



2017
Dr. Alain L. Locke Oratorical Contest

Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.





Dear Potential Participants:

The Brothers of the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated extend an invitation to your students / youth auxiliary groups to participate in our Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke Oratorical Contest. This competition is during our annual Alumni Sigma Week on Wednesday June 7th at the Leroy Collins (Main) Branch Public Library (200 West Park Avenue) at 6:00pm.

As one of our national programs to advance the education of our community, we are confident that an oratorical contest will provide the Tallahassee youth an opportunity to showcase their writing, research and public speaking talents. The purpose of the Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke Oratorical Contest is to give them an opportunity to address current issues relevant to our community. This year's topic will be:

What is the importance of "Free Press" in a democratic society?

Contestants will have the opportunity to acquire advance points by acquiring ads for the Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke Oratorical Contest souvenir booklet. Participants will receive 5 points for ad total of \$25+. Full page ads are \$20. / Half page ads are \$10. Money orders or certified bank checks are accepted. Checks should be made payable to Tallahassee Sigmas Educational Foundation. The deadline for registration and donations is: **Friday, June 2nd** at 6pm. Please complete and return the registration form to the address below.

Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
P.O. Box 180755
Tallahassee, Florida 32318
Attention:

Thank you,

Michael D. Boyer
Director of Education
Email: mike1.dboyer@gmail.com
Phone: (386) 697-5047

Brief History of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., January 9th, 1914, by three young African-American male students. The founders, Honorable A. Langston Taylor, Honorable Leonard F. Morse, and Honorable Charles I. Brown, wanted to organize a Greek letter fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service.

The founders deeply wished to create an organization that viewed itself as “a part of” the general community rather than “apart from” the general community. They believed that each potential member should be judged by his own merits rather than his family background or affluence...without regard of race, nationality, skin tone or texture of hair. They wished and wanted their fraternity to exist as part of even a greater brotherhood which would be devoted to the “inclusive we” rather than the “exclusive we”.

From its inception, the Founders also conceived Phi Beta Sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community. Rather than gaining skills to be utilized exclusively for themselves and their immediate families, the founders of Phi Beta Sigma held a deep conviction that they should return their newly acquired skills to the communities from which they had come. This deep conviction was mirrored in the Fraternity's motto, “Culture for Service and Service for Humanity”.

Beta Lambda Sigma Alumni Chapter

The Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter was founded on March 12, 1949 with ten charter members, who saw the need for change and progress in Leon County and Tallahassee, Florida. The ten charter members were:

Bro. James H. Abner
Bro. R. L. Abner
Bro. Dr. J. R. Bates
Bro. David H. Brooks
Bro. Clinton C. Cunningham
Bro. Herman K. Matthews
Bro. S. T. Muller
Bro. Lewis. A. Stokes
Bro. J. C. Turner
Bro. Henry Wright

These men were stewards of the Tallahassee community and held prominent positions throughout Tallahassee. We pay a special tribute to these men to leading the path for the Beta Lambda Sigma chapter. “Our Cause Speeds On Its Way!!!”



A Brief History of Alain L. Locke

Alain Locke was born in Pennsylvania on September 13, 1885 to Pliny Ishmael Locke (1850-???) and Mary Hawkins Locke (1853–1922). In 1902, he graduated from Central High School in Philadelphia, second in his class. He also attended Philadelphia School of Pedagogy. In 1907, Locke graduated from Harvard University with degrees in English and philosophy. He was the first African American Rhodes Scholar. He formed part of the Phi Beta Kappa society. Locke was denied admission to several Oxford colleges because of his skin color before finally being admitted to Hertford College, where he studied literature, philosophy, Greek, and Latin, from 1907-1910. In 1910, he attended the University of Berlin, where he studied philosophy. Locke attended the College de France in Paris in 1911.

Locke received an assistant professorship in English at Howard University, in Washington, D.C. There he interacted with W. E. B. Du Bois and Carter Woodson, who helped develop his philosophy.

Locke returned to Harvard in 1916 to work on his doctoral dissertation, *The Problem of Classification in the Theory of Value*. In his thesis, he discusses the causes of opinions and social biases, and that these are not objectively true or false, and therefore not universal. Locke received his Ph.D. in philosophy in 1918. Locke returned to Howard University as the chair of the department of philosophy, a position he held until his retirement in 1953. At Howard, he became a distinguished member of **Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.**

Locke promoted African American artists, writers, and musicians, encouraging them to look to Africa as an inspiration for their works. He encouraged them to depict African and African American subjects, and to draw on their history for subject material. Locke edited the March 1925 issue of the periodical *Survey Graphic*, a special on Harlem and the Harlem Renaissance, which helped educate white readers about the flourishing culture there. Later that year, he expanded the issue into *The New Negro*, a collection of writings by African Americans, which would become one of his best known works. His philosophy of the New Negro was grounded in the concept of race-building. It's most important component is overall awareness of the potential black equality; No longer would blacks allow themselves to adjust themselves or comply with unreasonable white requests. This idea was based on self-confidence and political awareness.

Although in the past the laws regarding equality had been ignored without consequence, Locke's philosophical idea of The New Negro allowed for real fair treatment. Because this was just an idea and not an actual bylaw, its power was held in the people. If they wanted this idea to flourish, they were the ones who would need to "enforce" it through their actions and overall points of view. Locke has been said to have greatly influenced and encouraged Zora Neale Hurston, also a member of the Blue & White Family.

Oratorical Contest Rules

1. Participants must adhere to the following rules for the topic presented: [What is the importance of “Free Press” in a democratic society?](#)
2. Each participant will have no more than **seven** minutes to address the given topic.
3. No props can be used during the participant’s presentation.
4. Each participant must present a perspective supported with relevant reasons and/or examples to sustain their stance regarding the topic.
5. Participants must demonstrate knowledge of the current issue to validate their perspective.
6. Participants must be able to organize thoughts in a cohesive and fluid manner.

Oratorical Contest Topic

[What is the importance of “Free Press” in a democratic society?](#)

2017 Dr. Alain L. Locke Oratorical Contest Application

Contestant Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

School: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Male: _____ Female: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: (Home) _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

(Cell) _____

Souvenir Ad Total: _____

Sponsoring School or Organization: _____

I wish to enter the Beta Lambda Sigma Alumni chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Oratorical Contest to receive training and experience in public speaking. I agree to the contest rules and will be bound by the requirements outlined.

As the parent/sponsor, I certify that my (son / daughter / mentee) has my permission to participate in this competition. It is the policy of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (Beta Lambda Sigma chapter) that no person on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status or handicap shall be discriminated against in admissions, activities, or educational programs.

In consideration of this opportunity to participate in the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (Beta Lambda Sigma chapter) Oratorical Contest, I hereby agree to relinquish Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (Beta Lambda Sigma chapter) harmless and free from any and all liability which may arise from or be incurred as a result of any transaction and/or occurrence directly or indirectly associated with my participation in the above-mentioned activity.

By signing below, I give Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (Beta Lambda Sigma chapter) permission to include my child or mentee in publicity campaigns and/or publications.

Contestants Signature: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

<p>This form must be postmarked by no later than Friday, June 2, 2017 to be eligible for Dr. Alain L. Locke Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated.</p>
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Performance Scoring Criteria

Category	Sub Totals
1. Delivery	
Articulation 10 points	
Vocal Variety 10 points	
Gestures 5 points	25 Points
2. Effectiveness	
Clear Purpose 15 points	
Your Position & Ability to Sell 15 points	30 Points
3. Content	
Referenced Facts 20 points	
Material Substance 15 points	35 Points
4. Appearance	
Professional Attire 5 points	
Grooming 5 points	10 Points
GRAND TOTAL	
	100 Points

*Note: Additional points for souvenir ads will be added at the conclusion of the score sheets.

Awards and Prizes

1st Place

- \$250.00 cash gift
- 1st Place Trophy

2nd Place

- \$150.00 cash gift
- Participant Ribbon

3rd Place

- \$75.00 cash gift
- Participant Ribbon

All contestants will receive a certificate of participation and one college application waiver (if applicable).

Oratorical Contest Souvenir Ads

(Please print)

Your Name: _____ Name of Student: _____

Company / Group Name (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Advertisement Prices (Please check)

Full Page (5.5" x 8.5") \$20.00 _____

Half Page (5.5" x 4.25") \$10.00 _____

All advertisements will read **“Good Luck to (Name of Student)”** with the individual, company or organization name unless duly noted. If you want a different salutation please print here:

Note: All advertisements will be in full color and will be designed in part by a representative of the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Pre-designed advertisements will be subject to review for optimal presentation and must be submitted to harris.wiltsher@gmail.com. PDF, Microsoft or JPG files are suggested. The postmark deadline for submissions and payment is: **Friday, June 3rd, 2016.**

Please send money order or check to:

**Beta Lambda Sigma
PO Box 180755
Tallahassee, FL 32318**

Proceeds from this event benefit deserving students through the support
of the Tallahassee Sigmas Educational Foundation.
This form can be copied as necessary.