

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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GETTING IT RIGHT

DEAR BROTHERS OF OMEGA PSI PHI,

Fellowship and Philanthropy

In the preamble to our constitution we are called to "to promote the principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift, to further brotherly love and fraternal spirit within the organization, to protect the sanctity of the home and the chastity of women." Over the past few years, I have been encouraged by your response to our International initiatives and partnerships designed to help us realize our creed.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded to be a lifelong fellowship of men providing needed and necessary changes within our communities through our public service programs.

Through local chapters, we routinely engage in activities in our communities to provide uplift to them, and promote fellowship and bonding for us. Attendances at cookouts, sports gatherings, meals before or after meetings provide a ripe venue for networking and building relationships - furthering brotherly love. Chapters with good relationships among their members are also chapters that stand out in the completion of service projects. I encourage you to be deliberate in your efforts to build unity among your chapter members so that, when needed, this energy will carry over to completion of our public service projects.

Our individual generosity and collective philanthropy are making a difference in the lives of the people in our community. If we could accept that **philanthropy** is best defined as, "private initiatives for public good, focusing on quality of life", then our efforts become more sharply focused. This definition and some of the projects we have adopted (Our Health Initiatives, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and our Domestic Violence initiative) align with our purpose.

To our Chapter Basilei: I encourage you to take the time, if you have not yet done so, to comply with Chapter III, Article I, Section 1(e) of our Bylaws by sending to your district Representative a concise statement of the constructive work that was done by your chapter during FY 2009. Undergraduate Chapters should report on campus activities. Graduate chapters, should report on your efforts in the civic life of the community. We would also appreciate a concise statement outlining the plans of the Chapter for FY 2010 and suggestions for the constructive development of the Fraternity. Finally, a brief statement of the personal achievements of the individual members of the Chapter would be welcome.

Contrary to popular belief, many of us DO "get it". We do understand that the effort we produce and the projects we select are worthwhile and important to our communities. We understand that we are called to uplift and protect. We understand that this is our role as men in our communities. We can get that story told by encouraging your chapter leadership to report routinely your activities on the form 37.

Organizational Assessment

At its core, an organizational assessment is designed and conducted to examine all aspects of an organization's performance, including the enabling environment, institutional capacity, management, financial viability, and staff motivation. When done well, the assessor will review the methodological issues involved in carrying out an assessment, ranging from the choice and framing of questions to data collection and analysis, the question of who "owns" the assessment, and the reporting of results. Following on to an assessment is usually some form of

*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

comprehensive reorganization.

There is a story told about a King in a faraway land with a very ill daughter. Each day he sees her health steadily declining, and looks for a way to brighten her spirits. One day she notices a beautiful gold flower bursting through the snow and asks her father to protect it. Eager to please his daughter he tells the captain of the guard to post a man in the courtyard around the clock. The daughter fails to recover from her illness and dies. Later, the King dies also, but the order to post a guard in the courtyard continues – for 150 years. Eventually, someone asks the question, “why is a guard posted on that spot?” The answer, “because we have always done it that way.” A sharp court clerk did some research and discovered the story above and the practice was discontinued.

From time to time, organizations must look inward to assure themselves that they are still aligned with their strength and purpose. For example, Five years ago, when the technology sector was booming, Adobe Systems was in trouble. The company was respected for its technical prowess and popular products, but Wall Street was skeptical; Japan, a major market, was tanking; and Quark, Adobe's rival, launched a hostile takeover attempt. Forced to swim or sink, Adobe Systems launched a massive turnaround effort spearheaded by executive vice president Bruce Chizen, who is now the company's president and CEO. In an interview with Knowledge@Wharton, Chizen discusses how he and his colleagues managed the turnaround, Adobe Systems' competitive strategy, and where the company is headed in the future.

Similarly, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has followed a Conclave mandate to have an organizational assessment completed. Plans are now underway for implementing some of the recommendations. When our implementation has been completed, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity will emerge as a focused, strategic and more viable enterprise.

NEW MEMBER PROGRAM

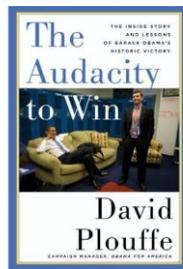
Recently, the Supreme Council voted to delay implementation of our new program to bring in new members. We will maintain the current MSP through May 2010. In the interim, we will train our leadership to implement the new program; recruit and train members for our new Omega Training Cadre and publish our new program materials.

As stated in our last newsletter, “The new and improved program will not only inform about our great organization, it will also add value to each candidate’s growth experience. Sessions on leadership, etiquette, protocol, and community service will add a new dimension to our intake program. We are also adding a new instructor’s manual and resource guide. We want to ensure that Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is presented uniformly to each candidate.” We appreciate your patience as we try to get our Conclave mandate right.

READER’S CORNER



The Audacity to Win



David Plouffe was the man behind the machine that was the extraordinary Obama Campaign for President in 2008. This book goes deeper than any of the other books written so far (and there have been many) on this incredible campaign story. Plouffe has anecdotes that no other author on the 2008 election has had yet and his access

and inside story are not only exciting but incredibly interesting. If you are a democrat who supported Obama this is necessary read to see how Plouffe and company energized a nation and spread the message of change. If you are a republican this is a must read to see how it was the Obama campaign was so easily able to convince indie voters and some republicans to support Barack Obama. This book is history, fresh history, and is a must read for anyone interested in politics.