

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

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"We are two steps removed from witnessing an African American as president of the United States."

"We are not makers of history. We are made by history".
(MLK, Jr.)

Nobody Asked Me But... Obama in '08 is Great!

Nobody asked me about the current political race for the White House but Mr. Obama's candidacy is gaining quite a bit of momentum heading into the Ohio and Texas (my home state) primaries. In all honesty, I never thought I would see the day when an African American candidate would present a serious challenge for the Democratic Party nomination. Of course, we can take pride in the fact that a serious trail was blazed by **Brother Jessie Jackson** in the '84 and '88 presidential campaigns, respectively. And some of us were intrigued with the prospects offered by Colin Powell in '95, but Barack Obama seems "too legit to quit" as MC Hammer used to say!

In case you haven't noticed, Mr. Obama has done well with many of the constituencies that did not vote for Jesse or favor Colin Powell. The exit polls from Super Tuesday (2/5/08) indicate that Obama did well with women, Latinos, blue collar workers and white males! As one news magazine reported: [Obama] won handily among those who think Iraq matters most, who think healthcare matters most, and who think the economy matters most. He took more than 60 per cent of the vote among those making both less and more than \$50,000. Obama narrowly carried the white vote in Virginia, building on his momentum among the notoriously stubborn Caucasian Democrats of Dixie, having won 25 percent of white votes in South Carolina (when the race was still three-way) and then bucked it up to 43 percent in Georgia on Super Tuesday. He also won the stubbornest demographic in Virginia: whites over 65. ([Nation](#), 3/10/08,p.4)

This last demographic is particularly important, for example, because it signals that his candidacy appeals to this year's swing voting group: undecided white male voters.

This is truly a historic moment in American history. We are two steps removed from witnessing an African American as President of the United States. As a young man growing up in Texas during the Civil Rights era, I never imagined that I would see this happen in my lifetime... or even my grandchildren's!

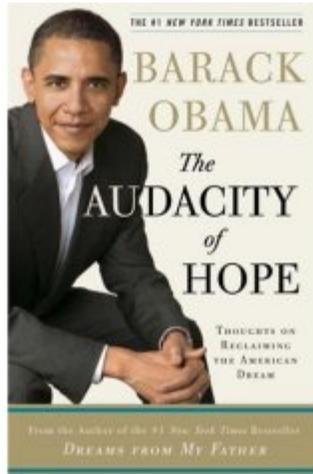
Dr. King once said: "We are not makers of history. We are made by history." I would like to believe that part of what he meant was that years from now when we read about the history of the 2008 presidential race, will it show that Obama won because of "who" he was or "what" he represented!?

I strongly encourage you to exercise your right to vote! If you believe **as I do that** Barack Obama represents the change our country needs, then **join me** and vote for him. Even if you believe another candidate would be a better president, please exercise your right to vote.

Reader's Corner



Our book of the month is:



Here's what one reader had to say: "The Senator has a warm and inviting style of communicating that clearly communicates his sincerity and optimism. In short, THE AUDACITY OF HOPE is a good and uplifting read. Unlike many of his political contemporaries, Obama discusses values and faith in a manner that is not forced, uncomfortable, or put on...what he says is from the heart. And, he cogently articulates why and how his faith and values cause him to think and act in the way that he does." (E. Shuffhausen, 10/17/06)

DUTIES OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL (BOARD)

According to nonprofit corporation law, a board member should meet certain standards of conduct and attention to his or her responsibilities to the organization. These are referred to as the duty of obedience, the duty of care, and the duty of loyalty. Obedience to Omega's Cardinal Principles must guide all decisions. Supreme Council members must exercise due care in all dealings with the organization and its interest. This includes oversight of financial matters and reading of minutes, attention to issues that are germane to the organization, and raising questions whenever there is something that seems questionable or damaging to Omega's legacy. Conflicts of interest, including intentional violations of Board confidentiality, must be avoided.

**Omega Psi Phi
Fraternity, Inc.**

**3951 Snapfinger
Parkway
Decatur, Georgia
30035**

**Phone
404-284-5533
Fax
404-284-0333**

**omegawarrenlee
@oppf.org**

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