



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

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*"We should continue
to focus on
Excellence without
Excuse."*

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SURVEY AND SELECTION

DEAR BROTHERS OF OMEGA PSI PHI,

Many times, I am asked, "How do WE go about identifying and selecting Men who could end up being productive Members of the Fraternity?" Well, first, we must remember how the Founders did it. They did a survey.

Secondly, all prospective candidates must be able and available to join the Fraternity; and willingly accept all that membership requires. If not, then you move on and continue to survey elsewhere for prospective candidates.

If you're a business man, they may be a colleague or customer. If you're an undergraduate, they may be in one of your classes, study groups or student associations. Take your time and continue to survey/seek out those most qualified to be an Omega man.

If, or when, you identify a prospect, you should not confuse one's personality with character. Personality is what an individual presents to you at first sight. How many times have you met someone who had a wonderful personality only to find out later that you could not depend upon them in times of distress?

The point: character is where you discover one's value system. It takes time to find out what someone is *really* all about in terms of their life experiences, core values and behavior. If a prospective member's core values do not align with those of Omega, you are programming the relationship to fail.

As you start to look at prospective members, your aim should be to understand their values and determine if your circles of interest overlap. The more you can establish common interests and ideals, the better the chance that the "prospect" will remain loyal and productive to Omega.

If you have little information on a prospective member (but believe they possess promise and potential), first try working with them on a small, yet challenging, project to see how they handle pressure.

What WE seek is someone who not only demonstrates the capacity to be a true Friend, but also a strategic partner! We seek only Men who will become long distance runners for Omega! Thus, WE should seek only those men who demonstrate the capacity for **Trust, Tolerance, Cooperation** and **Commitment** to Service.

WHY? Because joining our Fraternity is kind of like getting married to Omega. Moreover, the marriages that tend to endure are those built upon the character traits that WE should be able to discover in prospective members. Therefore, again, I encourage you to choose (select) our Friends wisely.

THE 2010 76TH GRAND CONCLAVE IS LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AWAY!



Please visit our website at www.oppf.org for the Conclave, Quette, and Que Kids registration forms. The preferred registration method is via the online lockbox system. There are also links available to print and mail the registration forms. Quette/Que Kid registration is not available via the online lockbox system and must be printed and mailed.

There is also a link to make your hotel reservations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER WILSON WHITE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM FINALIST

Brother Wilson L. White, a member of Tau Chapter via Kappa Lambda, has learned that he is a finalist for the White House Fellows Program. President Lyndon B. Johnson founded the White House Fellows Program in 1964. This non-partisan program offers exceptional men and women experience working at the highest levels of the federal government. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors and they complete service activities throughout the year. Following the program, Fellows repay the privilege by contributing to the country as national leaders and public servants.

In June, the candidates will each be evaluated for final selection by President Obama's Commission on White House Fellowships at a three day competition in Washington DC.

If selected, Brother White will join an accomplished group of over 600 alumni including Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, retired U.S. Army General Wesley Clark, U.S. Senator Samuel Brownback, and U.S. Court of Appeals Judges M. Margaret McKeown and Deanell Reece Tacha.



Omega Men Making A Difference

The photo to the left is part of an article on page 37 of the Fall 2009 issue of American Legacy magazine.

Three Omega Men: Alonzo Mourning, The Honorable James Clyburn and Publisher Earl G. Graves, Sr., are featured prominently in the article.

*It is not what we eat
but what we digest
that makes us strong;
not what we gain but
what we save that
makes us rich; not
what we read but
what we remember
that makes us
learned; and not what
we profess but what
we practice that gives
us integrity.*

Francis Bacon

READER'S CORNER



The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

No other book says Omega Psi Phi Fraternity like the book by Herman L. Dreer, PhD. We have made reference to it and quoted it in each of our Newsletters. Now, it is time for you to renew your acquaintance with the definitive History of this great organization. If you do not have a copy, it can be purchased at the International Headquarters in Decatur, GA.

The Textbook Tussle

The Texas State Board of Education adopted a social studies and history curriculum Friday that amends or waters down the teaching of the civil rights movement, slavery, America's relationship with the U.N. and hundreds of other items. States like California, Texas, Florida have State mandated standards. For the other states, the content in the Texas books is used if there is no State standard. I favor the adoption of national standards. Please encourage your State legislators to consider adopting the national standard. It would save time and money for the publishers as they wouldn't have to create books for each individual state.