

Dear Morehouse Atlanta Alumni Chapter brothers,

We have an opportunity this fiscal year to choose a new leader to head our Morehouse Atlanta Alumni Chapter. For the record, our decision will be judged in years to come by our actions and our vote that we cast this year. Our choices today will reflect on the future of our organization tomorrow. I believe that we have an opportunity to choose a leader that goes to the heart of what Morehouse College is and was established upon. A man who is unafraid of a challenge. A man who can see the current landscape and drive the organization toward a productive and prosperous future with relevancy. A man who will challenge those around him to be thinkers and doers.

I, Valentino Shumate, am that individual. I hail from the Mighty graduating class of 1986. I have successfully touched the lives of countless young people in public education for more than thirty plus years. Also, I have served our nation in the Air Force Reserves, which I ended my career as a captain. Lastly, I created and have been an entrepreneur for more than twelve years and have employed young men who were unable to find work due to their challenging background.

In addition, I must identify that I have served on the executive board of Morehouse Atlanta Alumni Chapter for seven years. During the past seven years, I along with a great team of Morehouse brothers have been responsible for two major events, Homecoming and Honoring Our Fathers, and it goes without saying that both events were financially successful to the chapter.

I propose to accomplish the following agenda items in three years with the assistance of a great team:

1. Develop regional liaisons/captains in (Cobb, Dekalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Henry) to improve membership and to create meeting space, which each captain will report back to the executive board monthly.

2. Weekend in White – a ball/banquet fundraiser for the Fall, which will be located somewhere near Atlanta. Create a Salute to "Hero Award" which will identify an educator, businessperson, doctors, or nurses, etc. from Morehouse alums and outside.

3. Develop – “Connect” a program to link all alumni to other fellow brothers in surrounding metro Atlanta to find employment, etc.

Brothers, I am the man who can carry the torch for Morehouse Atlanta Alumni Chapter for the next three years. Remember, “Leadership is not what we say, leadership is what we do.”

Valentino Shumate

I am truly humbled and so excited to be allowed this opportunity to run for the very important job of chapter President. I became a Morehouse Man in 1992. Since then, I have tried to hold up the standards I was taught by trying to do right by all people, showing in private and in public what I was taught a Morehouse Man is and giving of who I am for 15 years in some capacity as a servant to Morehouse. I have been down in the bowels of Chivers Hall and to the top of Graves, Hope and Sale as it stood back in 1988. I have risen and fallen on several occasions with Morehouse and I will continue to hold her up for as long as I am physically able. **So, why do I want to be President?**

I want **to represent** our voice as a Chapter. I want to be a servant to each member of the chapter. I believe that every member of this chapter has an opinion and a voice. Their opinion should be heard. If we as a body believe it's fruitful, we as a body will move. However, I also believe that we should not beat around the bush, shuck or jive when it comes to being open, honest and transparent. I have been around long enough, and I know how each of you feel about things being open and honest. I am one of the guys who remembers the long ending question of, **WHAT IS INCLUDED IN STUDENT FEES?** With that being said, I will always give it to you straight. In love, I will approach and support each of you and in love I will say, "Naw bro, we ain't doing that!" There is no Hierarchy in my mind. Yes, we understand where we are and we must stay diligent in our financial support to the school, **HOWEVER**, bro don't let that be the reason you don't be active. I will submit that as one member, I don't care if you can't give, just come and be active!

In closing, my focus, if elected, will be **SERVICE**. My agenda will be centered around **SERVICE**. In this virtual world the guys need our support. Be that Blocker, be that Tobe Johnson, be that Dr. Mapp, be that Dr Hornsby and Gore to these guys. Meaning, let's bring uplift to them in a very realistic way the way we as Morehouse men know to be true. To our brothers that can, let's brainstorm innovative ways we can uplift our school financially. To the brothers that don't have, bro just hold the sign and be there. It's ok! You are as important as the biggest donor and I will ensure your shoulders are brushed off just as much as

anyone else. Again, thanks for the chance to come and ask for your support. If elected I am at your service.

Alex J. Branch

Class of 1992

Lifetime Member of MCNAA (recently)

Chapter Lifetime Member (working on it)

Dear Brothers,

Who is Kyle Butts? "KB", affectionately known, is a Husband, Father, Executive and Community Service Worker among other things. My most notable achievement is raising my then pre-teenage daughter as a single Father prior to getting remarried. Learning how to be responsible was instilled in me as a young boy and cultivated during my tenure at Morehouse College. My commitment to Morehouse spans over the past 30 years. I'm an active Life Member of the Morehouse College Atlanta Alumni Association and the National Alumni Association. By the way, I also haven't missed a Morehouse Homecoming since 1989.

As a Morehouse Man, I've learned how to lead by example. This is demonstrated in my personal and professional life. As the VP of CINC, a leading real estate technology company, I've managed Director-level individuals and their teams while fostering relationships with my colleagues. As a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated (Pi), I've held many leadership roles, and was entrusted exclusively with the planning of several key events.

There is no better time than the present to utilize my skills to continue the tradition of Morehouse excellence. Instead of working behind the scenes as I've done in the past to support and promote dear old Morehouse; I will be at the forefront creating a diverse environment which includes younger alums, develop fundraising strategies and crowdfunding campaigns to raise money, expand social and community related activities to assist with alumni engagement (post COVID of course) and leverage my network to augment participation at monthly meetings and increase memberships. My dedication to Morehouse, my professional experience and my charismatic personality make me the ideal candidate for the Vice President position and I humbly ask for your vote to achieve this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Kyle "KB" Butts '93