resources for the current school year.
Our 2017-2018 Alpha Merit Beautillion Interest Meeting was held on Sunday, October 8th, 2017 at 3:30pm in The Federal Reserve Bank. The interest meeting serves as an informational for interested African-American high school junior and senior males. There were sixteen (16) interested young men and their parents in attendance. In addition to a program overview, attendees heard testimonials from Lynette Valentine (Beautillion Parent 2016) and Bro. Robert Timmons, II (Beau 2010). After the program overview, attendees were treated to a short tour of The Federal Reserve Bank.
Brothers On the Move

Alpha Brothers honored at 23rd Annual GHBC Pinnacle Awards

Bros. Carl McGowan and Troi Taylor were honored on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the 23rd Annual African American Business Achievement Pinnacle Awards, sponsored by the Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce (GHBC). Bro. Carl McGowan received the Advocate of the Year Award for his efforts to bring more resources to African American businesses and GHBC.

Bro. McGowan is the Regional Marketing Director for United Healthcare of Texas and Oklahoma.

From a pool of eight finalists, Bro. Troi Taylor was selected as one of the four African American businesses to receive a 2017 Pinnacle Award.

Bro. Taylor and his wife, Kelley, own Taylor Construction Management, a project management consulting firm.

The pinnacle award is based on fulfillment of mission statement and company objectives, improvement and company growth, proven effectiveness in meeting business challenges, utilization of other African American businesses, and community involvement and impact.
Protocol of the Hymn

Bro. Dameon R. Dennis

One of the most sacred moments in the life and practices of our Fraternity is the linking of brotherly arms, forming a circle and singing the majestic ode to our beloved Fraternity. Memories still linger of what an awesome experience it was as I uttered those magnificent words for the first time from my place in the circle. Linked amongst the brethren, as I watched Bro. Harrison, Sr. directing us through the Hymn from the center of the circle as he had for so many years. This article seeks to contend with protocol matters pertaining to the singing of the Fraternal Hymn.

All rules cited in this writing come from the official “2007 Protocol & Etiquette Manual” issued by the Fraternity, unless noted otherwise. When singing the Hymn, Brothers will stand, unless physically unable to do so, remove hats and “hat-like” garments. A Brother’s eyes are to be open and their heads raised. The tone of the hymn is a majestic one. No one should attempt to add content, style flare or modify it from its original refrain. Please note, no one other than a brother is allowed inside the circle of Alpha.

When the Fraternal hymn is sung in the presence of a Brother he is not allowed to exclude himself from the circle. Brothers however, may choose to substitute the Alpha Hymn in the place of the Alpha Sweetheart Song, if this is done brothers should form a semi circle as opposed to a circle.

Finally the official hymn should be sung at the conclusion of all fraternity meetings and ceremonies, to be immediately succeeded with the fraternity prayer.
The Alpha Light interviews the Alpha Toy Dance Committee Chair, Bro. Yarmon Kennedy about the upcoming event.

**Alpha Light**: What is the Alpha Toy Dance?

**Bro. Kennedy**: The Alpha Toy Dance is an annual event sponsored by the Alpha Merit Group Educational Foundation in conjunction with the Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. It is a formal event featuring a night of dinner, dancing, and live entertainment. All guests are asked to bring a toy valued at a minimum of $15. It’s our signature event that has become a can’t miss affair.

**Alpha Light**: How did this event get started?

**Bro. Kennedy**: Brother Vivian Chagois started the tradition of giving Christmas toys to underprivileged children in Houston. This year we celebrate our 66th Alpha Toy Dance.

**Alpha Light**: How are the toys distributed?

**Bro. Kennedy**: We collect approximately 400 toys each year. This year we will partner with the Blue Triangle and the Nehemiah Center. Both centers share our passion for improving the lives of young people and are entrenched in the Third Ward community.

**Alpha Light**: What are the particulars for the Alpha Toy Dance?

**Bro. Kennedy**: The 66th Alpha Toy Dance will take place on December 15th at the Chateau Crystale, located at 2517 South Gessner Rd, Houston, Texas 77063. Doors open at 8:00 PM. The cost for financial Brothers of the Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter is $70 per person or $700 per table. All others can acquire tickets for $75 or $750 per table.

**Alpha Light**: How can a Brother purchase a ticket or table?

**Bro. Kennedy**: There are several options. Brothers can purchase tickets in person at Fraternity meeting or at the Toy Dance committee meetings held each Thursday evening at 8:00. Brothers can also purchase tickets online. You can find the PayPal links by consulting the most recent Chapter eblast.

**Alpha Light**: How can Brothers contact you should they have any questions?

**Bro. Kennedy**: Brothers can reach me via email at yarmon.kennedy@gmail.com or by text at 757-593-9697
World Prematurity Day Nov. 17

Together we need to raise awareness, fund lifesaving research and support families affected by premature birth.

Get involved now at marchofdimes.org/worldprematurityday

© 2017 March of Dimes Foundation
Birthday Club

November

Bro. Erroll A. Hines  1st
Bro. Freddie L. Harris, Jr.  2nd
Bro. Anthony E. Laymond, Sr.  3rd
Bro. Fredrick G. Turner, Jr.  4th
Bro. Dorsey L. Reese, Jr.  5th
Bro. Dr. Terrance D. Grant-Malone  7th
Bro. Wilbur Hardy, Jr.  8th
Bro. Timothy L. Johnson  15th
Bro. Dr. Shannon L. Verrett  16th

Bro. Henry H. Brown  17th
Bro. Byron D. King  21st
Bro. Marvin A. Thorn  21st
Bro. Terrence S. Brown  23rd
Bro. Ernest L. Richards  24th
Bro. David L. Neely  25th
Bro. Eric R. Lyons  26th
Bro. Oscar M. Telfair, III  28th
Bro. John L. Carter, Jr.  29th
Bro. Kenneth E. Bolton, Sr.  30th

Happy Birthday
Salute Our Troops

Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans who served their country honorably. The Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is wishing all of the men and women who have served, especially our brothers, a Happy Veterans Day.

Movie Private Screening

On October 12, 2017, the Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. partnered with the NAACP – Houston Branch to premier a private screening of Marshall, an iconic movie focusing on a career-defining case for Bro. Thurgood Marshall, who was a highly favored NAACP lawyer before becoming the first African-American United States Supreme Court Justice.

Prior to the opening scene, we had the pleasure of hearing words from our chapter president Bro. Byron Gautier, the NAACP – Houston Branch’s president Bro. James Douglas, and from Bro. Charles Hamilton Houston IV, the grandson of Bro. Marshall’s mentor (of whom Houston shares the same name). The event was a huge success and a great way for the chapter to strengthen its bond with the local branch of the nation’s oldest civil rights organization. Special thanks to Bro. Dallas S. Jones, who orchestrated the event, and to our sponsors, for without you the screening wouldn’t have been possible.

“Marshall” Screening with Alpha Phi Alpha: Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter and NAACP - Houston Branch
Private Screening
During the June meeting of the Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter, a celebration ensued. The result of an idea conceived by our 31st General President, Brother Harry E. Johnson, Sr., and in collaboration with chapter president, Brother Jeramaine Netherly, as well as other past and present chapter leaders, we paid homage to brothers of our dear fraternity and chapter who have 50 or more years of service. The Alpha Merit Foundation house was full; standing room only, to be exact.

As the abbreviated chapter and foundation meetings came to a close, brothers in attendance could not have imagined the experiences, history, and memories that would be shared that night. Moderated by 19th Southwestern Region Vice President, Brother Dr. Tophas Anderson, III, who posed a few standard questions, the evening was highlighted by the memories of several of the honorees in attendance.

Brother Dr. Luzine Bickham, a 1940 initiate of Nu Psi chapter, opened the celebration with gratefulness for not only being alive, but also for being allowed to share some of his experiences in Alpha. He spoke about the process of becoming a member of our dear fraternity and described it as “brutal.” When asked if he had met any notable Alpha’s he emphatically stated, “We didn’t identify anybody as notable, if he was an Alpha, he was an Alpha!” to which brothers agreed as evidenced by the rousing applause.

Brother James Humphrey, a 1949 initiate of Gamma Alpha chapter, made it known that he was an Alpha before he became an Alpha. He spoke admiringly about his high school biology teacher and how impeccably dressed he was at all times, and remembered how that teacher encouraged his interest in Alpha. He told the story of his introduction to the fraternity and reminisced on his days at Texas College. His recollection of his pledge process filled the room with laughter as he acknowledged Alpha for making him a better person.

Brother Dr. Lynwood Randolph, a 1956 initiate of the Beta Gamma chapter, and a former Alumni Brother of the Year, spoke about his time in Alpha and recalls being active with only 3 alumni chapters during his tenure in the fraternity, including his experience upon moving to Houston. He shared that he visited a smaller chapter but decided that it wasn’t for him and emphatically stated that “Alpha brothers are good but some are better.”

Brother Randolph concluded by thanking the brothers for acknowledging his presence and years in the fraternity and pledging his continued service and love to and for the fraternity.

As the evening came to a close, Brother Isaac T. Bryant, a 1957 Beta chapter initiate, shared his experiences as an Alpha brother on the campus of Howard University. For many brothers of our chapter, his recitation of “House of Alpha” is a staple for any event held in the chapter meeting space. However, on this grand occasion, Brother Bryant graced us with a powerful rendition of an Alpha song that found brothers entranced by every note and lyric that came from his mouth. The night ended with repast reminiscent of the menu from the first initiation banquet, as well as fellowship, that lasted for several more hours. This was a celebration not soon to be forgotten as a banner, listing all brothers celebrating 50 or more years in Alpha, hangs in the chapter meeting space. Not only does the banner serve as a reminder that we must never forget the brothers on whose shoulders we stand, but also as a visual representation of the honor and respect due to those brothers of the greatest fraternity in the world. A good time was had by all.
It’s been a bit nippy the last few days and we can feel the season change. We all have noticed the subtle changes in the weather. Our yards have stopped growing and our once emerald green grass has now become a resting place for falling leaves and pine needles. Just like the weather we all go through seasons of change. One of the lines in our fraternal hymn highlights this change when we sing, “College days swiftly pass, imbued with mem’ries fond. And the recollection slowly fades away.” Even though we go through these changes the one thing that will never change is our strength and courage as Alpha-men. Life is filled with many transitions but we can and should always rely on the strength of our bond and commitment to the “esprit de fraternité”. Through the addition and loss of loved ones, job changes, or we no longer have the spring in our step we once had, we can always look up and seek the light of our Lord.

And when we look to our left and our right we see and feel the strength and love of a brother as we stand through the changing seasons of our lives.

Peace and Love Brothers.
Early voting began Monday, October 23, 2017, and runs until Friday, November 3, 2017. The AVPHP Committee encourages you and your family and friends to get out and VOTE EARLY. Please check your local polling stations for details. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th 2017.
Alpha Eta Lambda
2017-2018 Calendar

**October 2017**
- 10/1 – Chapter Meeting
- 10/7 – Voter Outreach
- 10/21 - TCAC Board Meeting
  (Richardson, TX)
- 10/22 – Picnic w/a Purpose
- 10/26 – Exec Board Meeting
- 10/31 – Halloween Party

**November 2017**
- 11/5 – Chapter Meeting
- 11/7 – Election Day
- 11/11 – First, We Serve
- 11/11 – SWR Board Meeting
  (Oklahoma City, OK)
- 11/16 – Exec Board Meeting
- 11/17 – JA in A Day

**December 2017**
- 12/3 – Chapter Meeting
- 12/4 – Founders Day
- 12/11 – NPHC Christmas Meeting
- 12/15 – Alpha Toy Dance
- 12/21 – Exec Board Meeting

**January 2018**
- 1/6 – Chapter Meeting
- 1/15 - MLK Breakfast
- 1/25 – Exec Board Meeting

**February 2018**
- 2/3 – Chapter Meeting
- 2/9 – Sweetheart’s Affair
- 2/15-18 – TCAC 2017
- 2/22 – Exec Board Meeting

**March 2018**
- 3/3 – Chapter Meeting
- 3/24 – Alpha Ladies Luncheon
- 3/29 – Exec Board Meeting

**April 2018**
- 4/1 – Easter
- 4/7 – Chapter Meeting
- 4/12-15 SWR – (Oklahoma, OK)
- 4/21 – Beautillion*
- 4/22 – March for Babies
- 4/26 – Exec Board Meeting
- 4/28 – Crawfish Boil

**May 2018**
- 5/5 – Chapter Meeting
- 5/24 – Exec Board Meeting

**June 2018**
- 6/2 – Seniors Bros Luncheon
- 6/2 – Chapter Meeting
- 6/11 – NPHC Annual Meeting
- 6/21 – Exec Board Meeting

**July 2018**
- 6/30 – Chapter Meeting
- 7/14 – Alpha Fly-in
- 7/26 – Exec Board Meeting

**August 2018**
- 8/4 – Chapter Meeting
- 8/30 – Exec Board Meeting
September 1, 2017

Greetings Brother,

I am the Financial Secretary for the 2017 - 2018 fraternal year. As we begin the fraternal year on September 1, under the leadership of President Byron Gautier and Vice President Fred Turner, I am forwarding your invoice for your yearly dues and Alpha Merit Group Educational Foundation contribution.

Again this year, you can pay your dues online at www.ALPHAETALAMBDA.COM with all forms of payment. You can also pay by credit card at the fraternity meetings. If you choose to pay by two checks, the first check should be made payable to the Alpha Merit Group Educational Foundation; it covers your contribution to the Alpha Merit Group Education Foundation. The second check, made payable to Alpha Eta Lambda, covers your chapter, regional and national obligations. Please refer to the attached invoice that shows a breakdown of the fees as per your fraternal financial status. Also, please be reminded that a $25 late fee will be assessed to your payment if it is received after November 6th.

For your convenience, you may pay by cash, check, money order, or credit card. If you are paying by credit card, please pay at www.ALPHAETALAMBDA.COM or in person at the fraternity meetings. There will be a handling fee assessed for all credit card transactions. All types of credit cards are accepted, as well as direct bank payments are available if payment is made online. If paying by cash, please do not mail it; submit your dues at the fraternity meeting. Upon receipt of your obligations, your files will be updated.

Thank you for your continued service to Alpha Eta Lambda and the Alpha Merit Group Education Foundation.

I remain fraternal,

Bryan Stotler
Financial Secretary
832-799-3115
Financialsecretary@alphaetalambda.com
## Application for Membership

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**  
**Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter**

**2017-2018**

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Please verify/update your information on AlphaNet (www.alphanet.apa1906.net)

Pay online at [WWW.ALPHAETALAMBDA.COM](http://www.alphaetalamda.com) or in person with a credit card.

Select the appropriate membership status. Add $25.00 late fee to dues, if payment is made after Nov 6.

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Please enter each check number or enter X for cash, when appropriate

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All credit cards used in person or online are subject to a processing fee.
Please check the program(s) project(s) and/or event(s) that you are committed to:

I. Programs:
- [ ] A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People
- [ ] Project Alpha
- [ ] Go To High School Go To College
- [ ] Scholarship Program
- [ ] Brother’s Keeper Program

II. Special Projects:
- [ ] College 2 Corporate
- [ ] Big Brothers/ Big Sisters
- [ ] Boy Scouts
- [ ] MOD March for Babies
- [ ] Leadership Development Institute

III. Events:
- [ ] Alpha Fly-in
- [ ] Alpha Toy Dance
- [ ] Alpha Picnic
- [ ] Founders’ Day
- [ ] Sweetheart Affair
- [ ] Sr. Brothers Luncheon
- [ ] Halloween Party

IV. Expertise/Skills:
- [ ] Alpha Wives Luncheon
- [ ] Beautillion
- [ ] Day Party
- [ ] 90th Anniversary
- [ ] Cook Out/Crawfish Boil
- [ ] Grant Writing
- [ ] Corporate Sponsorships
- [ ] Speaking
- [ ] Writing
- [ ] Webmaster
- [ ] Finances
- [ ] Fundraising

V. Committees:
- [ ] Housing Renovation
- [ ] Pan Hellenic Council
- [ ] Brotherhood/Reclamation
- [ ] Alpha Light
- [ ] Other

VI. MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION
(Dr./Mr.) First: __________________________________ Last: _______________________________
Business Phone: (_______)_________________________ Cell: (_______)_______________________
Home Phone: (_______)__________________________
E-Mail Address: _____________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________________
City _________________________________________________ Zip _______________________

VII. PROGRAM PREPARATION NEEDS
- [ ] I need training regarding my program commitments.
- [ ] I need information regarding my program commitments.
- [ ] I do not need any training or additional information about my program commitments.
  (The best time to contact me is: circle one:     am  or   pm )

*When I am contacted for participation my calendar will be marked, and I’ll be there!

Please return to Fredrick Turner, Program Chair at vicepresident@alphaetalambda.com