



OMEGA BULLETIN



Message to the Districts and Chapters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc

Submitted by Bro. Charles A. Bruce, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal

Brothers!!

This 2008 spring issue of the Omega Bulletin contains a variety of information regarding traditional events (2008 District Meetings, 75th Grand Conclave) and some pertinent information about some new programs that have been developed just this year. Please be sure to pass this information on to your Chapter Membership and to your other Omega brethren.

- 1) On the last page of this Bulletin, you will find an announcement regarding the 75th Grand Conclave to be held in Birmingham, AL this summer (July 10 – 17, 2008). You are encouraged to register early so that we can better plan and provide a wholesome experience for you and your family. Please note, the earlier you register, the lower will be your registration cost. Of course this is to encourage early registration but it is also responsive to the fact that there are escalating expenses to the Fraternity as registrations occur closer to the date of the event. So please, help us to help you by registering early.
- 2) REMEMBER: You must register for the Grand Conclave before you can secure rooms at the Grand Conclave rate in the identified hotels. You MUST indicate your hotel preference in order (1st, 2nd and 3rd) or it will be at the discretion of the Birmingham Convention Bureau to assign you to a hotel. We will try to accommodate your preferences but please understand, not everyone will get their 1st choice.
- 3) We have had great cooperation from the Chapters in getting their delegates registered and properly credentialed at our most recent International events (2007 Leadership

Conference and the 2008 Undergraduate Summit). The proper delegate credential forms for the 75th Grand Conclave are available on the Fraternity web site with linkages to those forms easily accessible by point and click. I trust we can expect the same level of mutually beneficial interface between our Headquarters staff and the Chapters to make the preparation and distribution of credentials and the entire 75th Grand Conclave registration process as efficient as possible.

- 4) If you have Chapter Members who will be celebrating a service anniversary (25, 40, 50, 60, 70 years) you must complete a Form 80 for each of those Members and have the form submitted to arrive at IHQ before April 11, 2008. NO EXCEPTIONS. Please do not deny your Members the honor and respect they have earned by failing to submit the proper request for recognition via the Form 80. (By the way, we are making plans to recognize two long service Members who have reached a milestone never before achieved by any Member in our illustrious history. This will be a presentation you will not want to miss!!)
- 5) We always take the time to revere our Brothers who have gone into Omega Chapter in the interim period between Grand Conclaves. Our Grand Chaplains have always done a superb job of handling that solemn business. We must have your cooperation to provide those Omega Chapter names in advance. (Use the Deceased Member Form, available on the Fraternity web page to communicate the passing of any Brother who has gone into Omega Chapter since the last Grand Conclave. It would also be advisable to email a list of names to the Grand Chaplain. This would be in addition to the Deceased Member Form, not in place of the Form.)
- 6) Hopefully, you are well on your way to identify and coordinate travel for the youths you are sponsoring for the Youth leadership

Volume XXXIX

Omega World Center

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Spring, 2008

Conference. All pertinent information including the Application Form is now available on the Grand Conclave web page that opens as soon as you enter the Members Only site.

- 7) As of March 5th, we have over 150 Brothers registered and fully paid for the Grand Conclave. That's right. ...still 4 months in advance of the event and registrations are rolling in!! This is further confirmation that we are indeed meshing our systems with the Membership and providing that anticipated web enabled interface between the Headquarters function and the Membership. Member dues and Chapter assessments paid via electronic funds transfer has increased 40% this year when compared to the same time last year. These are the kind of results that can only be attributed to real improvements and not the vagaries of chance, coincidence or circumstance. We made commitments to improve holistically and the evidence of accomplishment cannot be ignored.
- 8) This next item is here as a caution to our Membership. Please be mindful of the fact that our email domain (oppf.org) is to be used only for official Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, inc. business. It is against our policy to use emails assigned to Officers, Districts Chapters and their functional organizations for personal use. In particular, you are cautioned against using the oppf.org emails or Internet access to visit web sites for purposes other than Fraternity business or to post messages on "blog sites" or other such electronic forums. This is to protect our systems as well as avoiding any misuse of our protected information. (Our Internet policy is included on one of the following pages in this Bulletin.)
- 9) Please be aware that the Minutes of our Supreme Council Meetings are now available to the Membership on the Fraternity web page on the Publications tab in the Members Only section.
- 10) Included in this Bulletin is a publication of a guide developed by the 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Bro. Carl A. Blunt, titled, "Fending Off Foreclosure". Bro. Blunt,

before his retirement, was a senior executive for a premier mortgage bank and has substantial experience in the area of foreclosure, re-finance and lending. You or someone you know may benefit from the content of this guide.

Bro. Charles A. Bruce
Grand Keeper of Records and Seal

Grand Officers

Warren G. Lee, Jr., Grand Basileus

Carl Blunt, 1st Vice Grand Basileus
Brian Gundy, 2nd Vice Grand Basileus
Charles Bruce, Grand KRS
Tony Knox, Grand Keeper of Finance
Michael Adams, Esq., Grand Counselor
Rev. Farrell Duncombe, Grand Chaplain
Walter Body, Grand Marshall

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FENDING OFF FORECLOSURE

Bro. Carl A. Blunt
1st Vice Grand Basileus

Greetings brothers,

As the events of the New Year fade away and as we move deeper into 2008, feelings of anxiety creep up on us as we open credit card bills and bank statements. The reflected balances give us a grim reminder of just how “caught up” in the Holiday spirit we were. This year though, things may be much worse.

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Mortgage payments may be one of those statements that you dread opening up. As more and more Americans fall further and further behind in their house payments, pending foreclosure becomes a reality.

For those that may find themselves (or know of someone), facing foreclosure, there are some definitive steps that can be taken.

- **Contact your mortgage lender or a non-profit HUD approved housing counselor.** One such organization is HOPE @ 888-995-hope, or www.995hope.org. The counselors will attempt to work out a budget so be prepared to discuss your income, bills, credit and provide proof. Another organization is ACORN Housing @ 888-409-3557 or help@acornhousing.org.
- **Investigate a refinance.** If there is enough equity you may qualify for a “rate & term, to lower you rate/payments without taking out any cash.

- **Short Sale.** The lender agrees to let you sell your house for less than what you owe.
- **Loan Modification.** The lender modifies your loan agreement (note) to allow you to change the terms of repayment.
- **Walk Away.** Let the lender take the property back and go rent some of the vacant, already foreclosed, homes in your area. This may sound terrible, but if you have tried all other options to no avail, it may be best in order to maintain your health, sanity and keep your family together.
- **Contact your District or Grand Chaplain.**

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CHAPTER KRS INCENTIVE PROGRAM WINNER

As previously announced in the Omega Bulletin, several Incentive Programs were established to provide incentive for using the Fraternity Lock Box and electronic funds transfer (EFT) to submit Chapter payments.

One of the incentives was to offer a fully paid 75th Grand Conclave registration to the first Chapter KRS to submit his entire Chapter dues, error free, through the Lock Box, using some form of electronic funds transfer. We have a winner!!

Bro. Elton R. Bacon, Beta Mu Mu Chapter – Las Vegas, Nevada - Keeper of Records and Seal is our winner!!

Congratulations Bro. Bacon!!

Notes From The Grand Keeper Of Finance:

Brothers:

I hope all is well with you and your families. I would like to make you aware of a few things happening in the Finance Department this spring. We have been working to provide a well trained staff that can

- (1) produce financial information on a timely basis and
- (2) Inspire confidence about the integrity of the information.

We also want to provide information on economic activities that will bring revenue to help drive our budget.

Please go to the members' only section, look at the following links and help us to build our revenue base. We must increase outside income to avoid the reliance placed on dues and assessments.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Patrick Smith, our International Technology Chairman, for working very hard to put budget tools and financial information on the fraternity's web site.

Links to Review: Please look in the members' only program section for the following links:

Project Planning Guide:

This is a tool that has been placed on the web to help chapters and brothers plan for projects and build a budget for the project. It can also be used for assisting in building chapter budgets.

Converse Unify Link:

We can go to the link, design our shoe, purchase it, and a royalty comes back to the fraternity.

Juice Plus:

This is an opportunity to purchase a product that appears to be an excellent health benefit and a percentage of each purchase is sent back to the fraternity.

The RAC project:

This is a social project that allows us to promote gun safety and save the lives of our children and at the same time get a percentage off of each RAC sold. Success with this project will help us to meet some of our charitable obligations.

Financial Information:

The 2006 Final Conclave Statement:

The 2005 – 2006 audited financial statement is in the member's only section:

Coming Soon:

When completed, the 2006-2007 audits will be placed on line as well.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc
Internet Policy
Effective March 3, 2008
Electronic Mail (E-mail)

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s e-mail system is also the property of the Fraternity. All communications are Fraternity records. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. reserves the right to monitor the electronic mail system and communications to ensure the proper utilization of its property. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. reserves the right to access and use, at any time and without notice, all communications sent over its electronic mail system for any purpose. As with other forms of Fraternity communications,

Fraternity Members and employees do not have any personal privacy rights in any matter created, received, or sent from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. e-mail system. Sending and forwarding of chain letters, documents or files of a sexual, racial, religious nature or harassment messages are examples of inappropriate use of the e-mail systems. Solicitation using the Fraternity e-mail system is also forbidden without prior approval of the Fraternity's Legal and Human Resources Departments.

Internet - Intranet

All messages created, sent or retrieved over the Internet or Intranet are the property of the Fraternity, and should be considered Fraternity property that may be monitored at any time. The Fraternity reserves the right to access and monitor all messages and files on the computer system as deemed necessary and appropriate. Internet messages are not private.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Members and employees have an obligation to use their access privilege to the Internet in a responsible and informed way. Use of the intranet is a privilege, which may be revoked at any time. Care and caution should be taken when using this tool.

Members and employees should be careful about how they represent themselves, given that what they say or do could be interpreted as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. opinion or policy. Examples of inappropriate conduct include (but are not limited to):

- Use of the Internet for unlawful activities
 - Use of abusive or objectionable language
 - Misrepresentation of oneself or Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
 - Lobbying or campaigning for city, State or Federal elected officials
 - Sending messages that constitute violations of the Fraternity's anti-hazing, sexual harassment, code of conduct or ethics policies.
 - Viewing, copying, storing, or printing of files or messages that are of a sexual nature.
- Individuals found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the Fraternity or termination of Fraternity employment.



Committee	Last Name	First Name	Email
100th year Celebration	Brown	Kenneth	100thyearcelebrationchair@oppf.org
Achievement Week	Thompson	Gregory	achievementweekchair@oppf.org
Archives	Childrers	Curtis	benefitschair@oppf.org
Benefits	Thompson, Jr	Stafford	budgetchair@oppf.org
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Chapter Advisors	Baylor	Curtis	communitycivicaffairschair@oppf.org
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Sports	Porter	Wendell	sportschair@oppf.org
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Technology	Smith	Patrick	technologychair@oppf.org
Tribunal	White	Wilson	tribunalchair@oppf.org
U/I Liasion	Willis	Lee	undergradliasonchair@oppf.org
Ways & Means	Zellers	Calvin	waysandmeanschair@oppf.org
Distribution			committeechairs@oppf.org

9th District Meeting

March 19 – 23, 2008
Crowne Plaza Riverwalk SA
111 East Pecan Street
San Antonio, TX 78205

1st District Meeting

April 11-13, 2008
Braintree, MA

3rd District Meeting

April 17-20, 2008
Sheraton Richmond West Hotel
6624 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23230

5th and 7th District Meeting

7th and 5th District Meeting
April 3-6, 2008
Robinsonville (Tunica), Mississippi
Veranda Grand Casino Hotel
Robinsonville, MS

2nd District Meeting

May 1-4, 2008
Sheraton Atlantic City Convention
Center Hotel
Atlantic City, NJ

4th District Meeting

April 24 – 27, 2008
Holiday Inn Metro Plex
1620 Motor Inn Drive
Youngstown, Ohio

6th District Meeting

April 17-20, 2008
Embassy Suites Hotel Airport
5055 International Blvd
N. Charleston, SC 29418

8th District Meeting

May 15 – 18, 2008
Hyatt Regency Hotel
400 W. Waterman Street
Wichita, Kansas

10th District Meeting

April 24 - 27, 2008
Adam's Mark Hotel at Indianapolis
Airport
2544 Executive Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46241

12th District Meeting

May 15 - 18, 2008
Marriott Manhattan Beach LA
1400 Parkview Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA

13th District (International)

July 2008 (Coincident with Grand
Conclave)
Sheraton Birmingham
2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Timeline For Recommendations Submittal Procedure





Greeting Brothers:

The 2008 75th Grand Conclave Registration information is now officially available!

All of the forms you need are available online at the fraternity's official website, www.oppf.org. Online you may register for the Conclave, register your Quette, and register your children for the Que Kids activities. Although the preferred registration method is via the lockbox system; there are also links available on the website that will allow you to print and mail the registration forms. Please note: the manual method of printing and completing the forms outside of the lockbox may cause a substantial delay when compared to the lock box method.

There is also a link to make your hotel reservation. Hotel rooms will not be processed until after you have successfully registered for the Conclave. Printing and mailing the hotel reservation form may cause a substantial delay when compared to making your reservations online. Only registered brothers are eligible to reserve rooms under the fraternity's hotel block and rate. Manual registration materials must be mailed to us at the address below.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
CONCLAVE REGISTRATION
3951 Snapfinger Parkway
Decatur, GA 30035

REGISTRATION FEE SCHEDULE

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$325 Feb 1 - March 31, 2008
PRE-REGISTRATION \$375 April 1 - April 30, 2008
BASIC REGISTRATION \$400 May 1 - June 15, 2008
LATE REGISTRATION \$450 June 16 - July 6, 2008
ON-SITE REGISTRATION \$450 July 13, 2008

See you in Birmingham!



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