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# MI NEWS



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Mu Iota Chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
Reg Adams Director of PR/Publisher

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Basileus  
Bro. Nicholas Williams

Vice Basileus  
Bro. McKenzie Harmon

Keeper of Records and Seal  
Bro. Roberto Pierre

Keeper of Finance  
Bro. Jerome Ross II

Keeper of Peace  
Bro. Lewis Walker

Chapter Editor  
Bro. Reg Adams

Chapter Chaplain  
Bro. Eugene Mitchell

Immediate Past Basileus  
Bro. Thomas Hill

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Week  
Bro. Anthony Wilson

Mardi Gras  
Bro. Roderick Booker

National Panhellenic Council  
Bro. Matt Stinson

Omega Gents  
Bro. Anthony Alston

Social Action  
Bro. Stephen Jones

Undergraduate Report  
Sigma Psi

Uplift  
Bro. Chester Harden

Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization  
Bro. Carlton Weddington

Scholarship  
Bro. Roderick Watson II

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## BASILEUS CORNER

Brother Nicholas Williams



*“On others, never look down it may be you the next time around!”*

Brothers of the Mu Iota Chapter,

We are in the final weeks before the Grand Conclave in Cincinnati. If you have not already done so, login to your iQue account and register for the 2026 Grand Conclave. So far, over 10,000 brothers have registered, which makes the 2026 Grand Conclave the largest in the history of the Fraternity.

Additionally, this year's Conclave in Cincinnati brings together our tradition and our vision for the future under the theme, “Bridging Our Legacy, Building Our Future.” We'll honor the people and values that have shaped us, while focusing on what's ahead through a comprehensive schedule of panel sessions, and leadership discussions. Members will participate in key votes that will help determine our organization's path forward.

Both in-person and virtual attendees will have access to a full range of experiences, from engaging workshops to networking opportunities. The weekend features standout events like the highly anticipated talent hunt and step show, as well as a variety of new activities, surprises, and social gatherings to keep everyone connected and energized. Whether you're on site in Cincinnati or tuning in remotely, you'll be part of a community building on its legacy and setting the stage for the future.

In Friendship,

Brother Nicholas Williams  
Basileus, Mu Iota Chapter  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

*“Friendship Is Essential To The Soul”*

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## OMEGA STUDY

### Stronger Minds, Stronger Communities: Changing How We Talk About Brain Health



In a powerful conversation on brain health, Christopher J. Allen—widely known as Sleep Dr. Chris—joins Ricky Lewis, Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to confront one of the most pressing yet under-discussed issues in our communities: how we talk about memory, thinking, and cognitive decline.

***SEE THE FULL DISCUSSION ON YOUTUBE AT:***

***<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8hmECNXZPB9LIq1J1g2y5Q>***

Together, they emphasize that while physical health is often openly discussed, brain health remains clouded by fear and stigma. Their dialogue calls for a cultural shift—one where conversations about memory loss and cognitive changes become as routine and normalized as discussions about blood pressure or diet.

At the heart of the discussion is the role of trusted voices. Community leaders and healthcare professionals, like Dr. Allen and Lewis, have the credibility and reach to reshape how families approach brain health. Lewis underscores that organizations like Omega Psi Phi have long served as pillars in African American communities, making them uniquely positioned to elevate awareness and encourage early dialogue. By fostering open conversations—within families, at doctor's visits, and through community initiatives—they can help remove the stigma that often delays diagnosis and care. The message is clear: when people feel safe to talk, they are more likely to seek help.

The urgency of this movement cannot be overstated. With projections showing that nearly 40%

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of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease by 2030 will be Black or Latino, early education and proactive engagement are essential. Dr. Allen and Lewis challenge communities to move from silence to support—encouraging individuals to prioritize sleep, nutrition, and regular medical care while embracing honest conversations about cognitive health. Their call to action is simple yet profound: start early, speak openly, and build a culture where brain health is protected with the same care and intention as every other aspect of well-being.

## NEWS

### THE FUTURE OF BLACK POLITICAL POWER: WHY WE NEED TO LISTEN TO YOUNG VOTERS NOW

In the age of Black Lives Matter and nationwide calls for racial justice, why do so many non-youth voters assume they understand how young Black people engage politically? The rallying cry of “Vote or Die” reverberates through every election cycle, a stark reminder of the stakes of civic engagement. However, today's young Black voters see through this message's empty rhetoric. This generation, profoundly aware of the ongoing fight for social justice, views voting not as a singular tool for civic

participation, but as one of many tools in their quest for a more democratic society. We must start listening instead of lecturing to connect with them genuinely if we want to increase voter turnout.

Who are Black youth voters today, and what do they truly value?



Today, a new generation of Black voters has emerged, one that has grown up viewing voting as a right rather than a privilege. This underscores a crucial reality: understandings of Black youth voters have not evolved in tandem with their changing relationship to the ballot box. Assumptions about this group—particularly regarding their alleged



apathy or disengagement—fail to acknowledge the generational shift from



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fighting for voting rights to exercising those rights. Today's Black youth are not indifferent, they just view and engage with the political landscape differently. Our research reveals a far more nuanced and engaged reality. Through over 100 interviews with college students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), we witnessed the depth of Black youth political perspectives. These young people seek authenticity and reliability from politicians. As one participant said,



referencing Hillary Clinton's infamous "hot sauce in my bag" moment, "Don't tell young people you've got hot sauce in your bag..." Young voters demand substance over superficial political campaigning. In fact, they are acutely aware of the curated nature of online personas, recognizing that politicians can manipulate social media to project carefully constructed images of themselves. Their healthy skepticism of inauthenticity makes them less susceptible to politicians' superficial attempts at political engagement.

**The moment to engage Black youth voters is now.** By shifting the messaging they hear about voting from *obligation* to *opportunity*,

we can invite them to see themselves as agents of change in their communities. This begins with acknowledging that our current messaging is failing to resonate.



Calls to "just vote" or "vote like your ancestors depended on it" may have resonated with previous generations, but they often fall flat with individuals who feel disconnected from that history or disillusioned by the slow pace of progress. Instead of relying on these outdated messages, we should be asking them, "What problem will you solve with the power of your vote?" By framing civic engagement as a means to address the issues they care about most, we can ignite their passion and empower them to shape democracy. Organizations like the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation play a pivotal role in promoting civic engagement and leadership development. These institutions provide students with the essential tools and MEET experiences to navigate the complexities of civic life, helping them develop into active participants in our democracy.

Our research findings underscore the urgent need to redefine civic engagement

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for a new generation. By understanding the motivations and aspirations of Black youth, we can empower them not just to vote, but to lead. Imagine a future where their voices are not just heard, but amplified, shaping policies and dismantling systemic barriers. This is the promise within reach for those of us who seek to carry the torch of civic engagement forward. Together, with continuous commitment, we can make it a reality.

**Dr. Amanda Wilkerson** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Central Florida, focusing on equity and excellence in higher education. A graduate of Florida A&M University, she advocates for underserved communities and has received multiple awards for her contributions to education and civic engagement.

**Dr. Shalander “Shelly” Samuels** is an Assistant Professor at Kean University, focusing on Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Pedagogy in the teaching of BIPOC students and the preparation of K-12 instructors.

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**Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.**  
1225 I St NW, Suite 550, Washington, DC  
20005  
Email: [info@cbcfinc.org](mailto:info@cbcfinc.org)  
Phone: 202.263.2800

## MEET THE MEN OF OMEGA

All interested men are cordially invited to join the men of the Mu Iota Chapter to learn about the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,

Inc., its values, and our reach and impact within Columbus.

### Event Details:

**Date:** August 15, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 899 Old Leonard Ave, Columbus, Ohio

**Attire:** Professional Dress

**RSVP:** Scan the QR code on the flyer



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has a rigorous international membership selection process that is designed to bring in men who embody the fraternity's Four Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift .

The fraternity's founders chose these tenets

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and each candidate must exhibit the qualities of the Fraternity's Four Cardinal Principles. Our fraternity's motto is "Friendship is essential to the soul" and the selection process is centered on an international uniform system of bringing forward new members with ideals of true friendship.

Since the birth of the organization, Omega has and will continue to impact the world in every profession and all walks of life.

## BROTHER SEEKING TO A CONNECTION FOR THE 2026 GRAND CONCLAVE Brother Nicholas Williams Basileus



Brothers,  
I received a message about a  
brother who is looking to

connect with some Ohio bruhz  
for Clave.

If you are able to reach out  
directly, please give him a call  
and help make the connection.

His information is:  
Arnold Harden  
2-GZ-78  
(713) 294-8843

## FEEDING THE COMMUNITY

6/16/2026 - the brothers of Mu Iota  
partnered with **Treats-4-The-Streets** at the  
main branch of the Columbus Metropolitan  
Library to provide food to Columbus  
residents.



Brother Steve Miller



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Mu Iota was able to provide over 205 meals to members of our community.

Service is at the heart of what we do, and it was truly a blessing to connect with so many people, share a meal, and make a positive impact. Mu Iota says thank you to Treats-4-The-Streets for permitting us to be a partner of such an amazing effort and



for their continued dedication to serving our community.



Brother Roderick Booker



L-R Brothers  
Stephan Jones,  
Steve Miller,  
Bryan K. Dirke

## NATIONAL PAN HELLENIC COUNCIL (NPHC)



6/24/2026 The brothers of Mu Iota extend heartfelt congratulations to Brother Basileus Nicholas Williams. The NPHC awards committee recognized Brother Williams for Excellence in Youth Programs for his

outstanding work with the Urban Aviators Society. Accompanying Brother Williams is Brother Roberto Pierre on the left.





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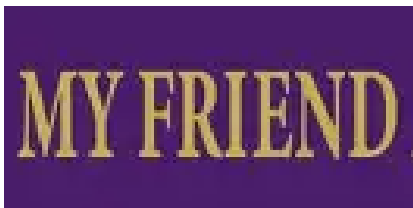
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Every year, more than 40 million Americans struggle with mental illness. African American men are as likely as anyone else to have mental illness, but they are less likely to get help.

Depression and other mental illness can be deadly if left untreated. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among African Americans 15 to 24 years old. Untreated mental illness can also make African American men more vulnerable to substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, and homicide.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and NIMHD have launched Brother, You're on My Mind: Changing the National Dialogue Regarding Mental Health Among African American Men, an initiative to help start conversations about mental health.



*This initiative has two major goals:*

*Goal 1:* To collaborate on efforts to educate Omega members, their families, and related communities on the effects of depression and stress.

*Goal 2:* To communicate the importance of seeking help for mental health problems and to encourage affected individuals to get information from their health care providers and others to obtain appropriate treatment.

**BYOMM**

This initiative will use a variety of activities to raise awareness of the mental health challenges associated with depression and stress that affect African American men and their families. Omega members are asked to:

***NIMHD's ROLE***

NIMHD will lead the development of materials about depression and stress that are based in the science of mental health. The materials will be disseminated by Omegas through national, regional, and chapter meetings and events. NIMHD will also

support an evaluation to determine how well the initiative works and will connect Omegas with other resources, including mental health experts who can speak at events.

[Visit Emergency & Crisis Resources Page](#)

***ROLE OF OMEGA CHAPTERS***



Omega chapters will be encouraged to participate in a variety of ways:

- Find their local (state or county) mental health resources and providers.
- Have a mental health professional speak during a chapter meeting to discuss depression.
- Display and distribute print materials at key locations (e.g., barbershops, churches).
- Participate in a health fair and distribute materials.
- Work with congregations and health ministries to focus on **mental** health.
- Develop local partnerships that make larger workshops and a wider impact possible.
- Encourage local mayors and city officials to establish proclamations on men's mental health.

***MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES***

- [National Institute of Mental Health](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
- [Capstone Institute/Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed at Risk, Howard University](#)
- [Lee Thompson Young Foundation](#)
- [Mental Health America](#)

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- [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)
- [National Black Nurses Association](#)
- [National Medical Association](#)

## CLASSIFIED

## Omega Psi Phi Federal Credit Union



Omega Psi Phi Federal Credit is right for your banking needs. Do you want a Life Membership but don't have the cash? OPPFCU can help with a loan specifically for acquiring your life membership. Are you building a nest egg for life's necessities like college for kids or retirement? Stop by OPPFCU.

Improving the lot of members is what OPPFCU is all about. Contact OPPFCU for **(free)** access to expertly crafted financial education and resources to help you improve your financial life. OPPFCU also has products for daily living like credit cards and debit cards.

### **CONTACT US!**

Phone: 1-800-42-OMEGA

Email: [info@oppffcu.com](mailto:info@oppffcu.com)

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## 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT IS HOME TO THE 2026 GRAND CONCLAVE JULY 30 TO AUGUST 3, 2026



Time is running out! So, pay your dues if you haven't and then register online to join brothers from Omega worldwide.

Registration is simple. Just log-on to your iQue page, click the 2026 Grand Conclave icon and get registered... today!

## 2026 GRAND CONCLAVE GOLF TOURNAMENT IS COMING!



Brother Christopher Shropshire  
4<sup>th</sup> District Keeper of Records & Seal

Brothers of the Mighty Fourth District we are preparing for the 2026 Grand Conclave Golf Tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio.

We are looking forward to the brotherhood joining us on the golf course on July 31, 2026. The first step to register for the Grand Conclave Golf Tournament is to become a member of the Que Tour

at [www.quetour.org](http://www.quetour.org). The only way to register for the Grand Conclave Golf Tournament is to join the Que Tour first. After you have



joined the Que Tour, you will be sent an email link in order to register for the tournament. Brothers will NOT be able to golf in the Grand Conclave Golf Tournament without joining the Que Tour.

We look forward to a wonderful day on the golf course!

Brothers of the Mighty Fourth District we are preparing for the 2026 Grand Conclave Golf Tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio.

We are looking forward to the brotherhood joining us on the golf course on July 31,



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## STAY INFORMED; DOWNLOAD THE CONCLAVE MOBILE APPLICATION

## GET YOUR TICKETS FOR THE ROYAL PURPLE AFFAIR

