

# NPHC

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Gladys Knight is serenaded by members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity life members, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. John Epps, Executive Director, confer at conference.



Omega Psi Phi recognizes high school youth who participated in the fraternity's National Talent Hunt.

served as its head from 1980 to 1984. She received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Nashville council in 1984.

On assuming office as President of NPHC, Dr. Jackson said:

...It will be a welcomed opportunity and anticipated challenge to serve you. We must continue exploring new avenues of perpetuating the purpose upon which this great organization was founded.

This year our theme is "Unity Through Communication and Commitment." We invite you to join us in communicating to all of our fellow Greeks throughout this nation the precepts which our theme embraces. Our three point programmatic objectives include:

- Reorganize and structure the NPHC for effective and responsive operation.
- Develop and strengthen the financial base of the NPHC by stimulating growth through increased membership.
- Provide leadership and support to our undergraduate Pan-Hellenic councils, as well as alumni councils.

It is my earnest hope that our united participation shall broaden our awareness of our similarities of purpose and provide the respect for the differences of each Greek organization. Together we can combine our ideas and expertise to make an impact upon our communities, cities and throughout these United States. As Greeks united, our ideas can continue to make an impact on many issues confronting us.

National programmatic thrusts for NPHC include voter registration education programs, the Assault On Illiteracy Program, March of Dimes and systematic approaches to aid undergraduate Pan-Hellenic councils on college and university campuses.

As associate principal of McGavock Comprehensive High School, Dr. Jackson brings a wealth of education and teaching experience to this position. She is a former reading specialist, elementary teacher and guidance counselor.

Her involvement with the National Pan-Hellenic Council is equalled only by her connection and affiliation with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is an active member of Alpha Delta Omega Chapter.

An optimist, Dr. Jackson has set out to accomplish the goal of restructuring a national organization that has experienced peaks and valleys since 1930. NPHC, however, has a strong base to draw from

and has always come out on top. With Ada Jackson's leadership skills and background, NPHC is in good hands.

## The Service Focus Of NPHC

**G**reek-letter societies have assumed a far greater importance in the Black community than similar organizations in the White community. Most of these "graduate" societies began as social clubs with some interest in fostering scholarship among undergraduates. However, because outlets for their knowledge and leadership skills were limited severely by segregation, the Black societies soon became the focal point of the organized activities of the professional and intellectual leaders in the Black community. This has no parallel in the White community.

Through the years Black Greek-letter organizations have become increasingly service minded. As the result of the untiring efforts of Gerald D. Smith, Phi Beta Sigma's national executive director, *Bairds Manual of the American College Fraternity* has agreed to reclassify all eight Pan-Hellenic organizations as "community-service" fraternities and sororities rather than "social" organizations. This important change recognizes the historic contributions made by the eight organizations which separates them from White Greek-letter organizations which are not similarly committed to the general public welfare.

## Possibilities and Predicaments

**G**rowth almost always is accompanied by many fulfilling and many painful experiences and the National Pan-Hellenic Council certainly has had its share of "sad songs that have made many cry." However, it was the actual and intended noble work of NPHC that led to the conception of the national Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP) as an extension framework to include *all* other leaders of our national uplifting organizations.

So closely tied to NPHC is AOIP that not only does the Constitution and By-Laws of the latter organization call for every national committee having a presiding Pan-Hellenic president as a co-chairperson, but also every local and national elected Pan-Hellenic officer automatically is accorded a place on the Board of Directors of the nearest Local Unit of AOIP in the area wherein they

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