



A Sigma Servant's Brief...

Notes From the Desk of the 22nd International Grand Basileus

May 2011

Greetings Sorors and Affiliates:

In our efforts to ensure that you are knowledgeable at all times of what Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority is up to and how you can take a part, we have created this *A Sigma Servant's Brief* which will be distributed as needed to keep you up-to-date. We hope that you will find it to be useful. Copies will also be posted to the Sorority Website.

- **Register NOW for the 2011 Officer Essentials Training Scheduled for July 14-16**

In response to the organization's request for continual training, we are hosting Officer Essentials Training II. In keeping with member requests, OET II is open to all financial sorors and philos. **All chapters are strongly encouraged to send at least one representative. Some of our syntakti have advised this officer that chapter representation or lack thereof – especially for undergraduate chapters and new members – could have bearing on TORCH calendar approvals for the new fiscal year. Registration has been extended to June 17 and we encourage you to sign up.** Go to the Sorority website or call 888.SGR.1922 to register and for answers to your questions. **A drawing will be held at OET for free registration for the 2012 Boule in New Orleans.**

In addition to the training, the weekend will kick off on July 14 with tours of our international corporate headquarters office. Special training tracks (four sessions each) have been developed for undergraduate advisors, rhoer advisors and philos.

Other Highlights

- **Speed Mentoring Community Service Project:** We will be bringing in 200 area youth to meet and speak to our attendees about careers and our community service focal areas. Following a short overview, students will be paired with sorors – similarly to the format used for the 2010 Boule Operation BAM – for short interviews and will rotate in the same concept as “speed dating.”
- **Movie Night Followed By a Candid Discussion on Mental Health, “Revealing the Beast Within Us”**
- **Onsite HIV/AIDS Testing**
- **A Number of Special Guests** are scheduled to drop in to observe and/or to give workshops:
 - **Lavaille Lavette:** Author & Leader of the 86400 Movement
 - **Bern Nadette Stanis:** Author & Actress (Thelma from Good Times)
 - **Brenda Andrews:** Published Poet and CEO & Publisher, New Journal & Guide
 - **Ricky L. Jones, Ph.D.:** Professor, Author & Authority on Hazing in Black Greek Letter Organizations
 - **Shelly Brown Dobek:** 2011 President-elect, Association of Fraternity & Sorority Advisors
 - **Tamara Gibbs:** Reporter: ABC11 Eyewitness News
 - **Two Others Are Being Confirmed!!!!!!**

Also, be advised that during the OET period we are expecting visits from Susan Taylor, former editor Essence magazine, and other valuable program partners, as well as a few prospective honorary members. We are therefore asking all attendees to be on their best behavior and roll out the royal carpet to ensure

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that our guests are able to see what Sigma Gamma Rho has to offer and why they should want to be a part of our sisterhood.

- **Don't Forget That Chapter Reports for 2010-2011 Must be Completed Online**

On last year, we advised you of the introduction and roll out of our electronic Chapter Report Forms as well as the fact that this year all chapter report forms must be completed electronically. Just as importantly, it is crucial that the reports be completed accurately and in full. This officer has already been advised that several of the electronic Chapter Reports received this year have been only partially completed. Please be advised that such reports will not be accepted and the person submitting the report will be contacted. To access the Chapter Report forms:

- Go to the Sorors Only Section of the Sorority Website
- Click on the Member/Affiliate Files
- Scroll Down to Other Sorority Form
- Select the first three items listed: End of Year Report Instructions, End of Year Report and 990 Instructions

Any Returned reports must be completed and resubmitted within seven days of return date to avoid report late fees. Questions or concerns regarding Chapter Report completion can be directed to:

RhondaDavis@hotmail.com.

- **Thank You to All Chapters That Achieved Their March of Dimes \$1922 Goal ... There's Still Time ...**

All chapters that adhered to the request to raise \$1922 for the 2011 March for Babies campaign will receive a special commendation from the grand basileus and will have their chapter names posted in The AURORA and on the sorority website. **Be sure that your contributions are submitted in the name of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. followed by the name of your chapter.** Final national totals will be announced at the 2011 Officer Essentials Training. **If you have not reached your \$1922 chapter goal, additional contributions can be made online or to your local March of Dimes office through July 1, 2011. Remember, all monies must be submitted to the March of Dimes. Copies of your donations/collections report must be submitted to your regional programs chair with copy to your regional syntaktes.**

Program Coordinator's Name	Position	Contact Information
• Soror Brenda H. Smith	• International Programs Coordinator	• Olevia22@bellsouth.net . • programs@sgrho1922.org
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• Soror Ashley Hopkins	• Western Region Coordinator	• programschair@westernsgrho.org

- **2012 Boule Scheduled to be Held in New Orleans, La at the Hyatt Hotel**

Attendees at the Officer Essentials Training will be the first to hear the early details and may even receive a special concession ...

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- **REMINDER!!!! Chapter Email Addresses ... If you don't have one, GET ONE!!!!**

In this new electronic age, we are moving quickly to reduce the amount of time and cost involved in mailing hard copy documents. Every chapter needs an official email address that will not change when your officers change. If you do not have one, begin now to make plans to get one. Increasing costs for mailings as well as having staff members copy and stuff packets are costs that we need to reduce significantly if not eliminate all together to improve the efficiency of our operations. Email distribution also removes the time lag for your receipt of pertinent late-breaking news and requests from important partners for which we sometimes receive only **same day** notice. This change will be increasingly critical as we expand our alliances with corporate and funding partners. **Effective July 1, 2011, we will cease to send out bulk mailings to chapters and the membership. General communication will be made via email, eBlasts and the sorority website.**

For our more seasoned members and affiliates, we will continue to send you hard copies of information for individual sorors, BUT only by your specific request, which can be sent as a listing by your chapter basileus. Check the Sorority website to access the new Hard Copy Mailings Request Form.

Also, be on the lookout in the new fiscal year for our official social media rollout!

- **We Take Our Hats Off and Applaud ...**

Soror Kelly Price on the release of her new CD, which includes a cover, insert with a tribute to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. We are encouraging every soror and affiliate to pick up copies for themselves and everyone they know. **We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our soror for doing all she can to keep our name out there. Let's show her that we appreciate her efforts!!!**

- **2011 Essence Music Festival to Feature THREE Sigma Sorors**

This year's Essence Music Festival is scheduled for July 1-3 in New Orleans. The Sunday night lineup includes Sigma Sorors Kelly Price, Vanessa Bell Armstrong and MC Lyte. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. is once again a partner, is offering sorors, and affiliates a 10% discount off ticket prices through June 15. Go to **EssenceMusicFestival.com** and enter the discount code **EMFQ11** for each night's performance that you plan to attend.

- **PLEASE GIVE ...**

This year's tornado season has been the worse in our nation's history with thousands of people losing their homes and hundreds losing their lives. So far, our sisterhood has been very blessed in that we have only one member that has been severely affected. But hurricane season begins today and will run through the end of November. None of us can be guaranteed that we or our loved ones will not be affected. The Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. Disaster Relief Fund was established to help sorors, affiliates and their immediate family members weather the adverse results of extreme disasters. We can only do so through the generous contributions of each of you. Please assist us in assisting you by ensuring that we have the funds available when and if disaster knocks on your door.



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- **Remember to be Sisterly at All Times ... Our Growth and Future Depend Upon It!**

This officer is often appalled by emails seen and conversations heard among and between our sisters. Know that there is always somebody watching and taking queues on how they should act from what they see in you. Our international first grand anti-basileus and her Membership Committee have worked hard to put together and execute a plan for bringing our lost sheep back to the fold. Your attitude and acceptance of their ideas and opinions will go a long way in determining how long they remain a part of our circle of sisters. Likewise new inductees who enter a chapter for which the current members are always at odds or who do not readily and openly embrace them entirely will not be around long. Every soror took a pledge related to sisterhood that I think too many too often forget. Live the words of your pledge everyday and the growth and future of our circle of sisters will be solidified for the ages.

NEWS FROM OUR 501C3 ORGANIZATIONS

Working TOGETHER to ensure we all succeed!

- **National Education Fund Rolling Out Focus on Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) at OET**
To begin their focus on STEM, the National Education Fund will take part in the Speed Mentoring community service event at the Officer Essentials Training on Friday morning, July 15. NEF representatives will join our partners in providing the students information regarding positive educational choices.
- **Don't Forget to Support the SPEAR Nationwide Soles for Little Souls Campaign**
Soles for Little Souls is an effort to provide school-age youth with new shoes for the new school year. **The project distribution date is August 13, 2011. Similar to our sisterhood's youth symposiums, each chapter is asked to make their shoe presentation on the same date in their local community.** The goal is to collect and distribute at least 100,000 pairs of shoes nationwide. By now you should have already began your collection of new shoes or vouchers from merchants for shoes that will fit elementary through high school students **in your respective area.** Packets of information on this project were sent to chapters last fall. If you have questions or if your chapter did not receive a packet, please contact your regional SPEAR representative or your regional program coordinator.
- **Seven Pearls Sponsors Fundraising Gala to Support Cancer Education & Research**
The Seven Pearls Foundation, Inc. is sponsoring a fundraising gala to support cancer education, research and the Foundation's mission. The theme of the event is "Pearls Making a Difference: Partners for the Cure." **The event will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC on June 18, 2011 and will be open and marketed to the public.** Tickets are \$100 and can still be purchased at: www.sevenpearls.org through Friday, June 10, 2011. If you cannot attend, you are encouraged to make a donation.

Always in Your Service,

Joann Loveless

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