

LOS ANGELES, CA ALUMNI CHAPTER



The journey for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Southern University Alumni federation has been long and arduous, but one made with pride, fun, and a good amount of **"THAT OLE SOUTHERN SPIRIT!"**

The echoes of Horace Greeley's "Go West Young Man, Go West" amplified by the buzz of the World War II industries brought many people to Los Angeles, California seeking their fortunes and a better way of life. Among those were graduates, students, and friends of Southern University located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Los Angeles in 1945 was a 24-hour city, and in the midst of all this hustle and bustle, Southernites met each other at work, in the streets, in the movie lines, and at church. It became apparent to a few of these Southernites that the spirit and memories of Southern University should be perpetuated, thus an organized group took shape.

On the steps of the 28th Street YMCA led by **ELIZABETH COOPER PROFIT, JUANITA LUCIEN JONES**, and **BERTHA HARRELL-SIMS** in 1945, an organized movement destined to change the face of the Los Angeles landscape, began. The movement marked the beginnings of the current day Southern University Alumni Federation, Los Angeles Chapter.

Founding members of the chapter included **IKE ADAMS, ANGUS BATES, CLEO ADAMS GRANSBERRY, CHARLES JORDAN, JOHN W. REDFUD, GENEVIEVE TAYLOR REDFUD, ANGELE BATTLE-THOMAS, and**

WILBERT WOODRUFF. Bertha Harrell-Sims took on the call as the first Los Angeles Chapter president.

Early meetings were held at some of the members' homes. Meeting agendas always included prayers at opening and closing, as well as singing Southern's Alma Mater. A refreshment committee of three provided the food which was as simple as cake and punch or as elaborate as turkey with all the trimmings. Speakers were invited to the Alumni meetings to provide information regarding jobs and current community/civic topics. They enjoyed the pleasure of each other's company at scholarship breakfasts, Mardi Gras balls, and other fundraisers that were used to support the Chapter's annual contribution to the Scholarship Fund and the sponsorship of students at Southern University from the Greater Los Angeles, CA area.

Past meeting minutes indicate that there were appeals form African students for assistance for things such as supplies and books, especially books by Negro authors. Los Angeles Alumni responded with a sponsorship program that gave \$25 to each student. (\$25 in 1950 went a long way for students).

The present day Los Angeles Alumni Chapter of the Southern University Alumni Federation is in its 58th year and can boast having approximately 100 National Alumni Life members on a total roster of over 500. The Chapter has contributed in excess of \$180,000 to student scholarships, the University System Foundation, and the National Alumni Federation.

Los Angeles Alumni Chapter has annual events known throughout the Great Los Angeles, CA area including participation in:

- **SCHOLARSHIP JAZZ BRUNCH**
- **INTER-ALUMNI COUNCIL SUMMER GATHERING**
- **SU/GSU BASKETBALL GAME AND PICNIC**
- **MARDI GRAS BALL**
- **FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION**
- **ALUMNI STUDENT CHRISTMAS PARTY**
- **LOS ANGELES BLACK COLLEGE EXPO**
- **GREATER LOS ANGELES BLACK BUSINESS EXPO**

Please check the Los Angeles Chapter Calendar of events located in the back of this directory, for dates, times and locations for Los Angeles Chapter Annual Events.

Since 1990, 60 students, from the Greater Los Angeles, CA area have received scholarships from the Los Angeles Alumni Chapter, to attend Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA.

THE CALL FOR A CONTINUOUS COMMITTED EFFORT TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL FUNDING EXTENDS TO EACH OF US!!!!