

Pearls of Wisdom PEΩ

A publication of Rho Xi Omega Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

November 2009

1498 Reisterstown Road # 369 Pikesville, Maryland 21208-3842

Volume 21; Issue 7

Economics, Service and Partnerships - Year 3 *Platform I – The Non-Traditional Entrepreneur*

“AKATUDES FOR A WEALTHY VISION”

Platform 1 conducted a successful Akatudes II workshop held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 8 am – 12 noon at BWtech@UMBC. The theme of this year’s workshop was “AKAtudes for a Wealthy Vision: Building Wealth in Today’s Recession.” There were over 60 people in attendance.



Platform I – (l-r, top-bottom) Sorors Judy Britton, Myrna Jackson-Cann, Tracey Barbour Gillett, Yvonne Davis-Robinson, Jeri Bentley, Anita Turks-Hunter, Normetha Goodrum, Nicole Waddell, Angela Burnett, Robin Ott, Cassandra Burnett, Gina McKnight Smith, Co Chair Sherry Armstead, Co-Chair Sheila Rolack, Brenda Bowe- Johnson, Lametrice Dopson, Cynthia Pace, Laverne Brooks-Gaither (Not pictured)

Soror Sheryl Nelson, our Basileus, opened the workshop with a moving Welcome and Occasion. Key highlights of the workshop included an illustrious slate of six speakers

who provided the content. The speakers and topics covered were as follows:

- Keynote Motivational Speaker, Mischa Toland of Greatness Now
- Social Media Secrets, Soror Tonya R. Taylor of Rising Star Ideas
- Show Me the Money, RXO’s own Soror Donna Stevenson Robinson of Early Morning Software, Inc
- Track 1 – Tools of the Trade – New Entrepreneurs, Paul Taylor of the Baltimore Small Business Resource Center
- Track 2 – Survival of the Fittest – Seasoned Entrepreneurs, Debbie Owens of Owens Media Group, LLC
- Track 3 – Franchises in this Economy – Soror Paula Lawson Wright, Franchise owner of 17 McDonalds

Five vendors were on site and brunch was catered by RXO’s own Soror Judy Britton.

We held our 1st RXO AKAolades Entrepreneurship Awards in recognition of our esteem entrepreneurs.

Award winners were as follows:

- Soror Letitia Royal - Newest Entrepreneur
- Soror Dr. Cynthia Pace - Second Chance Entrepreneur

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Message from the Basileus

Greetings Sorors,

Rho Xi Omega Chapter is nearing the end of another successful programmatic year. What are you thankful for? As Basileus, I am especially thankful for the committed sorors in leadership who continue to extend to me sisterliness, support, ideas, time and hard work.

I am especially thankful for many cohesive Co-Chairs, *Dynamic Duos* whose leadership has been key to the chapter's progress this year: Sorors Sherry Armstead and Sheila Rolack (Platform 1), Sorors Michelle Davis-Adams and Betty Williams (Membership), Sorors Marjorie Edmonds and Shanika Solomon (Finance); Sorors Lakeisha Coleman and Shawn Millin-Hagood (Technology and Pink Chic) and last but not least, the leaders of the pack, Sorors Tracey Barbour-Gillett and Juanita Tynes-Tillery (Anti-Basilei). I look forward to working with all of the new sorors who will be stepping up and filling positions of the outgoing officers.

Additionally, I am thankful for the sorors, who put our motto into practice, *Of Service to All Mankind*. These sorors are actively serving on Platform and/or Operational committees and making contributions to chapter and regional projects.

With gratitude, we are all thankful and blessed to have had special sorors who are no longer with us. They leave a legacy of sisterhood and service for us to model. Soror Avonnee, will always be with us.

We are blessed to be able to provide resources and services to those less fortunate. Project Hope is the perfect opportunity to share our blessings with the residents of the Helping Up Mission on Saturday, November 21, 2009. Collectively, I pray that we will leave a lasting impression with everyone we touch.

Sorors are requested to reach out to inactive sorors and invite them to come *Home for the Holidays*. What an appropriate theme for our reclamation initiative. Take the time to make personal calls to bring sorors back to the chapter. Let's set a goal of "each one reach one" and invite at least one soror to the Reclamation activity on Sunday, November 22, 2009.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Gratefully,

Soror Sheryl

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

~Psalm 107:8-9



Chapter Officers

Sheryl Nelson
President

Tracey Barbour, 1st Vice President

Juanita Tynes Tillery, 2nd Vice President

Rose Monroe, Ph.D., Recording Secretary

Nina McFadden, Assistant Secretary

Deanna McCray-James, Corresponding Sec.

Marjorie Edmonds, Treasurer

Shanika Solomon, Financial Secretary

Joanna Langston, Sergeant-at-Arms

L'oreal Edmondson, Hostess

Cecile Matthews, Historian

Vanessa Ray, Ivy Leaf Reporter

Helen G. Anderson, Parliamentarian

Jan Desper, Chaplain

Angela Burnett, Graduate Advisor-AB

Members At Large:

Autumn Anderson Chandra D. Campbell

Martina Washington LaShawn Williams

Rho Xi Omega Charities' Officers

Alison Riddle-Fletcher, DDS
President

Donna Price, Vice President

Gina McKnight Smith, Pharm. D, Secretary

Pam King-Smith, Treasurer

Shirlene Snowden, Assistant Treasurer

Edith Aydtlett-Whitmore, Financial Secretary

Board Members:

Tracey Barbour

Marjorie Edmonds

C. Yvonne Holt Stone

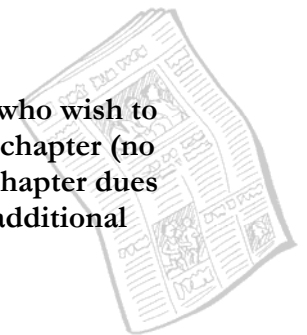
Anita Turks Hunter

Sheryl Nelson

Elizabeth A. Williams

North Atlantic Regional News

The North Atlantic Regional Conference assessment is due by December 31st. Sorors who wish to take of Rho Xi Omega's assistance plan for the assessment must be financial with the chapter (no outstanding chapter assessments or other financial debts) and pay their chapter 2010 chapter dues **BY THE DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING** to our Pecunious Grammateus. For additional information, contact Soror Shanika Solomon.



Continued from page 1

- Soror Dr. Brenda Bowe-Johnson - Global Perspective Business
- Soror Anita Turks-Hunter - Home Based Business
- Soror Donna Stevenson Robinson - Techno Savvy Business



Speakers: (l to r) Debbie Owens, Co-chair Sheila Rolack, Co-Chair Sherry Armstead, Donna Stevenson Robinson, Tonya R. Taylor, Mischa Toland, Paula Lawson Wright, Paul Taylor (not pictured)



*Newest Entrepreneur Akalode Award recipient
Soror Letitia Royal*

The committee co- chairs Sorors Sherry Armstead and Sheila Rolack closed the workshop with door prizes and closing remarks. Each workshop attendee walked away with a workshop binder that contained presentations from all the presenters. Many thanks to those who were able to attend and thanks to the Platform 1 sorors who worked tirelessly on the committee to produce such a fabulous event.

Platform 1 will meet on December 4th at Soror Sherry Armstead's home. For more information about Platform 1, feel free to contact the co-chairs Sorors Sherry Armstead and Sheila Rolack.

SO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR OFFICE? - WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW !!

Anyone interested in running for an office in Rho Xi Omega must have their passports available for review at the November chapter meeting. Sorors should review the chapter bylaws for clarification on qualifications on each office. Those elected in November will serve from January 2010 – December 2011.

ELECTIONS 2009

We will be voting on the following offices at the November chapter meeting. Please feel free to contact the incumbent(s) for additional information or questions about the position. Graduate Advisor nominations can not be accepted from the floor. Self nominations should be directed to Soror Cassandra Burnett

1st Anti Basileus - Soror Tracey Barbour-Gillett

Grammateus - Soror Rose Monroe

Philacter - Soror Joanna Langston

Historian - Soror Cecile Matthews

Pecunious Grammateus - Soror Shanika Solomon

Graduate Advisor - Soror Angela Burnett

**Member-at-Large (2) - Sorors Martina Washington, Chandra DeLaine Jackson,
LaShawn Williams and Autumn Anderson**

Platform I – Entrepreneur Sorors Prevailing

Soror Spotlight



Soror Donna Stevenson-Robinson is the *President and Chief Executive Officer for Early Morning Software, Inc.* With 20 years of experience in providing Information Technology services in Public Sector markets, Soror Donna understands the complexities of government procurement and navigating the sales cycles for product acquisition and delivery. Under her leadership, the PRISMCompliance.com product suite has become nationally recognized as a flagship product for M/W/DBE contract and compliance management in the multiple market segments, and exceeded the milestones to validate the sales and business model for PRISMCompliance.com.

Soror Donna has received numerous honors over the years, most notably the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded her Women-Owned Business Enterprise of the Year (1999) recognizing her innovations and creation of MBE Certification Management system; recently, the University of Maryland Baltimore County recognized Soror Donna as the 2006 Alumni of the Year in Science and Technology, for her contributions. Soror Donna also holds a M.B.A from Loyola College.



Why did you decide to start your own business?

The primary motivation for me starting my own business was to be able to offer more of myself to clients, and grow as an IT professional. In 1993, I had finished my MBA and was eager to take on the challenge to solving customers' enterprise strategic and technology issues. Two years after graduating, my employer still did not have opportunities for me to leverage my newly acquired knowledge-base and to ignite my career in IT/Business Consultancy. In a nutshell, I felt my career at a stand-still.

Entrepreneurship is in my blood, so to speak. I am a fourth generation entrepreneur, so I always believed one day I would find my path to own my business. The question was more in what area, rather than why? The why stems from a desire for independence and ability to manage one's growth. Second, to live my life with purpose and pursuit of what was important and passionate to me. Lastly, to have the ability to increase my wealth. I knew with the 7 - 15% merit increases in my salary with my employer, it would take a lifetime if at all to reach an earnings potential that was commensurate with my dreams and capabilities.

What were some of your challenges or obstacles, and how did you overcome them?

The challenges of entrepreneurship are the same of most businesses - large or small. First, being able to find great employees. Some of our biggest disappointments have been employees who don't see a positive path for themselves; and rather feel like they have to take a path of dishonesty. Second, finding qualified minority, in particular, African American, IT professionals has also been a challenge. Lastly, having access to adequate finances and capital resources has been a challenge. We learned early the importance of having great and multiple relationships with banks. Our challenge has been getting access to non-traditional sources of funding, such as equity and venture capital.

What advice would you give to other aspiring entrepreneurs?

Just do it! Risk is a factor of life. Managed risk is the optimum for entrepreneurs. Be prepared for entrepreneurship! Know your craft (your offering/service/product), be able to articulate its value and be passionate about it. Make sure your personal credit is good to great. Reduce your expenses before starting the business. Develop a business plan that will show you the risk and REWARDS.

Platform V – *Energized, Supportive & Purposeful*



Team AKA – Rho Xi Omega

Rho Xi Omega Sorors, friends, family members, and co-workers participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC) Walk on Sunday, October 25, 2009. The MSABC Walk raised \$485,000 to help fight breast cancer, provide comfort and hope and save lives. A total of 6,000 walkers participated in the four mile walk. There were 18 sorors from Rho Xi Omega chapter who walked in the Breast Cancer Walk and 6 sorors either raised money or walked with our team. An additional 14 family members, co-workers and friends walked or cheered for Team AKA – Rho Xi Omega. Team AKA – Rho Xi Omega donated **\$2,885.00**. The top fundraiser for Rho Xi Omega was Soror Vivian Braxton with **\$600**. Honorable mention is given to Sorors Janeen Jackson (**\$270**), Kerry McClellan (**\$255**) and Cynthia Bruce (**\$200**). A special thank you for continued support is extended to Soror Angie Burnett and her co-workers from The Housing Authority of Baltimore City, Nicole Richardson, and all the family and friends of Rho Xi Omega Sorors who either walked, donated money or supported our cause in any way.

Soror or Participant	\$\$ Raised	Walked (y/n)	Soror or Participant	\$\$ Raised	Walked (y/n)
Soror Vivian Braxton	\$600	No	Megan Williams	-----	Yes
Soror Janeen Jackson	\$270	Yes	Anthony Williams	-----	Yes
Soror Kerry McClellan	\$255	Yes	Alexandra Leonard	-----	Yes
Soror Cynthia Bruce	\$200	Yes	Amanda Leonard	-----	Yes
Team Gift	\$155	NA	Gregory Williams	-----	Yes
Soror Nicole Leonard	\$135	Yes	Darrian Hale	-----	Yes
Soror Debra Shannon	\$130	Yes	Total \$\$ Raised	\$2885	
Soror Andreana Dimakakis	\$130	Yes	*BCHD –	Balt. City Housing Dept.	
Soror Betty Fitzgerald	\$120	Yes			
Soror Helen Anderson	\$100	Yes			
Soror Gloria Williams	\$100	Yes			
Soror Evelyn Jones	\$100	Yes			
Nicole Richardson	\$80	No			
Soror Sheryl Nelson	\$50	Yes			
Tasha Edmonds	\$50	No			
Wilma Coleman (BCHD)	\$50	Yes			
Vernell Britt (BCHD)	\$50	Yes			
Soror Sheila Rolack	\$45	No			
Soror Tonee Lawson	\$45	Yes			
Soror Gina Smith	\$35	No			
Soror Tanisha Adams	\$35	No			
Soror Deanna McCray James	\$35	No			
Soror Sandra Edmonds	\$25	Yes			
Reyma Woodford (BCHD)	\$25	Yes			
Soror LaShawn Williams	\$25	Yes			
Janice Parker (BCHD)	\$20	Yes			
Deborah Courtney (BCHD)	\$20	Yes			
Soror Angie Burnett	BCHD	No			
Soror Autumn Anderson	-----	Yes			
Soror Ashley Yarbough	-----	Yes			
Soror Tanzania Tompkins + 4	-----	Yes			

Calendar of Events

November 2009

- 3rd – Finance Committee¹
- 5th - Membership Committee Meeting²
- 7th – AKAtudes for Business Workshop
- 9th - Platforms III & V Meetings⁴
- 10th - Executive Committee Meeting¹
- 11th – Pearls of Wisdom Submission Deadline
- 11th – Prayer Breakfast Committee¹
- 14th – Project H.O.P.E Bag Assembly
- 19th – Fundraising Committee⁵
- 21st – Project H.O.P.E.⁹
- 21 – Membership Reclamation Activity¹
- 23rd - Chapter Meeting/Chapter Photo⁷

December 2009

- 1st – Finance Committee¹
- 3rd - Membership Committee Meeting²
- 4th – Platform 1 Meeting⁶
- 6th – Chapter Anniversary Worship Service¹⁰
- 6th – Chapter Anniversary Brunch⁴
- 7th – Platforms III & V Meetings⁴
- 8th - Executive Committee Meeting¹
- 21st - Chapter/Charities Meeting⁸

RHO XI OMEGA CHARITIES

Elections for Rho Xi Omega Charities officers will be held during the Rho Xi Omega Charities Annual meeting on Monday, December 21st. Sorors interested in the nomination procedures, offices open for election and qualifications should contact Soror Shawn Braxton, Rho Xi Omega Charities' Nominating Chairman.

Exhibiting Superior Participation...

“Catch the Excitement of Our Operations Committees”

Soror Juanita Tynes Tillery, 2nd Anti-Basileus



The Operations Committees present the following information for your enrichment and for service opportunities.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

Soror LaKeisha Coleman, Chairman

Soror Shawn Millin Hagood, Co-Chairman

The Executive Board has approved the following guidelines developed by our Webmaster, Soror LaKeisha Coleman:

Requesting Information for Posting on the Chapter Website Guidelines

This document has been created to establish procedures for requesting information to be posted on the chapter website. These guidelines will ensure the dissemination of information in an organized and timely manner.

1. The Platform or Committee Chairmen should submit the information to the Webmaster, after it is approved by either the 1st or 2nd Anti-Basileus, who oversees the activities of the Platform or Committee.
2. When possible, documents should be emailed to the Technology Chair as a PDF, unless they are pictures or registration forms that allow sorors to complete them via the computer.
3. The documents that are being submitted MUST be the final versions.
4. Specify the location for the information to be posted (i.e. Public view or Members only). Provide a brief description for each item. This description will be used on the website.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

Soror Jeri Bentley and Soror Keisha Thomas, Co-Chairmen

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th via conference call. Please send your name and email address to one of the co-chairmen if you would like to join the meeting.
- The 2010 Stepshow Committee is co-chaired by ***Soror Tanisha Adams Dixon*** and ***Soror Keisha Thomas***. Please contact one of them if you want to join this committee. The planning is in its embryonic stages and your help would be greatly appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Soror Michelle Davis-Adams and Soror Elizabeth Arnold Williams, Co-Chairmen

"Home for the Holidays"

The Membership Committee has planned an exciting 2009 reclamation activity. Every aspect of the event is centered around our theme, "*Home For The Holidays*," because we are hoping to bring many sorors home, at this "most welcoming" and wonderful time of year! Save the date, November 22nd and join us for this joyous celebration. Please send names, addresses and email addresses of any inactive Sorors to *Soror Nita Tynes-Tillery*.

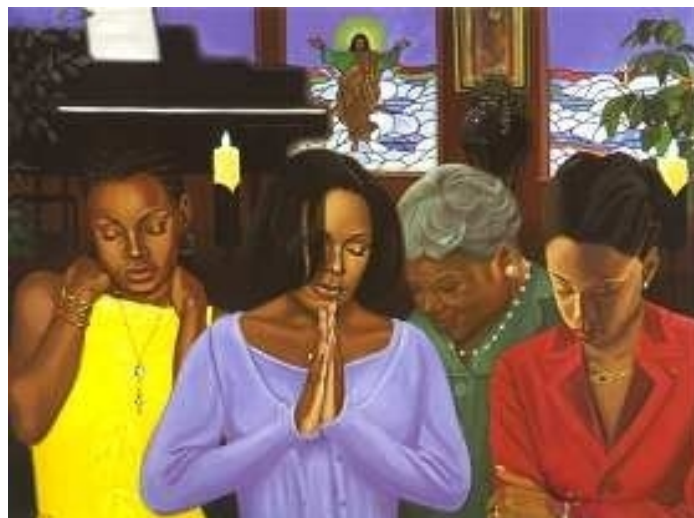


PRAYER BREAKFAST 2010

Soror Janet Nance-Richardson and Soror Corene "Mikey" Myers, Co-Chairmen

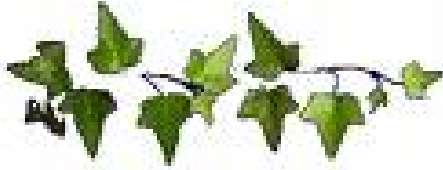
Ask your guests to save this date **now**, for this Prayer Breakfast is not to be missed!

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
"Women With A Purpose: Leading With Integrity...Strengthened By Prayer"



New Shiloh Baptist Church
February 27, 2010

Contact Soror Jan or Soror Mikey if you want to serve on this committee.



Our Protocol Corner



*“Protocol is the responsibility of all members of **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated**. Adherence to protocol enhances the Sorority’s operations as well as aids in the creation of a more sisterly environment. Furthermore, the image of the Sorority in the larger community is greatly enhanced if each member demonstrates a command of protocol.”*



Rho Xi Omega’s **Camp FONT-Tastic – Summer 2009**

Camp Font-Tastic 2009 was a great success. We had 28 outstanding campers, three great Jr. Counselors, one wonderful Counselor, three Baltimore City Public School teachers, and one wonderful Assistance Director.

We participated in several activities on the campus of Morgan State University. We attended trips to places such as the Reginald Lewis Museum, a bus tour and the rededication celebration of the unveiling of the Billy Holiday statue. The campers met several political figures such as Mayor Shelia Dixon.

On the last day of camp, the campers participated in a wonderful closing program which consisted of a Math, Computer and Financial Literacy Presentation, a dance, a musical selection, etc.

Thanks To all who made Camp Font-Tastic 2009 a great success!!!

*~Soror Vanessa Sims
2009 Camp FONT-Tastic Director*

Hodegos Report - Soror L'oreal Edmonson

September Birthdays*

10th - Tracey Barbour-Gillett

November Birthdays

1st - Rose Monroe

14th - Linda Brown

2nd - Pamela Roseman

20th - Rochelle Archelus

7th - Tonee Lawson

21st - Pam King-Smith

7th - Phyllis Street

December Birthdays

14th - Tamara Barron

26th - Tanya Green

14th - Brenda Bowe-Johnson

28th - Monica White

25th - Carol Spencer Carter

* - Omitted from previous edition of *Pearls of Wisdom*

**If you haven't done so, please stop by the Hodegos station at chapter meeting.

Condolences & Prayers

Soror De Jackson on the passing of her nephew and cousin.



Soror Karen Brooks on the passing of her brother-in-law.

Soror Delanor Harris-Boone on the passing of her father and brother-in-law.

Soror LaKierra Blackston on the passing of her husband.

Please remember all these sorors in your prayers and reach out to them via phone, e-mail or mail.

Congratulations & Tea Roses to.....

Soror Kimberly {S. Williams} Shorter on her recent marriage.

Soror Toya Corbett on the publishing of her first book.



Reminders & Notes.....

- 1) **AKA License Plates** - Sorors interested in obtaining NAR-AKA Log License Tag for Maryland Send two checks one in the amount of \$25.00 made payable to MVA and one in the amount of \$20.00 made payable to Rho Xi Omega Chapter. Submit a copy of current vehicle registration card and a copy of current financial card. Please allow 45 days to receive tag. Please send documents and payment to Soror Mary E. Mason.

Sorors please feel free to submit any of the following to the Newsletter Committee for upcoming editions at rxoakanews@gmail.com:

- Any original poems, short stories, artwork or photography you'd like to share.
- Committee meetings, conference calls, Sister Circles, deadlines or events
- Trivia Questions

Calling all writers and photographers, the Newsletter could use your talents. If you'd like to contribute to any the upcoming cover themes, please contact Soror Deanna at rxoakanews@gmail.com. The submission deadline for all issues is the 8th of each month.



Did you know???

1. Which illustrious Founder has a hall named for her at Howard University?
2. Soror Phylicia Rashad became the first African-American woman this performance award. What is it and what was the role?
3. December 1st is the universally known as _____ Day.
(fill in the blank)

Answers to Sept. – Oct.'s trivia:

- 1) Astra Zeneca, 1985 – Source: Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Breast_Cancer_Awareness_Month
- 2) 1882 – Source: Herstory of Domestic Violence - <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/herstory/herstory.html>
- 3) 2nd Supreme Anti-Basileus

Pearls of Wisdom is the official publication of Rho Xi Omega Chapter.

Contributed to this Issue: Sorors Sherry Armstead, Tracey Barbour-Gillett, Cassandra Burnett, L'oreal Edmondson, Deanna McCray-James, Sheryl Nelson, Sheila Rolack, Vanessa Simms, Debra Shannon, Juanita Tynes Tillery

Thank You Sorors