

## HISTORY OF THE NORTHEAST REGION PHILOS

The Northeast Region Philos were organized in 1986, under the leadership of Dr. Mynora J. Bryant, Regional Syntaktes. Ten affiliates were active on the local level and were ready to serve on the regional level. The affiliates were Alpha Beta Sigma Philos, Beta Lambda Sigma Philos, Beta Omicron Sigma Philos, Beta Xi Sigma Philos, Delta Beta Sigma Philos, Delta Phi Sigma Philos, Gamma Omega Sigma Philos, Omega Sigma Philos, Phi Sigma Philos, and Zeta Tau Sigma Philos.

The Northeast Region Philos' first conference was in April 1986, Baltimore, Maryland. At this conference, Mrs. Shirley W. Brooks of Gamma Omega Sigma Philos, Suffolk, VA was elected as the first Regional President and Mrs. Mamie Haywood, Beta Lambda Sigma was appointed Regional Philo Coordinator. Under Philo Brooks' leadership the existing affiliates became active on the regional level, new chapters were formed – Iota Sigma Philos, and Kappa Sigma Philos.

Philo Brooks established many programs for the Philos. Several workshops were offered and a Philo Directory was developed. She was instrumental in having the word "Club" deleted from the Philos title. In addition, she stressed the need for Philos to be more community oriented.

The Northeast, in its quest to be in line with the other Regions, held its first Lady Philo Pageant in 1989, in Richmond, VA with Philo Yvonne Dixon, Kappa Sigma Philos, New York, NY crowned Lady Philo Queen.

In 1990, Ms. Shirley Smith, Northeast Region Syntaktes, appointed Mrs. Helen Roberts, Kappa Sigma, New York, NY, Regional Coordinator. Mrs. Roberts came full of zest and aspiration for the Philos and under her leadership the By-Laws were revised for the first time. At the Boule that year in Chicago, Illinois, Philo Yvonne Dixon represented the Northeast Region in the National Lady Philo Pageant and was First Runner Up!

In 1991, Norfolk, Virginia was the host city for the 49<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference. With the efforts and determination of Philo Brooks, the Philo membership increased when five new chapters were formed – Alpha Eta Sigma, Alpha Mu Sigma, Beta Xi Sigma, Eta Iota Sigma and Gamma Nu Sigma Philos.

At the 50<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference, April 1992, in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the Northeast Region Philos elected its second Regional President, Philo Mae Frances Frazier, Phi Sigma Philos, Washington, DC. Dr. Mynora J. Bryant, Eta Iota Sigma, Silver Spring, Maryland was appointed Regional Philo Coordinator by Ms. Paulette Davis, Regional Syntaktes. Beta Lambda Sigma Philos had an especially good conference when they received the Charter Member Award and their own Gwen Johnson was the First Lady Philo Queen. Sadly at that conference the Philos held a memorial service for Philo Katherine Fulton and Philo Lillie B. McLane.

Philo Frazier continued to expand on the programs in existence while adding new ones to her agenda. Dr. Bryant and Philo Frazier began setting new goals and objectives. One of their major concerns was ways to improve the relationship/communication between the Sigmas and the Philos. Philo Frazier was instrumental in developing a quarterly Newsletter - "INTERCOM", which was readily identifiable by Philos and Sigmas. News briefs were used as a follow-up for immediate release of information. The first joint Philo workshop was conducted in the Tidewater area. The first Sigma/Philo regional planning meeting was held during Philo Frazier's administration.

The 51<sup>st</sup> Regional Conference was held in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1993. Philo Frazier continued her mission of encouraging all Philo Affiliates to get involved, stay involved and focus on sharing

information with other Philos. Two workshops were held which emphasized one of Philo Frazier's objectives – "Leadership/Fellowship" and "Inter-Affiliate Networking (NIA)".

During the 1993-94 sorority year, two affiliates were re-activated, Beta Omicron Sigma Philos, Charlotte, North Carolina and Omega Sigma Philos, Newport News, Virginia.

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference in 1994, Philo Frazier reported that she had established the criteria for the Northeast Region President of the Year Award and had provided input to the Sigma Executive Board for the Northeast Region Advisor of the Year Award.

Philos who had represented the Northeast Region on the national level during this time included, Philo Doris Whitaker, Gamma Nu Sigma Philos, Newark, N J, the National Sergeant-At-Arms; and the Late Philo Rosetta S. Knight, Phi Sigma Philos, Washington, DC served for two consecutive years as National Parliamentarian. In July 1994, at the Boule, Winston Salem, NC, Philo Mae Frances Frazier was elected National Vice President.

On February 25, 1995, six new members were inducted into Omega Sigma Philo Affiliate, and on April 8, 1995, Zeta Tau Sigma Philos, Mount Rainier, MD was re-activated and three new members were inducted into their chapter. On March 22, 1996, Beta Xi Sigma Philos, Petersburg, Virginia was re-activated.

The first Sigma/Philo workshop was presented by Philo Delois Harding, Regional Vice President, in 1995 at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference, in Arlington, Virginia. The new Regional awards, "President of the Year" and "Advisor of the Year" were officially announced. Philo Edith Cheek was recognized as the Northeast Regions first President of the Year. A scholarship fund on the regional level was established and two scholarship awards were given at that conference. Membership was increasing and workshops were continuous.

Philo Frazier reported at the 54<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference in Rocky Mount, NC, in April 1996 that four affiliates – Iota Sigma of Richmond, Virginia, Zeta Tau Sigma of Mount Rainer, Maryland, Beta Omicron Sigma of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Beta Xi Sigma of Petersburg, Virginia – had been reactivated, and the Northeast Region had reached membership of over 100 Philos! This year Philo Delois Harding, Alpha Mu Sigma Philos, Winston-Salem, NC was elected Regional President.

In August, 1996, at the Boule' in Houston, TX, Philo Mae Frances Frazier was elected National Philo President. Philo Doris Whitaker, Gamma Nu Sigma Philos, Newark, NJ, was elected National Secretary and Philo Delois Harding, Alpha Mu Sigma Philos, Winston-Salem, NC, was appointed National Parliamentarian. Also, at the 1996 Boule', a first for the Northeast Region, Philo Beverly Thomas was crowned National Lady Philo Queen and Philo Mae Frances Frazier received an Anchor Award from Grand Basileus Corine J. Green.

In November, 1996, Delta Nu Sigma Philos, Mt. Vernon, NY, was organized by Mrs. Audrey Eason with 8 members.

At the 55<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference, April 1997, the Philos celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Washington, DC. During the 1998 Regional Conference in East Rutherford, NJ, Delta Phi Sigma Philos of Pittsburgh, PA were re-activated. Two members were inducted. This was the first induction ceremony held during a Regional Conference. Philo Geneva Gray, Omega Sigma Philos, Newport News, Virginia was crowned NE Region Lady Philo Queen. At the Boule in Las Vegas, NV, Philo Gray was crowned National Lady Philo Queen, thus returning the crown to the Northeast Region for another two years. Philo Mae Frances Frazier was re-elected National Philo President. Philo Doris Whitaker, Gamma Nu Sigma Philos, Newark, NJ was re-elected National Recording Secretary, Philo Delois Harding, Alpha Mu Sigma Philos,

Winston-Salem, NC was re-appointed National Parliamentarian, Philo Thelma Goodwin, Phi Sigma Philos, Washington, DC was appointed National Corresponding Secretary.

East Rutherford, New Jersey was the site of the 56<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference in 1998. Philo Harding reported her continued efforts to increase membership, reactivate Philos and affiliates, and training workshops. Two important workshops were held, "Conflict Resolution" and "Philos Speak – Sister-to-Sister – Philos in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" moderated by Philo Harding. The Northeast Region was well represented at the Boule in Las Vegas, Nevada that year and won the following awards: Attendance – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Phi Sigma Philos, Washington, DC), Membership – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Gamma Nu Sigma Philos, Newark, New Jersey), 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Beta Lambda Sigma Philos, Raleigh, North Carolina), Philo Group of the Year – 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up (Gamma Nu Sigma Philos, Newark, New Jersey), Arts & Crafts – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Gamma Nu Sigma Philos, Newark, New Jersey).

The 57<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference was held in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1999. During that year, Philo Harding, completed revisions to the National Philo Handbook and also completed the first edition of Philo Policy and Procedure Guidelines. The two workshops presented – Mobilizing Election 2000 and What You Should Know about Breast Cancer – were very interesting and extremely informative. At the conference, in keeping with Sigma's "Each One...Reach One" project, Philo Harding reminded each affiliate to strive to increase membership!

At the 58<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference held in New York City, April 2000, our National Philo President, Philo Mae Frances Frazier addressed the Philos for the last time as a Philo. She was to soon become a Sigma wearing the Blue and Gold! Philo Lillie Brown, Phi Sigma, Washington, DC, was elected Northeast Regional Philo President. The Northeast Region had two National Officers and was still well represented on the National Level. At the August 2000 Boule, held in St. Louis, MO, Philo Delois Harding, Alpha Mu Sigma, was elected National Philo President and Philo Thelma Goodwin, Phi Sigma, was elected National Historian.

At the 2000 Boule, the Northeast Region was represented by Philo Beverly Thomas of Phi Sigma and she was crowned 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in the "First Lady Philo" pageant. Also at the Boule, the Northeast received awards in Membership Development (Phi Sigma, 2<sup>nd</sup> place), Scrap Book (Phi Sigma, 2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Community Service (Kappa Sigma, 1<sup>st</sup> place).

In the year 2000 - 2001 under the leadership of Philo Lillie Brown, two Affiliates were chartered, Theta Sigma Sigma, New Paltz, NY and Theta Phi Sigma, Plainfield NJ. Alpha Eta Sigma, Philadelphia, PA and Eta Iota Sigma Chevy Chase, MD were re-activated. The NER donated \$1000 towards the building of the Sigma Headquarters. At the 59<sup>th</sup> Conference the first President's Gala was held and Philo Doris Whitaker, Gamma Nu Sigma (Newark, NJ) was crowned the Phenomenal President. Philo Josephine Flowers announced she had retired from the New York City Public School System after 36 years. Philo Flowers has served as Financial Secretary for the past six years. We were saddened by the loss of two of our sisters, Philos Dianne S. Stephens, Phi Sigma, Washington, DC and Diana Britton, Delta Nu, Mt. Vernon, NY.

In April 2002 at the 60<sup>th</sup> Northeast Region Conference in White Plains, NY, there were 9 Affiliates represented. Philo Renee Burney, Kappa Sigma, NY won the "First Lady Philo" and later at the Boule held in sunny Miami, Florida, Philo Marjorie McGhee (standing in) brought home the National Crown. There were two \$300 book scholarships awarded. The recipients were Daniell Ternace Daniels, (GPA 4.0) and planned to attend Rutgers University, Keisha Price, (GPA 3.89) and she planned to attend John Jay College. The Body voted to award four (4) \$300 scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.

At the 2002 Boule Philo Lillie Brown, Phi Sigma was elected National Vice President. Six members represented the NER and one member cruised with SGRHO to the Island of Naussa Bahamas.

October 2002 Theta Rho Sigma Chapter, Bronx, NY chartered its Affiliate with three members. Beta Omicron Sigma, Charlotte, North Carolina and Delta Beta Sigma, Norfolk, Virginia were re-activated. In January 2003 at the Mid-Winter Conference, for the first time the NER had the honor of inducting two new members into Eta Iota Sigma, Chevy Chase, MD. Kappa Sigma presented the President with the first "Presidential Gavel." February 2003 our hearts were saddened by the loss of one of our faithful Advisors Mrs. Adina Carter, a chartered Advisor to Phi Sigma Affiliate, Washington DC.

In 2003 at the 61<sup>st</sup> Regional in Norfolk, Virginia, Philo Maxine Steele of the Phi Sigma Philos was crowned the "Phenomenal President" of the year in our second President's Gala Pageant. A \$300 Scholarship was awarded to Ms. Abigail Asare (3.4GPA). Philo Doris Montgomery, Phi Sigma and Philo Vanessa Harris, Iota Sigma volunteered to serve on the National Election Committee. Also in 2003, Alpha Eta Sigma Affiliate, Philadelphia, PA was reactivated.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was the site for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Regional in 2004. During the session, Philo Renee Burney, Kappa Sigma Philos gave an excellent workshop on Time Management, and this year four \$300 Northeast Region Philo scholarships were awarded to deserving high school seniors. Philo Delois Harding was elected as the Regional President.

In 2005 at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional in Richmond, Virginia, Philo Harding congratulated the Philos of Beta Lambda Sigma, Raleigh, North Carolina for their outstanding participation as hostesses over the summer for the Leadership Summit/Sigma Gamma Rho Headquarters dedication ceremony in Cary, North Carolina. Mrs. Naomi Jones and Philo Harding presented an enlightening workshop entitled "What Advisors and New Philos Should Know." All in attendance received great tips regarding the importance of being a good member. Also at this conference, four high school seniors were awarded the Philo scholarship, and the Philos presented Philo Harding a leather Philo jacket as a gift and a show of appreciation of all of her hard work.

Charlotte, North Carolina was the host city of the 64<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference in 2006. Philo Harding announced that the Theta Phi Sigma Chapter was reactivated and a new Philo Affiliate, Iota Alpha Sigma of Irvington, NJ was chartered! She also continued working with the National Philo Coordinator in reviewing the National Philo Handbook/Policy and Procedures for possible updates. Philo Vanessa Harris conducted an Exercise workshop on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Philo Lucille Gipson gave a brief overview on Diabetes on Saturday afternoon and distributed literature about the disease. The Northeast Region awarded scholarships to four high school seniors. This year was also the first year the Joint Philo/Rhoer Pageant was held, and Philo Cubia Spaulding of Beta Omicron Sigma was crowned as the Lady Philo Queen. Beta Omicron Sigma was not only fortunate to have Philo Kim Guy win the Northeast Region Philo of the Year, but she also won the National Philo of the Year Award at Boule that summer!

The 65<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference was held in Towson, Maryland (just outside of Baltimore, Maryland) in 2007. Two new Philo Affiliates, Alpha Iota Sigma of Hackensack, New Jersey, and Eta Omega Sigma of Bedford, Virginia joined the Northeast Region! Nadia Guy, a Beta Omicron Sigma Rhoer received the NE Region scholarship, and this year Philo Barbara Brodie, Kappa Sigma, and Philo Deon Wright, Beta Omicron Sigma facilitated an excellent workshop on "Keeping Philos Active and Involved - Ways We Can Retain Our Philo Affiliate Members." Philo Harding also presented an informative workshop entitled "Stressful Times/Difficult Moments." A few of the Philo awards presented this year include the following: Philo Claudia Thomas, Phi Sigma won 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the

President's Gala; Philo Kim Guy, Beta Omicron Sigma won the President's Award; Kappa Sigma won Group of the Year, and Philo Elaine McGill, Kappa Sigma won Philo of the Year.

In 2008, at the 66<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Philo Harding encouraged the Philo Chapters to continue to provide support to returning veterans who were hospitalized and to donate gift bags to their caregivers. Both workshops this year were very educational. One was a workshop on Parliamentary Procedures and was facilitated by Philo Thelma Goodwin, Phi Sigma Philos, and the other a workshop on "Finances – How to Budget and Protect Yourself from Scams" presented by Philo Kim Guy, Beta Omicron Sigma Philos. Some of the awards winners were Philo Doris Bowen, Kappa Sigma who won the Lady Philo Pageant, Philo Thelma Goodwin, Phi Sigma, winner of the President's Award, and Beta Omicron Sigma winners of the Philo Group of the Year. And Philo Lillian McDonald took over the helm as the Northeast Region President.

Alexandria, Virginia was the site of the 67<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference in 2009. A very special honor was bestowed upon Philo Gwen Johnson of the Beta Lambda Sigma Philos. She was presented with the Outstanding Service Award by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated at the Public Meeting. Other awards and honors include, Philo Barbara Brodie, Kappa Sigma, winner of the President's Gala; Beta Lambda Sigma Philos named Outstanding Philo Affiliate; Philo Yvonne Dixon, Kappa Sigma honored as Philo of the Year; and Philo Delois Harding winner of the President's Award. The Northeast Region scholarships went to Brianna Bradsher of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and Justine Gandia Jackson of Bronx, New York.

The 2010 68<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference will be held April 23 – 25 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Northeast Region Affiliates are active supporters of all Sigma programs and goals in addition to the ones the affiliates have established. God has truly blessed us and to Him, we owe all the glory. As we continue to strive to make a measurable difference in this great organization and to meet Sigma's aim of "Greater Service, Greater Progress" we shall remember that together we can do many things, alone we can only do a few.