



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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THE PATH LESS TRAVELLED...

DEAR BROTHERS OF OMEGA PSI PHI,

Where Do We Go From Here?

The 2009 edition of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Leadership Conference is over. Although final numbers are still being tallied, we know that this was the best attended Leadership Conference since its inception. More than 1200 hundred members from around the globe converged on Las Vegas on July 23 - 25, 2009 for a three-day conference. First Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt, former 12th District Representative, Brother Charles A. Peevy, host chapter Basilei, Brothers Timothy McElroy and Michael Littlejohn, the IHQ planning team and others too numerous to mention are to be commended for a job well done!

As we turn our attention to other things, I would like to begin a conversation about us - Omega men. Recently, in preparation for a presentation, I reviewed the Dreer History Book. Therein, I read two thoughts I would like to share with you. The first is Friendship. Our Founders acknowledged that friendship is important - it is the source of our bond. It is essential to the soul. We must regain the high ground of friendship within our organization.

The second thought is about a period in our history called "The Great Transition". We (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity) transitioned from an organization that was primarily cultural and social to one designed to promote human welfare. As we plan to enter our second century, in upcoming issues we will present thoughts and ideas about Omega going forward. What sets us apart as an organization? I will consider your responses to these thoughts and ideas and share some of them in future editions of this newsletter.

50 MILLION POUND CHALLENGE ALERT

I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for your attendance at the Leadership Conference in Las Vegas and for your participation in the **Health Initiatives Committee's program presentation.**

During the presentation, the brothers were informed of Omega's commitment to the 50 Million Pound Challenge, which is under the sponsorship of State Farm Insurance. Omega Psi Phi made a promise and commitment to register no less than 2,000 brothers and participants in this initiative thereby reaffirming our sincerity in the fight against obesity and excess weight. As Omega men, we recognize the importance of this struggle and want to do our part in improving our overall health and the health of our families and friends.

The deadline is fast approaching for us to sign up and become compliant with the promise of increased numbers of participants. You need to go to: www.50millionpounds.com today and sign up on the national team of Omega Psi Phi. I want to see Omega Psi Phi at the top of the list when it comes to fraternity and sorority participation.

Together we can make this happen!

NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PARTNER



Tanisha Bagley

In July 2009, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. teamed with Tanisha Bagley to Fight Domestic Violence. Tanisha Bagley is an author, public speaker, entrepreneur and advocate for victims and survivors of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. She is also the founder of E.N.S.H.R.I.N.E (Everyone Needs Support, Help, Respect, Inspiration, Nourishment and Empowerment), an organization that provides safe housing, financial support, job training, mentoring and counseling for women and children who have been victimized by domestic abuse and violence. Tanisha is also a survivor of domestic violence.

Through our continuing relationship with kNOwMore (www.knowmoresaymore.org/omega/) and our new relationship with Tanisha Bagley (author of *The Price Of Love* available online at www.thepriceoflove.com/), we are expanding our reach in the fight against domestic violence.

Support our efforts by visiting the websites, reading the materials and using the resources available there. The women in your life will love you for it; and the men you know will respect you for it!

LAMPADOS PROGRAM

During the Leadership Conference, we began our cultural shift from Membership Selection to Lampados Program by providing six-part overview training on our expectations for the Lampados Program. The parts and trainers were: Program Overview by Brother Raymond Bourgeois, Structure & Leadership by Brother Aubrey “Nick” Pittman, NPHC & Omega by Brother Roland Thorpe, Sustainability by Brother Vroman Wright, Administrative Process by Brother Patrick Smith, and Program & Post-Program Activities by Brother Joseph Williams. No one was certified to offer a Lampados Program through their chapter. There are some issues to be reconciled before certification is offered. Timelines and protocol will be available from your District Representative in September.

READER’S CORNER



Our book for this issue is “**The Dream Giver**”.

Your response to this book was so enthusiastic, I am asking that we re-read it. There are valuable lessons to be learned from it.

Bestselling author Bruce Wilkinson shows how to identify and overcome the obstacles that keep millions from living the life for which they were created.

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. May your heart sing as you embrace everything God has lovingly planted there.



