



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

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"Keep commitments and agreements in a trustworthy, reliable manner".
(Gill, '02)

The Eyes of Omega

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a leadership panel session. In that session the facilitator said, "Because America is such a young nation, we don't have many long standing traditions." Furthermore, he stated that in America we often change culturally every decade. As I thought about what he said and put it in the context of the Fraternity and many conversations with Brothers, it would appear that all of us see "Omega" through eyes based upon the time of our initiation into the fraternity. As such, we have many different points of view about Omega Psi Phi. The difficulty with that approach is that we have to struggle to find/reach common ground in many of our fraternal dealings. As we approach the next hundred years, we must re-establish the traditions and values we have in common. In particular, we need to think about the significance of the tests we had to go through prior to initiation. I would suggest we have the following in common:

We all took the same oath to abide by the preamble of our founding documents and to subscribe to the principles that are identified in our Constitution.

This is what we share in common and I think if we look at that, we might agree that the preamble is our value statement. Thus if we practice just what it says then we can all bring Omega forward to ensure that it becomes the organization that the Founders envisioned. Therefore I strongly encourage you to do the following. **First**, take a moment, reread the Oath, and determine whether either of these two things is true in your life.

- (1) Are you are living up to the oath you took? And,
- (2) Are those so-called members who are always in your ear living up to the oath that they took?

Then go back and review the preamble and see if you are acting well your part. Look at our activities and see if we are making the purpose of our fraternity a reality in the lives of our people. If so, please continue. If not, let's get back on the path that was laid before us many, many years ago.

Secondly, one of the things I often repeat is that everything rises and falls on leadership. When we were in Miami at the Strategic Planning Meeting in 2007, there was an exercise done that talked about Leaders versus Misleaders. David Gill's "**10 Principles of Highly Ethical Leaders and Organizations**" suggests that effective leaders cultivate practices such as: #7- *Keep commitments and agreements in a trustworthy, reliable manner and/or* #9- *Communicate truthfully and constructively*. On the other hand, "misleaders" don't, and can mess up organizations and the lives of those they serve. I truly believe that Omega Men must share a common code of ethical conduct! How do you measure up?

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Reader's Corner



Our book of the month is "The Dream Giver".

Bestselling author Bruce Wilkinson shows how to identify and overcome the obstacles that keep millions from living the life they were created for. **EVERYONE HAS A DREAM!**

You may not be able to describe it. You may have forgotten it. You may even no longer believe in it. But it's there.

Meet Ordinary, a Nobody who leaves the Land of Familiar to pursue his Big Dream. Once the Dream Giver convinces him to escape his Comfort Zone, Ordinary begins the journey of his life – overcoming Border Bullies, Navigating the Wasteland, and battling the fierce Giants in the Land.

This modern-day parable will get you started on your own daring adventure. What may first seem like a road full of obstacles is actually a series of opportunities to help you along toward your destiny. Best selling author Bruce Wilkinson will serve as your Dream Coach, offering insights and practical solutions. It's time to begin the journey of your life. May your heart sing as you embrace everything God has lovingly planted there.

ARE YOU LIVING A DREAM? OR JUST LIVING YOUR LIFE?

You, too, have been given a Big Dream. One that can change your life. One that the Dream Giver wants you to achieve. Does your Big Dream seem hopelessly out of reach? Are you waiting for something or someone to make your dream happen? Then you are ready for the book -- The Dream Giver.

ROLE OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL (BOARD)

The role of the board of directors, or in our case, the Supreme Council (SC) is set forth in our constitution and bylaws. Our constitution states that between Grand Conclaves the governing authority is the SC. The SC is made up of elected Grand Officers and District representatives plus the offices of Grand Chaplain and Grand Marshall. The SC function is to serve as the Fraternity's Board of Directors. A board has three basic functions: to plan, to fund, and to evaluate. These functions are generally handled by committees. As a nonprofit corporation, Omega is no different. **NEXT TIME:** What are the Duties of the Board?