

STATE OF READINESS OF BLACK AMERICA

(Continued from Page 8)

History of NPHC

THE Black Greek-letter movement commenced in 1906 on a predominantly White college campus as a means by which cultural interaction and community service could be maintained. Over the next 16 years the opportunity to form Greek organizations would occur on seven other occasions. Each of these eight organizations evolved during a period when Blacks were being denied essential rights and services afforded others. These Black Greek organizations were designed to foster brotherhood and/or sisterhood and to serve as a conduit by which collective action plans could be coordinated.

In 1930 a number of these organizations recognized a need to form an umbrella organization that would provide coordination of philosophies and activities. This umbrella group became known as the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). The eight organizations which would eventually comprise the council made a pledge to devote their resources and services in an effort to enhance their communities. Despite the diversity inherent in the individual groups, NPHC provided the forum and impetus for addressing items of mutual concern. The organizations soon discovered that the effect of their educational, social, and economic programs on their respective constituencies was greatly enhanced by collective coordination through NPHC.

NPHC Mission Statement

THE National Pan-Hellenic Council shall serve as the official coordinating agent of eight (8) constituent member Greek-letter fraternities and sororities in the furtherance of their program unity on college and university campuses and within the several communities wherein graduate and/or alumni(ae) chapters of said fraternities and sororities are located.

In furtherance of this mission, the National Pan-Hellenic Council shall work cooperatively with other community-enabling umbrella groups and agencies such as the Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP) and others.

NPHC's Commitment to AOIP

UNDER the dedicated leadership of Daisy M. Wood, the National Pan-Hellenic Council is totally committed to AOIP's Year 2000 Goals. With an aggregate membership of more than 800,000 college-trained men and women, their human resources are unlimited. They recognize that the best time to dedicate these resources to AOIP is "between yesterday and tomorrow." NPHC's convictions toward AOIP are stalwart. The programs designed to help us "help us" are realistic road maps to move us from dependency to independency. A call has been issued to every active and inactive Greek across the country to step forward on behalf of AOIP.

Laudatory Relationship Of AOIP With Pan-Hellenic

AOIP was organized as an extension of the Pan-Hellenic Black networking, or "togetherness," process which—by its very nature—could include only the college-trained leadership groups. Yet, all of us know from the experiences in the era of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and otherwise that the crusade for "freedom" among any of us must include the leadership of all of us.

Thus, AOIP was conceived by several of our outstanding Pan-Hellenic leaders as a means of effecting that needed inclusion. Accordingly, any local community-building group (not affiliated nationally) and local Urban Leagues are needed in this network.

AOIP recognizes and even exalts the continuously-needed role of all

Pan-Hellenic organizations. This has been done by having the By-Laws state clearly that all national, regional and local heads of Pan-Hellenic organizations automatically will have a place on the local (Divisional) boards of AOIP in the areas in which they reside and never will have to run for election to such.

Additionally, one of the co-chairpersons of every one of the ten (10) Standing Committees of AOIP (and of the AOIP overall entity at every level) must be a leader of Pan-Hellenic. This is also reflected on the AOIP letterhead. Also, it was under Pan-Hellenic leadership that the Year 2000 Goals of the more than 90 national AOIP organizations were amassed. So, without a doubt, AOIP is truly a major tribute to Pan-Hellenic.

Essentiality of Local Involvement

WE in AOIP nationally have determined that fully incorporated Divisions of AOIP must be established locally to enable togetherness via the following four essential tasks:

1. *Surveying* the programs of all our organizations in the area that are designed to address our Year 2000 Goals;
2. *Enhancing* the existing programs by engaging in some new and easily-achievable fundraising activities, providing free publicity, etc., thus assuring deserved recognition;
3. *Coordinating* the activities overall to make certain that all goal areas are covered properly and there are no "shortfalls" in any area without the attention of all leadership groups;
4. *Reporting*, both to AOIP and to all other organizations, the progress being made on a regular basis [no programs can be engaged in directly by any AOIP Division].

All Pan-Hellenic Councils should be informed of the need for—and many benefits from—their immediate involvement in organizing AOIP Divisions. The time now is ripe for Pan-Hellenic involvement in every community.

Information relative to this can be obtained at once by calling Ms. Emille Smith at (212) 967-4008.

Support Resolution of Restructuring AOIP

For the Maximum Benefit of Achieving AOIP's Year 2000 Goals

WHEREAS, our AOIP national organizational leaders—and their local constituencies—and our AOIP "community-building" publishers, who are the newest members of the board, have recommitted themselves to working together and supporting each other in far more concerted and productive ways, to help achieve our Year 2000 goals; and,

Whereas, in achieving the above, this national leadership has abolished the local unit formation, and have agreed to work presently, toward the formation of all-incorporated divisions, locally; and,

Whereas, after nine years of historic, interorganizational and experimental efforts have clearly shown that the monitoring of this all-volunteer, "community-building" coalition must be from within this coalition—with the oversight by AOIP's executive committee; and,

Whereas, at our semi-annual board meeting at the Howard Inn in Washington, D.C. on September 16, 1989 did unanimously approve all of the above...

Therefore, be it resolved that the Resolutions Committee—Dorris Ellis (*Houston Sun*); Delores Williams Franklin (Houston AOIP); Jacob E. Johnson (I.B.P.O. Elks); Marguerite M. McClelland (National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.); and Jacquelyn H. Parker (Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.), appointed by the body of AOIP present on September 16—does hereby support the decision to reorganize and restructure in order to fulfill the following objectives:

1. New approaches for more fulfilling involvement by all participants;
2. Committee "How To's" in their four-fold supportive role;
3. More effective publicity, and how it can be earned both on the local and national levels;
4. More fundraising opportunities;
5. Recognizing and awarding AOIP

(Continued on Page 14)