



From the Desk of the Director of Collegiate Affairs-Southern Region

February Newsletter

“The Heart of the Matter”

Bro. Tweail S. Moten

In sitting down and penning this newsletter, I thought about what I could say, what words could be used to convey a message that would be well received and it came to me, just speak from the “heart” and everything else will flow. The last time we spoke, I had just returned from the Florida State Conference and I had a great time. Well this time, I have just returned from the Sigma Emerging Leaders Weekend in Atlanta, Georgia. It was great weekend filled with great workshops and awesome brotherhood. After 18 months the first Leadership Class graduated and yours truly was among those who graduated and was chosen by my class to address the General Board. We learned and gained a lot and introduced the Second Cohort of the Emerging Leaders. Brothers it is **ELECTION TIME** and you will receive tons of emails and request for brothers to speak with you to discuss their platform I ask that you do not be rude and listen. You cannot support a candidate if you do not

know what he stands for. I have gotten some calls and had some conversations. Most of the candidates know where I stand. Bro. Moten will publicly state the **HE** believes in Service and Leadership. I do not play **SIGMA POLITICS!** I encourage you to talk to the collegiate brothers you advise and explain to them the process. The collegiate voice is often left out of the discussion and we need to start changing that mindset. Just as much as we focus on MIP we need to focus on Chapter and Fraternal Operations. This is a **CONCLAVE YEAR** and are you doing your part to get your collegiate members to Philadelphia, PA this summer. It is now time to start explaining to your collegiate members what Conclave really is. If you have never been to a Conclave and you’re serving as advisor you might want to rethink your advisors role, because one of the criteria for being an advisor is having attended a Conclave and that is going to be one of my task, going through the last set of

Conclaves to see what advisors in the Southern Region have not registered for a Conclave in the last three cycles. Prior to Conclave Philadelphia we were in Charlotte (2007), New Orleans (2009) and Atlanta (2011) those three conclaves were drivable from the Southern Region, so there is no

reason you should not have made it to one of the three. I mention this because it is kind of hard to lead collegiate brothers, when they know more than you; because you are sending them to the conferences to bring you back information. We are going to reverse that trend.

Life is interesting. It kind of reminds me of a kaleidoscope, every twist and turn brings a new picture, a new angle a new surprise and so it is with us fraters. Over the last 18 months, I have had the privilege of being a part of a great group of Sigma Men—the Emerging Leaders who thought it not robbery to turn the kaleidoscope once again and see what angle they would get next. Luckily for us there were and are visionaries who sit among you and they too turn the kaleidoscope every so often to get a new angle, a new vision---some insight that will lead them to an “ah ha moment”. I believe the General Board had its “ah ha moment” a few years ago when they sat down and thought about the future of fraternity and how best to address Leadership Variances in the fraternity. They agreed to accept the Sigma Leadership Academy and they brought it to the floor of the Conclave Charlotte and the Conclave Charlotte voted

it in. I consider this one of the most significant trailblazing moments in the fraternity, because it showed fortitude, it showed vision; it showed LEADERSHIP at its BEST. I try not to mention names, but I am going to be a little bias here and mention two brothers who are also **#TeamAdvisors**, Bro. Daniel Smith of Gamma Eta Sigma Chapter, Tampa, Florida was selected for the Emerging Leaders Second Cohort. I mention Daniel for two reasons (1) he may be a Tampa, FL resident but he hails from hometown of Bainbridge, Georgia and (2) he is the **Newly Elected Florida State Director of Collegiate Affairs**. It is always good when a member of your team, is willing to learn and depart to serve and these are the brothers we need to be supporting, pushing and given solid advise to; as our solid rock Sigma Men begin to retired and step back from the front line of Sigma duties; it is us young brothers who are going

to be the future of our fraternity. Another brother I would like to mention who is also an advisor and was selected to serve in Second Cohort of Sigma Emerging Leaders is Bro. Reggiouis Bell, **Alabama State Director**. Bro. Bell is a member of the Beta Epsilon Sigma Chapter in Huntsville, AL and is the type of brother that is good to know. He knows and understand that leaders

is at its best when the leaders cares enough to send the very best, therefore he gets up pack his suitcase and make it his business to travel for Sigma and fulfill his commitments as a LEADER in SIGMA. These are the type of leaders we need and should want in ***Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.*** Brothers in Service and Leadership not in positions.

Cohort 1 Southern Region Graduates of the Sigma Emerging Leaders:

- Bro. Kevin Lawrence, Special Assistant to the Southern Region Director-Gamma Mu Sigma-MS
- Bro. Trae Johnson, GA Director of Social Action-Kappa Alpha Sigma-GA
- Bro. Tweail S. Moten-SO Region Director of Collegiate Affairs-Beta Nu Sigma-GA

Southern Region Selectees for Cohort 2 of the Sigma Emerging Leaders:

- Bro. Elton Brooks, AL Director of Sigma Beta Clubs-Epsilon Theta Sigma-AL
- Bro. Xavier Durden-Beta Lambda Sigma-FL
- Bro. LaSalle Hall-GA Director of Education-Phi Beta Sigma Sigma-GA
- Bro. Reggiouis Bell-AL State Director-Beta Epsilon Sigma-AL
- Bro. Daniel Smith- FL Director of Collegiate Affairs-Gamma Eta Sigma-FL

TEAMWORK

Strong advisors use team building tools to ensure teamwork, member retention, and personal growth. It only takes one highly effective activity in building teamwork that can make all the difference. Group activities and exercises are an absolute must for a collegiate chapter. Time and money spent on promoting group trust and rapport is not only a good business practice - it can be a highly sound investment. Group activities inspire, energize and motivate your CHAPTER by challenging each member to achieve his or her personal best.

Effective tools and resources can help to create great opportunities for chapter members to share and learn from each other. A chapter that works closely together and communicates effectively is a highly valued

asset to any organization. "The basic building block of good team building is for a leader to promote that every human being is unique and that he adds value." Teamwork ensures your people aren't duplicating efforts - which can cost the chapter valuable time, energy and personnel.

Even more importantly, teamwork creates "MOMENTUM", and momentum is the 'premium fuel' that propels an individual, team, or company - to new and greater levels of success. Did you know that the number one reason a brother falls out of the chapter picture to pursue other outside is indifference? Brothers who are apathetic or indifferent do not feel a sense of teamwork in their chapter, nor do they feel appreciated or valued by their Advisor or President. Clearly, any leader who communicates or

displays 'indifference' toward a team member (whether verbally or otherwise) is not a true leader. Team building is as critical to the long-term success of the organization. Remember, your team is a reflection of YOU.

Are your chapter members happy? Do they show up for chapter meetings with a purpose of adding value to the chapter? Would they go and recommend others to apply for Membership? Do they feel a sense of fulfillment in their work Sigma? These are questions every advisor and chapter

- Showing your appreciation for a job well done.**
- Being consistent and fair.**
- Rewarding and recognizing improvement.**
- Encouraging chapter members to maintain balance in their lives.**
- Taking an interest in their personal well-being.**
- Providing opportunities for best practice sharing and personal development.**

To promote team building – BE THERE, and make yourself available to your collegiate brothers.

president must continually assess.

Hopefully, your chapter members would answer yes to all of the above. Bottom line, team building doesn't have to be very difficult at all. It's really a simple matter of understanding the true value of your collegiate chapter and effectively communicating your honest appreciation to each member. All of us have a basic need to be appreciated and valued as a person - not just for getting the sale. It's the simple everyday things that promote a strong sense of teamwork, for example: