



*Ben Brown*  
President

*Anthony Lewis*  
Vice-President

**OMICRON RHO LAMBDA CHAPTER**  
**ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.**  
**P.O. Box 821544**  
**VICKSBURG, MS**

*Adrian Hall*  
Secretary

*Dr. Kevin Abraham*  
Treasurer

July 26, 2019



**The Board of Mayor and  
Aldermen for the  
City of Vicksburg**

**Cordially Invites You to the  
Street Renaming Ceremony  
Honoring  
Mr. James E. Stirgus, Sr.**



**Friday, July 5, 2019  
10:00 a.m.**

**Corner of Halls Ferry Road  
and Marcus Street**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** This storyboard consists of pictures from our very own Trailblazer, Bro. James E. Stirgus, Sr.

Bro. Stirgus, Sr., one of our very own brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and a charter member of our chapter, Omicron Rho Lambda, was recognized by the City of Vicksburg by having a street renamed in his honor after the Board of Mayor and Aldermen passed a resolution. The renaming ceremony took place on July 5, 2019, after it was approved by the county's 911 committee. Mayor George Flaggs, Jr. stated such an honor should had been given to Bro. Stirgus a long time ago because of the impact he had on so many people's lives.

Bro. Stirgus, Sr., who is a former Vicksburg Warren Superintendent of schools and Rosa A. Temple principal, spent nearly 35 years as a teacher, principal, superintendent and doing various other jobs in Warren County's education system. Congratulations Bro. Stirgus, Sr.

The Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter was chartered March 21, 1987, as the first National Pan-Hellenic Council affiliated Fraternity with a Chapter in Vicksburg, MS by seventeen Brothers to foster the Alpha Spirit, scholarship, to promote the national and local initiatives, the objectives, and partner with other civic organizations for the community in good of Vicksburg/Warren County. Bro. Stirgus, Sr. was one of those seventeen brothers.

**Highlights from Street Renaming Ceremony for  
Bro. James E. Stirgus, Sr.**





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**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** This storyboard consist of pictures of Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter holding a voter's registration drive, "Voteless People is a Hopeless People", at the Jackson Street Community Center.

The chapter held a voter's registration drive at the Jackson Street Community Center on Saturday, 28 September 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Just like last year, we partnered with the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The ladies assisted with the forms or paperwork and we distributed pamphlets to the people visiting the community center and to those who we were able to register to vote. We distributed voting reminders in the format of business cards to the public, too.

Getting younger people to vote continues to be our biggest struggle because of their way of thinking pertaining to the government system. In addition, the information we passed out consisted of two important links. One link directed people to the state's site to inform them if they were already register to vote or not. The other link requested people to enter their home address and it would show where they supposed to go to vote for elections.

***REMEMBER, A VOTELESS PEOPLE IS TRULY A HOPELESS PEOPLE.***

### **A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People**

"A Voteless People is a Hopeless People" was initiated as a National Program of Alpha during the 1930's when many African-Americans had the right to vote but were prevented from voting because of poll taxes, threats of reprisal, and lack of education about the voting process. Voter education and registration has remained a dominant focus of this outreach activity for over 65 years. In the 1990's, the focus has shifted to include political awareness and empowerment, delivered most frequently through town meetings and candidate forums.

September 30, 2019



# **Highlights from the Voting Registration Drive**





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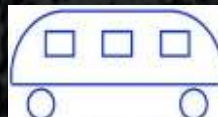
November 16, 2019

October's storyboard includes pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) scheduled meeting on Saturday, 5 OCT 2019.

Greetings! This was the first meeting of the school year that welcome familiar and new faces. This year we accepted some younger men into the leadership program than usual but they fitted in with no problem. We had 18 young men to attend the meeting. There was a lot on the agenda to cover in a small amount of time but it was enlighten and fun for them. The topics were put on the agenda to help the young men to sharpen their life skills, communication skills, self-esteem, leadership skills, and teamwork abilities. As always, we will continue to add things that will help the young men to think quicker on their feet and outside of the box, so they won't think everything is the norm or become complacent. Plus, the young men enjoy the challenges. That's why we add brain teasers and leadership challenges. After a brief introduction by all attendees, the young men participated in some great discussions, which were them sharing their future goals, having a dialogue after listening to a TED Talk media clip about peer pressure, and current events. The last item we covered before closing the meeting was teaching the young men how to tie a bow tie. It was a great, productive meeting with a great group of young men. Homework assignment: watch the news, always read something, and don't be afraid to lead.



Self-esteem Builder



Bus Going Left or Right



How to Tie a Bow Tie



Leadership & Teambuilding Exercise: Cut Index Card to Step Thru (Four Groups)



Repeating the PALC's Motto



# PROJECT ALPHA Leadership Club







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November 18, 2019

## **Life Skills, Etiquette, and Awareness**

November's storyboard includes pictures from the PALC's meeting on Saturday, 2 NOV 2019.

We met with the young men on a pleasant Saturday morning to continue to mold them into respectful, young leaders to be a great asset to their community and positive role models to their peers and others. We followed another set agenda that helps us to evaluate them on specific areas that the program is set to teach them, which are life skills, etiquette, and awareness. To start the meeting, several of the young men volunteered to say the prayer, read the vision and mission statements, lead the members in saying the motto, and discuss current events. They see those only as agenda topics but we use those different topics as tools to help us evaluate them with the dos and don'ts of public speaking, communicating effectively, building their self-esteem or becoming more confident, taking charge or stepping up to lead a team to complete a task, listening effectively, working together, etc. Then they listen to a short media clip named "Are You a Leaf, Branch, or Root?" by Jay Shetty and then we discussed it. That was followed by a leadership exercise and a discussion about leadership for them to determine, if they were a leader or a slacker. The leadership exercise, which was "Form a Group", and the media clip of Denzel Washington's commencement speech titled "Put God First" were the highlights of the meeting's agenda. The quick thinking from the young men during the leadership exercise was simply amazing. The next discussion on the agenda was us having a dialogue with the young men about two leadership qualities, Vision and Motivate Others, after we defined both and explained why they are two great qualities for a leader. Last, we completed the agenda by teaching the young men only what some men know how to do and that's how to tie a bow tie by using the thigh and elephant ears technique. Young men's homework assignment: practice tying a bow tie, read something, and respect your parents and teachers.



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December 4, 2019

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** This storyboard consists of pictures from the Founder's Day Social, 3 DEC 2019.

The Brothers of the Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter celebrated the fraternity's Founder's Day at the Biscuit Company Restaurant in Vicksburg, MS on a Monday night, 3 DEC 2019, rather than on the 4<sup>th</sup> because several of the brothers would had a schedule conflict. Nonetheless, it was a great evening for the brothers to come together to enjoy each other's company and reflect on some of their very own experiences during their years of being in the fraternity. Everyone enjoyed the social by partaking on some delicious grub and some chose to sip on some good spirits. There was a lot of laughter throughout the social. Bro. Efrem Warren from the Alpha Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Jackson, MS decided was present for the social, too. The evening was topped off with a group picture, so the brothers could remember the great evening.

Much appreciation to the seven visionary founders, known as the "Jewels" of the fraternity and the seventeen charter members of Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter for making it possible so we could have such a day for brothers of this chapter to come together for a pleasant evening with one another in Vicksburg, MS.



**1906 - 2019**

**Highlights from the Founder's Day Social**





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December 27, 2019

December's storyboard includes pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) community service project on Saturday, 14 DEC 2019.

Invest in your community. These are the words that we instilled in the young men of this leadership program. We want them to understand the importance of community service by knowing it's a non-paying job performed by them for the benefit of people of their community. In addition, it enables them to acquire life skills and knowledge. We have a great relationship with the local Salvation Army as being volunteered Bell Ringers. Hobby Lobby is our usual setup location. Because we had 22 young men, who were able to volunteer, we had to request an additional location and the Salvation Army Representative accommodated us by assigning the Pemberton Mall's main entrance as our second location. The weather was great for each young man to volunteer for at least two hours. The event was scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The young men and their mentors, who are the men of the Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., did a great job raising funds to help those who need it most. Again, great job!



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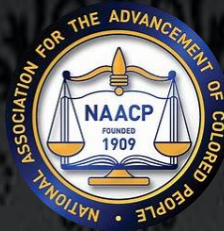
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December 4, 2019

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** This storyboard consists of pictures from the NAACP Community Service Award, 14 DEC 2019.

The NAACP-Vicksburg Branch presented the Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter the 2019 NAACP Community Service Award during their Annual Freedom Fund Celebration event because of the great work we do pertaining to community service, education, economic development, and NAACP membership. A great honor! The Chapter's President, Bro. Ben Brown, Jr., was present to accept the award for the chapter from Ms. Bobbie Bingham Morrow, who is the President of the NAACP-Vicksburg Branch. Bro. Adrian Hall was present for the event, too. Bro. Hall was asked to introduce the guest speaker, who was Mr. Cortez Moss. Mr. Moss is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., too. Brothers Kerry Taylor and Terry Steed was present and both are members of the NAACP-Vicksburg Branch's choir along with Bro. President Brown. Outstanding OPA Chapter!



**Highlights from the NAACP Community Service Award**





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January 7, 2020



PALC's President, Kameran Batty, introduces himself to the new members



PALC Member, Nigel Cornelius, asks everyone to repeat the motto after him



PALC Member, Jer'Darriyus, reads the mission statement



New PALC member, Ellis Terrett, shares his future goals



Leadership/Teambuilding Exercise (STEM Challenge) - Seven Groups



New members learning how to tie a bow tie



Alpha men ready to mentor and share knowledge

January's storyboard includes pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) meeting on Saturday, January 4, 2020.

Happy New Year! After everyone had enjoyed their Christmas holidays and were blessed to see another year provided by the Man above, it was absolutely great to have so many young men to turnout for the January meeting. We, the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in Vicksburg, MS, were fortunate to have 28 young men to show for the male mentoring program. Our goal with the young men in 2020 has not altered. We will continue to engage and retain male students by supporting their character and leadership development, educational and professional aspirations through academic enhancement, and career development within the community. The mentoring program achieves these goals by the different topics we cover at all of our meetings such as the one we held on Saturday. Several mentors were present to assist with the agenda's topics. After informing the newcomers about the program's ground rules and how they could benefit from such an established male mentoring program, we had a very productive and fun meeting. That excitement consisted of a quick recap of the community service project they participated in December and the importance of it and what areas we evaluated them on. "Effective Communication" was the leadership quality for this meeting's discussion. Since social media has such a significant effect on the minds of our young men, we showed them a short media clip title "Perception vs Reality" and they shared their thoughts concerning social media. Several of the young men's goal is to become an Engineer. This meeting included a crash course about "What's an Engineer", which was very informative and a few of the mentors, who are engineers, were able to add to the discussion. As always, we enjoy making the young men think outside the box and learn to work together using the necessary leadership and teambuilding skills they learn through the program. They participated in a STEM challenge that consisted of two parts. They were divided into seven teams and timed to see which team could build the highest tower and then the longest pier from only a couple of items. They were evaluated on leadership skills, communication, teamwork, effective listening, planning, and creative thinking. The future engineers did an outstanding job! Practicing how to tie a bow tie is one of our regular life skills taught to the young men at each meeting. Member's Homework Assignment (Parents remind them, please.); Current events (news), Develop better study habits, Read more, and No bullying.



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Guest Speaker, Bro. Kevin Wilbert I, MS District Director of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** This storyboard consist of pictures of Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter and its Educational Foundation's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast on Monday, 20 JAN 2020, held at the Vicksburg Convention Center in Vicksburg, MS. People from near and far flooded the ball room to support the annual fundraising event to celebrate Dr. MLK, Jr.'s birthday and support raising funds for the Educational Foundation's three different types of scholarships. Local deserving junior and high school students are giving the opportunity to apply for the scholarships, if they meet the criteria. There were a lot of great things that took place during the scholarship breakfast. The Foundation awarded an one-time scholarship in the amount of \$100 to four 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who attends either the Academy of Invocation, Vicksburg Junior High School, or Warren Central Junior High School. The Foundation awarded the Community Service Award as usual except this time it was awarded not to an individual but to a group, the local NAACP – Vicksburg Chapter. Ms. Bobbie Bingham-Morrow, who is the Local President of the NAACP, was present to accept the award. Bro. Ed Huell presented a special award to one of our corporate sponsors, Ameristar Casino, for faithfully supporting the Scholarship Breakfast each year. This year we were fortunate to have Bro. Kevin T. Wilbert I, who is the Mississippi District Director of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., to be our keynote speaker for the occasion. Several visiting Alpha brothers showed their support by attending the Breakfast. Mr. Kameren Batty, Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) President, was on the program to give the occasion speech and he did an outstanding job. Bro. Frank Crump, Jr., who was overwhelmed by the number of young men of our male mentoring program in attendance, shared words of encouragement to all of the youth in the audience and he donated \$1,000 to the Foundation. Men of Alpha, great job and thanks for being a pillar in your community.



Vice-Pres., Bro. Anthony Lewis, present the Community Service Award to the NAACP (President, Ms. Bobbie Bingham-Morrow)



ORL Ed. Foundation Chairman, Bro. Ed Huell, gives a special award to Corporate Sponsor, Ameristar Casino



ORL Educational Foundation's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Scholarship Recipients (4)



Brothers of Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter are joined by the 11<sup>th</sup> Mississippi District Director and the Mississippi Executive Director



PALC President, Kameren Batty, presented the occasion speech



Young men of the Educational Foundation's male mentoring program, the Project Alpha Leadership Club (PALC)



Special Words of Encouragement given by Bro. Frank Crump, Jr.

# Highlights from the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast





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February 27, 2020

February's storyboard includes pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) meeting on Saturday, February 15, 2020.

A day after Valentine's Day, we had our scheduled meeting with the young men at a different location than usual but our goal stayed the same. As always, we strive to provide the young men with awareness and training needed to produce leaders that will contribute positively and successfully to society. The meeting was held at an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' facility on the campus of the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, MS. We had a great turnout of twenty-one (21) young men in attendance. Several men from the Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. were present to help mentor and assist with the life skills and teambuilding exercises, too. After the prayer, vision, mission, and motto were presented by three volunteers, we dove into the leadership discussions and teambuilding exercises of our agenda. We continue to remind the young men to stay inform what is going on around them daily and around the globe by periodically watching the news and to keep their minds sharp and alert. So, the first part of the agenda consisted of us talking about the latest current events and we challenged them with a few brainteasers to help them to think outside of the box. That was quite enlighten and fun. As we mentor the young men, each meeting we have a group discussion about some of the best qualities that a person should possess to be an effective leader. This month's leadership qualities for discussion were "Accountability" and "Inspire Others." We talked about being inspired and the importance of awakening your full potential. The life skill we covered was how to check the proper inflation of a vehicle's tires. All of them learn how to read a manual tire gauge and where to find the proper inflation for the tires. This year we have been including more STEM exercises in our curriculum. We want to encourage the young men to think about going to college and choose a STEM major to have a career in that field. Then we divided them into several groups to work together for a teambuilding STEM challenge, which was to build a Straw Tower. As they had fun working together to build the tallest straw tower with limited resources, we were evaluating their leadership skills and how they planned, prepared, and provided their final product for scoring as a team. We discussed their strengths and weaknesses that we observed. It was fun. Member's Homework Assignment (Parents remind them, please.): Current events (news), Take the Lead, Respect Others & Yourself, and Practice Tying a Bow Tie.



Tyler Caldwell (Senior) reads the vision & mission statements



DaMarcus Jones (Freshman) reads the motto



Teambuilding Exercise (STEM Challenge): Straw Tower



STEM Challenge



Life Skills: Car Care – Checking tires for proper inflation



STEM Challenge



Reading Tire Gauge



# PROJECT ALPHA Leadership Club

