**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

**Upsilon Lambda Chapter**

MLK, Jr. Oratorical Committee

P.O. Box 40081

Jacksonville, Florida 32203

**James Kelly, President**

**Byron Page, Vice President**

**Ahmed Ferguson, Chairman of MLK, Jr. Oratorical Committee**

**November 06, 2017**

The Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will host its 10th Annual ***Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Competition*** on **February 17th, 2018 (9:06 am - 12:00 pm) at *Jean Ribault Senior High School***. The goal of this competition is to expose young males to the skill of public speaking and inspire the development or enhancement of skills that can be integral to educational and career success. This event will foster camaraderie, teach networking skills, demonstrate the benefits of healthy competition, and provide academic scholarships to those participants who are scored as the winners.

This competition is open to male high school juniors and seniors throughout the state of Florida. The competition participants will submit speeches (guidelines enclosed) that will be delivered to the members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Competition Committee. The preliminary competition will be held at *Jean Ribault Senior High School* on *January 13th, 2018.* Speeches must have original content and cannot exceed **800 words** (**minimum delivery time of 4 minutes; maximum delivery time of 7** **minutes**). The MLK, Jr. Oratorical Committee will determine the contestant finalists who will compete at the public event on **February 17th, 2018.** Please review the enclosed rules and guidelines which include a deadline for students to submit their applications and speeches.

The first place competition winner will be awarded a **$1,500** academic scholarship to the college of his choice. The second place competition winner will be awarded a **$1,000** academic scholarship to the college of his choice. The third and fourth place competition winners will each be awarded a **$500** book voucher to the college of his choice. The recipients of these educational awards must present an acceptance letter from the college or university that they will attend prior to the scholarship funds being released.

Tickets to attend this extraordinary event are priced at $15.00. This price allows audience members to witness an amazing competition and also enjoy refreshments after the winners have been announced. **There is no cost for students selected to compete in the competition.**

**PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH INTERESTED MALE STUDENTS WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATION. ADDITIONALLY, SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH OTHERS SUCH AS ELA TEACHERS, GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, PRINCIPALS, PTA MEMBERS, ETC. WHO MAY WANT TO SUPPORT THIS ENDEAVOR.**

The Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 organization which enables the receipt of grants from local corporations, civic groups, and faith based institutions, as well as individual sponsorship from fraternity members.

Thank you in advance for your support of this endeavor that is geared to enhance the life and educational pursuits of male students. Persons seeking additional information regarding the MLK, Jr. Oratorical Competition should contact one of the following committee members:

Ahmed Ferguson- Fergie1906@yahoo.com

Charlie J. Gillette, Jr., Esq.- cgillette@gillettelaw.com

Dr. Gregory D. Bostic- Bosticg@duvalschools.org

**“T*he function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.*” *~Martin Luther King, Jr.~***

Sincerely,

Ahmed Ferguson.

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

**Upsilon Lambda Chapter**

Education Committee Chairman

P.O. Box 40081

Jacksonville, Florida 32203

[www.jacksonvillealphas.org](http://www.jacksonvillealphas.org)

Enclosures: Contest Eligibility, Rules and Requirements, Registration Form, Judging Criteria, and Topic.

**Contest Eligibility, Rules, and Requirements**

**Eligibility:**

1. Male students attending an accredited high school within the state of Florida are eligible. The finalists will publicly present their speeches on February 17th, 2018.
2. Prospective contestants must complete the registration form and mail to the P.O. Box address indicated on the registration form no later than **December 16, 2017**. A parent and school sponsor (Teacher or Guidance Counselor) must sign the registration form for all high school participants. Participants must write an original essay or speech of ***800 words maximum, typed and double-spaced***. Essays *must* be submitted with the registration form. Plagiarism will result in disqualification. There are no specifications for writing formality i.e. APA or MLA, however quotations must be clearly indicated. If quotations exceed ten words, the author’s name shall be given both orally and in the manuscript. All speeches are delivered in English (except for short phrases that may include other languages). Singing is not permitted (although songs may be quoted).
3. The speech / essay must be completed and presented at the January 13th, 2018 MLK, Jr. Oratorical Preliminaries which will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of *Jean Ribault Senior High School*. Selection for the finalists will be made after all speeches *(****minimum delivery time of 4 minutes; maximum delivery time of 7 minutes****)* are presented to the members of the MLK, Jr. Oratorical Committee.
4. Participants selected for the Preliminaries will be expected to arrive one hour before the designated start time. 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 high school contestant.**
5. **The following scholarship awards are available for selected winners:**

1st Place Winner- $1,500 Scholarship

2nd Place Winner- $1,000 Scholarship

3rdPlace Winner- $500 Book Voucher

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

**Upsilon Lambda Chapter**

**MLK, Jr. Oratorical Competition**

**Registration / Application Form**

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home / Mobile Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant E-Mail Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Home / Mobile Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School Sponsor / Guidance Counselor Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School Sponsor / Guidance Counselor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Upsilon Lambda Chapter

P.O. Box 40081

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Attn: MLK, Jr. Oratorical Committee

**\*Please include essays with completed registration form**

**High School MLK, Jr. Oratorical Competition Topic:**

***"Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community, 50 Years after the Death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."***

**Judging Criteria**

**(Scoring Guide):**

* Originality of Content (**30 pts**): Written speech reflects original thought
* Speech Organization (**20 pts**): Speech consists of an opening, body, and conclusion
* Vocal Variety (**15 pts**): Speech volume varies with pitch, speaking rate, and quality to deliver with impact
* Body Language & Gestures (**10 pts**): Body language and gestures are aligned with speech presentation and complement spoken words
* Eye Contact (**10 pts**): Contestant uses eye contact to appropriately connect with audience
* Grammar (**10 pts**): Proper use of English language that clearly and precisely conveys intended thoughts
* Audience Response(**5 pts**): Audience reaction to speech
* Total Points: **100**