

LOCAL / REGIONAL



Kappas Come to Chattanooga

(Submitted Article) -The South Central Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., held its 76th Provincial Council in Chattanooga on March 24-26, 2022. The Affair was presided over by its Provincial Polemarch, Leonard E. Clemons, of Knoxville. The Province consists of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Northern Mississippi. The Local Chapter, headed by Polemarch Brian Bush, served as host for the event. The occasion held sway at the Westin Hotel with more than 600 registered and over 500 Kappas along with their wives, the Silhouettes, in attendance.

The Provincial Council is a yearly summit held by all 12 Provinces within the International organization of Kappa Alpha Psi. While here in Chattanooga, there were 79 newly initiated brothers on Thursday, March 24.

A Public Meeting was held at the hotel on Friday, March 25th. All members of the "Divine Nine" were recognized with a tribute by their hymn.

The highlight of the Public Meeting was the awards ceremony. Reginald F. Smith, Executive Director of the Bethlehem Center, received the "Making a Difference Award" for his dedication to the youth of Chattanooga. La Frederick Thrillkill, Principal of Booker T. Washington Alternative Learning Center, received the Public Interest Service Award, for his many years promoting the many unknown aspects of Chattanooga's Black History. And, Ezra Harris, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for over 30 years of unheralded service to his community, church, and the citizens of Chattanooga.

Christopher Stokley of UTC, received the Greek Life Service Award; and, Willie F. Brooks Jr. of Memphis received the Louis N. Willis, Merit of Achievement Award. These are two of the Provinces top awards.

On Saturday the 26th after all the various business meetings, there was a closed Black Tie Banquet. The Rev.

Baron Ammons served as Master of Ceremonies. The keynote speaker was Timothy Woods, Western Province Polemarch, of Phoenix Arizona. The banquet was attended by over 350 brothers.

After the banquet a dance was held in the ballroom. It was open to the public. Additionally, each night the Kappa House located on M. L. King Boulevard hosted brothers with live entertainment.

(Editor's Note: This submitted article was inadvertently missed for earlier publication. The Chattanooga News Chronicle apologizes for this oversight.)

From left, Province Polemarch Leonard is with Ezra Harris, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award; and Willie F. Brooks Jr., Memphis, recipient of the Louis N. Willis-Merit of Achievement Award. These are two of the Provinces top awards. (Submitted photo)



Chattanooga State Foundation Announces New Board Members

By Betty A. Proctor

The Chattanooga State Foundation recently welcomed Julie Cook Davis, Leslie Gower, Marcus Jones and Tiffanie Robinson to its 16-member board of directors.

The board also includes Dr. Edna Varner, Rowena Belcher, Stephanie Crowe, Joe Ferguson, C. Duffy Franck Jr., John F. Germ, Wade Hinton, Larry Parks, Dr. Maricela Rodriguez, Keith Sanford, Britt Tabor and Tom White.

Davis is a partner for the Round Table Advisors of Raymond James and senior financial advisor, RJFS, serving as the team's insurance specialist. In addition to being a proud Chattanooga State alum, her mother and daughter are also Chattanooga State alums.

Gower is the CEO of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of East Tennessee. She serves as STEM Council chair for one of four Hamilton County Future Ready Institute's industry career clusters.

Jones owns and leads Magnolia Developments, LLC Commercial and Residential Construction Division. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and is a Certified Project Manager Professional, member of the Sigma Pi Phi (Boule) and a member



of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He volunteers for the local Habitat for Humanity, joining its Board in 2017, and most recently served as the board chair through June 2022. He is an alum of the Chamber's Leadership Chattanooga program.

Robinson serves as the president/CEO of Lamp Post Properties and the chief executive and principal broker for SVN | Second Story Real Estate Management, an off shoot of Lamp Post

Properties. She is also the elected District 4 Hamilton County School Board member and co-founder of The Jump Fund. The first in her family to go to college, she is an alum of Lee University where she earned a theater scholarship and graduated with a degree in communications.

"We are grateful to have four new dynamic leaders joining a stellar group of dedicated board members," stated Nancy Patterson, vice president, Col-

lege Advancement & Public Relations. "Our Chattanooga State Foundation board of directors help ensure that we foster a loyal philanthropic community in support of the mission of the college."

For more information about the Chattanooga State Foundation, contact Nancy Patterson, vice president, College Advancement & Public Relations, (423) 697-2630 or email Nancy.patterson@chattanoogaestate.edu.

9 New Election Interference Laws So Far In 2022



Compiled by Tennessee Tribune

National—State lawmakers have been continuing to push legislation that makes it harder to vote, with 2 new restrictive voting laws enacted so far this year (as of May 4).

Election interference legislation — bills that could lead to tampering with how elections are run and how results are determined — have moved more quickly, with 9 new laws enacted in 2022 (as of May 4).

(At this point, more than half of all state legislatures have ended their 2022 legislative sessions. Also, legislatures

are in the second year of their two-year sessions, when they generally tend to pass fewer laws than in the first year. This year follows that trend.)

Highlights from the May 2022 roundup (all statistics current as of May 4, 2022):

Election interference legislation
Election interference laws open the door to partisan interference in elections or threaten the people and processes that make elections work. So far in 2022, 6 state legislatures — Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, and Oklahoma — enacted 9 election interference laws, 7 of which will be in place for the midterms.

With 4 of the 9 laws, Georgia leads the country in new election interference laws so far this year.

3 of Georgia's new laws create the risk of partisan interference with election procedures and results.

Florida and Georgia each have a new law creating entities dedicated to pursuing election crimes. This legislation is fueled by the false pretense of voter fraud.

Alabama, Arizona, Kentucky, and Oklahoma each have a new law establishing new criminal penalties for elections officials for actions to expand voter access or for minor mistakes during their ordinary course of conduct.

At least 17 election interference bills introduced in 2022 are moving through 5 state legislatures as of May 4.

Arizona leads the nation in the number of election interference bills that have been introduced in 2022 (27), including 4 bills moving in the legislature that would transfer authority over specific aspects of election administration in ways that could open the door to political interference.

Overall, lawmakers in 27 states have introduced at least 148 election interference bills so far in the 2022 legislative session.

Restrictive voting legislation
Between January 1 and May 4, 2022, Arizona and Mississippi each enacted a law that restricts access to the vote by requiring documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration. (The laws were enacted despite the U.S.

Election Assistance Commission's decision that documentary proof of citizenship requirements are not necessary to determine a voter's eligibility.)

Of the 2 laws, only Mississippi's will be in effect for the midterms. Additionally, a restrictive voter ID ballot initiative in Arizona will be on the general ballot for voters.

At least 34 bills with restrictive provisions are moving in 11 state legislatures as of May 4. Of these bills, almost three-fourths — 25 bills in 10 states — would curtail access to mail voting.

In all, lawmakers in 39 states have introduced at least 393 restrictive bills so far in the 2022 legislative session.

Expansive voting legislation
Between January 1 and May 4, 2022, 4 states — Arizona, Connecticut, New York, and Oregon — have enacted 5 laws that expand access to the vote. One of Arizona's two expansive laws and the Connecticut and New York laws will be in effect for the midterms.

Response: from front

behind bodies instead of bruised egos. I can't say this clearly enough: easy access to illegal guns is killing kids and our community has a responsibility to put a stop to it.

This is exactly why I joined mayors from across the country last week to call on the United States Senate to pass common sense reforms to our gun safety laws. Background checks, red flag laws, raising the age limit so that children can't purchase assault rifles—these are things that the vast majority of Americans support, as do our law enforcement professionals. There's no reason to wait, we need to pass these laws now.

But parents also need to be responsible. If you know your kid has access to a firearm, you must intervene before someone—perhaps even your own child—ends up dead. The kind of gun violence that erupted last night is often rooted in neglect. All of us—and especially parents, caregivers, and families—must be actively involved in knowing where our children are, what they are doing, and ensuring they don't get their hands on weapons that can harm themselves and

others. If you have a firearm, keep it securely locked and away from children. As gun thefts are on the rise, failing to secure your gun can result in a tragedy. It will take our families AND our community working together to stop this.

To that end, I want to thank our City Council Chairman Darrin Ledford, Vice-Chairwoman Raquetta Dotley, and Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod for being here today and for their ongoing partnership. Our alignment is critical and I'm grateful for their leadership. Over the next several weeks, I'll be working with our City Council to create spaces for our community's youth to safely gather, and also to invest in youth mentorship and violence prevention programs with our American Rescue Plan dollars. And I encourage all Chattanoogaans to get involved in a child's life through a mentorship program. Nothing will make a bigger difference in our community than that.

Finally, again: if you know a child—especially your child—has access to a firearm, you have a moral duty to intervene or call the police. And parents, make sure you know where your kids are spending their time at night. These are common sense things that we can do that keep children safe, which is what

we adults are supposed to—and obliged—to do. As a parent, you are civilly and criminally liable for the violent acts of your child that you could've stopped. I am directing my office to work with the police department and the district attorney to enforce existing laws that hold parents accountable for knowingly providing or allowing children access to guns that result in violence.

I know that there is no one strategy or policy that will solve this crisis. And there's nothing I can say behind this podium that will undo last night's violence. But this afternoon, I am calling on our entire community to come together as part of the solution.

Thank you.
Details on what happened the night of Saturday's (May 28) shooting.

According to a statement provided by the Chattanooga Police Department concerning a highly publicized downtown shooting last Saturday night, "On May 28, 2022 at approximately 10:48 p.m., Chattanooga Police were patrolling the area of 100 Walnut Street when Officers heard gunfire. Moments later they discovered several parties had been shot. Officers were on scene immediately and began rendering life-saving care to several gunshot victims.

As officers were working with victims, other officers began securing the scene. Six victims were transported to a local hospital with gunshot wounds. Four victims had non-life threatening injuries and two had life threatening injuries. Investigators with the Violent Crimes Unit responded to conduct an investigation. Investigators learned that two groups of people were in the area of the above location and were converging toward each other in what appeared to be the beginning of some sort of altercation. Two individuals in one of the groups both produced firearms and began firing at the other group. It is believed that there was a person or persons targeted within the group of victims but many of them were unintended targets."

Police Chief Celeste Murphy said five of the victims were 15 and the other was 13 years old. Two of the 15-year-olds who were shot were females.

The chief also said there has been no proof that the encounter involved different street gangs.

An individual who was questioned Saturday night as a person of interest was later released and is not considered to have been a shooter.