



The Sword & Shield: An e-Newsletter from Warren G. Lee, Jr., 38th Grand Basileus

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"Everything rises and falls on leadership. "



Special Holiday Issue

Season's Greetings!

To you and your family I wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we celebrate the birth of Christ and look forward to the New Year, I always think of this as a time to reflect and to consider opportunities for us to grow. As Paul said in Philippians, "Brother, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to the things which are ahead I pressed forward toward the high calling which is Christ Jesus."

Let's continue to exhibit the attributes of Christ in our daily walk.

Are we practicing Excellence?

And as I reflect on my tenure to date as Grand Basileus, I must admit I am confused and perplexed about our beloved Omega Ps Phi. When I read our preamble and our purpose as stated in our constitution; and I talk to our brothers individually, I read and hear excellence of thought and action, respectively. But, when I see the results of our collective performance, I see mediocrity. I am very perplexed and confused. I see great works performed by individual chapters but I see no great, collective and consistent effort, focus or results across the nation of Omega. WE can and must do better!

Omega's Use of Email

We are in an age of technology and e-mails are a wonderful thing. More often than not, as I look at the e-mails in our brotherhood, the e-mails I receive between our members, and about our members are not ones of encouragement. They are not reflective of the positive achievements of brothers; offer no compliments to or about our members. They often promote divisiveness. And that really troubles me.

Recently, such an e-mail was put out about our Grand Officers. I find that totally unacceptable. And as Grand Basileus, I assure you that we will address the matter. Even if accusations or allegations have some merit, electronic mail, which is viewable to the world and irretrievable once released, is not the appropriate forum for the discussion of Omega's business. There is also the matter of when written communication can be deemed as libelous. Email is not and should never be the medium Omega uses to seek to resolve any conflicts, disagreements, or negotiations. For the most part, Supreme Council meetings are open to all who attend. And if you cannot attend, contact your DR.

OLMF vs. OPPF!?

There is currently an e-mail out there concerning a difference of opinion between the Fraternity and one of our affiliate organizations, the Life Membership Foundation. That correspondence may have caused some confusion about our co-existence. I will respond *but* in the MEMBERS ONLY section of our Web site. There you will see my response. **Be forewarned:** I will not attack any of my Omega brothers because that is not how any of **US** should act.

"There are six things the Lord hates, seven are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers."

(Proverbs 6: 16-19, NIV)

Happy Holidays!



Going Forward

As we move forward, and as we enter this holiday season and enter 2008, here is a question I present to you...

If Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is to become and maintain excellence as an organization, in what areas are we going to become excellent?

I need your help in determining what we want to excel in. From my travels across the nation, in my visits with chapters, my reviews of reports from districts, I do not see excellence, consistency, significant outcomes or adherence to our nationally mandated programs. In fact, I have not witnessed communications about-, comprehension of-, or completion in most of these mandated areas for many of our chapters. (It certainly is not indicated by the Form 37 reports received by IHQ.)

The low submittals of Form 37 are indicative of this lack of follow thru on mandated programs. As many will recall, these programs were designed to create and sustain an impact and presence for all of Omega in our respective communities across the nation. It is this national uniformity in impact that is consistent with the desires of our Founders. But maybe we don't want to follow our Founders' dreams and vision? What I see now is a lack of excellence, no sustainable national impact nor enthusiasm for what Omega has historically represented.

Maybe that is not what we want to be about. Maybe we don't want to be the "great men and family men" as described by our Founders in our historical documents. If not, what is our purpose?

And as we reflect, we are going to march full steam ahead, moving in a spirit of excellence. We must leave mediocrity behind; cease to have a Cain vs. Abel mentality among our brotherhood; and rise to a higher level. As Bishop Love stated: "Mediocrity has its place, but not in Omega!" We should not expect folks to respect Omega until we begin to respect ourselves, our brothers and our Fraternity.

In future editions of this newsletter, you can expect comments on the nature of our dream and the vision of our Founders. In particular, I will examine definition(s) of the roles of grand officers (as board members and executives) and district representatives (as Board members and regional managers), as well as talk about the apparent need for a change of cultural climate in order for Omega to become the Outstandingly excellent organization I know WE can be.

Always Remember

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... "for ours is the glorious privilege of acting well our parts..." Are WE acting well our parts? As you enjoy the holiday season with family and friends, please take a moment to reflect on the meaning of that phrase. God Bless you and yours this holiday season.

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.