

NPHC

(Continued from Page 4)

major goals which can be achieved for Black America long before the year 2000 if we all work together. You can count on the Elks for full support.

Pan-Hellenic to Be Honored

Moses Norman, architect of the *Year 2000 Campaign*, summed up matters with his praise for the National Pan-Hellenic Council and for AOIP which extends the *interorganizational* concept. Dr. Norman said:

Essentially these goals were framed upon the assessed needs of Black Americans. If the dream of freedom, justice and dignity is to be realized, we as Black Americans must assume a great responsibility. In order to accomplish these goals, AOIP has accepted the fact that the schools alone cannot educate our population sufficiently. Thus, we must have broad-based, total community participation.

This action by AOIP is precedent-setting in that it is the first real commitment by broad-based Black American controlled, owned and operated organizations, businesses and institutions. Indeed, this is a dramatic admission that we are the holders of our own destiny. The future, then, is up to us!

Earl Gray and Faye Bryant stated:

On behalf of all AOIP organizations, we are especially pleased that

the National Pan-Hellenic Council will be honored at AOIP's semi-annual board meeting at the Howard Inn on October 4, 1986. All AOIP participating organizations surely must be in attendance.

What Is Networking?

Networking is a term that came into general usage with the age of the micro-computer. In technological terms, networking refers to a group or system of electric components and connecting circuitry which is designed to function in a specific manner. Today, networking also is used to connote a system of interconnected individuals or groups that assist people in getting access to information which they need to effectively pursue a determined goal.

Networking, however, is not a new concept. It was one of the earliest means of communication. In 1930, a group of five Black Greek-letter organizations decided to network to achieve "unanimity of thought and action...in the conduct of Greek-letter collegiate fraternities and sororities and to consider problems of mutual interest to its member organizations." They called their organization the National Pan-Hellenic Council. It was this interorganizational thrust and spirit of networking that served as a model for the Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP).

The challenge of the 1980's has been to preserve the National Pan-Hellenic Council as the vital and influential organization that it was always destined to be. After five years of near inactivity, 1983 saw the rejuvenation and revitalization of the council. Today, once again, NPHC is one of

the leading Black community-building organizations.

The Beginning

Leaders of two Black fraternities, Kappa Alpha Psi and Omega Psi Phi and three Black sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta met in May 1930 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. to organize the National Pan-Hellenic Council. The founders envisioned an organization which would allow Black America's Greek-letter organizations to get outside their closely knit groups, become relevant to the Black community and forge ahead in the areas of social reform.

The next seven years witnessed the completion of the circle. In 1931, Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternities joined the council. In 1937, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority completed the list of member organizations.

The Member Organizations

Alpha Kappa Alpha, the oldest college-based sorority founded by and for Black women and a founding member of NPHC, was established at Howard University on January 15, 1908 by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle and 15 other young women. At present, AKA is a sisterhood of over 100,000 graduate and undergraduate members in 700 chapters in the United States, West Africa, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands and Germany. The newly-elected president is Janet J. Ballard.

AKA women who have served as president of NPHC include Maude E. Porter (1936-1938), Arnetta G. Wallace (1952-1954), Carey B. Preston (1967-1969) and Beatrice Jett (1978). The current president of NPHC, Ada J. Jackson, about whom much more will be said, is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

As a national sorority, AKA is committed to creative service in every community where it is located. AKA women believe that in planning for service, consideration should be given to the great need of human beings for more than material things; that the value of service cannot be measured only in terms of what is done for others or given to them; and that the organization's value is measured by the extent to which its service encourages and brings to fulfillment the best of what already exists in the individual and in society. Toward this end, the sorority instituted the Alpha Kappa Alpha Connection. It is a concentrated effort to impact local, state and national issues through letter writing campaigns, voter registration drives, organized demonstrations, selective buying campaigns, friends of the court briefs and other active participation in the political process. The AKA Connection is a mechanism whereby the members are able to mobilize for positive action on key issues.

Current AKA projects include "Moving Up from Poverty," a series of programs which empower Blacks in contexts which influence economic development, health care, job training and education; the Educational Advancement Foundation, which provides grants, fellowships and scholarships for educational study and research; the Cleveland Job Corps Center, which provides structural vocational train-

(Continued on Page 10)

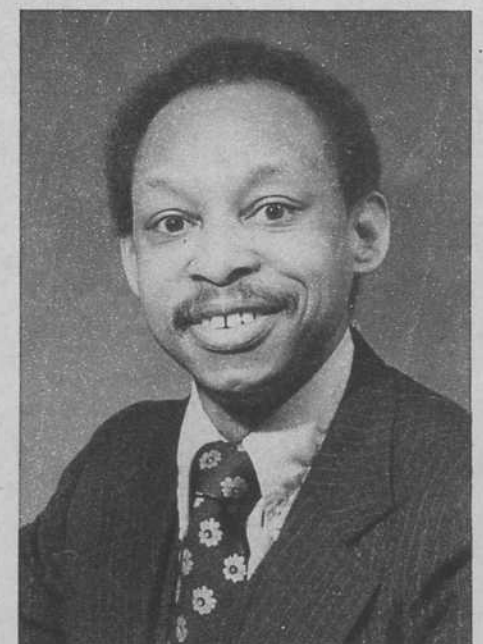


Standing (left to right) Bonita Herring, Executive Secretary, Sigma Gamma Rho; Linda Thompson, Executive Director, Zeta Phi Beta; James B. Blanton III, Executive Director, Alpha Phi Alpha; Shirley Brown, Past Executive Director, Delta Sigma Theta; Barbara McKenzie, Executive Director, Alpha Kappa Alpha; Dr. John Epps, Executive Director, Omega Psi Phi.

Seated (left to right) Randall Bacon, Grand Polemarch, Kappa Alpha Psi; Dr. Rejesta Perry, Grand Basileus, Sigma Gamma Rho; Dr. Edith Francis, Past Grand Basileus, Zeta Phi Beta; Dr. Gilbert Francis, past President, NPHC; Hortense G. Canady, national President, Delta Sigma Theta; Faye B. Bryant, past Supreme Basileus, Alpha Kappa Alpha; and Tyrone Gilmore, President-elect, Omega Psi Phi.



James T. Floyd, National President, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.



Gerald D. Smith, Executive Director, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.