

OUR

PHI BETA SIGMA

CAUSE

EASTERN REGION

on line



Zeta Rho Sigma Chapter (Camden, NJ)
March for Babies



Epsilon Nu Sigma Chapter (Baltimore, MD)
Adopt-a-Road



Chi Sigma Chapter (Northern NJ) and Sigma
Beta Club Members In Washington DC



SERVICE

SUMMER 2011



Endless Possibilities

WASHINGTON, DC – In February 2011, the brothers of Chi Sigma Chapter began to prepare thirty-five Sigma Beta Club members for an opportunity that would hopefully change their lives forever. The Chapter met with these young men three times during the month leading up to our 1st Annual Young Men’s Leadership Retreat to Washington DC, February 11-12. Twelve brothers and four female parents made the commitment to chaperone these young men to our nation’s capital to share in their experience. One of the highlights of the Retreat would be an approved tour of the East Wing of The White House.

The theme of this year’s retreat was “*Endless Possibilities*”. Our primary goal was to open the minds of the club members and help them realize anything is possible in life when you apply yourself and work hard. Every aspect of the retreat was carefully planned out to ensure the experience would be meaningful and have a lasting impression on the group.

On the ride to Washington the young men watched *Antwone Fisher*, starring Derek Luck and Denzel Washington, and were asked to take notes. Upon arrival at the hotel, we secured the hotel conference room and the brothers facilitated three workshops; Conflict Resolutions and the Benefits of Mental Health (we referenced the Antwone Fisher movie for examples), The Next Step: “Am I going to college or trade school?” and The History of the White House (we wanted to make sure the young men were armed with information to ask provocative questions and empower them throughout the tour). In an effort to gauge the impact of this experience, pre-conference interviews were conducted with eight of the young men via video tape. The Friday night conference was also video taped.

Brothers and Sigma Beta Club members watch the movie during the bus ride down to DC



Continued on page 26

Continued from page 25

Our ice breaker activities and personable interactions really allowed the young men to open up and share intimate information. Nineteen of the thirty-five young men in attendance live in a single family household. These young men all expressed their appreciation for the male camaraderie, love, and overall fellowship the Sigma Beta Club provides.

The highlight of the trip took place on Saturday morning at 9:00 am. We began the morning by eating breakfast together at 6:30 am in the hotel lobby. By 8:30 am we were all lined up outside the U.S. Department of the Treasury waiting to be screened.

During the White House tour the students visited the following rooms and were able to ask questions from extremely knowledgeable tour guides: The Blue Room, Red Room, Green Room, State Dining Room, the Library and the outer East Corridor. As we walked through you could almost hear a pin drop. The students were not asked to be quiet, but they clearly knew they were walking on sacred grounds. The antique furniture, the pristine walls, and timeless photographs left us all speechless. All of the students came out of the White House running, skipping, and hopping as if they all came in 1st place of a race. Their minds were clearly open and the ***“Endless Possibilities”*** became a reality!



Sigma Beta Club members participate in workshops at the hotel



Brothers gather at the Alpha Chapter plot on the Howard University campus

Continued on page 27

Continued from page 26



Our day in Washington concluded with an official tour of the Phi Beta Sigma plot, the Blackburn Student Center and outer Quad area of the Howard University campus. While standing around the Fraternity plot the students received a brief oral history about how our Honorable Founding Fathers began the work to start Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Each brother present also shared how and why they chose to join our wondrous band. Our tour of the Blackburn Student Center was facilitated by Ms. Roberta McLeod, Director of the Blackburn Student Center, who was born and raised in the South Ward of Newark, NJ (this is where the SBC members are from). Ms. McLeod spoke very candidly to the young men and told them they were all extremely precious jewels. She had never seen a group of thirty-five young men with twelve adult African-American men leading them in her twenty-two years at Howard University. Ms. McLeod spoke with great admiration and affection thus commanding the attention of every adult and child. During her passionate forty-five minute interactive dialogue with the young men, Ms. McLeod challenged each of the young men to love themselves, work harder, follow passion, to never take no for an answer and to reach for the stars.

Chi Sigma Chapter has taken its rightful place in the Northern New Jersey community as leaders accepting the responsibility of being role models, and ensuring the next generation of young men develops into responsible and productive members of the community. Our prayer, for our sons and the Sigma Beta Club members, is to develop Love, Honor, and Respect for themselves; their families and their community. Chi Sigma Chapter salutes our 20th International President Dr. Parlett Moore for his vision and we honor him through our service.

Bro. Jenabu C. Williams, MPA
President
Chi Sigma Chapter

**Brothers and
Sigma Beta Club
members gather
outside The
Willard Hotel
on Pennsylvania
Avenue in DC**

