

WESTERN REGION PHILO AFFILIATES HISTORY

The Western Region was established in December 1952 at the Boule in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to this, the Western Region was part of the Southwest Region. From 1952 – 1961, the Western Region was called the Far West Region. It wasn't until the 27th Boule in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that the name was changed to what it is today. The Western Region is composed of the following states/countries: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, United Arab Emirates, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

The Western Region Philos were initiated with the 1st Western Region Philo Affiliate, the Sigma Sigma Philos in Los Angeles. Since then, Philo Affiliates have been established in: Beta Mu Sigma (Phoenix, AZ), Beta Nu Sigma (San Diego, CA), Beta Rho Sigma (Denver, CO), Beta Theta Sigma (Berkeley, CA), Delta Psi Sigma (Seattle, WA), Delta Zeta Sigma (Compton, CA), Epsilon Chi Sigma (Lancaster, CA), Eta Alpha Sigma (Sacramento, CA), Eta Chi Sigma (Las Vegas, NV), Gamma Alpha Sigma (Bakersfield, CA), Gamma Tau Sigma (Long Beach, CA), Kappa Nu Sigma (San Fernando Valley, CA), Lambda Gamma Sigma (Pomona, CA), Theta Epsilon Sigma (Culver City, CA), Theta Upsilon Sigma (Inglewood, CA), Theta Zeta Sigma (Aurora, CO), and Zeta Phi Sigma (Tacoma, WA).

The Western Philos have participated in national Sorority anniversary celebrations: In August 1997, the Diamond Jubilee was held in Indianapolis, Indiana and Philo Vallie McDonald represented the Western Region and participated in the African Attire Fashion Show. At the Diamond Jubilee, the Western Region Philos received the "Big Book Bag" Award. In November 2012, the Western Region Philos were represented at the 90th Anniversary Celebration of Founder Mary A. Little in Inglewood, CA. Western Philos have had representation on the Centennial Events Planning Committee for the July and November 2022 events in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Western Region Philos have a focus on community service on all levels and have worked to support Sigma Gamma Rho National programs such as Big Book Bag, March of Dimes, St. Jude, Habitat for Humanity, Project Reassurance/Buckle up America, Youth Symposium, and Soles for Little Souls to name a few. Other organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Ronald McDonald House, and Susan G. Komen have also been supported with volunteer and fundraising efforts.

- The Western Region Philos celebrated the National Affiliate Day on 11/30/12 with community service and fun. Under the leadership of Western Region Philo President Shameka Roberts (Kappa Nu Sigma), the focus of the activities was community service through the collection of toiletries for distribution to those in need. Each area affiliate chose their own way to accomplish this task. The Theta Zeta Sigma Philos (Aurora, CO) held an appreciation ceremony in which Philo members were honored for their dedication to community service. The donation of toiletries and monetary donation were used to benefit a local community service organization. The Beta Rho Sigma Philos and Rhoers (Denver, CO) collaborated to donate toiletries and Santa teddy bears to the Ronald McDonald House. In the Los Angeles area, several Philo affiliate chapters (Gamma Tau Sigma, Kappa Nu Sigma, and Sigma Sigma) coordinated a combined bowling fundraiser and toiletry collection. The toiletries were donated to an organization that benefits the Los Angeles area homeless. The monetary donation (over \$200) was given to the American Red Cross to benefit those affected by Superstorm Sandy.
- In November 2013, to celebrate 70 years of friendship to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc, the Western Region did a region wide toiletry collection and distribution. Under the leadership of Western Region Philo President Francine Marshall (Kappa Nu Sigma), in the Los Angeles area for the 70th Anniversary, Philos from Epsilon Chi Sigma, Gamma Tau Sigma, Kappa Nu Sigma and Sigma Sigma collaborated in donating 200 toiletry bags and health resources/information to residents of the Union Rescues Mission in "Skid Row" in downtown Los Angeles.

The Western Region Philos have been represented at Boules, receiving numerous awards and recognitions as well as placing in the Boule Philo First Lady pageant. In 2008, Philo Humphey (Gamma Tau Sigma) was awarded 1st place in the Boule First Lady Pageant. In 2012, Philo Rena Gamble (Beta Rho Sigma) was awarded 1st place in the Boule First Lady Pageant.

The Western Region Philos continued to increase their recognition and presence at Western Region Conference with increased attendance, unique fundraisers and lively events. Under the leadership of Western Region Philo President Angela Cole (Beta Mu Sigma), the Western Region Philos hosted dessert receptions open to all Western Region Conference attendees from 2013 to 2016.

The Western Region Philos made Sorority along with the Western Region by being the first of the five regions to host a virtual regional conference due to in-person

restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic. The conference, led by Western Region Philo President Patricia Banks (Eta Alpha Sigma), was held in May 2020. The next year in April 2021, the second virtual Western Region Philo Conference was led by Western Region Philo President Linnea Myles (Beta Mu Sigma) and history was made with the selection of the Western Region Philo logo.



The Western Region Philos have continued to grow and noted their highest recorded numbers in the 2020-2021 Sorority year where their numbers increased to 67 active Philos. There is anticipation of a new Philo Affiliate in Mu Rho Sigma (Henderson, NV).

The Western Region Philos in February 2021 initiated a video series for mental health awareness called "You are loved." In February 2022, the "You are loved" mental health program included a speaker and author. The Western Region Philos also did a region wide collection of 43 pairs of jeans per affiliate to support Denim Day, promoting sexual assault awareness.

At the Western Region Philo Conference in April 2022, Achiya Clemons was elected regional Philo president. During this conference, the Western Region Philos debuted the regional Philo line dance, the first regional to create a line dance since the option was approved in the June 2021 Special Boule.

The following Sigmas have been appointed Western Region Philo Coordinator since 1998: Dr. Dee Phillips (1998-2002), Ollie Smith (2002-2006), Joysteen Toliver (2006-2010), Zeretha Washington (2010-2012), Dr. Monica Brown (2012-2016), Anakarita Allen Snellings (2016-2020), Dr. Monica Brown (2020-2022).