

Philadelphia (PA) Alumni

May 25, 1921

The Philadelphia Alumni Chapter was the first alumni chapter of the Northeastern Province. The chapter was authorized in 1921 and chartered on May 25, 1922 under the auspices of Founder of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity** John Milton Lee. The charter members of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter were Brothers Edward H. Smyrl, Felton L. Brown, Harry Ashley, Bernard C. Calloway, George W. Clinton, Benjamin H. Dillard, Norman L. Glenn, William E. Griffin, Alvin S. Hawks and Cornelius Wooding. These brothers were all graduates of Temple University. Brother Dr. John P. Turner was the first elected Polemarch in 1922–23, following Founder John Milton Lee who was the interim Polemarch. The Philadelphia Alumni Chapter takes note of members who have been honored or elected on the international level:

The Philadelphia Alumni Chapter has been one of the host chapters for three Grand Chapter Conclaves: the Twentieth Grand Chapter Conclave held in 1930 where Brother A. Moore Shearin was installed as the seventh Grand Chapter Polemarch; the Forty-ninth Grand Chapter Conclave held in 1959 under the auspices of Brother C. Rodger Wilson; and the 72nd Grand Chapter Conclave held in 1995. Executive Director Richard Lee Snow was the Polemarch of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter during this period. In addition, the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter had approximately 70 financial members with 50 years or more of active service to **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**

Prior to 1951, the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter held its monthly meetings in the private homes of brothers who served as hosts. On May 23, 1951, a committee of members found a property at 1007 Belmont Avenue which the Chapter purchased for seven thousand dollars. The building was sold a few years later and the Chapter started holding its meetings in the YMCA at 52nd and Sansom, but a lack of privacy forced the chapter to leave. The next meeting location was the Heritage House on North Broad Street, but this was a high crime area and next to the meeting location of the local chapter of the Black Panthers, which created a tense atmosphere in and around the area. The Chapter then held its meetings at the New Holsey Christian Methodist Church at 5300 Germantown Avenue. A plethora of incidents forced the Chapter to move its meeting location to an assortment of hotels and community centers.

In 1995, the Chapter purchased a facility in the historic Germantown section of Philadelphia. This building, which has been named the Achievement Center, is now home to all of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter's activities.

PHILADELPHIA ALUMNI



In 1999, Brother **Dr. Melvin Jackson** was presented with the Elder Watson Diggs Award during the 74th Grand Chapter Conclave in Atlanta, Georgia. Brother Dr. Jackson was the 23rd Polemarch of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter, leading the chapter from 1988 to 1990.



Philadelphia Senior Kappas after a recent health seminar - 1999