



## *The Sword & Shield: an e-Newsletter* from Warren G. Lee, Jr., 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus

DECEMBER 3, 2007

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

*"Everything rises and  
falls on leadership. "*

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### **Staying in touch with the Brotherhood**

Often we at IHQ spend a little too much time with nuts and bolts concerns at the expense of improving communication to the Brotherhood. Over time that can be a costly mistake. As you know it is much harder to recruit or reclaim members than it is to retain worthy ones! So it's important to make sure we don't lose touch with the members who make a difference to Omega and their communities. The alternative is to continue 'business as usual' at the expense of membership morale and contributions to the overall mission. And since it costs much to be a Friend and keep a Friend, it just makes good sense to do what it takes to keep Friends engaged.

To this end, I have launched this email newsletter for the purpose of keeping you directly informed and to show my appreciation for your contributions. I have selected the name "Sword and Shield" from the Biblical reference in Ephesians 6:17. My use of this medium is intended to function as both a way to cut through the noise and misinformation that is put forth as "truth" at the street level of our Fraternity. The other function of this instrument is to shield us from petty issues and concerns that are inconsistent with our historical legacy and mission. We were founded to make a difference in the lives of Black people. Thus our aim should always be on cultivating ideas and practices consistent with that aim.

### **Quick, easy communication**

My research indicates that using an e-mail newsletter can be a very effective, low-cost way to stay in touch with the Brotherhood. There are no mailing or printing costs involved. Another benefit is the almost instantaneous delivery that e-mail affords. You don't have to wait for snail mail or another Brother's version of what I said about this or that issue. You get communication straight from the Grand Basileus himself. (Not *filtered* through any other media... and I like that!)

Through this medium I hope to speak frankly with you about strategic issues, provide tips on how to use our processes and services more efficiently, announce events, where possible, give information on upcoming policy changes and/or expanded services, and provide special insight on salient topics.

### **Reader's Corner**



This portion of the newsletter will be devoted to a particular book that I select from a suggested reading list. The books highlighted here will be designed to illustrate some aspect of individual-, group-, organizational or community change that is pertinent to improving the mission of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

*"Seek first to understand then to be understood."*

**"It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. Our playing small doesn't scare the world. There is nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you."**

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## **...Lest We Stray...**

Very early on in this administration, I decided to open a discussion about the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer in relation to the Board of Directors. In other words, I sought to explore the traditional relationship between the Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council in terms of their respective duties and responsibilities to the Fraternity. The purpose for the discussion was to simply reiterate that as members of a nonprofit corporation, we are expected to meet or exceed three duties: obedience, care and loyalty to Omega's mission. For example, the duty of obedience requires us to remain true to our historical mission and aims when making decisions.

In the coming weeks, I would like to continue this discussion by focusing on board duties and responsibilities within the historical and continuing mission of our Fraternity. Please see the next section for continuing remarks on this topic.

## **Roles of the Grand Basileus**

According to our rules, the Grand Basileus shall serve as the Chief Executive of the Fraternity, Presiding Officer of the Grand Conclave and the Chairman of the Supreme Council and as such shall have responsibility for the general management and direction of the business and affairs of the Fraternity.

## **News We Can Use (or News for the QUES!?)**

This section will include such items as introductions to new IHQ employees, recent awards presented to Members, special notices about services, announcements of new Member benefits, and information on new ways to take advantage of IHQ services.

## **Crux of the Matter**



This section will be used to disseminate general information on Fraternity operations. For example, Supreme Council Members could be reminded here about upcoming meetings and related logistics, reports to be given or other deliverables. This channel could also be used to notify Chapters about when a Supreme Council member(s) would be visiting in their area.

## **Contact information**

Please note that contact information is included throughout this newsletter. If Brothers have follow up comments, suggestions or general remarks, please feel free to contact me offline. With your feedback, we hope to make this a more efficient and effective way of communicating directly with the chief executive of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Thank you for serving.

## **Web links**

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