

# NPHC

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ing for high school dropouts; travel grants, providing expense-paid domestic and foreign travel educational tours for high school essay winners and college scholarship recipients; and Leadership Fellows, which consists of structured training in leadership development, followed by internships with national leaders.

**“W**e Salute the Past and Face the Future” is the motto of the first Black American collegiate fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha. Founded on December 4, 1906 on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, Alpha Phi Alpha became a member of the council in 1931. The fraternity has an active membership of 100,000 in 700 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and Asia. The general president is Charles Teamer.

Alpha men who have served as president of NPHC are William C. Pyant (1938-1940) and Dr. Walter J. Washington (1964-1967).

Alpha Phi Alpha has a long and distinguished history of involvement, achievement and leadership in civic and human rights efforts. Over the years, the fraternity has espoused many charitable and service projects. The “Go to High

School—Go to College” program initiated in 1929 counseled youth on the importance of a post secondary education and the professions which show promise for advancement. This counseling thrust has been augmented by a vigorous scholarship program that has provided financial support for both undergraduate and graduate members and non-members of the fraternity.

Alpha Phi Alpha has long been involved in the advancement of civil rights for all citizens through citizenship education programs as well as financial and physical support for legal battles (including many landmark court decisions). One such program, “A Voteless People Is a Hopeless People,” continues to serve as a battle cry for the fraternity’s voter registration efforts.

Current projects of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity include Project Alpha, a teen pregnancy program for teenage fathers; A-Phi-Aid, a financial aid and career counseling program; Million-Dollar Fund Drive, an ongoing effort to raise \$1 million for the United Negro College Fund, NAACP and the National Urban League; Leadership Development/Citizenship Education Institutes, an annual series of five week-long training sessions on leadership skills for high school students; and Alpha-Cornell Memorial Scholarship, an endowed fund at Cornell University.

**D**elta Sigma Theta Sorority, billed as a “Public Service Sorority,” a founding member of NPHC, was established at Howard University on January 13, 1913. Today, the sorority boasts a membership of 125,000 in 727 chapters in the United States, Haiti, Liberia (West Africa) and West Germany. Presently, the national president is Hortense G. Canady.

Mae Wright Downs, a Delta from Baltimore, Maryland, served as president of NPHC from 1948 to 1950.

Delta Sigma Theta sorority encourages academic excellence through scholarship assistance and endowments for distinguished professorships. The organization’s Five-Point Program is focused on educational and economic development, physical and mental health, political involvement and international awareness.

Current Delta projects include African Diaspora, a four-year (1984-1988) awareness travel-study program in the African Diaspora; Summit II: A Call to Action in Support of Black Single Mothers, which consists in assistance and support to single mothers; Adopt a Black Business, chapter initiatives to sign agreements with Black businesses to utilize their services and buy products from them; Maryland Educational Opportunity Center,

secondary education and training motivation opportunities for low and moderate income individuals; and Delta Towers, a \$6 million housing development center for senior citizens.

**Z**eta Phi Beta Sorority, another founding organization of NPHC, was established January 16, 1920 by five Howard University undergraduate women. Currently, the sorority has 50,000 members in 500 chapters in the United States and the Bahamas. Eunice Thomas is the newly-elected president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Zeta women who have served as president of NPHC include Joanna H. Ransom (1940-1941), Geraldine Elliot (1956-1958), and Mildred C. Bradham (1969-1971).

Local chapters of Zeta Phi Beta are involved with many special projects including parental clinics, youth camp and camperships, and volunteer work with numerous social and health agencies.

Current Zeta projects include Project Hunger, relief for Ethiopian and other famine victims; Stork’s Nest, services, including transportation, clothing, and legal consultation for mothers-to-be at area clinics; National Education Foundation, annual scholarships for students and sup-

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Elder Statesmen of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.