



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc
Beta Sigma Lambda Chapter
BSL Lambda Educational Foundation, Inc.
Greater Hartford
PO Box 335
Hartford, CT 06141
www.hartfordalphas.com

Avery Gaddis, President
Clarence Woods, Vice President
Kenneth Summers President, BSL Educational Foundation, Inc.

September, 2009

Dear Friends,

The BSL Educational Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Greater Hartford Chapter and Travelers Insurance proudly presents the *6th Annual Bro. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young People's Oratorical Contest* on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at Bethel AME Church in Bloomfield, CT. The theme is ***Faith's Role in the Life of Today's Youth***, which address young people's use of faith as a support mechanism in surviving societal and environmental pressures and distractions on their journey to becoming productive and successful adults

Prior to competing eight finalists must complete a rigorous schedule of preliminary screening and a public speaking workshop. The participants will also be provided with one-on-one coaching by an assigned mentor from BSL Educational Foundation. Speeches must have original content and no more than 1000 words in length (5-7 minutes).

Students may register by completing the attached registration form, also included is a copy of the rules, requirements and judging criteria. A copy of this package is also available on our website: www.hartfordalphas.com

During the program information will be provide on the progress of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial being built on the Mall in Washington, D.C. In honor of Dr. King an "Alpha man" initiated at Boston University in Boston, MA. The BSL Educational Foundation will lead the initiative to present a donation to The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Fund. The Foundation seeks corporate sponsorship, civic contributions and personal donations from friends and family to generate a meaningful gift to the fund.

The BSL Educational Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization that receives grants from local corporations, civic groups and faith-based institutions, as well as through individual sponsorship by fraternity brothers. Contributions are 100% tax deductible. More information about the chapter and its programs can be found at our website: www.hartfordalphas.com. A few initiatives of the Foundation include Project Alpha, a program held in the fall and spring targeted for males ages 12-18; an oratorical contest; the Eastern Regional Leadership Development Institute for rising high school juniors and seniors; and scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors and college students.

PLEASE SHARE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH STUDENTS WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATION IN OUR ORATORICAL CONTEST AS WELL AS OTHERS WHO WANT TO SUPPORT THIS ENDEAVOR.

Thank you for your support. Persons seeking additional information regarding the Oratorical Contest should contact one of the following committee members:

Kareem Nulan, Director of Educational Activities: (202) 494-5275

Douglas Henley: (860) 509-3659

Duncan Harris: (860) 285-8668

Edward Mitchell: (860) 568-2111

Philip Dawson: (203) 979-0052

Rufus Jones: (860) 298-9208

Kenneth Summers :(203) 906-8897

Enclosures: [Contest Registration Form](#), [Contest Eligibility](#), [Rules](#), [Requirements and Judging Criteria](#)

"Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream"
Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc

BSL Educational Foundation, Inc.

Presents

6th Annual Bro. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young People's Oratorical Contest

Faith's Role in the Life of Today's Youth.

January 9, 2010

4 p.m. -7 p.m.

Bethel AME Church

1154 Blue Hills Ave, Bloomfield, CT

Contest Eligibility, Rules and Requirements:

Eligibility:

Students attending an accredited school within the Greater Hartford County are eligible. There will be two groups: Middle School and High School. Each group will have four (4) contestants.

Previous MLK Oratorical Contest Finalists:

1st and 2nd Place Winners in previous MLK Oratorical Contests are not eligible to compete in the same group. For example a 1st or 2nd Place Winner in Middle School can only complete in the High School group.

Prospective contestants must complete the registration form by 11/14/2009. A parent and organization or school sponsor (teacher or guidance counselor) must sign the registration form.

Registrants must write an original essay or speech of 1000 words maximum, typed and double-spaced. The work must be available and presented at the 11/14/2009 MLK Oratorical Contest Tryouts. Selection for eight finalists will be made after all speeches are presented to Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Beta Sigma Lambda Chapter. **Site: CREC Central Office 111 Charter Oak Ave, Hartford, CT at 9:00 a.m.**

Finalists will be required to attend a public speaking workshop presented by the BSL Educational Foundation. The workshop, designed to prepare participants for the oratorical contest, will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Site: CREC Central Office 111 charter Oak Ave, Hartford, CT at 9:00 a.m.

Each finalist will be assigned a mentor from the BSL Educational Foundation who will provide guidance and support leading up to the contest. The participant and mentor will determine individual practice sessions.

On the day of the contest, participants will be expected to arrive at the site at 5:30 p.m. A copy of the essay or speech, typed and double-spaced, must be presented to the Chief Judge prior to the start of the program. A parent or guardian must accompany each contestant.

There will be separate awards for the Middle School and High School Finalists, who will compete within their own groups. Each group will have the following scholarship prize opportunities:

1st Place - \$3,000 Savings Bond

2nd Place - \$2,000 Savings Bond

3rd Place - \$1,000 Savings Bond

4th Place - \$500 Savings Bond

The BSL Educational Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization that receives grants from local corporations, civic groups, and faith based institutions, as well as through individual sponsorship by fraternity brothers. Contributions are 100% tax deductible. More information about the chapter and its programs can be found at our website: www.hartfordalphas.com. A few initiatives of the foundation include Project Alpha, a program held in the fall and spring targeted for males ages 12-18; an oratorical contest; and Eastern Regional Leadership Development Institute for rising high school juniors and seniors; scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors and college students.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc
BSL Educational Foundation Inc.

Presents
6th Annual Bro. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young People's Oratorical Contest
Faith's Role in the Life of Today's Youth.

January 9, 2010
4p.m. -7p.m.
Bethel AME Church
1154 Blue Hills Ave, Bloomfield, CT

Registration Form:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

School _____

Grade _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (permission) _____

Sponsor/Guidance Counselor _____

Contestant's Pledge:

I will participate in all required sessions leading to the Oratorical Contest Date. My written speech will be original and if I include the words or expressions of others they will be referenced and attributed properly during the speech. If I am selected as a finalist I will work diligently to invite family and friends to attend the contest to support me.

Registrant's signature: _____

Date: _____

Important Date:

November 14, 2009: Completed Registration Form is due. Send form to the address below. Registrations can be provided the day of the tryouts. **TRYOUTS WILL BE HELD AT CREC Central Office 111 Charter Oak Ave, HARTFORD, CT at 9:00A.M.**

November 14, 2009: All registrants deliver their speeches and Judges select the final eight contestants

December 5, 2009: Final Eight Public Speaking Workshop **CREC Central Office 111 Charter Oak Ave, Hartford, CT 9:00 AM**

January 9, 20010: Oratorical Contest at Bethel AME Church, Bloomfield, CT

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

AΦA

Beta Sigma Lambda Chapter

P.O Box 335

Hartford, CT 06141

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc
BSL Educational Foundation Inc.

Presents
6th Annual Bro. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young People's Oratorical Contest

Faith's Role in the Life of Today's Youth.

January 9, 2010
4p.m. -7p.m.
Bethel AME Church
1154 Blue Hills Ave, Bloomfield, CT

Contest Judging Criteria:

Characteristic	Points	Comments
Originality of Content	30	Written speech reflects original thought
Organization	20	Speech consists of an opening, body and conclusion
Vocal Variety	15	Speech volume varies with pitch, speaking rate and quality to deliver with impact
Body Language & Gestures	10	Gestures and body language are aligned with speech presentation and complement spoken words
Eye Contact	10	Contestant uses eyes to connect with audience
Grammar	10	Proper use of the English language that clearly and precisely describes what you are talking about
Audience Response	5	Reaction of audience to speech