

The Regional Boulés

NORTHEAST

NORTHEAST REGION CONFERENCE A SUCCESS



Ben Johnson

Archon Marc Morial, Grand Historian Huel D. Perkins, Past Grand Sire Archon Charles Teamer, Immediate Past Sire Archon Cornell Leverette Moore, Northeast Region Sire Archon James Cofield, Archon Kent McGuire, Delta Epsilon Sire Archon Fred Foard and Delta Epsilon Sire Archon-Elect Gerald DeVaughn



Archon Lemuel and Archousa Margaret Clark

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's Northeast Region Biennial Conference, hosted by Delta Epsilon Boulé of Southern New Jersey over the weekend of September 25–27, was a great success. The event took place at Dolce Seaview Resort and Spa in Galloway, New Jersey, a picturesque location situated amid hundreds of acres of wooded pinelands along Reed's Bay, near Atlantic City. The resort was the perfect venue for this special occasion, the eighteenth meeting of the Fraternity's Northeast sector, which was attended by more than 320 Archons and Archousai.

The festivities officially commenced with Friday's Welcome Reception, during which Archons and Archousai gathered for casual dining and socializing. Delta Epsilon Sire Archon Fred C. Foard gave the opening remarks, and Delta Epsilon Sire Archon-Elect Gerald DeVaughn, chairman of the Biennial Planning Committee, presented a biennial overview. Sire Archon-Elect DeVaughn was followed by Archousa Margaret Clark, chairwoman of the Archousai Program, who outlined Archousai events. Several Archons from Beta Nu Boulé – members of the Beta Nu Chorus – provided musical entertainment.

The conference was replete with exciting events and activities. Bright and early Friday morning, golf enthusiasts ventured out to the resort's scenic Bay golf course for a friendly tournament. The resort boasts thirty-six holes of championship golf on two renowned courses, making the game all the more memorable. The tourney coincided

with a guided tour of the historic Renault Winery, which provided participants with the opportunity to view a private collection of antique wine-pressing equipment. Guests caught a glimpse of the winemaking process as they viewed wine aging in giant oak and redwood casks. The tour concluded with a wine tasting. Friday's festivities stretched into the evening hours, as an adventurous group traveled to Atlantic City for a concert by Kool & the Gang and a test of fortunes at the casinos.

For those to whom Lady Luck was not so kind, the resort's Red Door Spa provided a much-needed respite. Many Archousai in particular opted to indulge in Red Door's offerings, which included haircuts, makeup application, reflexology, facials, massages, manicures and pedicures. While being pampered by the spa and salon's talented staff, the ladies looked forward to the Archousai luncheon, which was hosted on Saturday by the Archousai of Delta Epsilon and Archousa Tangee Gibson. During the luncheon, the ladies enjoyed a performance by D/2, the apprentice group of the world-renowned Philadanco dancers. Later in the day, many participants elected to meet for an excursion to Atlantic City, where they visited the Pier Shops at Caesars for a quick shopping break.

The most significant of Saturday's events was a public forum that gave Archons and Archousai an opportunity to convene with the intention of giving back to their communities. The keynote speaker of the forum, which was devoted to conceptualizing a plan to reach at-risk African American



Grand Sire Archon Robert L. Harris and Northeast Sire Archon-Elect Norris Overton



Keynote speaker Archon Marc Morial and Northeast Region Sire Archon James E. Cofield, Jr.

youths, was Archon Marc Morial. The National Urban League president spoke about the immense combined impact that would result if the Fraternity's Archons and Archousai actively strove to embody the philosophy of the "Each one, reach one" motto by committing themselves to positively influencing the life of one at-risk child. A forum of Past Sire Archons – including Tony Hall, Cornell Leverette Moore, Huel D. Perkins and Charles Teamer – provided lessons learned from the past and suggestions for the future of the Fraternity.

The resort's beautiful Presidential Ballroom was the venue for the weekend's culminating formal dinner dance,

for which Archons and Archousai donned their most elegant attire and then visited and danced the night away.

Sunday's events gave the Archons and Archousai additional opportunities to mingle. The morning's memorial service let them join together to remember members who are no longer with us. The highlight of the service was a eulogy delivered by Archon Richard Tolliver of Beta Boulé. After the memorial service, a farewell brunch gave participants a chance to say good-bye to friends old and new.

*Archon Ronald U. Davis
Grapter, Delta Epsilon Boulé*



NEW PACIFIC REGION LEADERSHIP ELECTED

During its 15th Biennial Boulé Convention at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, the Pacific Region elected Pacific Region Sire Archon Samuel Johnson, Jr., of Gamma Chi Boulé and Pacific Region Sire Archon-Elect Johnny O. Gibbons of Delta Rho Boulé. Other officers elected at the meeting on October 31 were Regional Grammateus James E. Hatcher of Alpha Pi Boulé; Regional Thesauristes Alexander H. Johnson of Gamma Mu Boulé; Regional Agogos George E. Tyson, Sr., of Epsilon Epsilon Boulé; and Regional Rhetoricos Randolph R. Scott of Beta Upsilon Boulé.

More than 200 Archons and Archousai from the region, along with Grand Sire Archon Robert L. Harris and Grand Sire Archon-Elect Rodney J. Reed, participated in the convention, which was admirably hosted by Gamma Mu Boulé. Among the activities Gamma Mu arranged around the event's theme, "Knowing the Best of Each Other," were a breast-cancer-awareness discussion and walk, a Western-style welcoming reception, a gala ball and banquet, and a nightly hospitality suite.

Gamma Mu Archon Ervin "Earl" Cobb and his Archousai organized an outstanding social-action event for the young people, "Sharing the Best of Us With Our Youth." Led by two distinguished Arizona judges – Presiding Judge George Logan III of Surprise, and Cecil B. Patterson, retired from the Arizona Court of Appeals – the session challenged youths to focus on truly important issues and to identify ways that successful adults could help them. All indications were that the young people had benefited from the exercise and would be applying lessons learned to their academic pursuits and careers.

In his acceptance speech, Pacific Region Sire Archon Johnson expressed his commitment to Sigma Pi Phi's Strategic Plan. He emphasized the value of brothers getting to know the best of each other and repeated the slogan that inspired his successful campaign: "Communicate and educate."

*Archon Hugh C. Burroughs
Grapter, Gamma Chi Boulé*

PACIFIC GAMMA MU ENDS YEAR WITH FLAIR



Archousa Sandra Kennedy Archousa Gina and Archon Donnie Bowser



Archon Wil and Archousa Josefina Counts with guests Vera and Michael Kelly

Phoenix's Gamma Mu Boulé certainly topped off the decade in grand style. It was all glitz, glamour and fun as Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity held its 15th Biennial Pacific Region Boulé Convention last October 28 through November 1. Nearly 200 Archons and their Archousai attended this magnificent event at the Arizona Grand Resort, tucked away along beautiful South Mountain in Phoenix.

Although the conference was filled with the usual formalities and business meetings, it was always about our Archousai, who had a full, fantastic agenda. Archousa Gina Bowser, who chaired the Archousai activities, did a brilliant job ensuring that the ladies enjoyed themselves in the Valley of the Sun. In addition to the traditional Archousai luncheon, there was a fashion session, a wine-tasting event, a Scottsdale shopping spree, a breast-awareness summit, and a treatment at a top spa resort.

On Thursday, after the Archousai had enjoyed their day of Dress for Your Shape and spa treatments at the Wild Horse Pass Aji Spa, Gamma Mu hosted the evening's welcome reception, with warm greetings from Sire Archon William "Bill" Jackson and Archon Grady Bailey, the event chair. The atrium was filled with Archons and Archousai in their country-western attire – everything from jeans and cowboy-and-cowgirl boots to rhinestone belts and leather hats. It was the first opportunity for everyone to reunite with friends from around the region; some had not seen one another since the regional in Hawaii.

Friday morning kicked off with a golf tournament at Whirlwind Golf Club, chaired by Archon Larry Leverett. Someone must have forgotten to ask Archon Eric Kelly of Epsilon Beta Boulé to be nice, because he attempted to take most of the winnings. Not only did he and Archon Warren Wims (Beta Upsilon Boulé) win the two-player best ball competition, but he also walked away with two skins and two closest-to-the-pin contests. All forty-eight players enjoyed what turned out to be a beautiful golf day. The Archousai began the morning with a recreational walk, followed by luncheon and a wine tasting. That night the goblins came out as we hosted the Halloween's Eve Party in a private room at the Arizona Grand Resort. Archon Cecil Patterson's team had festively decorated the room in Halloween black and orange and Archons and Archousai in costumes of all kinds relished the tasty food, libations and great music from the deejay.

The Archons opened Saturday morning with the convention business meeting. The Grand Chapter was well represented in Phoenix: Grand Sire Archon Robert L. Harris delivered an excellent speech to the audience, focusing on the plight of young African American men relative to education and professional success. He also continued to

encourage each member boulé to grow its membership, specifically by recruiting younger men. We also heard superb reports on the state of our Fraternity from Grand Sire Archon–Elect Rodney J. Reed, Immediate Past Grand Sire Archon Cornell L. Moore and Grand Grammateus Peyton Williams, Jr. Pacific Region Sire Archon Berky Nelson presented an outstanding account to the Archons on the region's achievements, objectives and condition. He also expressed his appreciation to the region's members and to the Grand Chapter officers for their support during his tenure as Pacific Region Sire Archon. During the business session, Samuel Johnson, Jr., Gamma Chi Boulé, was announced the new Pacific Region Sire Archon for 2009–11.

Immediately afterward, Gamma Mu hosted the social-action event, with its inaugural Reach for Excellence Essay Contest (see Social Action Front article, Gamma Mu Supports Essay Contest, this issue). Gamma Mu Grammateus Earl Cobb – along with Archousa Charlotte Cobb and the African American Men of Arizona State University (AAMASU) – spearheaded this event, and the contest was won by Robert Latham, a senior at Deer Valley High School in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The Archousais' breast-cancer awareness symposium, chaired by Archon Marion Kelly was presented by the Mayo Clinic, Phoenix Links Chapter, Phoenix Black Nurses Association and Phoenix Chapter of the National Medical Association. This event was open to the public as well.

Saturday night ended with the Masquerade Ball in the Arizona Grand Ballroom. Chaired by Sire Archon Bill Jackson, this extravaganza brought out all the glitter as Archons, Archousai and their guests strutted in their elegant gowns, tuxedos and masks. Archousa Sandra Kennedy, Arizona's corporation commissioner, and Marchelle Franklin, Phoenix deputy chief of staff, welcomed the crowd of 250 to our state and city. After some words from Grand Sire Archon Harris, Regional Sire Archon Nelson and Gamma Mu Sire Archon Jackson, everyone danced to music performed by Arizona jazz sensation Dominic Amato and the band Static. The entertainment included Jade Johnson – daughter of Archon Eddie and Archousa Joy Johnson – who sang and danced wonderfully. A silent auction featured myriad items, including African American art, sports paraphernalia, and hotel and spa gift certificates.

The convention concluded Sunday with a memorial service for those Archons and Archousai who had transitioned since our last regional. As a finale, Archon Lonnie Williams hosted an extraordinary brunch at his home for the Gamma Mu family.

*Archon Jeff Cleveland
Grapter, Gamma Mu Boulé*

WESTERN

BIENNIAL HERALDS

We Are the Change

The bold theme “We Are the Change” signified the level of commitment among the Archons of the Sigma Pi Phi Western Region at its fifteenth biennial conference, held October 15 through 18 in Kansas City, Missouri. The possibility of future change was brought home to all Americans by President Obama’s campaign success, but for the nearly 200 Archons and Archousai at the conference, change has been a consistent goal, demonstrated by the historic achievements of our member boulés.

The hosts, the Archons of Theta Boulé, did an outstanding job of recruiting corporate sponsors, facilitating a robust business agenda, and providing a wealth of social, educational and recreational activities throughout the city.

Sire Archon H. Ron White, along with the Western Region Executive Leadership Team, elevated discussion, increased membership and established several initiatives for the region. The business meetings were well represented by each member boulé, and there was noteworthy participation by the following executive officers: Grand Sire Archon Robert Harris, Grand Sire Archon–Elect Rodney Reed, Immediate Past Grand Sire Archon Cornell Moore, Grand Grammateus–Executive Secretary Peyton Williams, Jr., and Boulé Foundation chair Anthony Hall. The protocol for all functions, as defined by Regional Sire Archon White, was designed to ensure that Archons and Archousai got to know the best of one another at all levels of leadership. We applaud the ready accessibility of the Grand Boulé officers during the entire conference.

Another highlight was the welcome and recognition of the Archons of our newest member boulé, Epsilon Iota in Tulsa, which was chartered on October 3.

Among the many initiatives established during the biennium were:

- A sample protocol, developed by Alpha Epsilon Boulé, for the orientation and involvement of the Archousai.
- Guidelines for collaborating with other organizations to achieve local boulé and regional public-policy and social-action goals.
- Identification of the best practices for growth and development as defined by the Past Sire Archon Advisory Committee.

Pi Boulé, Little Rock, Arkansas, was the winner of the Regional Social Action Award, which recognized an outstanding program for a scholarship, mentoring and lecture series.



Newly elected Western Region officers: Rhetoricos Preston Phillips, Epsilon Iota; Agogos Willie Burnett, Sr., Alpha Theta; Grapter Calvin Reynolds, Delta Mu; Thesauristes Charles Stewart, Eta; Grammateus Averell Sutton, Gamma Phi; Sire Archon-Elect Leodis Davis, Theta; Sire Archon Kenneth Harris, Gamma Gamma

Although most people associate Kansas City with blues, jazz and barbecue, the Western Region Conference planning committee, chaired by Archon Ormer Rogers, emphasized that the city had much more to offer. A frosty round of golf, a luncheon for the Archousai and a scholarship luncheon were a few of the events, and the crowning moments were a fabulous tour of the Negro League Baseball Museum and a formal banquet and dance, where the newly installed officers of the regional executive committee were introduced. Representing “the Change” entails great responsibility. As stated by incoming Western Region Sire Archon Kenneth Harris, “Social-action initiatives and member boulé collaboration are imperative to the success of the Western Region for this next biennium.”

The conference was brought to a close with the traditional Omega Service and recognition of our outstanding Archons and Archousai who remain with us only in spirit. Memorializing the occasion and delivering the insightful and stirring address was the Reverend Doctor Wallace S. Hartsfield, pastor emeritus of Metropolitan Baptist Church. The farewell brunch afterward allowed us all to thank our hosts for their generosity and to say good-bye to new and old friends until we meet again at the Western Region sixteenth biennial conference, to be hosted by Alpha Epsilon in Dallas.

*Archon Calvin Reynolds
Grapter, Western Region*

