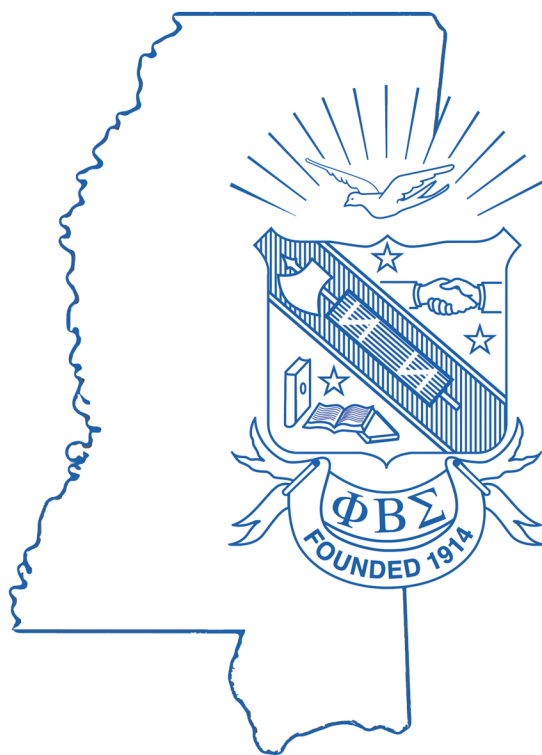


# MISSISSIPPI

MAY 2022

## SIGMAS



2022 STATE CONFERENCE EDITION

ENGAGED

EMPOWERED

ENLIGHTENED

# Message from our State Director



**G**reetings my Brothers across the State of Mississippi,

I hope this newsletter finds each one of you as well as your families doing well. We have begun 2022, stronger and more focused than ever. We celebrated our Joint Founders Days with our Sister of Zeta, convened in Meridian for our Mississippi State Conference, and showed up in record numbers at our 2022 Southern Regional Conference in Birmingham. This is just a testament to the hard work and dedication you are putting into making your chapters and the communities

in which you are a part of a better place to live and grow.

As we evolve as a State, this newsletter is growing as well. We want this document to not only disseminate information but to serve as a keeper of historical events that have and will continue to take place in our state.

I look forward to working with our new 2022-2024 Mississippi Executive Board: Lorenzo Grimes, 1st Vice State Director; David White; 2nd Vice State Director; Synarus Green, Secretary; Jeremiah Blackwell, Treasurer; Dr. Vernon Rayford, Social Action; Robert Thomas, Education; Cameron Huell, Bigger Better Business; Ki-jana Potee, Collegiate Affairs; Dr. Bernard

Mitchell, Chaplain; Henry Hood and Donald Knowles, Advisors to the State Director; Frank Nichols, Sigma-Zeta Relations; Patrick Owens, Chief of Staff and Protocols.

I would also like to welcome eighteen new brothers to our wondrous band: Dr. Willie Daniel, Kenya Griffin, Carlos Pippins, Devonte Stallings, DeAndre Bell, Tsaunte Green, Jeremy Harris, Stanley Harris, Jordan Harris, Corwin Lawson, Anthony McFarland, Jerry Smith, Austin Taylor, Elijah Washington, Marcus Winston, Daniel Thomas, Markel Brooks, and Eric Richey. These brothers were initiated through the Delta Upsilon Sigma, Alpha Beta, Pi Tau Sigma, and Theta Iota Sigma Chapters. Thank

you membership intake teams for your dedication in growing our organization.

In closing, congratulations to all brothers who have obtained their bachelor and advanced degrees. Your sacrifices will not go unnoticed in what the future holds for you. As always thank you my brothers for the work you do to make Sigma the number one organization in the State of Mississippi.

*Sedric Scott,*  
State Director of Mississippi  
2022-2024



# 2022 State Conference Recap

By:  
Byron Keys

For the past three years, because of the covid pandemic, we as brothers haven't been able to convene in person to fellowship and handle business as a state. During that time, we lost a lot of great brothers. Along with all the other blessings God has bestowed upon us, being able to see each other and fellowship has been a great one. After hosting a successful virtual conference in 2021, the brothers of Mississippi were able to meet in the city of Meridian, Mississippi, for a hybrid conference. Though in-person meeting sizes were and are still limited fraternity wide because of fraternity protocol, we were still able to meet for a splendid conference. At the maximum capacity allowed for in-person gatherings, we went to the Council of Organization Building, where we met in person, which featured a shrine dedicated to the Hon. Brother Carla E. Oatis, Jr. (who you will find a feature story on in this issue) and a respectable showing online.

After routine conference duties such as roll call and the approval of various items, the brothers engaged in a very informative session led by our Ms. Director of Social Action, Dr. Vernon Davis. Bro. Rayford presented the brothers with gems on conducting successful program implementation. This section was beneficial to everyone, especially our collegiates in attendance. After this knowledge, the brothers broke off for committee meetings and a break.

That night brothers met back at the Council of Organization Building for the opening ceremony. The Brothers of Mississippi were welcomed to Meridian with greetings from the local NPHC that were filled with kindness and laughs. Our southern regional brothers turned out to wish us greetings on a successful conference and to attend. After a warm welcome



Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy

**Above:** MS. State Director, Bro. Sedric Scott lead the opening session. **Below:** Collegiate brothers attending the state conference



Photo Credit Byron Keys

from the Zeta Phi Beta Mississippi state director Dr. Porscha Ellis, we dined on a delicious meal provided by the sisters of Delta Nu Zeta.

While flexing in our Blu blazers Saturday morning, we were ready for business with our 2nd plenary session led by 1st vice state director Bro. Lorenzo Grimes. After fixing some technical difficulties for our online viewers, we had our invocation from our state Chaplin, Rev. Bernard Mitchell, because you know everything can't be perfect. Seriously, if you weren't here or logged in for that invocation, you missed

a treat that should have inspired and motivated all of us who heard the words he spoke. Along with the prayer, Rev. Mitchell spoke great words of truth that should be heard by brothers worldwide. All I can say is remember that you put your hand on that book and made a promise.

We progressed along with words from our Regional Director, Dr. Erick Farmer, who referenced the comments of Dr. Mitchell's invocation and gave us an update on the state of the region.

After presenting the chapter

and individual awards, the brothers engaged in what was the most rewarding part of the conference to some. The brothers visited the Children's Museum of Meridian to celebrate Dr. Suess's birthday with the children in attendance and donate school supplies to them. You can honestly say the brothers were having as much fun as the students.

The brothers reconvened at the building to hear our standing committee reports following the celebration. The state had most of the incumbent officers reelected. A new BBB director, education director, 2nd vice, and collegiate affairs director were elected.

The conference was adjourned after singing the hymn from the best state to ever do it, and brothers fellowshipped, rested, went home, or prepared for the comedy show that night.

If you missed the comedy show, whether In-person or online, you missed a treat. The "Greek Comedy Tour" came through and left the audience crying with laughter. Anyone was a joke target of this group,

some a little more than others. Those jokes will live with everyone who heard them for the rest of their lives. During the show, a "special guest rap star" stole the show when she walked in like the diva she was to perform for the crowd when the show came to a close; if you want more on that, contact someone who was in attendance.

Lord willing, we can reconvene for a bigger conference in 2023 as the state continues to move forward with the same success we had in 2022. With your help, we will be able to make that vision come true.

We'll follow back along the lines, our cause speeds on its way.



# State Conference Photos



Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy



Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy



Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy



Photo Credit Byron Keys



Photo Credit Byron Keys



Photo Credit Byron Keys



Photo Credit Byron Keys



Photo Credit Byron Keys

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# The true measure of a SIGMA

By:  
Byron Keys

Since they were first published in the light in 1946 and probably taught before then, depending on where you were initiated, the 12-inch rules have been a staple in the education of new members of our wondrous band. Time value, Best performance of duty, Perseverance, The worth of example, The virtue of patience, Talent expression, Economic wisdom, The value of character, Kindly attitudes, Pleasure in work, The worth of organization, and The dignity of simplicity. Often we hear these rules recited at new member presentations, and sometimes, they are forgotten about after that by some members if we are being honest with ourselves. The 12-inch rules, these valuable nuggets, if indeed taken in during the initiation process and applied to various aspects of your life, whether it's in sigma, work, school, and even relationships, can significantly impact how we manage those multiple parts of life. When talking to new members and even my boss and students, I often attribute me handling various situations in life to learning and applying the 12-inch rules and other Variable Information I learned while joining this great fraternity. Today I'm going to touch on how they can be used in your sigma journey, career and education. Hopefully, this will be a help to some and a reminder to others.

**1. Time Value:** When utilizing time Value as men of sigma #WE need to consider the time that it takes to plan a successful event and service project. Brainstorming and planning out the significant points of an event early on can help cut down on last-minute scrambling to get certain things in place. Yes, hiccups happen in life, but for the most part, things can go smoothly. Some examples I can think of is when having events where brothers have speaking Parts, consider having backups

ready to go, such as brothers you know who will be in attendance to these events and inform them early on so they will be prepared to go. On another note, we are all professional men, and we should all value each other's time when it comes to events and meetings. We should do our best to be on time for each other as well as our guests.

**2. Best Performance of Duty:** As the great men of sigma, we should always put our best foot forward when it comes to sigma and our daily endeavors. Usually, after you cross, you are no longer you. You represent the fraternity for the rest of your life. You are now sigma (insert your name here) or (insert your name here) the sigma, so when handling business, be sure to do your best.

**3. Perseverance:** We do not fold. We do not give up. When things become complicated, we have to fight through them. Some might say, "that's easier said than done," but you have to remember that your God is always there with you, and you can get through it. Also, remember that you're not heavy you're our brothers. We are here to help you get through also. You're a man of sigma, so remember you got this.

**4. The worth of example:** as I stated earlier, once you put on the letters you are representing, and even in your everyday life, you're representing yourself and others. Someone is always looking at you. You can look at it this way in an example pertaining to recruitment. The way you go about doing various things throughout your life can have a substantial positive or negative effect on recruitment for your chapter or sigma as a whole. People can want to join because of your impact on their lives or what they see you doing. They can also be turned away from sigma because of those same reasons.

**5. The virtue of patience:** We as people and sigma men should practice not being in such a hurry to do things and engage in proper planning or just taking

your time to accomplish things or receive things. Yes, some items require urgency, but we should avoid anger while waiting. In your everyday life, remember everything will not happen precisely when you want it to, but you have to be patient. When it comes to information dissemination, we all want to be the first to break a story, post a pic, share a video or get things out. Still, sometimes when you do that, you open doors for mistakes that can have lasting effects, such as people not caring about the correct info. I'm sure we all have heard this saying, so just think of it this way. "Might not come when you want him, but he'll be there right on time."

**6. Talent expression:** Each brother is selected on his own merits and talents. We all have something we can bring to sigma, and we should share these talents with the world. You can do a great deal for sigma and your community. Hypothetically when it comes to chapter recognition and awards, these talents, when brought together collectively, can push your chapter to the next level. Also, when you see you notice a brother's talent or see him developing talent, we should encourage that. Let them know or remind that brother that we value his talents.

**7. Economic wisdom:** "Guns and butter." Managing our finances is essential in our personal lives and our fraternity lives. We should practice as a whole managing personal experiences and fraternal expenses at an individual, chapter, state, regional, and national level. It's ok to have nice things and go for the big bang. But should we do it all the time? You can have a great event/time without dropping a lot of money. There are cost-effective ways that we can go by doing things. We should learn not to put ourselves in a financial bind just so we can keep up with others, especially if our finances don't allow it and that pertains to our personal lives as well as the orgs. Looking into purchasing items that can last a

while, be reusable, and appreciate with value should be a goal. Look into buying chapter items and consider having a secure location for those items other than someone's home. Chapter shields, documentation/recording equipment, banners, and table cloths can be suitable investments. Dues. Dues Dues Dues. We are living in a tough economy at the moment, and some look at paying dues as burdensome. Whether you are one of those people or not one of those people you can look into setting aside monthly to pay your dues at the end of the year. Teaching brothers, as well as our community financial literacy, should be a top priority. Suppose the adults don't want it to go into the grade schools to promote it. People need these skills and information at a younger age than most of us probably did when we were their age.

**8. The value of character:** Your character significantly impacts you and how others see you. True, we sometimes step out of character. We are human. We should be keeping our integrity and being a great men to ourselves as well as the world. We can accomplish this by keeping our word, being dependable, and not flaking but handling our responsibilities. This can help you be the best sigma man as well as man period you can be.

**9. Kindly attitudes:** Being is an attribute that can bring tremendous value in your life. You open the door for people to engage and work with you. You don't want to be seen as someone who gives off negative energy when they interact with others. In the frat, we should practice this among each other. It can cut down on some negativity that can sometimes arise. I remember at our past state conference; our guest comedian made a joke about me. In short, he stated that I look like the guy in the frat who never agrees on anything, has a problem with everything someone says, and says negative things about great things. We had representation



from Kappa Alpha Phi, Omega Psi Phi, Zeta Phi Beta, Delta Sigma Theta, and Alpha Kappa Alpha. Along with our sigma brothers, they all agreed that they know members like that. Do you really want to be known or remembered as that member?

**10. Pleasure in work:** Work isn't always a burden. When done because you want to can, at times, be rewarding. Often tell people that I didn't really make any money teaching kindergarten and 2nd grade, but I looked forward to working every day because I enjoyed helping mold young minds, not just with their school work but also life lessons. I tell my collegiate students that when I assign them a research paper or they have

to do one for someone else, it can actually be fun if you do it on a topic you like. Also, finishing a research paper and bringing it all together can offer a feeling of fulfillment. When tasked with items to do for the frat, don't look at it as "why they want me to do this," "why I'm on this committee," "why I have to chair or work on this event or project," just know that that task can often bring fulfillment to you, your team, as well as others.

**11. The worth of organization:** All of the rules so far play a part all our lives as well, when utilized can make use better sigma men and citizens. The worth of the organization, though, can go so far and can wonders in your life that

you can only dream of. It's safe to say that we are all involved in multiple things besides sigma, whether it's work, school, church, clubs, other civic organizations, etc. And at times, it can be hard to manage all of those. With excellent organization, we can work to ease the load.

Along with the traditional ways, we live in a technology-rich world that allows us to become organized easier. Look into utilizing your phone notes and calendars with proper labeling. Not correctly labeling notes and files can cause a headache regarding the frat and everyday life. Searching for notes and files when you're in a hurry is the worst. It can cause meetings to last longer, and the people who

don't practice rules 5 and 9 become disgruntled.

**12. The dignity of simplicity:** Lastly, Don't feel bad about keeping things plain and simple. A lesson I learned in graphic design as well as sigma. When done right, you can do more by doing less.

*Let him who would know the worth of himself measure his ability.*



# Handling Business

By:  
Byron Keys

What started out as a discussion at an inter-fraternal smoker in 1924 was voted on unanimously in 1925 in Richmond, Virginia, to become our first major national program. The "Bigger and Better Negro Business" program, which was later rebranded as the "Bigger and Better Business" program. The Bigger and Better Business program (BBB) has been a staple in Phi Beta Sigma's service to our fellow people. "Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity believes that the improvement of economic conditions of minorities is a major factor in enhancing the general welfare of society. It is upon this conviction that the Bigger and Better Business Program rest." The role of Bigger and Better Business director can often be seen as a challenging position. Often, brothers have stated that it can sometimes be hard to come up with programs besides presenting

scholarships for this initiative, but many brothers take on that responsibility and push through to push our first major program.



Cameron Hue

For the great state of Mississippi Bro. Cameron Hue, a Spring 20 initiate and president of the Theta Iota Chapter, has decided to take

on those responsibilities. Bro. Hue is a senior ITS major from Winona, Mississippi, born with the blu blood with his mom being a member of the blu and white family. Along with being a student, he is also an entrepreneur who has had his own car detailing business for the past seven years. Bro. Hue was drawn to Sigma by the presence that the members of Theta Iota had on the campus of Mississippi State University before he joined. Upon joining the chapter, his love for Sigma continued to grow from the mentorship of their chapter advisor, the late Derrick Daughtery. Bro. Stephon, who is Bro. Hue's line brother nominated him because of the drive and success he displayed in the position while holding it in their chapter when

he was first initiated. Bigger and Better Business has always been a pillar in his growing Sigma Career, having helped his chapter win numerous awards on the state and regional levels.

Being a collegiate (who finishes in December) doesn't deter Bro. Hue from such an important position. He is very enthusiastic about getting started. One of his first goals is to form a BBB committee to help him serve the state of Mississippi more effectively. Another goal of his is to help keep the undergrad members in the loop of BBB and help them, and the state continue improving their implementation. I personally hope Bro. Hue can be an inspiration to other collegiates to get involved more with the fraternity's inner workings outside of their respective chapters.

We are looking forward to great things from Bro. Hue. He Can be reached at [chuell71@gmail.com](mailto:chuell71@gmail.com)



# 2022 Around the State





# Number 145



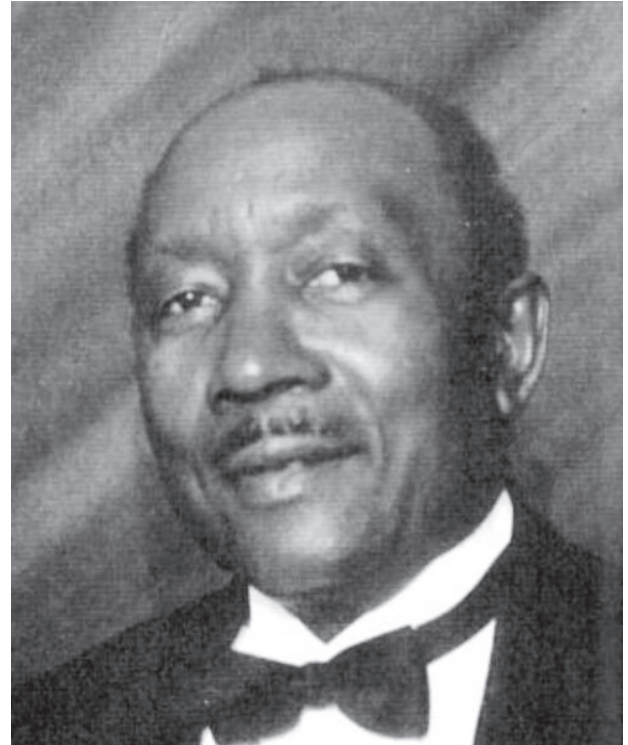
By:  
Byron Keys

In December of 1920, our second national president, the Hon. Bro. Ivorite L. Scruggs, who had written the words of our fraternity hymn as well as coined our fraternity motto "culture for service, service for humanity," formulated the "Key Chapter," which is better known as the Distinguished Service Chapter. The Distinguished Service Chapter, which is considered the highest honor a member of our great fraternity can achieve, has initiated over 200 brothers throughout the years. Having produced so many great brothers into our great fraternity, only 2 of the initiates into the Distinguished Service Chapter have been from Mississippi chapters. The Hon. Archie A. Alexander who was one of the founders of the Alpha Beta chapter at Jackson State University, and the Hon. Carlia E. Oatis Jr. ( who also has a first cousin in the DSC who is an Alcorn graduate) has been the loan two to represent the great state of Mississippi so far, with more to come.

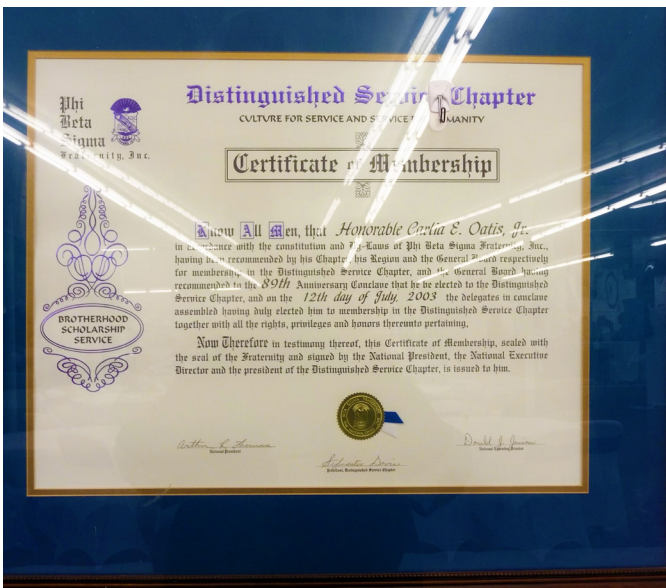
The Hon. Carlia E. Oatis Jr., the "Duke," was also an initiate of the Alpha Beta Chapter. Years after finishing at Jackson State, and fighting in WW2, He became one of the charter members and founders of the Gamma Epsilon Sigma chapter located in Meridian, Mississippi, where he helped hold the chapter together for over 50+ years and was one of the earlier State directors of Mississippi. Outside of these significant accomplishments, the Hon. Bro. Oatis was an educator and

music man. Our great brother served as a band director for TJ Harris High School, also located in Meridian, Mississippi, for 39 years. They gained national acclaim by being featured in the Junior Rose Bowl parade. Bro. Oatis gave his services to Kate Griffin High School in Meridian, serving as one of their past principals and assistant principals.

Bro. Oatis served Phi Beta Sigma as a sigma man should, but what is a Sigma man without "service to humanity." As a co-founder, he helped develop the National Council of Meridians, Inc., and the Council of Organizations, Inc., which have greatly impacted the communities and city as a whole of Meridian. For his service to the city of Meridian, in 2004, the city declared a C.E. Oatis Jr. Day. The brothers of the Gamma Epsilon Sigma chapter, the city of Meridian, and members of the numerous organizations he participated in could probably rave about his accomplishments days. Having been an asset to this world for 86 years, In 2011, our Hon. Brother was committed to the omega chapter. The brothers of Gamma Epsilon Sigma continue to honor him by living up to the standards that were set forth by the Hon. Bro. Carlia E. Oatis.



Hon. Carlia E. Oatis, Jr.  
DSC #145 - Gamma Epsilon Sigma 2003





# 2022 Mississippi Graduates



D'Andre Bell-Industrial Tech- AB



Jordan Hurns- Finance- AB



Jerry Smith- Criminal Justice- AB



Keshun Cox- Mass Comm- AB



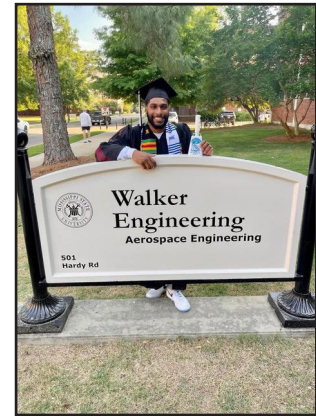
Tszaunte Green-criminal justice-AB



Dimitri Tyler-Education-EB



Anthony Bryson-Bio Science-OI



Landon Lavigne-Mech Eng-OI



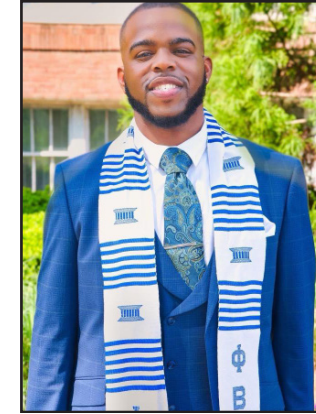
Stephone Calhoun-Construction-OI



Jadarrius Bledsoe-Kinesiology-OI



JaQuinton Tucker-Kinesiology-OI



Anthony Brown-Interdisciplinary-OI



Donald Aaron III-BP



Timmy Bridgeman-English-BP



Quindarius-Masters HR- AB



LaDerek Thompson-MBA-AB



# 2022 Mississippi Graduates



Terrence Brown-Mass Comm-ΓΨ



Benjamin Goudy-ΘΗ



Caleb Easley-ΘΗ



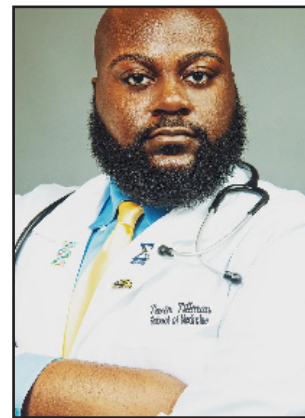
Ciedarius Jacobs- ΘΗ



Tony Lathon-Ed.S-ΠΑΣ



Robert Ward-B.B.A-ΠΑΣ



Tevin Tillman-MΣ



Rev. Ecclesiastes Goodwin-M.A.- ΓΕΣ

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. State of

# MISSISSIPPI

## GRADUATES

A New Journey,



A New You in Sigma



# Regional Conference Photos



Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy



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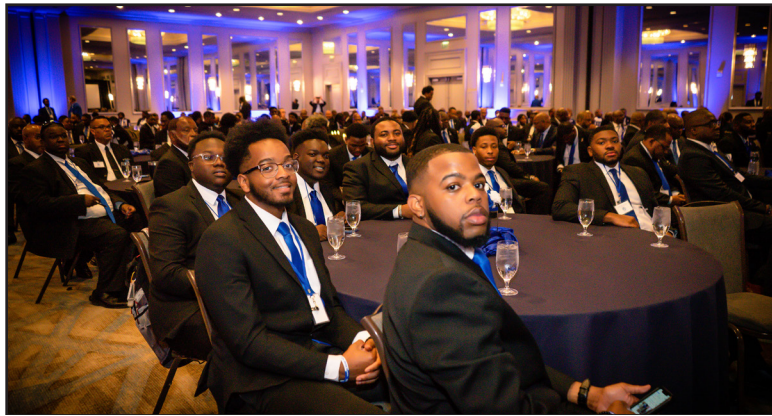


Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy



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Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy



Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy

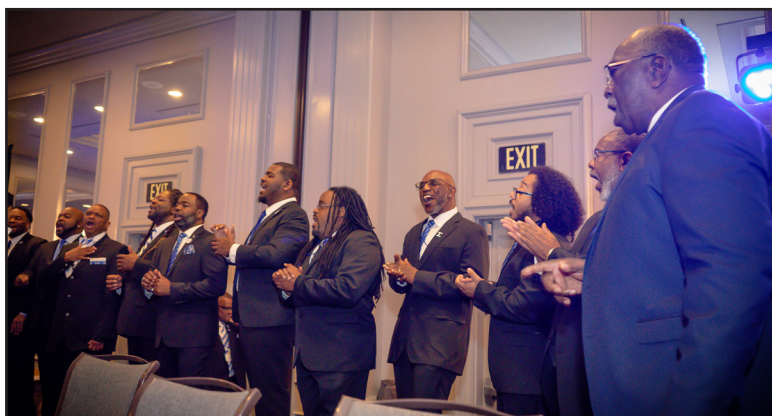


Photo Credit Ramirez Ivy



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## **Mississippi Sigmas: Engaged, Empowered, Enlightened**

### **VERY IMPORTANT**

***My Brothers Across the State of Mississippi,***

***I hope to create a more informative and engaging newsletter/small zine for the state, and I can only do that with your help. I can continue to post pics on social media that are sent to me directly. I hope the brothers can increase participation by sharing directly with me to share on social media, which has been down.***

***Back to the newsletter/small zine, I'm hoping to have brothers from each chapter share at least one story about an event or project that your chapter has done. Also, share stories on Sigma and Zeta partnership projects. This is just a few more paragraphs (or longer if you choose) than what you put to submit your PIAs. If you like, you can contact me, and we can set up a call or zoom meeting for me to interview you or someone in regards to the event.***

***Also, I'm hoping to do a history feature in each issue, if possible, or every other issue. With these features, I hope to publish stories about very prominent brothers or past brothers of your chapter, the founding of your chapter, or notable events of your chapter. Mississippi has a vibrant history and prominent brothers whose stories should be shared with everyone. For these pieces, I would definitely like to interview the brother submitting the information along with some research. I might even reach out to various chapters or brothers myself.***

***I hope you can see where I would like to go with this issue. Also, brothers who have business and services, please share with me your ads. Sorors who may be reading this or hearing about this, please share your ads too. All this can be sent to me at [bkeys0814@gmail.com](mailto:bkeys0814@gmail.com) or [6624570556](tel:6624570556).***

***Last but not least. Brothers, please send me a list with all your current chapter members' email addresses—especially your new members and collegiate brothers. We want to make sure everyone is receiving various information that comes out. Presidents highlight your address on this list.***

***Yours in Brotherhood,***

***Byron Keys***

***Director of Publicity State of Mississippi***





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PHOTOGRAPHER

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