



*Ben Brown*  
President

*Gabe Harris*  
Vice-President

# OMICRON RHO LAMBDA CHAPTER

## ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

P.O. Box 821544  
VICKSBURG, MS

*Adrian Hall*  
Secretary

*Kevin Abraham*  
Treasurer

October 24, 2016

October's storyboard included pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) first meeting on Saturday, 22 OCT 2016. The meeting was fun and empowering for the young men and the brothers of Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter, who attended the meeting. We covered two leadership qualities, Integrity and Responsibility, which were on the agenda. The young men participated in a team building exercise, Cup Stacking Challenge, conducted by the mentors. The exercise required their participation and them learning about themselves. The exercise targeted communication skills, problem-solving, teamwork, and group dynamics. Ten young men attended the meeting. Nine of the ten were returning members from last year. They were served donuts and orange juice. Chief Armstrong, the Vicksburg Police Chief, was the guest speaker. He spoke to the young men about education, law enforcement, the law and a person's rights, community involvement, and doing the right thing (integrity).



**Founders:**

Henry A. Callis Charles H. Chapman George B. Kelly Eugene K. Jones Nathaniel A. Murray Robert H. Ogle Vertner W. Tandy



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November 13, 2016

November's storyboard included pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) meeting on Saturday, 12 NOV 2016. The meeting was motivating for the nine young men. This month's leadership quality discussed was Trust. The importance of education was discussed, also. This meeting included a talk session with the young men in a group setting that required the young men to open up about their experiences at school and what is currently their most difficult and less difficult classes/subjects. We shared some best practices to help them improve with their most difficult classes. They were showed the highest percentage of the brain function at different times of the day and best time to study.

The team building challenge exercise the young men participated at the meeting was the Blind Retrieve. In this fun and challenging blindfold activity, groups were divided into smaller sub-teams and competed against each other to try and retrieve an object. One person was blindfolded in each team and directed by a team mate to try and find the object before the other the team without stepping on any objects (mines). The learning outcomes from the exercise were communication, cooperation, trust, leadership, and review & reflection.

The guest speakers for this meeting were in a digital format from TED Talks - Education. Mr. Wes Hall, who is an educational consultant to the Los Angeles Unified School District, presented a short six minutes speech on 'Why Black Male Students Are Failing Academically' and Ms. Rita Pierson, who was a retired educator, spoke about 'Every Kid Needs a Champion'. The feedback from the young men was amazing, after they listen to both messages from the speakers. Some of them stated the messages were inspiring, very good, and truthful. The young men were served donuts and orange juice. It was a great meeting.



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December 21, 2016

Below are pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club (PALC) community service project on Saturday, 10 DEC 2016. They helped the Salvation Army raise money by being bell ringers. The young boys volunteered at a minimum of two hours each at the outside front entrance of Hobby Lobby at the Pemberton Mall. There was at least one advisor from Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. with the boys at all time.



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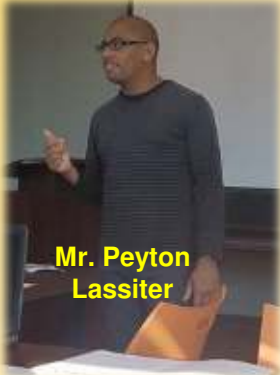
*Kevin Abraham*  
Treasurer

December 21, 2016

December's storyboard included pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) meeting on Saturday, 17 DEC 2017. The meeting was motivating for the nine young men. This month's leadership qualities discussed were Motivation and Handling Criticism. As always, the importance of education was discussed, also. This meeting included another talk session, Leadership: Follow the Leader (The Power Rangers), with the young men. By them knowing the stories of the Power Rangers, they were able to understand the discussion of being a leader and a follower. After our group discussion, we showed them a very short video clip titled "Follow the Leader" by Mr. Suli Breaks from TED Talks. We received such a positive response from the young men after we showed the clip. The feedback from the young men was great because it showed they were listening and understood the discussion.

The team building challenge exercise the young men participated at the meeting was the Birthday Line Up Teambuilding Challenge. In this simple and challenging activity, all of the young men were instructed to line up in a straight line side-by-side. Then we asked them to get in order of their birthdays by month and day, year wasn't necessary. The challenge was the group couldn't talk at all. We observed them resorting to sign language, nudges, and some of them started leading. The learning outcomes from the exercise were communication, cooperation, trust, leadership, and problem solving.

The guest speaker for this meeting was Mr. Peyton Lassiter, who is a Program Manager with Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, MS. He spoke to the young men about his path from a young teenager to where he is today and what adversary he overcame to get there. In addition, he spoke about education, being responsible, engineering, and encouraged the young men to always work hard and stay humble. It was a great meeting. Before ending the meeting, we practiced tying bow ties and that was fun.



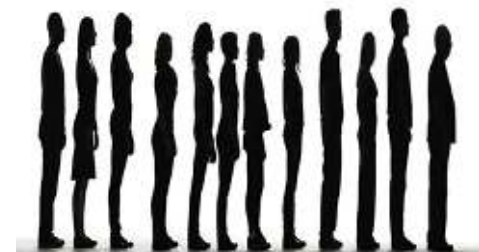
**Mr. Peyton Lassiter**



**Team Building Exercise**



**Mr. Suli Breaks**



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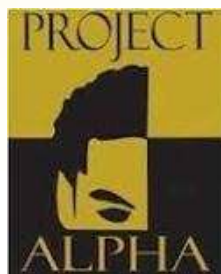
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January 28, 2017

Below are pictures of the Project Alpha Leadership Club (PALC) members attending the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast on Monday, 16 JAN 2017. Romon Shepherd, who is a member of the leadership club, did an outstanding job presenting the occasion and showed no signs of being nervous. The PALC members contributed towards the program being a success by placing the programs on the tables, setting up the poster displays, and being available as a group to answer any questions concerning the leadership club, if anyone was to inquire about the program. The young men were well-dressed and presented themselves as gentlemen. As always, they received several compliments for wearing the bow ties. Later that evening, three of the young men participated in the City Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday as ushers and lighting of the candle during the program. A quote for the young men to remember throughout their lives is "It's nice to be important, but it's important to be nice."

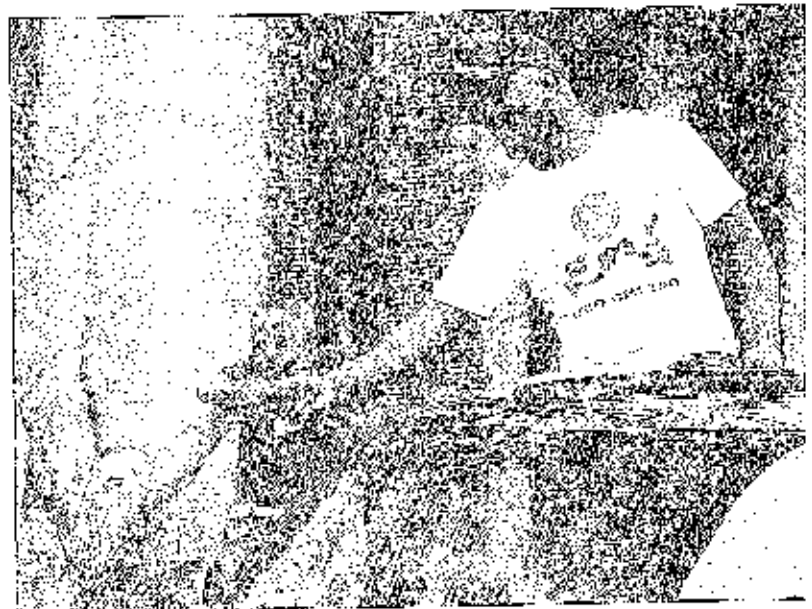


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← James Toney



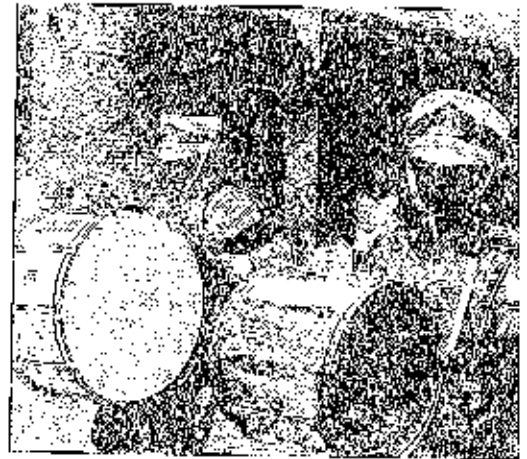
← Frander Holyfield

# HEAVYWEIGHT LINE-UP

*Organizers don't pull any punches on annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in downtown Vicksburg*



PHOTO BY COURTLAND WELLS - THE VICKSBURG





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February 27, 2017

February's storyboard included pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) meeting on Saturday, 18 FEB 2017. As always, the young men open the meeting with a prayer and a member reminded everyone of the leadership club's vision and mission. Then they said the club's motto together. They followed the meeting's agenda by having a discussion about study habits. Each young man shared his thoughts and personal study habits. They learned some good practices from the discussions and what changes they needed to make to their study habits to become a more prepared and smarter student. Time Management was the leadership quality discussed this month and it tied in with the topic of 'Study Habits'. Since it was Black History Month, each member talked about what black history meant to him and each young man named and spoke about a person who they thought made a significant impact in black history. We invited Ms. Sain Trotter, who works for the MS Dept. of Human Services, to come talk to the young men about "Protecting Yourself and Your Partner" and "Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)", since it was Sexual Assault Month, also. The young men will not forget her speech or the pictures she showed them. Ms. Sain gave out special packages to the young men. Then the young men participated in a fun leadership exercise or teambuilding challenge, "Fly in the Glass". This was a quick initiative exercise using lateral thinking. They had to recreate the wine glass without the fly in it. To complete the challenge, they were only allowed to move just two sticks. The remaining sticks and the fly must not move. They were divided into five groups. They were given five minutes to complete the challenge and three minutes to review and debrief. This challenge required the teams to work together to find a solution. We tried to balance the exercise so everyone was actively involved and engaged. The learning outcomes were problem solving, cooperation, communication and leadership.



**Ms. Sain Trotter**



**WINNERS**  
**Teambuilding Challenge**  
**TEAM #1**



**Teambuilding Challenge Teams**  
**(Fly in a Glass Challenge)**



**Teambuilding Challenge**  
**TEAM #4**



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March 6, 2017

March's storyboard included pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) meeting on Saturday, 4 March 2017. Twelve young men participated in a very productive meeting. We opened the meeting with a prayer. Since we had one young man to attend the meeting for the first time, everyone introduced themselves. The introductions helps the young men with their speaking skills and to become more comfortable with speaking in front of a group of people. A different member always reads the motto to remind the members of the short phrase chosen to summarize the ideals to guide them. Focus and Passion were this month's two leadership skills discussed. As we approach the end of the school year of mentoring the young men, the discussions of the different leadership skills tends to get better each meeting. The leadership club was lucky to have two guest speakers, Ms. Kaswana Moore and Mr. Gregory Anderson, this month. Both are Civil Engineers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, MS. It was nice for the young men to hear viewpoints from a young lady who graduated on an academic scholarship from a predominantly white institution (PWI) (University of New Orleans) compared to a young gentleman who graduated on an academic scholarship and student loans (one year) from a HBCU (Jackson State). Also, Mr. Anderson informed them not to settle for a career that doesn't make them happy, if they had better options. He stated he first graduated with a biology degree and was working as a microbiologist but he realized that wasn't what he wanted to do. So, he returned to college to received degree in engineering. Both speakers tagged team on the same topics which were high school and college education, staying focus, dealing with or eliminating distractions, study habits, scholarships vs. student loans, preparing for and taking the ACT/SAT, and what it takes to become an engineer. The young men were informed of what things to remove from a new suit or sports coat. For example, pocket square stitches, stitches at the bottom rear of the coat, and label tags on the sleeve. Then we had some fun by making the young men think and work as a team by participating in a teambuilding challenge. The teambuilding challenge was 'Group Juggle'. The young men stood in an inward facing circle and were asked to throw a juggling tennis ball amongst the group in a specific order. When the ball was thrown, the thrower had to shout the name of the recipient. As the activity developed more juggling balls were introduced and the pressure to work well as a group increased. The learning targets were goal setting, cooperation, continuous development, and communication. Next, the young men were briefed and shown how to read a tire gauge and how to properly inflate tires on a vehicle according to the psi on the tire. Before we closed the meeting, the young men practiced how to tie a bow tie. This time we showed them an easier technique to use by using their lower thigh rather than their neck since they didn't have a mirror. The results were amazing. As I stated earlier, we had a great meeting.



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April 25, 2017

April's storyboard included pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) meeting on Saturday, 22 April 2017. Five young men participated in this month's meeting that consisted of several different topics and activities. This was the last schedule meeting this school year before the summer break for the young men. As always, we opened the meeting with a prayer. We did a recap of the leadership club's year that consisted of all of the leadership qualities and teambuilding challenges. Then we discussed this month's leadership quality which was Respect. It was followed by a short five minute media clip, Funniest Leadership Speech Ever by Specific Dusty. Next we talked about Conflict Management – How to Deal with Conflict. The feedback and questions asked by the young men were great. We showed them a short animated media clip and a short movie clip with Samuel Jackson acting as a basketball coach to help deliver the importance of the message to the young men.

The young men are always excited about what leadership exercise or challenge we have instore for them each meeting. This meeting we had them participate in a leadership exercise called 'Farmers Communication Exercise'. This is an exercise in effective communication (particularly listening) and organization skills. Participants are given partial information and must communicate with the group to find a solution to a problem. Usually, groups are given 40 minutes but because we didn't have that much time, they were given 20 minutes. Each member of the group was given a card with some information on it. Each card had different information, and the group member could not show anybody else their card. Without writing anything down, the group had to work out what to do by collaborating as a whole. Once they believed they had the answer, they had to select a member to write it down. Once their time was up and they explained their answer to us, we asked them how they worked it out and organized themselves. We asked them how did they share their information, asked them what they thought about how they worked together, did they listen to each other, and what might they do differently next time? We were quite impressed with the outcome because most adults can't understand this exercise or can't complete it within the required time limit. These young men did it in 20 minutes! They stated they are starting to understand the concept of thinking outside of the box and listening more and talking less. We had a great time.



**Advisor**  
(Bro. Larry. Carpenter)



**Message from the Conflict Management media clip**



**Clip from a movie that presented a message about Respect**



**Farmers Communication Teambuilding Exercise**



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May 27, 2017

This month's storyboard includes pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) field trip on Saturday, 13 MAY 2017. Thanks to Greater Grove M.B. Church we were able to use their bus to take the young men on a field trip to Memphis, TN to visit the National Civil Rights Museum (NCRM) – Lorraine Motel. Greater Grove even provided a driver for the bus. The young men were provided breakfast from McDonald's before leaving at 7:30 a.m. for an amazing day of learning about our African American History. We left Vicksburg early that morning heading to Clinton to pick-up the last two of the young men before reaching the NCRM. Bro. Stokes brought bags of different snacks and beverages for the trip. The young men wore their PALC t-shirts to represent their leadership club. The museum guide was absolutely amazing and very knowledgeable. The museum guide informed the young men of things that they weren't taught or wasn't in the history books at their schools. They ate lunch at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Restaurant in Hernando, MS before heading back home. It was an exciting day for all of us. Admission to the museum and the meals were provided by the leadership club's sponsor, Omicron Rho Lambda Educational Foundation, Inc. Every PALC member had to have a signed consent form from his parent/guardian to go on the field trip. Bro. Jackson and Bro. Stokes took 10 young men on the field trip. The trip was fun and the feedback from the young men and some of their parents was great.



Arrived at the NCRM

The Tour Guide introduces herself



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June 10, 2017

This month's storyboard includes pictures from the Project Alpha Leadership Club's (PALC) Gentlemen Luncheon on Saturday, 3 JUN 2017, when we honored the young men for another outstanding year. The luncheon was held at Alcorn State University's Dr. Clinton Bristow Dining Facility in the Gold Room. The young men were dressed for the occasion and thanks to Bro. Phinezee Stokes, III the meal was delicious. The guest speaker was Mr. De'Andre Davis, who is a former member of PALC. He now attends the University of Southern MS. He did an exceptional job. He spoke to the young men about the transition from high school and college. He encouraged the young men to take heed to what they are learning at the meetings and their mentors. He informed them that he really appreciates the mentors because everything they were telling and showing him was all true and very helpful.

Bro. Gregory L. Jackson, the Senior Advisor for PALC, presided over the program. Several of the young men were on the program and they did an exceptional job. PALC members, Mr. D'Kobe Crump, open the luncheon with a prayer, Mr. Romon Shepherd presented a speech on the leadership club's mission, Mr. Tyler Jackson presented the motto, Mr. Kameren Batty introduced the Guest Speaker, and Mr. Kensell Batty II thanked the Guest Speaker and presented him a token of appreciation from the PALC members. The leadership club had two young men, Mr. Eric Jackson and Mr. Kevin Virges, who both graduated from Warren Central High School this year. They both were given plaques to congratulate them on graduating and this being their last year as a PALC member. Nine of the members received Community Service Certificates for volunteering to help the Salvation Army as bell ringers in DEC 2016. Every member received a Certificate of Appreciation for being an active member for 2016-2017 and a decorated medallion that stated on the front "You Make A Difference" and on the back it stated "Project Alpha Leadership Club 2016-2017 – Respect." Every member received a small tuxedo box filled with candy and a personalized silicone wristband. Bro. Edward Huell, the Chairman of Omicron Rho Lambda Educational Foundation, Inc., offered some inspiring words of encouragement to the young men. Before the luncheon came to an end, Bro. Jackson had the young men stand and repeat after him a pledge that reminded the young men how to act as gentlemen in and out of the leadership club. Mr. Nigel Cornelius gave the benediction to end the program. Thanks to the men of Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter and the parents of the young men for your support and for an outstanding year. Enjoy your summer and we can't wait to start the PALC meetings in the fall of 2017.



PALC Member, Tyler Jackson, presenting the Motto & Speech



The PALC members repeating the Motto



A token of appreciation to the Guest Speaker, Mr. De'Andre Davis



Graduation gift to the two high school graduates from the PALC members



PROJECT ALPHA Leadership Club  
2017 GENTLEMEN LUNCHEON  
June 3, 2017



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October 9, 2017

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** Every year graduate chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in the Southern Region are requested to send at least one male student in the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade to the Leadership Development and Citizenship Education Institute (Alpha South Leadership Development & Citizens Engagement Institute) held in Savannah, GA. The states that represent the Southern Regions are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

This year the graduate chapters in the District of Mississippi known as the Mississippi Alpha Network decided to hold its own leadership institute during the same time as the Southern Region's leadership institute. We held our first Manly Deeds Leadership Institute at Alcorn State University over four days, 18-21 JUN 2017. Because of the vision and leadership of our 11<sup>th</sup> District Director, Bro. Kevin T. Wilbert and the contributions from brothers of our fraternity, it was a great success. There were 25 young men who attended the institute. There were fun activities scheduled for the young men, too. They had fun playing pool, bowling, shooting basketball, watching movies and they had a cookout. The feedback from the young men was very positive and they stated they would love to return next summer. The Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter in Vicksburg, MS sent three young men from the Project Alpha Leadership Club to attend the leadership institute at Alcorn. The three young men were Kensell Batty II, Tyler Jackson, and Kameran Batty. There were several brothers who represented the Vicksburg Chapter by giving an informative presentation and mentorship to the young men. Bro. Dr. John Walls and Bro. Larry Carpenter presented a class on Protocol 305: Business and Social Etiquette, Bro. Adrian Hall's presentation was "Voteless People is a Hopeless People", Bro. Phinezee Stokes III gave a presentation on Table Etiquette, and Bro. Mychal Winters gave a presentation on Leadership 101: "Basic Leadership". The Leadership Award presented to one of the young men voted by his peers represents the leadership of Bro. Dr. John Walls. In closing of the event, the District Director made a surprising announcement by informing everyone the Manly Deeds Leadership Institute will be renamed after Bro. Dr. John Walls (Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter) and Bro. Wiley Jones (Theta Sigma Lambda Chapter) because of their contributions to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Congratulations Bro. Dr. John Walls! Omicron Rho Lambda Chapter would like to thank the parents for allowing their sons to participate in this great opportunity and remind the brothers to continue moving onward and upward.



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