



# The PRAISE

Issue 1 • Volume 23 • Phi Beta Sigma • Southwestern Region • 2022



## The TRIUMPHANT Return of The PRAISE Sigma, What of the Day?

- Brandon Hill is the 23rd SW Regional Director
- There is a NEW John Lewis Scholar and he is a Sigma Man
- Nebraska is on connecting all Greeks



July 11-16, 2023 • Register Today!!!

# Message from the SW Regional Director



**Bro. Brandon Hill**  
The 23 SW Regional Director

## Let's Take Flight Into Our Future!

Welcome to The PRAISE First-Class Experience, Swaggering Volume 1.

I am honored to follow in the path of the 22 men who have led the Southwestern Region and serve as the 23rd Director of this swaggering region. Our region is home to the Hon. A. Langston Taylor, who walked the streets of Memphis, TN pondering and solidifying how to build a Greek-letter organization that would be inclusive, rather than an exclusive, while holding to the ideals of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service. Our Region is home to Brothers from the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and all of Tennessee (West of the 86th Longitude).

In all that we do, we will con-

tinue to adhere to our motto "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity" as these are not merely words but the core motivation that flows through the Fraternity and Brothers worldwide.

I would also like to thank you for taking the time to visit our re-branded edition of The PRAISE and I encourage you to visit our website regularly, as we will keep you updated on the current happenings of the Mighty Southwestern Region and Fraternity as a whole. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

The Southwestern Region is Soaring into New Heights as we Take Flight on a First-Class Experience.●

## The PRAISE Publication Team

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1st Vice RD  
**Bro. Joseph Wilson**

2nd Vice  
**Bro. Jeremiah Hatley**

Publicity Co-Director  
PRAISE Editor-In-Chief  
**Bro. Greg Brand Jr.**

Publicity Co-Director  
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**Bro. DeAngelo Strickland**

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**Bro. Michael Murry**

Collegiate Member At Large #1  
**Bro. Ashaunie McNeil**

Collegiate Member At Large #2  
**Bro. Albert Tompkins**

Contributors:

**Bro. Kevin Reese**

**Bro. James Callahan**

**Bro. DC Colbert**

**Bro. Dr. Emmanuel Rowe**

**Bro. Brandon Hill**

**Bro. LaDarius Millen**

### "TAKE FLIGHT"

PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED

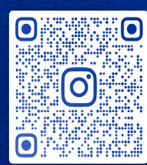
## SOUTHWESTERN REGION



BRANDON HILL



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**BRO. BRANDON HILL**  
SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR



# The Mighty SW Region has a new John Lewis Fellow

3

HARVARD  
DIVINITY  
5 Francis

Congratulations to Bro. Jesus Murillo on being accepted as a John R Lewis Fellow at the Faith & Politics Institute. The FPI advances reflective leadership among members of Congress and congress.

Bro. Murillo is currently a Presidential Scholar at Harvard Divinity School, where he will be obtaining his master's degree with a focus in Religion, Ethics, and Politics. Following his program, he will begin a Research Fellowship at the Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.

Bro. Murillo is a Spring 2019 initiate of the Alpha Gamma chapter at Fisk University. #letsgettowork #NashvilleSigmAs #FiskSigmAs



## A Letter From the Editor

Bro. Greg Brand  
Editor in Chief of The PRAISE

## Welcome Back to The PRAISE

Long time, no see! Welcome back, Brothers of the Mighty Southwestern Region!

While this region of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc has ALWAYS been one of the most active and populated regions within our great Fraternity, it has been several years since we had a consistent place to actually see ourselves and the impact we have across our large and diverse region. The lack of personal recognition of our region has now come to an end.

This is the first issue of The PRAISE in more than a decade. Thankfully, it will not be the last.

Under the leadership of the Southwestern Regional Director, Bro. Brandon Hill and our current Southwestern Regional Leadership Team, we have a renewed commitment of not only leading our region into a Greater and more impactful future - but also celebrating our wins and truly Shining the Light of Sigma everywhere! This means we will start

by shining that Light on OURSELVES. We deserve a place to celebrate and see ourselves. This publication aims to serve in position.

We promise to deliver coverage that includes all of the amazing states and sections of our region. From Oklahoma to Arkansas, Kansas to Nebraska and Missouri to Western Tennessee, The PRAISE is your place for news, information and most importantly - CELEBRATION of our most glorious achievements of our WONDROUS BAND!

This publication belongs to you! With that being said, feel free to share information, images, concerns, contributions, suggestions, thoughts and more with the Region and expect to see those items reflected here. We all have voices and The PRAISE aims to serve as its speaker!

Again, Welcome Back Brothers! It is truly and honor to serve you in this capacity.

## Your Chapter should be HERE!



- Is your chapter doing OUTSTANDING things and serving your community?
- Do have events you would like to promote or share with the entire region?
- Has a chapter member done something worthy of PRAISE?

**If you can say yes to any or all of those question, you should submit to The PRAISE!**

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For text - from 50 to 400 words typed (in email or word processing format)

Images - JPEG, PDF, PNG

**\*\*Issues compiled ONCE EVERY QUARTER\*\***

Email all submissions to [ThePRAISE.1914@gmail.com](mailto:ThePRAISE.1914@gmail.com)



Sigma Brothers gathered after the John Lewis March in Nashville on July 30.  
Photo Courtesy of Sigma Nashville

# Nashville Marches for Hon. Bro. Lewis

**Bro. James E. Callahan**  
Contributor

The Distinguished Men of Eta Beta Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. along with Sigma Men from across Middle Tennessee made history again as they participated in Nashville's annual John Lewis March on July 23, 2022.

In the aim of carrying out the mission Our Greatest Fraternity, Sigma Nashville did what it does best: manifesting the principles of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service.

A massive crowd turned out to participate in the well-known and well-attended march and pa-

rade travelling just over one mile through the heart of downtown Nashville ending with a celebration and proclamation at the historic Ryman Auditorium.

Brothers from all over the city and neighboring counties joined together to honor our Honorable Brother, John Lewis.

In an impressive display of how one remarkable organization can truly embody the Best Performance of Duty, the Eta Beta Sigma chapter simultaneously supported the International Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Summer Strategy Session in Philadelphia, Supported Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. at their 2022 Boule! This same weekend the Eta Beta Sigma chapter also held its our annual chapter fel-

lowship Cookout for friends and family. The event was lead by Ashford Hughes Sr. and supported the My Brother's Keeper Youth Summit / Community Celebration in support of our children. •

*“Get in good trouble,  
necessary trouble, and  
help redeem the soul  
of America.”*

**-Hon. Bro. John Lewis**

# Arkansas Sigmas help launch gun buy-back

**News Release**

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity joined with police, city and state officials to buy back guns in North Little Rock Saturday afternoon.

This is the third buy back event in the past year for the fraternity and the first on the north side of the river.

Arkansas fraternity to host gun buy back event to combat gun violence Any working firearm could be traded in for a Visa gift card at the event, which was hosted by the First Baptist Church in North Little Rock.

Along with State Representative Jamie Scott, the event was co-sponsored by State Senator Linda Chesterfield and Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde.

They are planning for more gun buy-back events in the future, with the next likely to take place in Springdale in northeast Arkansas. •

# Sigma Nebraska serves as connector for local Greeks



Photos courtesy of Bro. Kevin Reese

## Bro. Kevin Reese Contributor

In the effort of uniting Greeks in the Nebraska area, Rho Upsilon Sigma is working to bring the connection and the fun.

Created in 2018, just before the effect of the COVID pandemic, the Rho Upsilon Sigma (Lincoln, NE) chapter started the Lincoln D9 Cookout.

Initially designed to unite the Divine Nine Greeks in Lincoln, this event has grown into a must-attend event for people from all over the state and beyond.

We all do amazing work in the community and we wanted to create an opportunity for all of us to fellowship in one space.

The growth of the event is unbelievable! We had only 35 people attend our first year. We more than tripled that

number to 100 our second year before COVID cancelled our 2020 and 2021 cookout. Strong numbers continued as the event was reignited for the 2022 season.

We currently have all of the D9 organizations represented in Lincoln. We had a great time on July 30th with all of our D9 Family in Lincoln and beyond.



# Delta Beta Sigma takes Sigma Wellness to the PAINT

## Bro. DC Colbert Contributor

The Sigmas of OKC put their basketball skills to the test as they played against the local Alphas in Action of Oklahoma City.

In support of uniting Black male organizations and displaying good sportsmanship within the community, the Men of Sigma came out in numbers for a day of basketball fun.

At the end of a hard-fought game, the Sigmas were victorious! Shoutout to both teams as great sportsmanship was shown and most of all no one was seriously hurt!

The OKC Sigmas look forward to continuing using the Sigma Wellness programming for not only bringing exciting activity within the Brotherhood but sharing it within the community as well! #SigmaOKC #SigmaWellness.

# WELCOME



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International President, Bro Chris V. Rey joins the Men of Tau Iota Sigma chapter as they adopt a record number of Memphis Schools. Photos Courtesy of The Crescent.

# Tau Iota Sigma Chapter Adopts a historic 7 schools in Memphis

## News Release

The Brothers of the Tau Iota Sigma Chapter set a milestone by adopting an entire community in the Whitehaven Memphis-Shelby County school system in Memphis, Tennessee.

On February 22, 2022, the Chapter agreed on a community partnership at their event called 'Re Imagining 901.' Interna-

tional President, Chris V. Rey and International Executive Director, Daryl A. Anderson, Sr., attended the celebration and official signing to adopt the historic 7 Whitehaven Memphis-Shelby County schools.

"We're going to be advocating for the betterment of our kids through policies that are going to make things better for them in the school system," said President Rey. "This is going to be life-changing for a lot of people!"



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# ΦΒΣ

PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.

## CONCLAVE *Houston*

BELIEVE IN OUR POWER, LEADING THE MOVEMENT

# 2023

# Transfer from Collegiate to Alumni Today!

The transition from collegiate to alumni life is an exciting time and a necessary step in the development of many Sigma Men. Affiliation with an alumni chapter helps Brothers stay connected with the Fraternity and aids them in their personal and professional growth. To assist with this transition, paragraph 19 of our International Constitution and By-Laws states "Fraternity dues shall be assessed on the Collegiate level during the first full fiscal year immediately following graduation for Collegiate and Associate members who transfer into an Alumni chapter."

All collegiate brothers who graduated in 2021 will be able to pay their 2022 dues at the collegiate rate if they have been transferred to an alumni chapter. For more information please consult your Collegiate Chapter Advisor or your Alumni Chapter President.

Alumni Brothers are encouraged to sponsor collegiate dues for a recently graduated collegiate Brother. Sponsoring a recently graduated collegiate Brother is easy! Please click here, download the form and fill out the required information about the chapter you are representing & the collegiate Brother you will sponsor. NOTE: We will waive the 4% processing fee for all payments submitted using the Brother's Keeper Collegiate Dues Sponsorship Form.

Please also remember that the transferring member must have satisfied all outstanding financial obligations to his collegiate chapter before his transfer to the alumni chapter can be executed.

THANK YOU FOR PAYING IT FORWARD! If you have any questions or need additional support, please contact Alex Powell, Membership Field Services Representative, [membershipfsr@phibetasigma1914.org](mailto:membershipfsr@phibetasigma1914.org).



# The Brotherhood Needs You! Get Collegiate Advisor Certified

The Collegiate Advisors University (CAU) eCertification is accessible through the Sigma Learning Center to Brothers selected to serve as collegiate advisors. Only Brothers approved by their Regional Director to serve as collegiate advisors will get access to the CAU Certification eModules. IHQ does not approve collegiate advisors. If you are interested in serving as a collegiate advisor, please direct your questions to your Regional Director of Collegiate Affairs.

# Zeta Phi Beta Elects Dr. Stacie N.C. Grant as International President

## News Release

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated elected Dr. Stacie N.C. Grant as its 26th International President and Chief Executive Officer during the organization's biennial international convention in Philadelphia.

A New York native, Grant received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Barack Obama. She is a CEO, award-winning author, international speaker, and trainer.

A life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Grant has served on every level of the organization as an active and financial member for 33 consecutive years. She brings decades of professional and business development expertise with corporate and not-for-profit entities nationwide, as well as community engagement partnerships to her new role.

As the Sorority's International President, Grant will focus on building technology and innovation while elevating engagement with existing partnerships, memberships and alliances for longevity and alignment with Zeta's strategic plan. Leveraging the organization's more than forty-year partnership with the March of Dimes, Grant will also explore expanded educational options related to fertility and other pre-pregnancy planning. In

addition, she will mobilize the organization's membership around urgent social/political issues affecting people of color including Voting Rights, Police Reform initiative & Healthy Living. As the CEO of her very own small business, small business support will be Grant's signature programmatic initiative to bridge the gap between women-owned businesses which are disproportionately underfunded and under-supported.

"Everything that happens from this moment forward will be built on the power of us being better together," said Grant during her installation ceremony. "It is an incredible responsibility that I deem an honor and am looking forward to building upon our foundation to make Zeta the finest service organization in the world."

As a member of prominence in the sorority, Grant served as undergraduate chapter president on her college campus, two-term graduate chapter president as well as National Third Vice-President. She held a seat on the Board of Managers to the National Educational Foundation and served as Regional Coordinator of "Zeta's Helping Other People Excel (Z-HOPE), one of the organization's international service initiatives.

Founded at Howard University 102 years ago, Zeta Phi Beta is the only African American

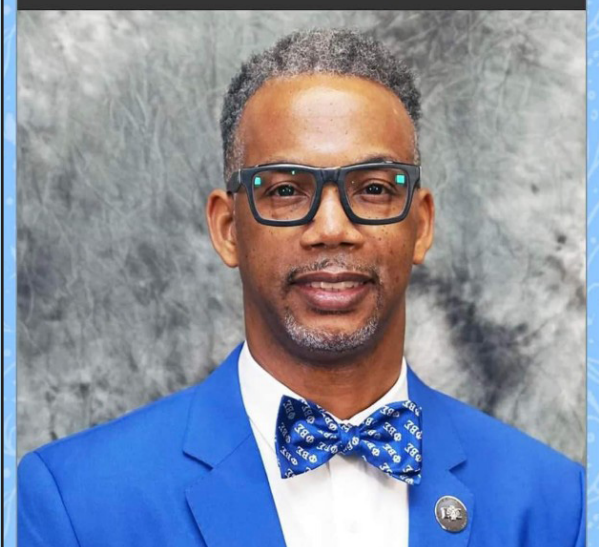


President-Elect, Dr. Stacie N.C. Grant - Photo Courtesy of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

Greek-letter sorority constitutionally bound to a fraternity (Phi Beta Sigma); this comprises a combined civic impact of 325,000 members. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the sorority has over 900 chapters in cities and on college campuses in the United States and abroad.

## Immediate Past Regional Director Takes New National Role

### NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE TEAM



Bro. Michael Murry

The Southwestern Region's most recent Regional Director has just been appointed to the International President's Executive Team. Bro. Michael Murry will serve as the Chief of Staff serving under our Honorable President, Bro. Chris V. Rey.

Effective immediately, the post will

place Bro. Murry as one of President Rey's chief advisors and manager of many of his executive responsibilities. This position also directs day-to-day operations for the executive team and helps lead strategic planning across the entire organization.

Also named as Executive Assistant in this round of leadership appointments was Bro. Edmund Hardy of the Eastern Region.

The Mighty Southwestern Region CONGRATULATES Bro. Murry in this new post!

## Dynamic Zeta Leader, Wife Passes On

The Men of the Southwestern Region of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. extend its sincerest condolences to our 33rd International President, Bro. Jimmy Hammock, the entire Hammock Family and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

On August 7, Soror Hammock transitioned but her legacy as a dedicated leader, devoted wife and mother and outstanding professional will live on.

Soror Hammock was a 1971 initiate of the Beta Beta chapter on the campus of University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and would eventually go on



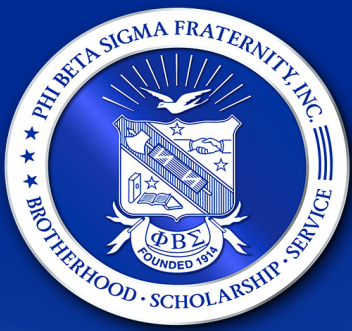
to become the 17th South Central Regional Director of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc! Working along side her husband, she worked tirelessly to promote and progress the appearance and effectiveness of Blue and White everywhere she went.

Having also served as a former Tennessee State Director, Soror Hammock has made and undeniable impact on her home region and will be sorely missed.

The PRAISE Editorial Team

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**SOUTHWESTERN**  
*Region*

ΦΒΣ

**TAKE FLIGHT**

**SOUTHWESTERN REGION  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

*Memphis, Tennessee*

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**APRIL 13-16**

**2023**



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