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deceased; Ossie Ware Mitchell of Birmingham, Alabama (1962-1966); Mahala S. Evans of Chicago, Illinois (1966-1969), deceased; Bessie Coston of Youngstown, Ohio (1969-1973); A. Lucile Reynolds of Los Angeles, California (1973-1977); Fredda Witherspoon of St. Louis, Missouri (1977-1981); Clarice E. Brown of Chicago, Illinois (1981-1983).

The Past National Presidents Council was created in 1967 to honor past national presidents for services rendered and to utilize their knowledge and skills. The council has become a valuable resource for national officers in matters relating to policy and to specific problems which warrant study, evaluation and recommendations.

Meeting the Challenge of Change

DR. EVELYN SEARS PEEVY of Norfolk, Virginia was installed as the 12th national president of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority at the Biennial Convention in New York City in 1983. She had faithfully served as Eastern regional director, national director of education, national second vice president, national first vice president and president-elect.

Soror Peevy was one of the 76 elected delegates from Virginia to the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco and possibly the only president of a Greek-letter organization in attendance as an elected delegate.

In her first Founder's Day Message to the sorors of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Dr. Peevy wrote:

There are many challenges that face us as we meet the changes in the Eighties. We are challenged by the changes in our educational systems as increased emphasis is placed on various aspects of business such as computer literacy and innovative approaches. We are challenged by the changes in our family structure as women continue to enter or re-enter the work force in increasing numbers. We are challenged by the changes in community life by the increased need to assist others through tutorial services that offer a combined assault on illiteracy for the school-age and the out-of-school individuals. We are also challenged by the changes in business enterprises by the increased number of women of color who are becoming entrepreneurs and who need our constant support and encouragement. What will we do about these challenges?

May each of us, on the Fifty-fifth An-

niversary of *OUR* founding, resolve to be more committed in word and in deed to our Sisterhood. May each of us continue to be vigilant, caring, and sisterly. May each of us continue to help Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. remain one of the greatest sororities in Greece as we move upward and onward in more efficient service. May each of us always remember that we have a commitment to man and to God, and may we remain steadfast to that commitment with courage and forbearance. Happy birthday, Iota!

Iota's AOIP Affiliation

THE NATIONAL ASSAULT ON ILLITERACY PROGRAM (AOIP)—a framework developed by the publishers of *The BMI Cooperative* through which local Black community-building organizations can network to focus on greatly reducing the unconscionably-high rate of illiteracy in their communities—affords Iota Phi Lambda Sorority a priceless opportunity to broaden its tutorial programs which are already in place. The sorority is committed to ongoing involvement with AOIP on every level to greatly accelerate the goals of equity for Black Americans.

The action-oriented leadership of Iota Phi Lambda has pledged to take a leading role in chapter cities where AOIP is not currently organized and through Iota's chair for AOIP, Soror Barbara Howard, to work interorganizationally to assist the educational system in remediating the academic weaknesses of Black youth, to tap their strength and to unshackle their potential toward the attainment of "Excellence without Compromise."

In the President's Newsletter of August 1984, Dr. Peevy made the following "Special Appeal for AOIP" to the members of the sorority:

As the National President of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., I urge each chapter to become actively involved in the national Assault On Illiteracy Program. AOIP is an overall community-building program focusing on pre-literacy training as a basic building block to learning basic skills. A unique feature of AOIP is that in addition to serving our people at a new level, there is an unprecedented opportunity to help build Iota Phi Lambda Sorority to bigger and better heights through ongoing publicity nationally and locally—all at no cost to us.

Listed below is a brief Step-By-Step Outline of how this all works and what we need to do to help AOIP and to take fullest advantage of the publicity benefits

now guaranteed to us.

First, this free editorial space is provided us by AOIP-participating newspapers, collectively, each month in the *National BLACK MONITOR* on the "What Is Happening Nationally" page. Soon they will be doing a major story on Iota Phi Lambda in the *BLACK MONITOR*. [This is the story.] (That feature, alone, according to AOIP officials, would be valued "at about \$100,000 or more" if we had to pay for it. We pay no price for it other than full cooperation with AOIP.) Such a major cover story in the *BLACK MONITOR* was responsible for one organization increasing its membership from 4,000 to over 9,000 in [a] matter of months.

So, in order to help double or triple our membership, we need to order sufficient extra copies to promote our organization for some time to come. We need to use this *BLACK MONITOR* issue on us to:

1. Stimulate more interest among our active members;
2. Reclaim old members;
3. Obtain new members.

Second, while this is being done for us on a national basis, locally, these same participating newspapers will be providing similar kinds of space for each of

our local chapters each week without cost. Each local Iota Chapter is committed to tutorial services and therefore to the eradication of illiteracy. Important in this regard is that *The ADVANCER* is to be phased in as soon as possible for official and efficient compliance with AOIP.

Please remember that AOIP is not just another organization or something to replace what we are uniquely doing. Rather, it is a framework of approximately 80 organizations to help us all network to do an even better job together than what we are doing alone, and to better enable us to "lift many others as we climb." Iota Phi Lambda Sorority expressed its commitment to AOIP during the 1983 National Convention under the leadership of Soror Clarice Brown, and we have begun working with Soror Barbara Howard as our national chair and five regional committee sorors. Chapter presidents have received literature on this program as well as copies of the *BLACK MONITOR*. I urge your continued support of AOIP. Please continue to hold up the name of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority by working to provide an assault on illiteracy that will help our people to grow and advance. I know that I can depend on your wholehearted support.



Standing is Phillis Miller Thomas, first place winner in the Oratorical Essay Contest for American Education Week. Delta Rho Chapter, Alabama State University, Montgomery, Ala.



A workshop in preparation for the Debutante Cotillion, an annual project of Beta Alpha Chapter of Winston-Salem, N.C.